

# DV The Desert Voice

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



July 16, 2008



Dive in



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**Army divers with the 74th Engineer Team (Dive) conduct a training exercise in the waters near Camp Patriot, Kuwait. For the full story, see page 6.**

*Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Johnson*

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



## Take ownership in our USARCENT

I'm encouraged to see so many on the U.S. Army Central team embracing change. One positive sign has been a marked change in the bearing of USARCENT Soldiers. I see Soldiers conducting physical training, saluting and correcting shortcomings ... and these are all good signs.

In order for the team to be successful, its individual players must unite towards a common purpose. While championship teams are made of high-caliber performers at several positions – not just one superstar to shoulder the load – it is teamwork and a unified sense of purpose that makes winning teams Super Bowl-quality teams.

You are a member of USARCENT's Super Bowl-quality team. Don't underestimate the importance your efforts make toward the overall mission. The entire organization is stronger when each individual has honed their skills for the good of the team and can take a particular satisfaction in their unique contribution.

The importance of each of us taking ownership in our USARCENT cannot be understated. Taking ownership may require a change of mindset ... it may require a change of lexicon. This is not my command ... not Command Sgt. Maj. John Fourhman's command ... it's our command. This is our organization and we are the ones who are going to make it better. This is our command ... don't do it for me ... and don't do it for Command Sgt. Maj. Fourhman; do it for us.

People will know that our servicemembers and civilians are from USARCENT... and they'll know this by the way we carry ourselves, by the quality of our products, by the way we do the right things ... at the right times ... in the right ways. Every member of



**Lt. Gen. Jim Lovelace**  
**USARCENT commanding general**

this team is an ambassador for USARCENT, the Army and the Nation.

It starts with the chain of command. I hold leaders responsible and expect leaders, especially NCOs, to police our own. Leaders coach and mentor, providing purpose, direction, and motivation in everything we do.

I say again: it starts with the chain of command. When

leaders set the example and do the right thing ... subordinates follow. Enthusiasm is contagious ... and so is pride, ownership, and a sense of responsibility. Everyone wants to be part of the winning team.

Don't let complacency set in ... challenge your people, and reward them for their initiative. No one comes to work each day and says they want to do a substandard job. Start with the small and work on the bigger things. Not everyone is going to leave here ready to reenlist, but they will leave here feeling (and rightly so) that they've been part of a winning team.

You are responsible for your fighting position ... continuously improve it ... day in and day out. Improve your position, not because it's my command or Command Sgt. Maj. Fourhman's command, but because it's our command and you are committed to making it the best in the Army.

No matter what job you have in USARCENT, you are an essential part of this winning team... and being part of a winning Army team in this 21st century era of persistent conflict is probably the most prudent and noble thing you can do ... for Soldiers ... for your unit ... and, in the end, for your own development and career.

Thanks for all you do.

Patton's Own!

## "Our command ... not just my command."

Volume 29, Issue 59

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**DV**  
*The Desert Voice*

## Safety Corner: Composite Risk Management

Story by  
Col. Glenn W. Harp  
U.S. Army Safety Center

Over the Independence Day holiday period the Army experienced no loss of active-duty Soldiers to off-duty accidents.

The current accident database, dating back to 1974, has no record of a previous July 4th holiday period without fatalities. The reversal of a trend which had spanned more than three decades is proof positive of the impact engaged leadership has on Soldier safety.

This is a firm step in the right direction and supports the ongoing transformation of the Army's safety culture.

Engaged leadership is already proven to effect change and, with continued engagement, leaders will further shape a necessary trend in Army safety – that of Soldiers taking personal responsibility for their safety.

Passing a holiday during the 101 Critical Days of Summer without an accidental fatality is a milestone. It means leaders, Soldiers and Family members are doing something right, on many levels. Countless decisions were made over the holiday and they were the right ones.

A safe Independence Day doesn't just happen by chance. It happens when engaged leaders focus on safety and make it a priority, thereby influencing their Soldiers. It happens when leaders who have knowledge of risky behavior take steps to mitigate

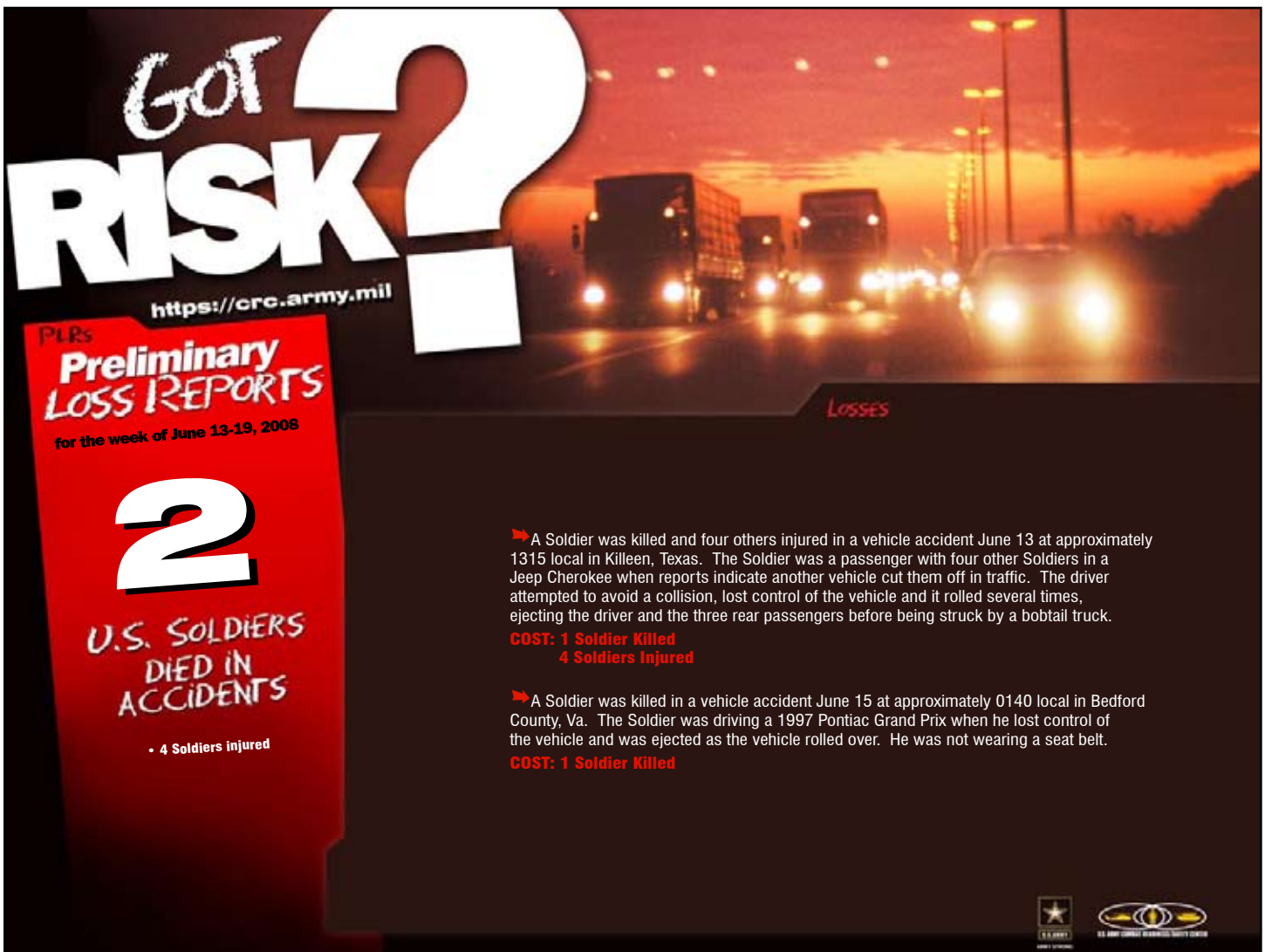
risk and prevent accidents.

It happens when Soldiers instinctively apply composite risk management principles to their off-duty activities. And it happens when Families and Battle Buddies support Soldiers and join them in risk mitigation.

Leaders, engagement at every echelon is working – please keep doing what you're doing to promote composite risk management and foster a strong safety environment.

With continued efforts to engage Soldiers and Family members, the Army has the potential to further the trend in reducing accidental losses. What you do every day truly makes a difference and I thank you for your efforts.

Army Safe is Army Strong! 



**Got Risk?**

<https://cre.army.mil>



**P.L.R.s**  
**Preliminary LOSS REPORTS**  
for the week of June 13-19, 2008

**2**

**U.S. SOLDIERS DIED IN ACCIDENTS**  
• 4 Soldiers injured

**Losses**


- A Soldier was killed and four others injured in a vehicle accident June 13 at approximately 1315 local in Killeen, Texas. The Soldier was a passenger with four other Soldiers in a Jeep Cherokee when reports indicate another vehicle cut them off in traffic. The driver attempted to avoid a collision, lost control of the vehicle and it rolled several times, ejecting the driver and the three rear passengers before being struck by a bobtail truck.  
**COST: 1 Soldier Killed**  
**4 Soldiers Injured**
- A Soldier was killed in a vehicle accident June 15 at approximately 0140 local in Bedford County, Va. The Soldier was driving a 1997 Pontiac Grand Prix when he lost control of the vehicle and was ejected as the vehicle rolled over. He was not wearing a seat belt.  
**COST: 1 Soldier Killed**

Story by  
Spc. Wes Landrum  
**Desert Voice** staff writer

“You’re stationed in Germany, the S-1 there has all of your information there,” Pair said. “Next, you move to Fort Hood, those systems may not

Pair said DIMHRs will have a self-service feature to it. He said self-service will allow individuals to review their record and provide updates to

“DIMHRS opens the gateway for future system integrations that allow for manpower growth, training development tracking and ultimately a single system that will serve members of the military from the day they join through beyond their retirement,” he said. 

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# Battle Staff Course helps NCOs adjust to today's Army

Story and photo by  
Sgt. Beth Lake  
USARCENT Public Affairs

## FORT MCPHERSON, Ga. –

Thirteen seasoned non commissioned officers graduated from the first video teleconferenced Battle Staff Course at Fort McPherson, June 27.

Graduates of the course successfully completed four weeks of training that tested their knowledge and skills in areas that have become new terrain for NCOs in the past 15 years, said Command Sgt. Major John D. Fourhman, U.S. Army Central Command Sergeant Major.

According to the U.S. Army Sergeants' Major Academy, the Battle Staff NCO Course trains NCOs to operate as part of a battalion or higher staff. The course focuses on the major areas of plans, orders and annexes, graphics and overlays, military intelligence, and combat service support. During the course, students presented a military information briefing and took part in a command post exercise to demonstrate what they learned throughout the course.

Fourhman emphasized the importance of this class in order to teach NCOs the skills they need to adapt to the needs of today's Army.

"Years ago the NCO's role in a staff or a headquarters was pretty much limited to putting up tents, setting up the tactical operations center, making sure there were enough copies of things for the staff officers to get their business done and pretty much all the other administrative details," Fourhman said.

The training the graduates received will make them part of the decision making process, Fourhman said. Officers learn all the technical aspects of putting a plan together and understand how to execute analysis and formulate plans but having an NCO who has spent most of their career around Soldiers brings an



**Thirteen U.S. Army Central students of the Battle Staff Course prepare to graduate at Fort McPherson June 27.**

added dimension into it.

Fourhman also emphasized the importance of this course as USARCENT transforms into a full spectrums operations headquarters.

"There is a deficit in captain and mid-grade officers," he said. "What our commander has done, because he has faith in the NCO corps, is to tell the Department of the Army or Human Resources Command, 'hey look, you, give me some trained sergeants first class and master sergeants and I will build those staff officer billets. We have NCOs who will do it.'"

One of the NCOs who stepped up to the challenge was Master Sgt. Annette Dantzler, G-3 Operational Sustainment NCO.

Dantzler saw the course as an opportunity to learn how to function in a variety of positions.

"I think this is an important course to be involved in," Dantzler said. "Because, at this particular time with all the things that are going on in America, this course provides vast knowledge for senior NCOs and lower enlisted to learn how to function both in theater and in a garrison environment whether in a headquarters, battalion or brigade."

Two assistant instructors taught the course in conjunction with a video teleconference from Fort Bliss, Texas,

Master Sgt. Gregory Jeter, G-3 Fires and Effects NCO and Sgt 1st Class James Seivers, G4 Land Operations NCO, were selected to teach the first class held at Fort McPherson. Both are graduates of the course.

Each of the graduates of this course are leaders and will implement their learning into each directorate, Jeter said.

"This class was important for NCOs because these are seasoned Soldiers who will bring the human factor to it. If officers are writing something, they can say, 'oh Sir, we should word it this way so the Soldiers on the ground understand it better.'"

As the graduates prepared to get their diplomas, Fourhman left each of them with a strong message.

"Having received this training I expect you to train your subordinates on how they can be a part of or assume their role in the staff," Fourhman said. "You have the tools and information to make sound, timely decisions. Advise and train your officers. You won't be training them on how to do their jobs but how to use you. I challenge you to assume your new roles and help them accomplish our diverse missions."

The next course is slated to begin September with 32 students scheduled to attend. **A**

# THE ARMY'S BEST KEPT SECRET

## Army divers keep Kuwait's waters safe

Story and photos by  
Pfc. Kimberly Johnson  
Desert Voice staff writer

**M**any engineers work with heavy machinery to construct or destroy structures on land; add water into the mix and you've got the Army's elite group of engineers, the deep sea divers.

Divers have been deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom since the beginning. Yes, in the desert.

"Everything engineers do on land, we do in the water," said Staff Sgt. Thomas Kneipp, lead diver, 74th Engineer Team (Dive).

Engineer tasks include route clearing

missions, demolitions, concrete pouring, and constructing structures such as bridges and schools.

In addition to the average engineering assignments, the dive engineers conduct hydrographic surveys which analyze contour lines of a particular body of water and produce a three-dimensional picture through sound waves. Other specific dive engineer tasks include pier surveys, recovery of lost personnel, and weapon and equipment retrievals.

Divers use the same tools their counterparts on land use, such as jack hammers, drills and saws. The difference is dive tools are hydraulic powered and waterproof.

"We use many different methods to complete a wide variety of missions

both underwater and on the surface," said Sgt. Daniel Gorman, salvage diver, 74th Engineer Team (Dive). "This variety forces us to become proficient in tasks ranging from underwater cutting and welding, to diving in contaminated water, as well as rebuilding boat engines, and generating a hydrographic survey of the ocean floor."

Deep sea divers are essential in preventing damage done by explosive devices not visible from the surface.

When an Army craft comes into port, the divers swim the length of the boat searching for explosives.

"We are qualified to do mine and countermine searches. We search, identify and mark the explosive device and call the explosive ordinance personnel," Kneipp said.



Divers, Spc. Eric Bailey and Spc. Paolo Cavenaghi, 74th engineer team (dive), inspect their air tanks before a "land navigation" training exercise underwater in Kuwait.

Spc. Bailey  
prepares  
'land navigation



Although each dive mission is important, personnel salvage is the most emotional explains Kneipp.

"It's one of the most honorable dives there is," the lead diver said. "Our sole purpose is to find that body and send it home to their family for an honorable burial. In Iraq, the unit who lost the servicemember pulls security for us until we find their comrade. It's really something."

Being an Army dive engineer is a volunteer military occupational specialty.

"Everyone who is here wants to be here," said Sgt. Paolo Cavenaghi, a salvage diver for the 74th.

"It is an honor to be in a unit that

goes where no one else can to accomplish what others cannot," Gorman said.

Together with the drive to dive, safety keeps them living and alert.

"The dive corps puts a lot of focus on empowering our people because we are all professionals," Kneipp said. "We all have a high level of responsibility."

In the dive corps, they encourage initiative and independence.

"One highly trained and experienced individual can take an entire team anywhere in the world and can fully operate as his own entity," Kneipp said.


Having faith in supervisors and understanding diving and medical physics are important in staying safe as a diver.

"We have all mastered the ability not

to panic because if you panic underwater, you're going to die and fast," Kneipp expressed.

Ask any diver about trust being an essential part of their elite team and more likely than not, the answer will be yes.

"Every time I do my job, my life is in someone else's hands and their life is in my hands, literally," Kneipp said. "It's a very trusting team atmosphere and if you don't have that trust, you fail as a team."

Although the diving community is one of the smallest entities of the Army, they prove through their hard work and dedication that there is no job too large anywhere in the world. 

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*"We have all mastered the ability not to panic because if you panic underwater, you're going to die and fast."*

**Staff Sgt. Thomas Kneipp**

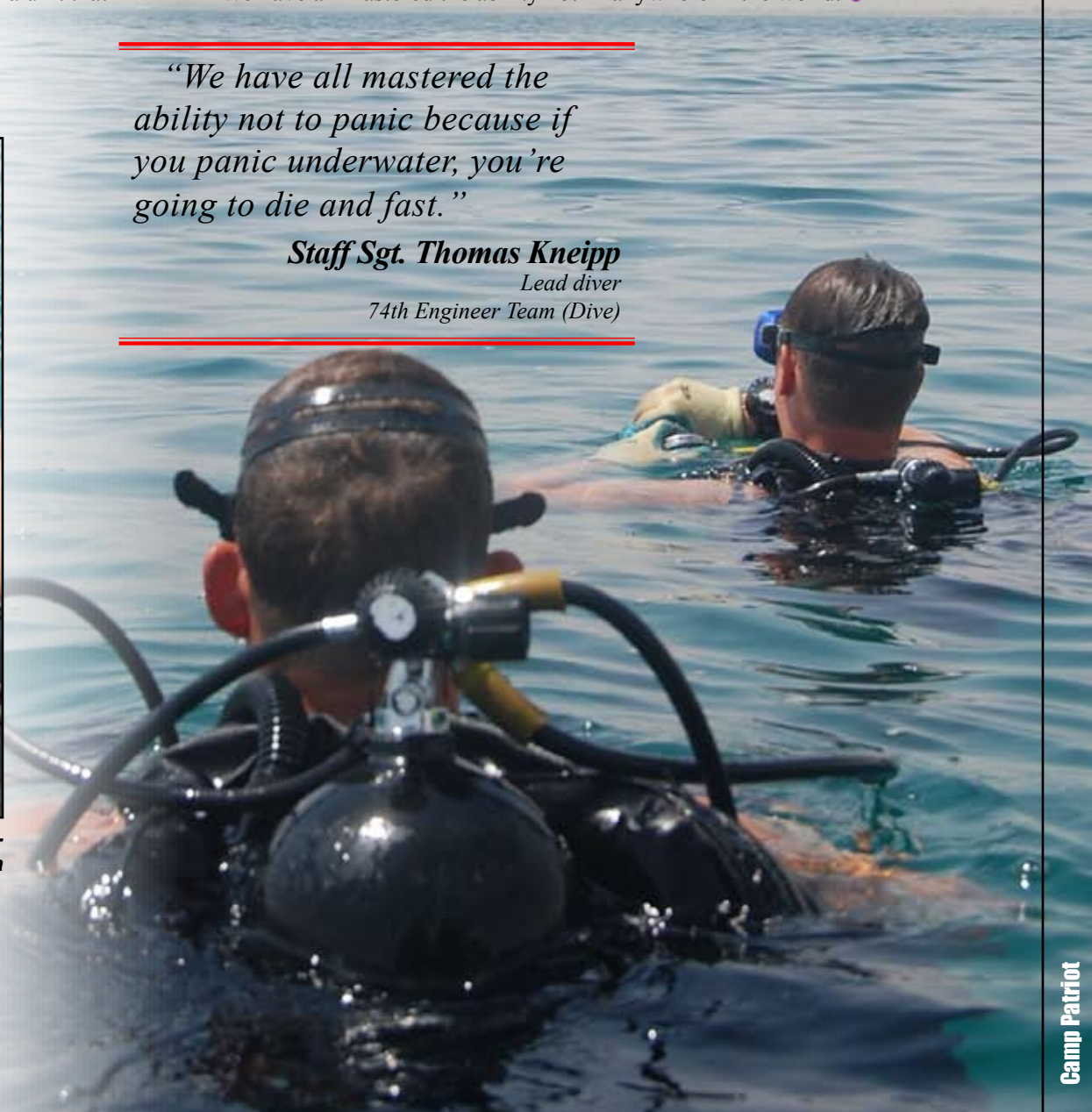
*Lead diver*

*74th Engineer Team (Dive)*

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...ailey falls into the water as he pre-  
to dive with his partner during a  
avigation' exercise in the gulf.





# Goal!!!

## Soccer friendly scores goal for U.S.-Kuwaiti relationship

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

**M**embers of the Kuwaiti General Department of Patrol and Soldiers of the 311th Sustain-

ment Command (Expeditionary) were brought together in friendly competition during a soccer match held June 28 at a pitch outside the Kuwait City International Airport.

The match was held to help build relations between U.S. servicemembers and the Kuwaitis.

"The reason for this game is to bring us closer together and to get to know each other, because we serve here as one team," said Col. Soad Al-Muteeri, commander of convoy escort security for the General Department of Patrol.

The match started quickly with both sides showing great effort. The U.S. team, however, dominated possession in the first half.

Despite the aggressive play of the U.S. team, the first goal of the game was made by the Kuwaiti team's striker Mohammad Al-Mutairi who dribbled the ball straight through the U.S. defense in an outstanding individual effort.

The U.S. team responded shortly after with a goal of their own made

by the U.S. team's center forward Jeffrey Slaga.

Following a corner taken by right midfielder Michael Perez, the Kuwait team gained possession and drove the ball up the pitch to Al-Mutairi who scored yet another goal.

In a sudden shift of events the U.S. team gained another three goals before the end of the half due to the efforts of center forward Peter Amara and a goal off one of the Kuwait team's defenders leaving the score at 4-2 with the U.S. in the lead.

"It was fast paced in the first half and the passing was good," Slaga said. "We had a lot of good crosses and a lot of good opportunities."

The second half of the game started out at a much slower pace than the first with both teams tiring.

Each team exchanged final goals dealt by Perez and the Kuwait team's forward Mohammad Jamah-Ah before the game's conclusion which brought the final score to a 5-3 win for the U.S. team.



A 311th ESC Soldier dribbles the ball past a Kuwaiti forward during some of the intense midfield play at the beginning of the match.

Capt.  
ment  
during  
partm





*Peter Amara, Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander 311th Sustain-Command (Expeditionary) attempts to steal possession from a Kuwaiti midfielder during a friendly match between Soldiers of the 311th ESC and the Kuwaiti General Department of Patrol held June 28 on a pitch outside Kuwait City International Airport.*

After the match, the game ball was presented to the Kuwaiti team by Brig. Gen. William Frink, commanding general of the 311th ESC.

The U.S. team, who had uniforms made for the match, exchanged uniform kits with the Kuwaiti team as a friendly gesture. The exchange of kits is a tradition after friendly matches. <sup>A</sup>



*Jeffrey Slaga, a Department of Defense civilian playing with the 311th ESC team, practices juggling before the match.*







(Above) Mohammad Al-Assaf and Tom Schroeder, Pollution Prevention Branch Manager, sign the printer toner cartridge recycling memorandum of agreement.

(Background) A Kuwait British Factory technician is wearing personal protective equipment as he disassembles and cleans printer toner parts from Camp Arifjan.

## New Earth-friendly solution to printer toner cartridge waste

Story and photos by  
C.W. Mitchell Lewis  
**P2 Environmental Engineer**

**A**rea Support Group – Kuwait is another step closer to completing measures in its Solid Waste Reduction Plan with the signing of the memorandum of agreement for diverting the increasing numbers of used or expired printer toner cartridges from the host nation's landfills.

Recently, Tom Schroeder, the vice-chair of the Area Support Group-Kuwait commander's pollution prevention opportunities committee/qualified recycling committee (P2OC/QRC) signed an agreement with the Kuwait British Factory to recycle ASG-KU's printer toner cartridge waste.

The first load of 48 connex insert (tri-wall) boxes were removed from Camp Arifjan on their way to the recycler who will use the recyclable parts in the production of remanufactured printer toner cartridges.

"We were determined to find the right partner to work with us on this effort," said Schroeder, "We de-

veloped the scope of work that the commander's recycling committee reviewed. We searched for recyclers to do the work. Specifically, we searched through local Kuwaiti companies with a mission statement that included an 'environmentally friendly culture.'"

"We found KBF and then presented the strong features of KBF to the commander's recycling committee. They approved our request to sign the agreement and to proceed."


Schroeder and the committee is blazing a new trail.

"This is the theater's first environmental management program approach to printer toner cartridge recycling. We are looking at this collaboration to add substantially to the qualified recycling program fund," Schroeder said.

Mohammad Al-Assaf, KBF managing director, presented documentation to Tom Schroeder and Don Harrison, the environmental pollution prevention contractor team assigned to undertake due diligence for this operation, that supports KBF's corporate culture of "good stewardship."

KBF's main components for their remanufacturing operation are purchased from a U.S. company who employs a large majority of Families of servicemembers or retired military personnel. Standard procedures for quality assurance, customer service and product supply are features that distinguish it as a company in place for short turn-around time for printer and printer supplies, service and repairs.

"The outdated and unusable printer toner cartridges are resold to other companies in Africa and India," Al-Assaf said. "The disassembled plastic and aluminum pieces are sold to recycling manufacturers both local and international. The toner that is removed ... here in Kuwait, and before shipping, is disposed of according to Kuwait regulations."

Military units and civilian sections who have used and expired printer toner cartridges should take them to the Recycling Center. On Camp Arifjan: call 682-1668, Camp Buehring: call 682-1252, Camp Ali Al Salem/LSA and Camp Virginia: call 682-1933. 



## Our Wounded Warriors

by Col. Jack Shafferman

Chief of Staff, Army Materiel Command Southwest Asia

I was recently medically evacuated out of theater to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) in Germany. My medical condition was managed and I was able to return to Kuwait. I witnessed the excellent medical care Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and civilians are receiving medically. The medical professionals assigned to evaluate my medical status were meticulous. During my journey to LRMC I was monitored every minute. Wounded Warriors with severe wounds never went unattended – not for one second. The entire experience bought me to tears. The genuine concern that each medical professional, air crew personnel and pilot provided to our wounded was beyond the call of duty. It was amazing!

I was impressed by the constant attention and medical care given to our Wounded Warriors at LRMC. As you are getting off the plane you are greeted by numerous medical staff who follow your care. All patients are quickly moved to LRMC. Once you arrive at LRMC, you are greeted by a number of administrators, doctors, nurses and liaison

officers. Each provides seamless support to our Wounded Warriors. It does not matter if you are evaluated as seriously wounded or not, you are always treated with the upmost urgency. Although I was not critically wounded, I was given as great of care as a critically Wounded Warrior. The constant theme from the entire staff at LRMC was, "Thanks for what you are doing." It was truly emotionally moving. I had an opportunity to talk with doctors, nurses, administrators and LNOs. Each person genuinely meant it when they thanked you for your service. Every doctor, nurse, administrator and LNO provided the best medical and support care possible.

The point of this article is to let our leaders (military and civilian) know about the tremendous work at this medical center was sincere. As leaders in a combat zone we do not always have the time to follow our Wounded Warriors through the process. I can tell you that once our Wounded Warriors are taken into the guardianship of our medical professionals and staff, they are in great hands.

## Just One Question ...

**"How do you keep in shape during the hot summer months?"**



**"I conduct PT early in the mornings. I also drink plenty of fluids."**

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey T. Eberwein  
1st Sustainment Command (Theater)  
1st TSC G-6  
Forest Hill, Md.



**"I work out in the mornings and evenings. I use the gym a lot."**

Staff Sgt. Zachary Brubaker  
USARCENT Command Group  
Enlisted Aide to the Commanding General  
Lititz, Penn.



**"I drink a lot of water and pay attention to the heat index."**

Senior Airman Jose Guterrez-Campos  
387th Expeditionary Support Squadron  
Transporter  
San Antonio, Texas

## Why I serve:

Staff Sgt. Nigel White  
HHC, 1st TSC  
Network Operations



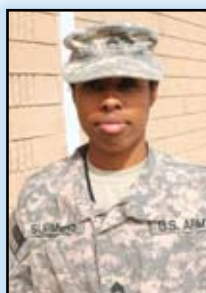
The Bowie, Md., native explains why he chose to join the military.

**"I joined the military to get out of Bowie and I wanted money for college."**



**"I am very careful. I do PT at night and drink 10 times more water."**

Staff Sgt. Bryan Althouse  
387th Expeditionary Support Squadron  
Transporter  
Stephenville, Texas



**"With the gym open 24 hours a day, I do most of my PT at night."**

Sgt. Brandi Surmons  
HHC, 1st TSC  
Information technician  
Fort Bragg, NC.

# What's happening around USARCENT ...

## Fire!



Photo by Jim Hinnant

Firefighters work to put out a fire at the DRMO lot at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, July 12. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

## Star-struck



Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Johnson

Actor Gary Sinese meets with servicemembers at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, July 10.

## Welcome



Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Johnson

Soldiers stand in formation during a change of command ceremony between the outgoing 335th Signal Command (Theater) commander Brig. Gen. Geoffrey Freeman and incoming commander Brig. Gen. James Walton at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, July 12.