

# Desert Voice

November 24, 2010

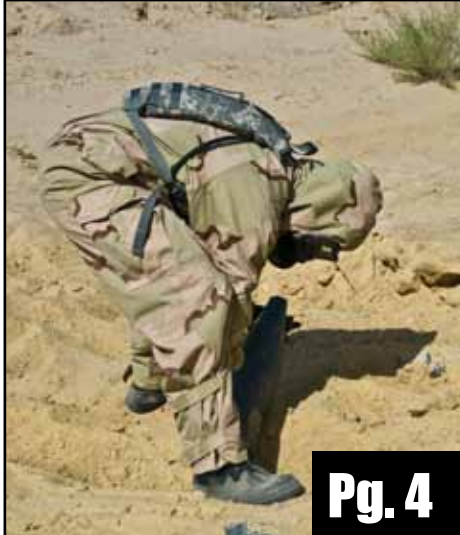


**Third Army ensures supplies  
are on hand before demand**

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# Command Corner

To the Third Army/ARCENT Team,

Thanksgiving is an important American holiday in which Families gather to celebrate the blessings of life, unwavering hope, and the promise of a better future — much like our first pilgrims did in 1621. Traditionally, this holiday represents the end of the harvest season, when food is plentiful and communities join to give thanks for all they have. Thanksgiving Day reminds us to reflect on our countless blessings, and the sacrifices of our forefathers who established our great Nation.

This Thanksgiving, I encourage all of us to reflect on the sacrifices of our Soldiers and Team, and give thanks to their outstanding accomplishments as they fulfill our Mission of Support, Readiness and Security at home and abroad. For those who are celebrating Thanksgiving with Families at home, take the opportunity to safely enjoy the rich traditions of this holiday. Remember to express thanks to our Third Army Soldiers, Civilians and Families who so deserve it, and who cannot be with their loved ones on Thanksgiving Day. For those separated by deployment, know that we are grateful for your service, as are the many Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen who rely on us to Sustain them throughout the CENTCOM AOR.

Thank you for your hard work, and special thanks to our Families who are supporting our troops every day. Sometimes the routines of work and deployments get the better of us and we take each other for granted. Now is a good time to remind each other how much we appreciate one another. You are all important to the ARCENT Team. Our Nation values your service and your commitment to our Mission, Soldiers and Teamwork.



**Patton's Own!**

William G. Webster  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Commanding General

John D. Fourhman  
Command Sergeant Major, US Army  
Command Sergeant Major

# Third Army, Host Nation forces Ready Tonight

Story and Photos by  
Spc. Eric Guzman  
Third Army Public Affairs

Third Army Soldiers took to the sands of Kuwait Naval Base and the waters of the Port of Shuaiba Oct. 27 to conduct bilateral training in conjunction with the Kuwait Ministry of the Interior and the Kuwait Ministry of Defense during Khaleje Response.

U.S. Soldiers, Sailors and Kuwaiti counterparts participated in a three-day information exchange with Third Army providing support by way of advice and assistance to Kuwait emergency service personnel.



Third Army explosive ordnance disposal Soldiers brush debris from a notional piece of unexploded ordnance found during Khaleje Response to properly identify and dispose of it, at Kuwait Naval Base, Oct. 27. Khaleje Response was a three-day information exchange held by Third Army and host nation forces to maintain proficiency in Soldier tasks, ensuring that forces stay Ready Tonight to tackle ordnance disposal incidents should one occur.

Kuwaiti emergency service personnel evacuate a casualty from a notional helicopter accident scene during Khaleje Response, Oct. 27 at the Port of Shuaiba. Khaleje Response was a three-day information exchange held by Third Army and host nation forces to maintain proficiency in Soldier tasks, ensuring that forces stay Ready Tonight to tackle ordnance disposal incidents should one occur.



Pfc. David Clark, a chemical sample collector with the 62nd Chemical Company's sampling team, creates a seal around the protective mask of Sgt. David Coan, an initial entry party team leader, also from the 62nd Chem. Co. at Kuwait Naval Base, Oct. 27. The seal is created around the uniform to prevent the entry of hazardous chemical splashes and vapors into the suit. Coan was suiting up in protective gear as a participant in Khaleje Response, a readiness exercise and information exchange between Kuwaiti emergency services and Third Army Soldiers in Kuwait.

“Operations like Khaleje Response help strengthen relationships with the host nation, which is one of the pillars that keeps Third Army Ready Tonight,” said Capt. Rodney Norris, operation protection (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear) officer with Third Army.

This exchange was both a demonstration of capabilities as well as an avenue to better communication channels, maintain job proficiency, and share techniques used to respond to potential emergency events. During the exchange, Third Army Troops took time to show the procedures taken by U.S. Forces after a notional article of unexploded ordnance was discovered on the training site.

“Any time we have the opportunity to train with our partners, it’s an opportunity to strengthen bonds,” said Maj. Miguel Juarez, plans officer in charge with Area Support Group Kuwait. “Planning, joint operations and bilateral training will strengthen bonds. I think we have a good bond now, but we can make it a great bond by conducting training,” said the Brownsville, Texas native.

Also demonstrating their capabilities as first responders were Kuwaiti firemen and emergency medical service personnel who responded to the crash of a notional helicopter by caring for those wounded in the incident as well as securing the area by subduing the flames at the accident site.

“Eventually, if an event does happen,” said Juarez, “we will be better prepared to respond to it as a combined force. We need to build on these opportunities and continue to learn and build on these relationships.”

Third Army conducts over 100 theater security cooperation training exercises with militaries in its area of responsibility to enhance relationships with regional militaries. Third Army efforts are aimed at deterring destabilizing influences and protecting our friends and U.S. interests from aggression and counter-terrorism capability.



Kuwaiti emergency service personnel provide aide to a casualty from a notional helicopter crash during Khaleje Response Oct. 27 at the Port of Shuaiba.

# NCOs begin new development plan

Story by  
Pfc. Dan Rangel  
Third Army Public Affairs

Noncommissioned officers, current and future, have a new professional-development program, the first phase of which was implemented online Oct. 1.

Subsequent phases of Structured Self Development are scheduled to begin January and May, 2011.

“SSD takes the sporadic training that we have over a military career and formalizes it in a continuous process,” said Sgt. Maj. Joseph Hawbecker, Third Army training and exercises sergeant major.

“It’s almost like any correspondence course. It’s an online course. It’s interactive,” he said. “You get out of it what you put in it.”

All enlisted Soldiers will automatically be enrolled in the program after advanced individual training (AIT), but it is each individual’s responsibility to enroll in courses at the Army Training Requirements and Resources System Web site.

There are several phases of SSD: Phase one is primarily for privates and specialists, which focuses on team-level tasks; SSD skips to phase three and is primarily for sergeants promotable and sergeants first class, which focuses on platoon-level duties; Phase four is primarily for staff sergeants promotable and master sergeants, which focuses on battalion-level duties.

SSD doesn’t have a phase two. The advanced leaders course (ALC) is

taken in lieu of SSD phase two.

The final phase is primarily for master sergeants promotable and sergeants major, which focuses on nominative and joint-staff positions.

“It’s life-long learning,” Sgt. Maj. Hawbecker said. “The whole concept of the program is brought about because we’ve been in constant combat or war operations for so long that the warrior skills are there. Now Army leaders want us to take the other phase — that is the warrior learning. This program ties it all together.”

There is no enlisted Soldier too junior or too senior to be enrolled in the program.

“It’s a requirement for every Soldier, even up through sergeant major,” Sgt. Maj. Hawbecker said. “This is going to be tied into assignments and promotions even after the Sergeants Major Academy.”

NCOs who have already gone through some portion of their Noncommissioned Officer Education System will be given appropriate credit for past education.

“A lot of people will be grandfathered [into the program] based on previous education levels through the NCOES,” Sgt. Maj. Hawbecker said. “It depends on what level of education of NCOES you’ve already had.”

Even senior NCOs are encouraged to take the new classes along with their junior comrades.

“Although you’re not required to go back and do previous levels, you can do it so that you have an understanding of what your Soldiers

are doing and also it will be tied into college credits, so over a 20-year career, the intent is to get a degree from the program.”

“SSD will enable Soldiers to obtain an associate’s degree during their first term of enlistment,” said Lula B. “Pat” Thompson, an institutional training administrator for Third Army.

Although online learning is a familiar concept in the Army, SSD seeks to make it the standard.

“[NCO development] is now in a formal context. SSD has put the requirements more on the individual Soldier,” Sgt. Maj. Hawbecker said. “Although we’ve had initiative from individual Soldiers in the past, this has put the requirements across the board ... it’s like doing your homework, so when you go to class you’re prepared.”

Although the online classes are much like homework, Army leaders are expected to schedule time for SSD during regular duty hours.

“This is supposed to be done on duty time, even though a lot of people are going to take the initiative and do it on their own,” Sgt. Maj. Hawbecker said.

SSD also allows Soldiers to prepare for more formal military classes.

“I think it’s a good thing,” said Emporia, Kan. native, Spc. Rebecca Vondra, administrative law noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 1st Theater Sustainment Command.

“It will give Soldiers a heads up on the class curriculum,” she said. “Once we get into the class we might be able to ask more educated questions.”

# Self-Development Domain

## Structured Self-Development Program 1

The Army is working to establish SSDP 1. The computer-based training will consist of 80 hours of online interactive multimedia instruction via Black Board. Directorate of Training Development has currently validated 40 of those hours. U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command slates SSDP 1's completion and phase-in during Fiscal 09, followed by SSDP 1 becoming a requirement for Warrior Leader Course graduation by fiscal 10 and a prerequisite for WLC enrollment by FY 11. The intent is for Soldiers to self-enroll after graduating Initial Entry Training.

## Structured Self-Development Program 2

Upon validation, SSDP 2 will include 80 hours of online interactive multimedia instruction via Black Board, to be completed after Warrior Leader Course and prior to attending the Advanced Leader Course.

## Structured Self-Development Program 3

Upon validation, SSDP 3 will follow the same format as SSDP 1 and 2. It will be completed after the Advanced Leader Course, but prior to attending the Senior Leader Course.

## Structured Self-Development Program 4

NCOs will complete the future validated SSDP 4 after attending the Senior Leader Course, but prior to attending the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy. SSDP 4 will also absorb some of the critical tasks from the First Sergeant Course as it dissolves.

## Structured Self-Development Program 5

NCOs will complete future validated SSDP 5 after graduating from the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy. Upon completion of SSDP 5, senior NCOs will have achieved all levels of the career-long Structured Self-Development Program.





# 53rd IBCT leads the new security forces training effort

*Story and Photos by  
Staff Sgt. Kimberly Cooper-Williams  
1st Theater Sustainment Command  
Public Affairs*

The 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team completed a 15-day training exercise, which began Oct. 28 and concluded Nov. 5. The training prepared 53rd IBCT Soldiers to train follow-on forces for future security forces' brigade training.

"This training is preparing two battalions [and] eight companies to conduct tactical combat force operations for U.S. Army Central Command if they were to call upon the battalion to do so," said Lt. Col. David Yeagers, 53rd Infantry Brigade operations officer. "It is designed to give ARCENT the flexibility they need to be the joint security coordination center in the operating environment."

Movement to contact, defending and area security were the three main areas the platoons focused on during the tactical combat force training

exercise. Leaders designed the lanes to focus on each of the three areas. The variety provided platoons with hands on practical training experience.

"What it does is expand upon the 15 warrior tasks [and] four battle drills the Army trains us on prior to getting [into country]," Yeagers stated. "It also ensures that our platoon sergeants, platoon leaders and company commanders have the necessary equipment and skills to be able to coordinate the efforts of their platoons related to acting as a tactical combat force."

In the first training lane the platoons maneuvered through was set in an established area. Platoons had to move into the area and secure assets important to the command. On the other half of the training lane, the area was very densely populated and platoons had to decide what areas were pivotal to secure. The overall take away from the lane was to teach the planning and operational process

for securing an area of importance.

The platoons going through lane two conducted a screen operation where they screened a line of communication. The lane was designed to teach the platoons to protect and provide early warning and detection for anything that could potentially affect the lines of communication. "That's a collective training event that their not used to doing, and it brings to light a lot of different collective skills that we haven't thought of in the past and that we haven't trained [on] in quite a while," said Yeagers.

The movement to contact lane gave Soldiers the opportunity to function as a platoon element and to conduct mounted fire distribution. In the practice scenario, ten Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles made their way into a fabricated city unaware of the enemy threat. Platoon leaders made critical split second decisions on every aspect to include how to enter the city, what formation





to use and how to attack and destroy hostile enemy forces.

“What it does is makes the troops start to think again in a bigger picture. They have to operate as a team, as a platoon and as a company,” Yeagers said about the lane.

As the 53rd IBCT prepares for their Transfer of Authority, the lessons learned from the training exercise carry over and become a part of the training plan for the 197th Fires Brigade, from the New Hampshire National Guard.

“53rd got to validate the training plans set by ARCENT’s G-7,” said Col. Francis Flynn, 1st Theater Sustainment Command, assistant chief of staff for training and operations.

“Once the After Action Review is complete and the changes have been made, other security force brigades moving in will have a solid training plan.”

Pulling off a training exercise of this magnitude could take months of planning, but the 53rd IBCT was able to solidify the plan in approximately 14 days. “Considering the compressed timeline, they pulled off world class training in a short time. It shows the professionalism of the entire brigade,” Flynn stated.

While the training they conducted may be world class, the accomplishment of the training will have a lasting effect on the mission and training for future security forces missions in Kuwait and other areas of operation.



Top: Crews of the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles from the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, line up in preparation for maneuvering through a training lane at Udairi Range Complex, Kuwait Oct. 4. Left: A Soldier from the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team guards the perimeter of a secured site for a training lane at Udairi Range Complex, Kuwait Oct. 4.

# DA Civilians meet Warfighters' needs before demand

*Story and Photos by  
Pfc. Dan Rangel  
Third Army Public Affairs*

Department of the Army Civilians working at Camp Arifjan have supplied Warfighters with the necessary parts they need to keep up the fight.

The DA Civilians of the Forward Repair Activity unit from Red River Army Depot in Texarkana, Texas and Anniston Army Depot in Anniston, Ala., have specialized in fabricating and supplying parts in theater so that Soldiers have parts in stock before they need them.

"We're getting the parts Soldiers need to them quicker," said David Smith, engine program leader from Elkhart, Ind. "That's definitely our main effort in the fight ... helping the Soldier."

Warfighters needing advanced equipment repair send it to the FRA.

"We receive assets from the supply system. We take those assets; we disassemble them, clean them, inspect them, reassemble them, test them and issue them back to the supply system," Smith said.

Smith's team and the entire FRA work many hours. They are also enthusiastic about their part in the war effort and serving their country as DA Civilians.

"We're willing to do whatever it takes for the Soldiers to have what they need to feel confident out there in the battlefield," said Craig Garvey, FRA weld leader from Anniston, Ala.

"We're here for them, regardless of the hours, regardless of the heat. They're out supporting us. We're going to support them. It means a lot to us to be able to serve their needs. If they leave here satisfied, we know we've served our country," he said.

The FRA operates at depot level. When military mechanics and other specialists are unable to fix a piece of equipment or find proper parts, they come to the FRA. The FRA's



Chuck Jolly, a Department of the Army Civilian, Forward Repair Activity transmission team member, installs the rear seal of a humvee transmission at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The DA Civilians of the FRA unit from Red River Army Depot in Texarkana, Texas and Anniston Army Depot in Anniston, Ala., have specialized in fabricating and supplying parts in theater so Soldiers have parts in stock before they need them.



Harold Davis, a Department of the Army Civilian, Forward Repair Activity welder from Anniston, Ala., fabricates equipment at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

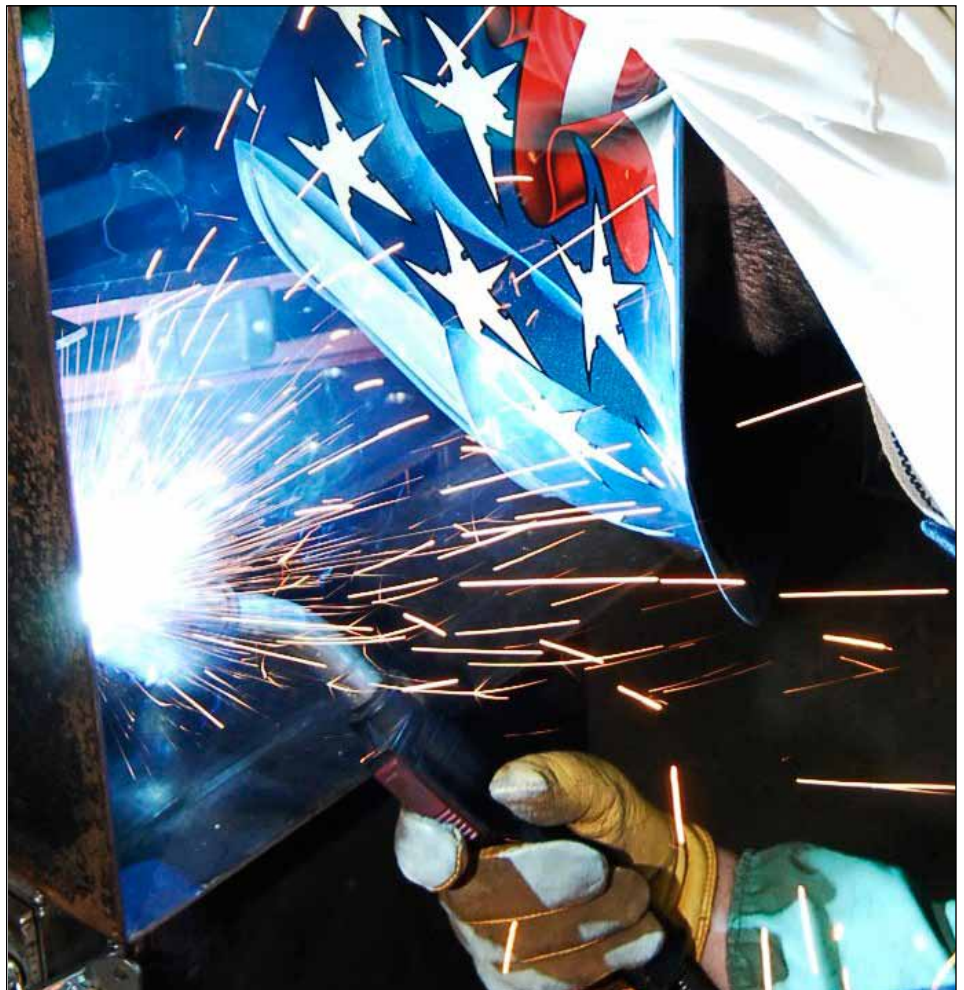
proximity to the battlefield allows Soldiers to have their parts and equipment fixed much sooner than placing orders back in the U.S.

“We can supply parts a lot quicker than it takes Soldiers to order them,” Garvey said. “A lot of times they’re going up north [to Iraq or Afghanistan] in a week or so, but it may take two months to get their parts if they order them, but we can fabricate it here in just a couple of days.”

The FRA is able to supply any part and fix equipment because of the various machines and skill sets the organization brings to the war effort. Transmission repair, engine repair, welding, machining and reverse engineering are just some of the assets available to Soldiers who visit the FRA.

“We can fabricate anything that we need, anything the Soldiers need. Any amount they need, we’re able to do it,” Garvey said.

The combination of speed, proximity, equipment and experience are what allow the FRA to have parts ready for use, in stock, before Warfighters even realize they’re needed to keep operations rolling.





A line coach gives Staff Sgt. Jimmy Lok (center), with the 164th Transportation Battalion, some feedback as Lok fires from the Landing Craft Utility 20-13, Nov. 13, during a joint-service water range off the coast of Camp Patriot, Kuwait.

## Maryland Reserve Soldiers, MESRON-9 Sailors test sea legs in joint-service water range

Story and Photos by  
Natalie Cole

1st Theater Sustainment Command  
Public Affairs

Soldiers and Sailors tested their sea legs and accuracy as they fired from two types of vessels in a joint-service water range, Nov. 13, off the coast of Camp Patriot, Kuwait.

A 17-Soldier crew with the 949th Transportation Detachment hosted part of the range aboard their vessel, the Landing Craft Utility 20-13. The 949th is a Reserve unit out of Baltimore that falls under the 164th Transportation Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, 1st Theater Sustainment Command. Soldiers with the 949th fired alongside Sailors with Commander Task Force 56, out of Bahrain.

Sailors with Maritime Expeditionary Squadron – 9 out of Camp Patriot followed the LCU 20-13 out to sea aboard smaller 34-foot tactical patrol craft. After firing from stable positions on the LCU 20-13, a large logistics vessel, Sailors and Soldiers transferred to the MESRON-9 patrol craft. The



Soldiers with the 949th Transportation Detachment, a Reserve unit out of Baltimore, fire from the Landing Craft Utility 20-13, Nov. 13, during a joint-service water range off the coast of Camp Patriot, Kuwait. The 949th is a 17-soldier crew that operates the LCU 20-13.

transfer required firers to leap onto the smaller boats as they bounced unpredictably on the surface of the Gulf.

Firing from the 34-foot tactical boats as they bobbed and rolled on the waves

was the real test at the range, said Chief Petty Officer Andre Cardenas, a hospital corpsman with MESRON-9. “I guess it would be the equivalent of playing izzy-dizzy [bat] and then trying to fire at a target on land,” Cardenas



Senior Chief Petty Officer Joe Manning, with Maritime Expeditionary Squadron – 9, serves as a line coach as Pfc. Calvin Taylor, with the 949th Transportation Detachment, fires from a Navy 34-foot tactical craft, Nov. 13, off the coast of Camp Patriot, Kuwait.

said.

“I learned that what I see is a lot more difficult when you’re actually doing it yourself. When you’re firing at the target you have to make sure you’re coming down off the wave so that your weapon is actually coming ... you’re walking in ... actually walk ‘em down and it actually hits the target,” said Cardenas, whose last time firing weapons was from a tank.

Warrant Officer Anthony Lloyd, 949th detachment commander and vessel master, said the joint-service range was part of the continued training to keep the port secure. “The purpose of the range is to enhance the port security’s ability to protect and defend the port. It will also give my guys a chance to exercise their force protection measures and battle drills as well,” he said.

The mission of the LCU 20-13 is to transport supplies within the Central Command area of responsibility. “[We] move cargo from port to port in support of the warfighter. We are an efficient means to carry cargo. We ... get it to places to make it more efficient to get it to where it’s gotta go,” Lloyd said.

Pfc. Calvin Taylor, from Seattle is a cook with the 949th LCU 20-13 crew. He said working on the Gulf aboard

a logistics vessel was not the type of assignment he expected when he joined the Army. “I didn’t even know it existed,” he said referring to the Army boat field. Taylor said when his leaders offered him the chance to participate in a range involving 34-foot patrol craft, “I seized the opportunity.” While on the 34-foot patrol craft, Taylor chatted with the Navy crew about



Soldiers with the 949th Transportation Detachment, a Reserve unit out of Baltimore, brush oil on a weapon aboard the Landing Craft Utility 20-13, Nov. 13, during a joint-service water range off the coast of Camp Patriot, Kuwait. The 949th is a 17-Soldier crew that operates the LCU 20-13.

their procedures and the patrol craft’s capabilities.

Like Taylor, Lloyd said that he enjoys working in the little-known boat field and taking part in the unique joint-service training it offers crews. “A lot of people don’t know about the boat field. ... It is rather unique. Most people associate boats with the Navy,” he said, adding, “I love it. This is it. See the water everywhere and ... it’s good. It can be tiresome. Long hours, long days, but it’s rather non-stressful.”

When out at sea, the LCU 20-13 crew lives in the tight spaces of the grey vessel. When not at sea, the crew lives on Camp Patriot, a small camp near a Kuwaiti naval port. The crewmembers include cooks, engineers (including the chief engineer) and deck and engine-side crewmembers, according to Warrant Officer Robert Penner, harbor master for the 164th Transportation Battalion. Sailors with MESRON-9 work closely with the LCU 20-13 crew because the Sailors patrol and defend the port to keep it secure for larger vessels to operate.

Penner explained that in addition to the main intra-theater transportation, the LCU 20-13 crew hosts joint-service weapons training, salvage operations, Navy Construction Battalion (sea-bee) transportation support, and dive-team exercises. Penner said this month’s water range was the fourth range since May that the crew has hosted.

# Looking ahead, seeking solutions key topics at Third Army container conference

Story and Photo by  
Natalie Cole

1st Theater Sustainment Command  
Public Affairs

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Civilians came together for Third Army's two-day container management conference, which began Nov. 3 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Personnel arrived from throughout Third Army's area of operations to discuss current mission sets, pool best practices in container management and set conditions for future logistics work.

Containers, the 20-foot metal boxes that circulate through and sometimes rest at forward bases, are essential to military logistics operations as units use them to ship their gear.

Brig. Gen. John O'Connor, Third Army director of logistics and Central Command container management executive agent, asked everyone in attendance to actively work together to spur new ideas and make meaningful improvements. "There's a customer out there who demands his container. ... We can't afford to let stuff just sit there. Some unit out there needs it."

On the first day of the conference, visiting agencies briefed their operations and shared their successes and struggles. On the second day, attendees split into two working groups to discuss mission-specific details.

Container control authorities work through a web of factors to push containers throughout Southwest Asia as quickly as possible, according to Brig. Gen. O'Connor. Holidays, terrain, diplomatic clearances, customs, weather, enemy fire and differences in coalition and joint-force procedures are all issues logisticians face. "It's a difficult environment, but when you apply all the capabilities we have in our hands, we can get through it," Brig. Gen. O'Connor said.

Adding to the complexity is the increased movement stemming from the Drawdown in Iraq and Build-up in Afghanistan. Col. Dale Critzer, with



Brig. Gen. John O'Connor, Third Army director of logistics and Central Command container management executive agent, speaks with attendees of the Third Army container management conference at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 3 -4.

the Joint Staff, Distribution Division, traveled from Washington, D.C., for the conference. He pointed out the number of forward operating bases in Iraq has dwindled from 400 to about 90 today. "We have been successful up until this point," he said adding that now container managers are working under pressure to clear out the battlefield. "Now, there is an end-state that has to be met."

One focus of the conference was reducing detention, the term for the daily fees the government pays commercial carriers for each day the government uses a container. The detention fees start racking-up after a grace period of 10 to 15 days.

Brig. Gen. O'Connor said improvements in detention reflect progress, but he prompted those at the conference to strive for more. "That says a lot about what we've done," he said. "I'm challenging you to go back (and) drive detention down through the \$1 million mark. We can do this."

Sandra Gorba, chief of Army Intermodal Distribution, Platform Management Office, traveled from Tobyhanna, Penn., for the conference. She said because of the continual rotation of personnel, sharing knowledge at the conference was a way of "maintaining continuity as we

move forward."

Yolanda Santiago is a non-standard equipment analyst, specializing in non-rolling stock (including containers). She works for the Responsible Reset Task Force, Army Materiel Command, on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Santiago sat in on a discussion in the Iraq-Breakout Group about gaps between inventory information entered into tracking systems and the actual number of containers on the ground. "We at R2TF, we pull our number from data bases - 100 percent inventory and total accountability are very important," she said.

Santiago pointed out that everyone working in logistics must balance accuracy in reporting while working under pressure. "Especially the units. They know they have a timeline (and) these folks want to get home," she said. "There's a lot of stuff on the table right now."

As he challenged participants at the conference to form take-away lessons and seek solutions, Brig. Gen. O'Connor acknowledged the importance of container managers' mission. "This is not easy government work by any means. You don't have to be on the battlefield to make a difference."

# Supporting the Warfighter with contracting

Story and Photos by  
Spc. Eric Guzman  
Third Army Public Affairs

As Third Army continues its ongoing logistical mission by providing support to Warfighters in both Iraq and Afghanistan, Troops at Camp Arifjan are learning new ways to more efficiently aide their fellow Soldiers with the assistance of contracted support elements.

Soldiers attending the Operational Contracting Support course at Camp Arifjan learn to efficiently manage a unit's contracting support responsibilities in a two-week long course designed to teach students contracting procedures, doctrine and planning strategies.

"Logistics is getting stuff where it needs to be on time and on target, contracting is a large part of that process. This helps Third Army get the right stuff, to the right people, at the right time," said Lt. Col. Vaneada Terrell, deputy Acquisition Logistics and Technology Integration officer with the Sustainment Center of Excellence, Ft. Lee, Va. "We're here to teach the Soldiers how to be planners, how to think outside of the box."

The Operational Contracting Support course, the first of its kind to be taught in a theater of war, is meant to provide commissioned officers, warrant officers, noncommissioned officers and civilians with the knowledge of contract management necessary to ensure mission success.

"The students are very



Top: Lt. Col. Vaneada Terrell, deputy Acquisition Logistics and Technology Integration officer with the Sustainment Center of Excellence, Ft. Lee, Va., teaches students enrolled in the Operational Contract Support course how to properly word a contract for maximum work efficiency.

Left: Master Sgt. Damian Anglin, a training and development noncommissioned officer serving with the Acquisition Logistics and Technology Integration office at Ft. Lee, Va., provides critiques of a notional contract drafted up by Soldiers attending the Operational Contract Support course.

receptive," said Master Sgt. Damian Anglin, a training and development noncommissioned officer serving with the ALTI office at Ft. Lee, Va. "We're just here to teach them how to implement Operational Contract Support into their planning process and how contracting can be beneficial to supporting the commander's objectives

and their mission."

The impact that properly managed contracting has on Soldiers is near immeasurable, but the effect is felt in large as contract workers bear some of the burden otherwise shouldered by Soldiers.

Once Soldiers graduate from the course, they will assist with laying the foundation for contracting

assistance as they return to their respective units. Proficient planning is just one aspect of a complex logistical mission that allows Third Army Troops to Sustain the Force effectively while conserving costs, man power and other valuable assets that can be put forth elsewhere to keep Soldiers in the fight.



Chief Warrant Officer Michael Anderson, a tactical operations officer with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, uses a combat survivor evader locator hand-held radio to transmit his location during personnel recovery training near Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Oct. 13.

# Third Army boosts personnel recovery

*Story and Photo by  
Sgt. M. Benjamin Gable  
Third Army Public Affairs*

Third Army is taking the Warrior Ethos, ‘I will never leave a fallen comrade,’ one step further by implementing a reenergized program dedicated to recovering personnel who become isolated within Kuwait.

Personnel recovery is defined as the sum of military, diplomatic, and civil efforts to effect the recovery and return of U.S. military personnel,

Department of Defense civilians and contractors who are isolated in an operational environment, or as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

The goal of Third Army’s Personnel Recovery Council is to integrate policies and track readiness for the entire Central Command area of responsibility. The unified council will act as command and control

and be able to execute PR missions smartly and effectively at any given time in Kuwait.

“This is the growth of a great solution set,” said Maj. Tim Vibbert, an Aviation Operations Officer and Personnel Recovery Officer with Third Army. “It’s extremely important because the environment here is changing every day.”

But the three steps of PR, preparation, planning and execution, never change.

During the preparation phase, Third Army’s PR team established a PR Council by reaching out to reconnect with leaders within the Army, Navy, Air Force and Host Nation. This council is responsible for all of Third Army’s PR operations. This means they must establish policy and track readiness throughout multiple countries in their area of operation.

“We’re also giving our full efforts to increasing awareness of the importance of PR,” Vibbert said. “We want everyone to understand what their risks of isolation are and take the necessary steps before they travel. Everyone needs to have a rock-solid Pro-File for their (Isolated Personnel Report) to assist us should they become isolated.”

Planning also plays a vital role in the event of a real-world PR mission. These combined assets must communicate effectively and smartly throughout multiple chains of command and with host-nation support.

The PR team members participated in a ‘crawl phase’ training exercise Oct. 14. During this planning phase, an isolated Soldier was left stranded in the desert. Chief Warrant

Officer Michael Anderson, a Blackhawk pilot with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment and native of Bourne, Mass., played the role of the isolated Soldier.

“[During the exercise] I became isolated and used my training to find concealment and send my location up to be rescued,” Anderson said. “The information went through the proper channels and a PR Recovery team was dispatched and located me in just a few minutes.”

The PR Council plans on continuing these exercises. In the coming months, the training will become more complex, utilizing aircraft and naval assets, in order to coordinate the tools needed for the job.

“We want everyone to get smart on the tools and equipment available that can help an isolated person—namely Personal Locator Beacon and Combat Survivor Evader Locator radios, evasion charts and Blood Chits,” Vibbert said. “The greater the familiarity our force has with these requirements and tools, the greater Third Army’s readiness will be for Personnel Recovery.”

This training, along with the preparation, will help in the successful execution of an actual PR mission.

“That’s why we train,” Anderson said. “The goal is to locate the individual and bring them back home.”

Third Army is taking the PR mission one step further by educating Servicemembers on PR. For more information about PR and how to better prepare yourself and your unit contact Maj. Tim Vibbert at DSN 430-5700 or by email at james.t.vibbert@kuwait.swa.army.mil.





# Smoke alarms: up, down, and all around

Story by  
Charles A. Coffman  
ASG-Kuwait Fire Prevention Office

Area Support Group Kuwait Fire Department reinforces the need to check your battery operated Smoke Alarm year round. Fire Wardens and Facility Managers need to function test their battery operated smoke detectors on a monthly basis.

In an effort to better educate communities throughout the U.S. about smoke alarm recommendations, the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association is promoting “Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!” as the theme for this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign. The ASG-Kuwait Fire & Emergency Services supports NFPA programs and their fire safety campaigns. NFPA has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for 88 years.

According to Battalion Chief of Fire Prevention Charles Coffman, battery operated smoke alarms can mean the difference between life

and death in a fire. NFPA statistics show that working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire nearly in half. But they must be working properly to do so. The NFPA’s data shows that many locations that have smoke alarms are not working or maintained properly, usually because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries. In the U.S., roughly two-thirds of all home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

On ASG installations, all tent sleeping locations and other temporary facilities are required to have battery operated smoke detectors. ASG requires that unit appointed Fire Wardens and Facility Managers function test battery operated smoke detectors on a monthly basis to ensure operation. This is especially critical in sleeping locations, where the sound from a smoke alarm is needed to give proper warning to allow enough time for sleeping individuals to escape a fire.

This year the NFPA Fire Prevention Week provides an excellent opportunity to re-educate people about battery operated smoke alarms and that they need to be checked to ensure proper functionality and operation. Everyone’s support is needed to ensure that these important life safety devices work when they are needed.

The ASG-Kuwait Fire Department offers the following tips for making sure smoke alarms are maintained and working properly:

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, and make sure the audible alarm can be properly heard.
- If an alarm “chirps,” warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all battery operated smoke alarms, if they do not respond properly when tested.
- Never remove or disable a battery operated smoke alarm. It is there to save your life.

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# And many more.....

## Third Army celebrates 92nd Birthday



Chief Warrant Officer Ralph Rigby (left), who serves as the theater maintenance officer with Third Army, Sgt. Maj. Teodorico Usison (center), Third Army sergeant major of logistics, and Spc. Bradley Godtel, who serves as a supply specialist with Third Army, cut the Third Army birthday cake at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 7. Third Army celebrated its 92 years of history, ranging from its mission in the trenches of Germany during World War II to their current mission of balancing a complex logistical mission in order to support the Warfighters in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Photo by: Spc. Eric Guzman

## Chaplain's Corner

Story by  
 Capt. Derek M. Boucher  
 53 BSB-KU Camp Chaplain

A religious observance just passed that many do not know called All Souls day. All Soul's Day is a Roman Catholic day of remembrance for friends and loved ones founded on the ancient Pagan "Festival of the Dead" that celebrated the belief that souls would return each year for a meal. Candles in the window guided the soul home, and a place was set at the family table. The Children would go through the village, asking for food to be offered symbolically to the dead, and then donated to feed the hungry.

When I think of "All Souls" day, it brings thoughts about those who fought for our freedom and died in our

nations wars. The military also has similar rituals such as the toast to the empty chair at formal dining events or the customs we observe around Veterans Day.

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 Armistice Day to remember the end of the "Great War." That Holiday, now called Veterans Day, honors veterans of all wars.

The Apostle Paul, in Hebrews 11, remembers those who by faith sacrificed for others; some call this chapter the hall of heroes. Merriam-Webster's Dictionary says, a hero is "one who shows great courage." Let me encourage you, as you travel down life's path, to thank veterans, past and present, for their Selfless Service. Finally, let me say, if you have not heard it in a while, thank you for your service to your Country.

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# Emergency Numbers

911 Emergency DSN – 911/112  
 From cell phone 2389-9911  
 Camp Arifjan  
 DSN 430-3160 / PMO 430-1343  
 Arifjan Cell 6682-2120  
 Camp Buehring  
 DSN 438-3224 / PMO 438- 3325  
 Buehring Cell 9720-5396  
 Camp Virginia Emergency DSN 832-9111  
 Camp Virginia DSN 832-2559  
 Virginia Cell 6705-9470  
 LSA DSN 442-0189  
 LSA Cell 6682-2467  
 K-Crossing DSN 823-1327  
 K-Crossing Cell 682-0095  
 KCIA/APOD Cell 6706-0165  
 SPOD DSN 825-1314  
 SPOD Cell 9720-5982  
 KNB DSN 839-1334

## Just one Question? What does Thanksgiving mean to you?



“I plan on having Family over and doing nothing but talking with the TV off. We all say what we’re thankful for before we eat.”

Petty Officer 2nd Class  
 Delonte Chaney  
 NAV-E LSG



“Eating some cornbread, being with mom, eating a lot of food and having a good time.”

Senior Airman  
 Christopher Cianfrone-Adams  
 1st Theater Sustainment  
 Command



“I’ve been in training, in the field or on deployment for the last five Thanksgivings, I’m just thankful that I’m still alive serving my country.”

Staff Sgt. Maria Frutos,  
 469th Combat Sustainment  
 Support Battalion



“Thanksgiving means Family”

Airman 1st Class  
 Brittany Waite  
 386th Expeditionary  
 Communications Squadron



“Realizing how thankful you are for who you still have, especially for me since I have a new baby boy.”

Spc. David Patton  
 E Company, 343rd Patriots

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 AND A MEMBER  
 OF A TEAM.**

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