

# Desert Voice

December 22, 2010



# Mission Ready

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## Hope and Freedom



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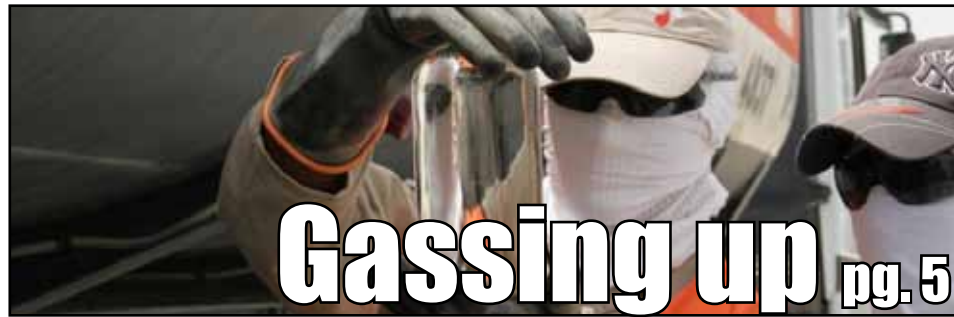
Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders and other performers join Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston as he visits Camp Arifjan for his final Hope and Freedom tour.

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November marks the one-millionth R&R passenger to pass through Kuwait's Life Support Area.

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# Command Corner

To the Third Army/ARCENT Team,

The first holiday season in our organization's proud history was spent in Germany in 1918, and it set the tone for traditions that last into the present. In fall of 1918, the Meuse-Argonne Campaign successes by the AEF under General Pershing had assisted in forcing a German surrender. The newly formed Third Army—established Nov. 7, 1918, at Chaumont, France, per American Expeditionary Forces General Order 198—began movement to Germany on Nov. 17. A month later, Third Army established the Koblenz bridgehead in order to ford the Rhine, an action completed on December 19. While most of the Allied Expeditionary Force was moving to port to redeploy to the United States, Third Army was doing the difficult work of disarming and disbanding the remaining German forces and establishing itself as a constabulary force, with the mission of occupying defeated Germany. Numbering over 230,000 with its principal subordinate units—III, IV, and VII Corps, all of which had seen fighting in the months prior—Third Army Soldiers took on the difficult task of enforcing the Peace of Versailles; during the holidays of 1918, they had no idea that their mission would end that summer once Germany finally complied with the tenets of the peace agreement; as far as they knew, they'd be deployed in Germany for an extended period.

There were many deployed holiday periods to follow for Third Army Soldiers. In 1944, we celebrated in Belgium, with our advanced elements entering Bastogne on Christmas Day. From 1945 to 1946 we were in Germany again. Desert Shield/Desert Storm allowed us to celebrate our holidays in the Middle East, for the first time, in 1990. And we've celebrated our holidays here every year since 2002. Each year we have spent in foreign lands, including the present holiday period, has been because our mission is so critical: whether enforcing the peace in occupied Germany, delivering the Battle of the Bulge, protecting Saudi Arabia from Iraqi aggression, or supporting a theater at war, we remain forward deployed over the holiday season to support our Nation's needs so that future generations have the opportunity to celebrate this special season in peace.

As we celebrate according to our various faiths this holiday season, and as we welcome the New Year, I hope you will join me in reflecting on the proud traditions of this command, on the sacrifices we have and will continue to make to defend our freedoms, and on those who have come before us who likewise chose to put their nation before themselves.

This year we will continue to take our readiness to new levels, and we should all feel proud that we are continuing to improve this organization while we are performing our absolutely critical Mission. Granite Shield is a new ARCENT program which we began last month. In the coming year, this program will ensure a holistic approach to readiness – the individual readiness of our Soldiers, the drills required for emergency response here in Kuwait, and the readiness of our Team to execute the various contingencies for which we have responsibility from CENTCOM.

This year will see a much diminished presence in Iraq, and in fact may mark the end of operations there; the Iraqis will become our partners for regional stability, and you all have made this possible.

This year is also predicted to mark the beginning of a drawdown in Afghanistan, and while we will continue to conduct operations there, you should feel proud of your role in setting the theater as we have.

2010 has been a year of remarkable accomplishments for Third Army, and each day I am proud to observe that we have lived up to the reputation that was begun in the midst of the holidays of 1918.



Patton's Own!



*William G. Webster*  
William G. Webster  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Commanding General

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



Photo by Sgt. David Reardon, 1st Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

An Airman looks on as bundles of JP8 fuel fall to the ground during a fuel airdrop above Afghanistan, Aug. 14. In 2010, petroleum personnel ordered, tracked, and delivered more than 1 billion gallons of fuel to Warfighters on the ground. While most fuel is delivered via tanker trucks, some of the most remote forward operating bases get their fuel supplied via airdrops.

# 1st TSC's five-Soldier petroleum team supports military's fuel mission

Story by Natalie Cole  
1st Theater Sustainment Command

Since 2001, petroleum professionals, both military and civilian, have been meeting the unending demands for fuel in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. While fuel management does not garner much attention or time in the spotlight, it is an essential mission that keeps things moving.

The 21st century military fuel pipeline works something like this: U.S. Government agencies purchase fuel from refineries in countries within or near the Central Command area of operations. International civilian contractors deliver the fuel in large tanker trucks to distribution points. Some of the most remote forward operating bases get their fuel supplied via airdrops.

Multiple agencies collaborate to meet the military's fuel needs. The agencies and personnel include Central Command, Third Army, the Army Petroleum Center, Defense Logistics Agency-Europe, Army Materiel Command and petroleum officers. "These different

organizations collectively ensure the fuel purchase [and] delivery process is as accurate and current as possible," said Lt. Col. Ronald Childress, chief of Supply and Service, Petroleum and Water Section, 1st Theater Sustainment Command.

Five Soldiers with the 1st TSC's petroleum crew fit into the middle of the big picture by tracking how much fuel is used each day at bases in Iraq and Afghanistan. The data on fuel usage, combined with future operations information, create the basis for how other agencies order fuel, explained Staff Sgt. Nicholas Braddock, noncommissioned officer in charge, Bulk Petroleum, 1st TSC.

"We take all the forward operating bases that are in, let's say Afghanistan or Iraq, and we put them in a big spreadsheet and we average out how much fuel they use ... and kind of project how much fuel they're going to use in the future. We use historical data from years past and current data. So, sometimes you're using 100,000 gallons



Photo by Sgt. David Reardon, 1st Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

Two international contractors inspect a sample of JP8 at the Truck Fill Stand near Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Each day, fuel trucks distribute millions of gallons of fuel to Warfighters in the Central Command area of operations. Because of the large volume of fuel and the never ending demand, there are many agencies and people – civilian and military – working in support of petroleum operations. A small group of Soldiers with the 1st Theater Sustainment Command tracks and projects fuel usage so other agencies can order the correct amount of fuel.

of fuel a day per FOB; sometimes it's more. Each FOB is different, so you have to know what's going on with the mission because the mission dictates how much fuel we're going to use," he said.

The facts and figures keep the mission focused, said Childress. "Our [1st TSC's] relationships probably serve as the most important element in the middle management process."

There are millions of gallons of fuel on the road each day. In fact, at any given time, more than 80 percent of all the contracted trucks driving in the CENTCOM area are moving fuel, according to Braddock. Overall, in 2010, petroleum specialists have tracked and distributed more than one billion gallons of the essential energy source.

Because fuel is a basic necessity, there is little room for error in the petroleum mission, said Braddock. "Everything runs off of fuel. Everything else runs off of water. So, if we

don't do our job correctly, then we can't fight. That's the only way I can look at it."

Working in middle management sheds new light on how the military manages sustainment operations, Braddock said. "This is the first time I've worked in this high of a level. You can see how the big Army works. When you're in a line unit, all you want [to know] is 'when is the fuel getting here?' ... And here, you see how the overall thing works. It's pretty unique when you see DLA talking to Third Army and Third Army talking to the Joint Petroleum Officers and the fuel guys on the ground."

Petroleum managers have a tangible, straightforward way to know if they are fulfilling their mission, according to Braddock. "The way I look at it is when the Warfighter gets to the fuel pump and fuel's coming out, that's success. That's as successful as we can be."



Third Army Soldiers register for the new Defense Personal Property System at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait in preparation for Third Army's strategic relocation from Ft. McPherson, Ga. to Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. next year. Third Army's strategic relocation office held a briefing at Camp Arifjan Dec. 13, explaining the movement process and answering questions Soldiers had about the transition from Ft. McPherson to Shaw AFB.

## BRAC briefing keeps Soldiers Ready

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

Soldiers attended a briefing held by Third Army strategic relocation representatives Dec. 13 to ask questions and learn about all of the moving options available to them during their transition from Ft. McPherson, Ga. to Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

At Camp Arifjan, Kuwait's Zone 1 Chapel, Master Sgt. Barry Leveretter, a Longs, S.C. native and an operations noncommissioned officer with Third Army's office of strategic relocation, along with Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Poole, a Washington, D.C. native and the noncommissioned officer in charge of the office of strategic relocation, explained the Defense Personal Property System's role in the move to Shaw AFB as well as resolving issues and questions held by those in attendance.

"We're here to inform the Troops about where they're moving to and what they have waiting for



Staff Sgt. Joshua Johnson, an Atlanta, Ga. native and early warning operator for Third Army, registers for the new Defense Personal Property System at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait Dec. 13, after being briefed about Third Army's strategic relocation from Ft. McPherson, Ga. to Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. The briefing was held to maintain Soldier readiness and to give Third Army Troops and Families a jumpstart on the movement process.

them in the area. One of the tougher things about these briefs is not having all of the answers to the questions on the spot, but it's a small obstacle," said Poole. "What we usually do is write down the questions as people ask them, then we post them to [our] blog site after we get the questions out to the people who can

answer them properly. That way, the Soldiers who didn't get their questions answered can check the blog site and get their answers," he added.

During the brief, Leveretter and Poole applauded the benefits of using the DPPS and praised the convenience it provides for Soldiers who are facing

the move to Shaw AFB while stationed at Camp Arifjan.

"DPPS is much better because it's hands on. It's user friendly, and it's interactive. You, the Soldier, are able to take care of yourself by keying the information you want into the system --- things like the pickup dates that you want and the delivery dates that you want. No one is going to take care of you better than you will," said Leveretter.

The flexible nature and simplicity of DPPS make it a valuable asset for Soldiers and their Families during the relocation process.

"I believe that it's a good tool for Soldiers and Families to use to prepare them for the move to Shaw Air Force Base," said Staff Sgt. Joshua Johnson, an Atlanta, Ga. native and early warning operator for Third Army.

Use of the new systems Third Army has put in place makes Soldiers' transition to

Shaw AFB smoother, taking considerable stress off of both the individual Soldier and their Families.

"To get the move accomplished, the Soldiers and their Families need to know what they want to do as far as where their Families are going. They just need to go and find a place and then get the ball rolling. Coming to a brief like this will help Soldiers accomplish that mission," said Leveretter.

Every Soldier affected by the Base Realignment and Closure-sparked move from Ft. McPherson to Shaw AFB receives a briefing upon request and learns how to utilize DPPS (which can be found at <http://www.move.mil>.) after registering for the site during the briefing.

For Soldiers who find questions unanswered during the briefing, they can consult the Third Army "Movement to Shaw" page, found at <http://www.arcent.army.mil/move-to-shaw/updates-and-information.aspx>.

The page is updated regularly with information that may prove helpful for Soldiers who are left with questions about the strategic relocation after they receive the briefing.



Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Poole, a Washington, D.C. native and the noncommissioned officer in charge of the office of strategic relocation, explained the Defense Personal Property System's role in the move to Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. from Ft. McPherson, Ga., as well as resolving issues and questions held by those in attendance of a movement brief held by Third Army at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait Dec. 13. The briefing was held to maintain Soldier Readiness and to give Third Army Troops and Families a jumpstart on the movement process.


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# Sergeant Major of the Army hosts his final Hope and Freedom Tour

Photo by Sgt. Ryan Hohman, Third Army Public Affairs



Photo by Sgt. Ryan Hohman, Third Army Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. William G. Webster (right), Third Army Commanding General, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston (left), and Santa Claus (middle) speak with Soldiers during the Sergeant Major of the Army Hope and Freedom Tour at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Dec. 17. Lt. Gen. Webster thanked the Soldiers for their hard work throughout the holiday season as they continue to maintain their Readiness to face any challenge that may arise within Third Army's 20-country area of responsibility.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, Third Army Public Affairs

Members of the U.S. Army Band, "Downrange", entertain Soldiers at the Zone 6 Stage by singing Journey's "Don't Stop Believing" during a United Service Organizations show presented by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston. "Downrange," along with several other entertainers, were invited to tour with Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston in partnership with the USO as they visited deployed Servicemembers throughout the Central Command's area of responsibility this holiday season.



Photo by Sgt. Ryan Hohman, Third Army Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Chad B. Leader, a Chesapeake, Va. native and lead guitarist for the Army Band "Downrange," plays America the Beautiful during the Sergeant Major of the Army Hope and Freedom Tour at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Dec. 17.

Story by Sgt. Ryan Hohman  
Third Army Public Affairs

With the holiday season just around the corner, many deployed Servicemembers in Kuwait begin to feel the strain of being away from their Families and friends.

To give the Servicemembers a night to relax and know that Americans back home appreciate the sacrifices they are making, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston sponsored his seventh and final United Service Organizations' Hope and Freedom Tour at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait Dec. 17.

"There have been ten Christmases Soldiers have been away from their Families and loved ones back home," said Sgt.

Maj. of the Army Preston. "I think for many of our Soldiers out there right now it is important to know that people back home keep them in their prayers and really care about the mission they perform every day."

The show, hosted by ESPN correspondent Leeann Tweeden, featured the U.S. Army Band "Downrange," musicians Keni Thomas, Alan Grace, Buddy Jewell and Emily West, Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders Nicole Hamilton and Brandi Redmond, and comedian Chonda Pierce.

"I thought the show was awesome. They had a really good mix of music and entertainers," said

Staff Sgt. William Smith, a liaison officer with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and an Anaheim, Calif. native. "Being away from family and friends can be hard, but events like this help us stay focused on the mission at hand."

For many of the performers, this trip meant just as much to them as it did to the troops.

"Coming out here is the least we could do," said first-time USO performer James Jones, an Austin, Texas based guitarist for Keni Thomas. "You guys get up every morning and save people's lives. We wake up and go to the studio; it's a way for us to give back."

With this tour being Sgt. Maj. of the Army Preston's last before he retires, he

was able to look back and remember all the times he has been able to come through and tour Kuwait and see the hard work Third Army is doing.

"Every time I have come through Kuwait, the focus of the Third Army command and its Soldiers at being Ready to Fight Tonight and support any mission is second to none," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Preston. "They do a magnificent job of making us and all the missions up north a success."

As the concert drew to a close, Servicemembers returned to their rooms knowing no matter how far they are from home, the hearts of the American people will always be there to support them as they defend their freedom.



Photo by Sgt. Ryan Hohman, Third Army Public Affairs

Country singer Emily West, a Waterloo, Iowa native, sings to the troops at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait during the Sergeant Major of the Army Hope and Freedom Tour at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Dec. 17. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston and several entertainers are touring various countries in partnership with the USO, visiting deployed Servicemembers throughout the Central Command's area of responsibility this holiday season.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, Third Army Public Affairs

Alana Grace, a singer, performs for Soldiers during a United Service Organizations show at the Zone 6 stage at Camp Arifjan Dec. 17. Grace, along with several other entertainers, was invited to tour with Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston in partnership with the USO as they visited with deployed servicemembers throughout the area this holiday season.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, Third Army Public Affairs

Buddy Jewell, a country music artist, performs for deployed Servicemembers as part of Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston's United Service Organizations tour in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Dec. 17.



Maj. Gen. Peter M. Vangjel, the Deputy Commanding General for Third Army is briefed by Cpt. Carl B. Scruggs, the commander of Battery D, 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, before taking a tour of the Patriot missile site in Southwest Asia Dec. 9.

## ADA Soldiers hone in on training

Story and Photos by  
Spc. Maria Asenbrener

69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Public Affairs, Third Army

Maj. Gen. Peter M. Vangjel, Deputy Commanding General of Third Army, visited Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment during an air and missile defense exercise in Southwest Asia Dec. 9.

Maj. Gen. Vangjel spoke with the Soldiers of Batteries C and D regarding the training incorporated in the exercise and in the Soldiers' everyday activities. The training reinforces Third Army's commitment to provide a warfighting, expeditionary focused, multi-functional headquarters capable of deploying to conduct combat operations in its area of operations.

"We need to make sure that basic Soldier standards, for leaders and Soldiers, are in place," said Maj. Gen. Vangjel.

This training is in conjunction with Third Army's readiness review titled Granite Shield, which pulls together under one name all of the tasks Soldiers and commanders are doing to be prepared for potential threats and incorporates a series of training events Soldiers need to execute to ensure their readiness in a combat environment.

Soldiers with 3-43 ADA and the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment have been working to ensure Soldiers have ample training to enhance Soldier skills while deployed.

"Battery D is proactive in their training strategies, and the Soldiers spend a lot of time training to ensure they are confident and prepared to handle any situation," said Capt. Carl B. Scruggs, commander, Battery D.

The Soldiers assigned to 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade conducted an air and missile defense exercise throughout the second week of December. During this exercise, Soldiers executed their duties during a simulated air attack on the region. These duties encompassed everything from making sure the equipment is properly working and maintained, to tracking incoming air threats, to simulating the launch of a missile to intersect the incoming threat.

Time is of the essence to Soldiers in air defense. They need to be able to perform their operations quickly, thoroughly and correctly to keep their fellow Soldiers, joint-service partners and host nations safe.

With the battlefield boundaries becoming less defined each day, it is imperative that Soldiers are up to speed in every aspect of being a Soldier, from first-aid to time management.

"It is important to continue to improve through training in order to be able to complete your job efficiently and correctly," said Maj. Gen. Vangjel.

The Soldiers of the batteries are confident in their abilities to be able to execute their missions successfully.

In addition to the air and missile defense exercise, the Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 69th ADA, participate in weekly warrior task and battle drills training.

Over the previous weeks, Soldiers in the HHB have conducted hands-on combatives training, first-aid training and training on evacuating casualties from an area. The unit plans this training once a week and it will continue to focus on Soldier readiness, such as how to react to contact and how to react to a chemical attack, among others.

"We have the best crew to get the job done," said Sgt. Justin Yepez, a noncommissioned officer in Battery D, 3-43. "I'd invite everyone to Battery D. They'll be safe here."



Maj. Gen. Peter M. Vangjel, the Deputy Commanding General for Third Army, talks with Sgt. Justin Yepez, a noncommissioned officer in Battery D, 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, at the battery's Patriot missile site in Southwest Asia Dec. 9.



After clearing customs, Soldiers walk into the Freedom Yard at the Army Life Support Area in Kuwait, Dec. 12, to await their flights home for Rest and Recuperation travel. The Freedom Yard is home to what Servicemembers refer to as the world's smallest Pizza Hut. More than one million servicemembers have passed through the LSA as part of the Army's R and R program.

## R&R program reaches one million milestone

Story and Photo by  
Natalie Cole

1st Theater Sustainment Command

It's official: As of November, more than one million travelers have passed through the Army Life Support Area in Kuwait, marking a major milestone in the military's Rest and Recuperation travel program.

The R and R travel program was designed to ensure deployed Servicemembers and civilians have coordinated travel for the two weeks of leave they are allowed to take at the mid-point of their year-long deployments. For the past seven years, personnel under Third Army have been managing the customs points, passenger terminals, and flight operations at the LSA in support of the R and R program.

With its temporary lodging, morale services, chaplain support, liaison teams, and famed fast food restaurants, the LSA is a bustling desert travel hub that operates 24 hours a day. Tech. Sgt. Barbara Whitaker, noncommissioned officer in charge for Task Force Gateway, Exceptional Personnel Services, said the amenities in the area are intended for travelers who have been serving under high operations tempos in forward deployed areas.

"We strive to make their transition easy from when they departed their area of operation by providing excellent customer service for their time spent here on the LSA until

they depart ... to meet with their families," she said.

Approximately 300 to 590 people move through the area each day, according to Sgt. 1st Class TaRita Taylor, noncommissioned officer in charge of outbound operations for the 52nd Theater Gateway. She said success for the R and R program is defined as getting waves of travelers out of the area within 24 hours.

The million-traveler mark is another indicator of how the R and R program is working, said Taylor. "For us, it's letting us know that we're doing a pretty great job. Soldiers are arriving here safely and they get to go home safely... and then they return back to duty safely to go back and continue on with their mission."

In addition to fulfilling her formal responsibilities at the LSA, Taylor said she and her coworkers often don Santa hats and play music to bring cheer to weary travelers during the holiday season. "We try to keep them motivated, excited," she said.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Kendall Thorne is the leading petty officer of the Freedom Area, the final LSA passenger terminal where travelers wait before getting on a bus to the airport. Thorne and other customs personnel have supported a portion of the million travelers by providing water, snacks, and current updates on flights. He explained that working in the Freedom Area, home to the world's smallest Pizza Hut (unofficially), is his chance to help others who are getting a break from being down range. "I enjoy what I do," he said.

Because of the constant flow of travelers, Whitaker said her sights are already on future milestones. "We have helped [one million] Servicemembers and Department of Defense civilians travel home safely to spend time with their families and loved ones, and we look forward to servicing the next million."

In January, the U.S. Army will hold ceremonies in Kuwait and at the airports in Atlanta and Dallas to commemorate the million-traveler milestone.



Maj. Gen. Kenneth D. Dowd (center), Commanding General of the 1st Theater Sustainment Command, with Col. Flem Walker (right), brigade commander, 1st Sustainment Brigade, along with other distinguished guests, participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony of the first ever central issue facility in Kuwait during the ribbon cutting ceremony at Camp Buehring, Kuwait Dec. 17.

## Kuwait Receives First Ever CIF

Story and Photos by  
Sgt. Debra Richardson  
Third Army

Col. Flem Walker, brigade commander with the 1st Sustainment Brigade, called the grand opening of the central issue facility, CIF, a long time coming during the ribbon cutting ceremony Dec. 17.

“The bottom line is we received the mission in June, opened the doors December 1st and in the 15 days the CIF has been open, we’ve serviced 952 Soldiers,” remarked Walker.

Walker thanked the many Soldiers, Department of Defense civilians and contractors for their quick reaction after the mission was received.

Maj. Gen. Kenneth D. Dowd, Commanding General, 1st Theater Sustainment Command, Walker and other distinguished guests cut the official ribbon. After the ceremony, distinguished guests and other

attendees toured the facility, admiring the organized clothing racks and spacious environment.

The facility already contains 922 out of the required 1049 items on line and the missing items have been ordered and are enroute, explained Walker.

Acquiring a CIF in Kuwait has been a hot issue for years, beginning back in 2007. “The 469th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion accepted the challenge,” remarked Walker with pride “and they have made the CIF footprint here at Camp Buehring a reality.”

In the opening remarks, Walker explained that the Buehring CIF mission is to provide support to all Central Command elements, minus Afghanistan. The facility will exchange or replace uniforms through the wear or tear policy as well as exchange uniforms that are incorrect sizes.

Sgt. 1st Class Kristopher Tajchman, the support operations noncommissioned officer in charge with the 469th CSSB expressed his full support of the CIF addition to Camp Buehring. “It’s what this theater needs to carry on operations in both Kuwait and Iraq. I think the CIF facility is a great investment because we’re providing what every Soldier needs in order to perform their mission.”

One of the many hopeful outcomes of the facility is that Soldiers will now collect their mission essential equipment upon arrival in Kuwait, as opposed to being issued the gear back in the states. Essentially, this will prevent both Soldiers and units from transporting the gear from the states to Kuwait.

During the close of the ceremony, Walker again thanked the ambitious 469th Soldiers for their selfless service and motivation.



Photo by Sgt. Brian Gordon

Col. Richard Gallant, and Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Corrow, both leaders with Florida National Guard 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, furl the 53rd’s unit colors during a Transfer of Authority Ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Dec. 15. Soldiers with the New Hampshire National Guard 197th Fires Brigade have now assumed responsibility for convoy security and camp operations in Kuwait.

## Gator Brigade leaves, New Hampshire Fires Brigade takes over

Story by Natalie Cole  
1st Theater Sustainment Command

Florida’s largest National Guard Unit is coming home after a year-long deployment to Kuwait.

Soldiers with the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, known as the Gator Brigade, marked the official end of their tour in a transfer of authority ceremony, Dec. 15, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

During their deployment, the 53rd IBCT ensured the safe flow of personnel and equipment throughout Kuwait and Iraq.

Additionally, the Gator Brigade managed operations at five camps spread throughout the country. Soldiers in different battalions performed a variety of duties such as escorting logistics convoys, securing deep-water sea ports, training with the Kuwaiti Army

and screening personnel at check-points.

“These were not easy tasks or missions. It took dedicated professionals, thousands of hours of planning, preparation and supervision to make it all work,” said Maj. Gen. Kenneth S. Dowd, Commanding General, 1st Theater Sustainment Command.

In his address at the ceremony, Col. Richard J. Gallant, commander of the 53rd IBCT, encouraged Soldiers to take pride in the historic nature of their deployment. “During this largest deployment of Florida National Guard Soldiers since World War II, you have set a standard of excellence for all to emulate,” he said.

“I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished

here, and you need to be proud also,” he continued.

Gallant also commended Soldiers for going beyond the requirements of their missions. “Each and every day, each and every one of you would ask ‘what can I do to improve?’ Whether it was a facility improvement, or a process improvement, or a Soldier care or customer service issue, we maintained a positive, can-do spirit that is the hallmark of the Florida National Guard.”

Soldiers with the New Hampshire National Guard 197th Fires Brigade have assumed responsibility for the missions in Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn. Commanded by Col. Peter L. Corey, the 197th Fires Brigade is made up of more than 2,000 citizen Soldiers from five different

states.

As part of the transition process, the 53rd IBCT has spent weeks training side-by-side with the 197th Fires Bde. to prepare the “Live Free or Die” brigade to take on the missions in Kuwait.

“Your ability to sustain your missions while transitioning forces is the sign of a mature, experienced Army,” said Maj. Gen. Dowd. “A successful transfer of authority is dependent upon the skills and professional motivation of those involved. This transfer of authority has gone like clockwork.”

In his parting words to the Gator Brigade, Maj. Gen. Dowd said, “We wish you a safe journey and a speedy integration back to your civilian lives and loved ones.”



**I.A.M. STRONG**  
U.S. ARMY  
INTERVENE \* ACT \* MOTIVATE

**Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Prevention**

**INTERVENE**  
When I recognize a threat to my fellow Soldiers, I will have the personal courage to INTERVENE and prevent Sexual Assault. I will condemn acts of Sexual Harassment. I will not abide obscene gestures, language or behavior. I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I will INTERVENE.

**ACT**  
You are my brother, my sister, my fellow Soldier. It is my duty to stand up for you, no matter the time or place. I will take ACTION. I will do what's right. I will prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. I will not tolerate sexually offensive behavior. I will ACT.

**MOTIVATE**  
We are American Soldiers, MOTIVATED to keep our fellow Soldiers safe. It is our mission to prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. We will denounce sexual misconduct. As Soldiers, we are all MOTIVATED to take action. We are strongest...together.

[www.preventsexualassault.army.mil](http://www.preventsexualassault.army.mil)  
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**ARMY VALUES**

LOYALTY  
DUTY  
RESPECT  
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PERSONAL COURAGE

**ARMY VALUES**

CALL TO ACTION

**THE DESERT VISION**  
GET THE THIRD ARMY SCOOP  
WITH SGT FISHER AND SPC DILLON

**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



Capt. Christopher Welsh, intelligence officer, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, reads a book on camera, Nov. 28, at the 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Regt. Battalion conference room at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Diyala province, Iraq.

## Bonding Through Books

Story and Photo by Spc. Michael England  
2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

Several Soldiers sat on couches in a dimly lit tent, speaking softly to each other, awaiting their turn.

Sgt. Jonathan Windsor emerged from a separate room with a book in one hand, a camera in the other and a smile on his face. He just finished reading Dr. Seuss' "Green Eggs and Ham" to his son.

Windsor, a native of Columbia, Mo., and company intelligence support team noncommissioned officer in charge for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, "Gimlets," 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, just finished participating in the "Bonding Through Books" program offered at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Diyala province, Iraq.

Sgt. Jeremy Graham,

an Asheboro, N.C., native, and a fire support sergeant with HHC, 1-21 Inf. Regt., has been the key to the program's success since he opened it to Gimlet Soldiers in October.

Graham explained the significance of the program as it pertains to Soldiers and their children back home.

"Soldiers are away from their Families; they're not able to actually connect with them, and the children back home can't really see their Dads except for maybe a couple photos over the internet," Graham said. "So we're giving Soldiers the opportunity to read to their children, and then we send the book and the DVD we record back home to their children."

Graham said he drew inspiration from a similar program offered by the Uniformed Service

Organizations.

"The USO actually has a program like this in Kuwait called 'United Through Reading,' but we don't have a USO here that does it. So we figured we'd do it ourselves," he said.

The Gimlets' reading program arrived in time for Soldiers to send home videos to their children for the holidays, and Graham said he plans on keeping the program running throughout the deployment.

He added that many Soldiers have been appreciative of the program for allowing them to keep their children familiar with their faces and voices.

Capt. Christopher Welsh, who hails from Plant City, Fla., and is the battalion intelligence officer for 1-21 Inf. Regt., said he read a book for his daughter, who was born just two months ago.

Windsor said he and

his son have dealt with separation during a previous deployment, but this program has given him another way to maintain a connection with his son.

"Well, this is not the first deployment my son and I have had to endure," Windsor said. "At two years and three months old, he's doing pretty well with sight recognition, but I wanted to make sure he gets my voice down, too."

Graham said he acts as the program coordinator, setting aside time each month to bring all the supplies to the battalion conference room, a quiet place where the Gimlet Soldiers can read the books in peace.

The NCO who created the program for his Soldiers said he found the books in a closet, and the camera is on loan from another NCO in the battalion.

The "Bonding Through Books" program helps Graham maintain a connection with his own daughter, he said, noticing a contrast in her behavior towards him during a previous deployment and the time he spent at home during his recent Environmental Morale Leave this deployment.

"When I came home on a previous deployment, my daughter was shy; she wouldn't come up to me – she really didn't know who Daddy was," he said. "When I went home on EML this deployment, she ran up to me and hugged my legs. I've never had her do that before, and I think it's mostly because of this."

"I think there's more of a connection there that would not be there if I wasn't able to do this, and I want to share that with other people," he added.



Items shipped into theater undergo various scans to detect illegal contraband being shipped to Troops in a deployed environment. Military Police Investigators confiscate and dispose of contents found to be illegal before they reach the hands of Servicemembers.

## Unwelcome care-packages

Story and Photos by  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason McDuffie  
Provost Marshal Office

Every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, and Marine is briefed on General Order One Bravo before leaving the States and when arriving in the Central Command's area of responsibility. That doesn't mean that everyone follows this order or that our loved ones back home are aware of what it encompasses.

The Joint Military Mail Terminal at Camp Arifjan is charged with enforcing General Order One Bravo for all mail that comes into theater and the Area Support Group-Kuwait Provost Marshal is passing this information to the Servicemember's chain of command.

The process is one that begins when packages arrive at the JMMT. At the JMMT, packages are sent through two large x-ray machines. Screeners use these machines to check for contraband, such as alcohol, weapons and any other banned items. When the screeners come across a suspicious item, the Camp Arifjan Military Police Investigators are called in to help.

The screeners at JMMT upload x-rays pictures of suspicious items contraband and then pass these on to the investigators. MPI looks at the digital images and determines whether or not they believe the package contains contraband. If the MPI believes there is contraband in the package, they issue a warrant to open the package and then forward this information to the local magistrate.

The magistrate looks at the photos and either approves or disapproves the warrant. If the warrant is approved, an MPI is called to the mail terminal for a physical search of the suspicious package. If the warrant is disapproved, investigation is closed and the package is sent on to

the addressee. However, if the magistrate approves the warrant, the MPI is called to JMMT for a search of the suspicious package.

Before an MPI opens the package, a photo of the package is taken. Once the package is opened another picture is taken to verify what the contents looked like when it was opened. Packages found not to have any contraband are forwarded on to the addresses. When an MPI finds a package that does have contraband, the contraband is seized and the proper paperwork is completed to let the addressee know that an item or items were removed from their package. Further, a list is generated with the addressee's name that will be sent out to their unit commander. It is up to the unit commander to determine if the contraband was shipped unknowingly or if the illegal items were requested by the Servicemember.

The item is then disposed of, destroyed, and placed in a secure storage facility. Alcohol is poured out at the Camp Arifjan Provost Marshal Office, pornography is destroyed, and weapons are usually destroyed depending on the weapon.

Since the beginning of 2010 (1) Flammable Item, (2) Beer-Wine Making Devices, (38) Ammunition Magazines, (41) Pornographic/Adult Novelty Items, (54) Pieces of Ammunition, (186) Weapons and Guns and (2,188) Containers of Alcohol totaling 1,324 Liters have been seized from the mail. The Provost Marshal's Office spends approximately 15,000 man hours annually and is asking for your help to reduce this contraband.

The PMO recognizes that Servicemembers can't always control what loved ones send. Education is key to let love ones know that these items are illegal in theater and that the Servicemember themselves may be questioned why they are receiving illegal items.

## Whole vs. Refined Grains

Story by  
Capt. Steven Jackson, PhD, RD  
Third Army Dietitian

Current recommendations call for adults to consume 6-8 ounces of grains each day, with at least half (3-4 ounces) being whole grains. One ounce of grain product is equal to one slice of bread, one cup of ready-to-eat cereal, or one-half cup of cooked rice, pasta, or cereal. Grain products, however, can be either whole or refined. Whole grains contain the entire grain kernel (bran, germ, and endosperm), while refined grains have been milled to remove the bran and germ. This milling process results in a loss of dietary fiber, iron, and many B vitamins, which are otherwise present in the whole grain. Although many refined grain products are "enriched" to add back iron and some B vitamins, they are still sadly lacking in dietary fiber.

Consumption of 25-35 grams of fiber each day is

recommended to maintain regular stools and reduce risk of developing colon cancer. White bread and white rice contribute very little fiber to one's diet. However, both whole grain bread and brown rice add substantial dietary fiber and help to support colon health. Whole grains also tend to satisfy appetite, and prevent rapid return of hunger, better than refined grain products.

Identifying genuine whole grains is not always easy, and verbiage on the front of food packages does not always tell the real story. One must examine the ingredients (usually in small print on the back), which are listed in decreasing order of prevalence. The key to identifying a true whole grain bread is finding "whole \_\_\_ flour" listed first, with the blank being your grain of choice (e.g., wheat, oat, rye). Also, whole grain bread should have at least 2 grams of fiber per serving (indicated on the nutrition facts label), and many varieties will have 3-5 grams. Other high fiber whole grain foods include whole cornmeal, oatmeal, bulgur, and popcorn.

## Beware of e-mail scams:

Customers should be aware of a scam in which recipients receive an e-mail that claims to come from Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). The email states that the customers password has been established or changed with an attachment that contains malicious software (malware) that infects the intended victim's computers. To avoid malware do not click on any links, or open any attachments. Be vigilant.

To all who wonder when W-2's will be issued for Tax Year 2010, the following information was taken from My Pay for your convenience.

### 2010 Tax Statement Availability in My Pay:

RETIREE 1099R	December 14, 2010
Annuitant 1099R	December 15, 2010
Reserve Army, Air Force, Navy W-2	January 4, 2011
Civilian Employee W-2	January 6, 2011
Army Non-Appropriated Fund W-2	January 11, 2011
Army Student Loan Repayment Program	January 11, 2011
Savings Deposit Program 1099INT	January 21, 2011
ACTIVE DUTY - ARMY, AIR FORCE, NAVY W-2	January 24, 2010
Travel/Miscellaneous W-2	January 31, 2011

DFAS sends notifications when a password has been established or changed in MyPay from SmartDocs@DFAS.mil. E-mails from SmartDocs@.mil do not contain attachments of any kind. Ensure when you receive an email from DFAS the email is being sent to an email address you have registered with DFAS.



### Third Army/U.S. Army Central

Wall Info Photos CG Sends Discussions

What's on your mind?

Attach: [Icons]



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Ready Tonight  
Sustain the Fight  
Shape the Future  
Patton's Own!

#### Information

Location:  
Atlanta, GA  
Phone:  
404-464-4692



Third Army/U.S. Army Central How are you going to improve your Readiness this year?



Pfc. Jamie Neighbarger "I want to be a good example to other female Soldiers and do my job to the best of my ability."  
546th Transportation Battalion



Master Sgt. David Sims "I think we need to continue preparing our Family Readiness Groups."  
164th Transportation Battalion



Air Force Tech. Sgt. Fred Passananti "I will prepare myself emotionally and mentally for whatever may be out there."  
70th Medium Truck Detachment



Sgt. Kelli Bennett "I'm going to prepare myself to become a warrant officer."  
Surgeon Cell noncommissioned officer, Third Army



DoD Civilian Alonzo Johnson "I'm just going to keep doing what I do here — that's support the Soldier."  
Forward Repair Activity

