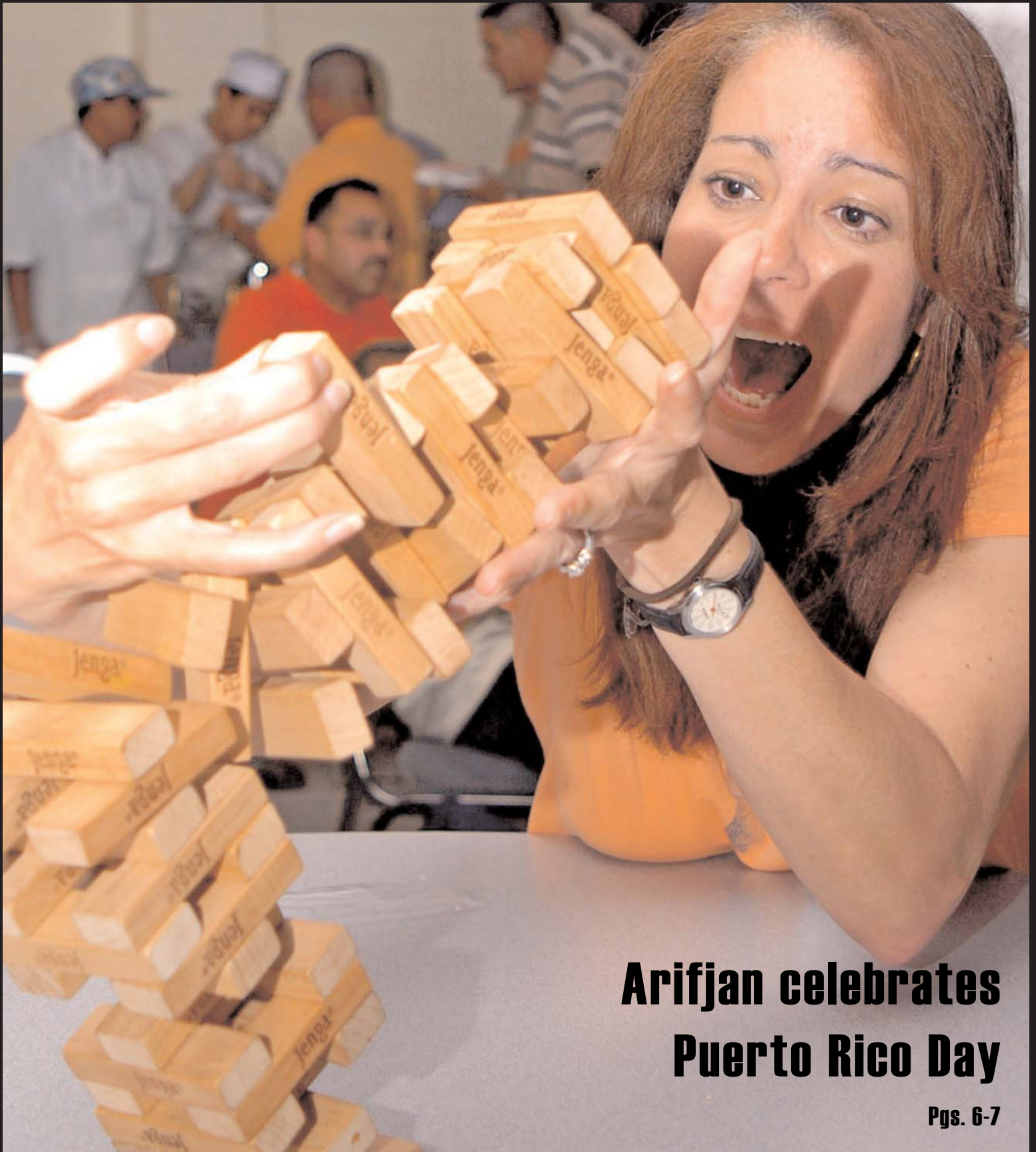


DESERT VOICE

July 27, 2005

Serving the U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait



**Arifjan celebrates
Puerto Rico Day**

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Volume 27, Issue 01
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Servicemembers enjoy a day at the Camp Arifjan pool. Photo by Spc. Janine Coogler.



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On the cover

Photo by Spc. Michael Noggle
Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Myatt knocks over the Jenga tower at the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Day at Camp Arifjan July 22.

Soldiers offered chance to experience Kuwait

Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb
CFLCC Commanding General

The country of Kuwait was once influenced by the Ottoman Empire, the greatest Islamic government of its time. It also had several mutual agreements with the British Empire, which had protected Kuwait and its international interests for decades. Upon recognizing its potential, Kuwait began to pursue independence in 1896.

These and many other facts, as well as historical sites in Kuwait, are some of the reasons I have decided to resume Cultural Awareness trips in Kuwait. While famous for its oil reserves this country has a rich history of pearl diving, fishing, trading and shipbuilding.

When conditions permit, we should take every opportunity for men and women to learn and understand the history, culture and people of our host nation country. We must also learn how this country fought for its independence and has prospered in a free and democratic society for quite some time.

My intent is for the military residents of Kuwait (not for transiting units) to visit some of the sites that reveal the illustrious history of this country, as well as the more modern and cultural evolutions that make Kuwait an oasis. To make these trips safe and enjoyable, there are two imperatives I want service men and women to adhere to and leaders to enforce. They are: force protection and discipline and

standards.

First and foremost, force protection is an absolute. Safeguarding military personnel traveling into the city is paramount. Nothing will be executed unless the leadership is reasonably assured that off-post activities can be conducted safely. There will be periods, I am certain, where because of force protection concerns, I will temporarily suspend this program – so expect the inconvenience.

The second is discipline and standards; this is non-negotiable. Our service men and women will adhere to military standards and conduct themselves honorably. The face of America is the face of our military men and women in uniform. We will present a professional, mature and respectable image of America.

As this program is developed under ASG-Kuwait control, your chain of command will give you the specific details on execution. We will start on a smaller scale, but there will also be provisions to expand the program at a later date. The Cultural Awareness program will be available to all service components on all U.S. camps in Kuwait through coordination and training of unit representatives.

Each unit's leadership will be required to complete short but mandatory cultural awareness training prior to being allowed to participate. The purpose of the training is to familiarize and to sensitize our troops with the customs and courtesies of the local culture.

People see American troops as professionals and a reflection of the attitudes of our nation. We really are ambassadors for our country and we don't want to offend anyone because of a lack of understanding of the beliefs and traditions of Kuwait or the Arab culture.



Lt. Gen. Whitcomb

After certification, units will coordinate with the ASG-Kuwait office, select a brochure for the locations they would like to visit, and under the unit's chain of command, will take their trip. Transportation will be provided by ASG-Kuwait.

Mission success in Iraq begins with mission success in Kuwait. Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coalition partners must be ready to support our forces both in and out of Iraq. This program is an indication of the success we have achieved in this region. This does not mean that our mission is complete or that the threat of terror no longer exists. We will still exercise operational awareness and force protection measures that reinforce our current and future stance on fighting terror. "PATTON'S OWN"

Korean Support Group lends helping hand

Spc. Janine Coogler
11th PAD

Troops in Iraq need all the support they can get to continue carrying out their missions. Some help comes directly from the U.S. military units in Kuwait or Coalition partners lending a helping hand.

A Feb. 26 ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the official opening of the Korean Support Group of Zaytun Division in Kuwait on Camp Virginia.

Since then, the Koreans have been lending support to other Coalition partners and offering living quarters to distinguished visitors of any Coalition, said Cpl. Joon Oh, Korean Support Group translator.

"Our main support (to the troops in Iraq) is transportation," said Lt. Col. Yong Kim, Korean Support Group commander.

While completing its delivery of resupply missions the support group is able to offer services to other Coalition partners who need transportation to or from Iraq.

The Korean soldiers of a small seven-trailer compound has taken on the task to support their troops headed to and from Iraq. All Korean soldiers deployed to Iraq must pass through Camp Virginia to in-and-out-process. Nothing can go directly to Iraq, so the small support group has a large task to keep its troops in Iraq equipped with the things they need, Oh said.

"We have a good relationship

with all the Coalition, and we are always willing to lend our support whenever we can," Kim said.

Examples of such generosity to the Coalition happened on April 13 when Lithuania's troops, headed home from Iraq, missed their convoy to the Kuwait International Airport, Kim said. Ready to lend a helping hand, the support group volunteered to make a convoy.

With the help of U.S. military gun trucks, the convoy was a success.

"They almost missed their flight back home," Kim said. "It was an honor to help our Coalition partner."

The Korean Support Group has a sense of family with other Coalition partners. In fact, part of the seven-trailer compound is open to use by all Coalition partners.

These living quarters are available for Korean troops to relax in as well as any VIP stopping through Kuwait by way of Iraq.

"We were ready to offer our trailers to the generals," Kim said. "We take care of these trailers and make them comfortable not only for ourselves ... but we take care of them for all the Coalition partners."

In support of the Global War on Terrorism, the Korean army continues to make its presence known. Contributing to the war efforts, the small Korean Support Group diligently works on its cause to support Korean troops going to and from Iraq, Kim said. Along with this, the support group continually offers its assistance to all partners in the Coalition.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jason Eaton

While on an alternate mission in Iraq, the Navistar QRF came upon a truck on fire. The scene was secure and they moved out to complete their mission. The platoon performs several support and security missions around the Kuwait and Iraq border.

Navistar QRF: Kuwait's border support

Spc. Robert Adams

11th PAD

Faster than you can say, "mount up," Camp Navistar's quick-reaction force reacts to calls for support and security in and around northern Kuwait and southern Iraq.

Manning observation towers 24 hours a day and scanning its territory in gun trucks, the QRF is the eyes and ears of the main convoy route into Iraq.

The crew is made up of National Guard Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment and Company C, 172nd Military Police Battalion, Task Force Green Mountain.

The QRF Soldiers hold many different Army jobs like Infantry, cavalry scout, cook, mechanic, medic, etc., but are deployed to Kuwait to perform the QRF mission at Camp Navistar.

"They all came together under this mission ... and they melded right off the bat and have done an excellent job," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Schembeck, HHD, 172nd MP Bn., platoon sergeant.

Prior to deploying, the Soldiers got the chance to practice firing the .50-caliber machine gun to prepare for their mission in support of the Global War on terrorism.

Everyone in the platoon shot well during the training, said Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Campagne, HHD, 172nd MP Bn., squad leader. "This is unique since most of the machine gunners were from different job

fields."

Since arriving Jan. 1, the QRF has carried out several daily missions.

One of the missions is to pull security along the Kuwaiti and Iraqi border.

The QRF protects the military's northern-most camp, where the population can increase far above normal when convoys roll through.

Another part of the QRF mission involves leaving the camp gates for route reconnaissance throughout northern Kuwait.

During these trips, the team looks for anything out of the ordinary (possible improvised explosive devices, obstructions, etc.) along convoy routes to ensure the safety of Coalition convoys entering and returning from Iraq.

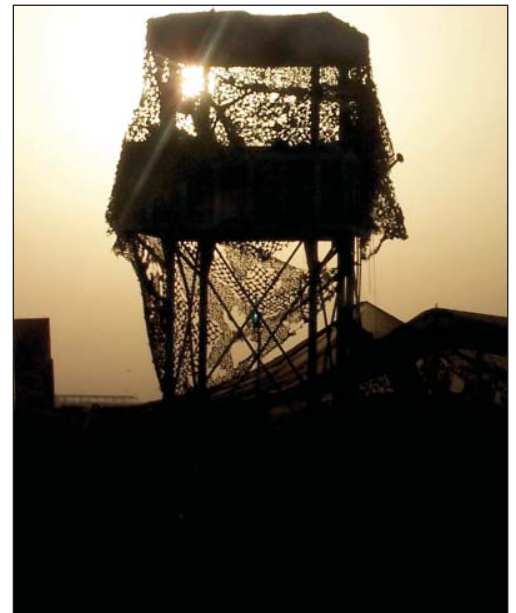
Though the QRF area of operation is mostly in Kuwait, there are times they have to cross the border.

"The guys responded across the border for the IED that went off next to a convoy in April and have gone across to assist in vehicle accidents to Coalition vehicles," Schembeck said.

If a situation calls for artillery operations, the QRF provides support and security to 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery Soldiers.

After the call comes down, they have a specific amount of time to get to the border and help out, Campagne said.

The QRF also provides security for weekly meetings across the border.



Soldiers man observation towers 24 hours a day, keeping an eye on the border.

"They take their job very seriously," said Capt. Stephen Bragg, HHD, 172nd MP Bn. commander. "There are a few law-enforcement people within the platoon, so they know how to handle themselves and react under pressure."

Though hostile situations rarely occur within the QRF area of operation, the team is constantly on watch.

Spc. Sean Whitemore, HHD, 172nd MP Bn. added, "It's a tough job, but somebody has to do it."

Red Horse Squadron prepares to travel north

Spc. Michael R. Noggle
11th PAD

It's an exercise that all servicemembers must prepare for before deploying into the Iraqi theater: reflexive and convoy live-fire training.

While the threat of insurgency remains, the United States and the Coalition Forces are finding faster and safer ways for supply convoys to minimize the danger and complete the mission.

Airmen of the 557th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron, a combination of active Air Force, Air National Guard and Reservists took part in a convoy live-fire and reflexive fire exercise at Udairi Range near Camp

Buehring as part of their three-day train-up before heading into Iraq to start their tour of duty.

The first day consisted of the reflexive fire portion of the training, with each member of the unit engaging paper targets from seven to 25 meters away.

Before going on the convoy lanes everyone must be comfortable with his weapon and be able to engage the enemy from close range, explained David A. Ocasio, Udairi Range observer/controller.

Once they completed the range, the unit moved on to the convoy lanes. The convoy consisted of more than 100 members traveling through a zone, where there could be a potential threat.

The team encountered enemy sniper fire or improvised explosive devices during four scenarios, which either forced the team to treat casualties or recover a blown-up vehicle. If the casualty's injury was too severe then a medical evacuation was arranged.

After each scenario, the O/C on the range reviewed and critiqued what the convoy did right

and what needed to be improved.

It gets crazy when explosions and bullets are flying around, but they need to be able to react without a second thought, Ocasio said. Getting the convoy through the danger zone as fast as possible is the key to success.

The after-action review wasn't only for the team to know what went wrong but also for each member to learn the different jobs in the convoy, said Air Force Capt. Jason Moschella, convoy commander. The Airmen were determined as a unit to beat their previous time and carry out the mission swiftly.

"They need to know how to operate within a convoy," Moschella said. "They must

"They must know what the different positions in a convoy do and how to react to those different scenarios."

Air Force Capt. Jason Moschella

know what the different positions in a convoy do and how to react to

those different scenarios."

"We've been doing rehearsals on aid and litter teams, recovering vehicles and landing zones," said Air Force Airman 1st Class Adam Haviland, heavy equipment operator. "It has been a good recap from what we went through at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin."

Sgt. Benjamin Scott, engineer, said he felt the training was a valuable asset because he acclimated to the heat and terrain, something they weren't able to do at McCoy.

The squadron, which is configured with Active duty Airmen, Reservists and Air National Guardsmen, not only received crucial training, but got to know each other in the unit.

"We've met up with people from across the United States," said Air Force Tech Sgt. Juan Buitron, an electrician and reservist from San Antonio.

"We were thrown in together at Fort McCoy, trying to learn what we will be doing and working with one another."

The unit will be conducting



Spc. Michael Noggle

Airmen of the 557th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron carry a casualty during their convoy battle drills at Camp Buehring.

electrical technician and engineering operations throughout Iraq such as building airport runways, reconstructing buildings and repairing roadside craters from IEDs. The "dirt boys," as Moschella referred to the heavy equipment operators, will be the most active as they help out wherever needed.

"We're supposed to go in the country and put up buildings and do some electrical wiring, among other things, and we were never really trained on convoys besides what we received at Fort McCoy," Buitron said. "So if we need to leave the forward operating base

for any reason by convoying to a certain location to do some work, then this training will help quite a bit."

Buitron, like others in the unit, works as an electrician when he is not mobilized. He and the rest of the unit were positive and felt capable of completing the mission and getting everyone home.

"This training will prepare them for those situations that nobody wants to face, but they'll be able to handle it," Moschella said. "We're ready to put Camp Buehring behind us, where we got a lot of great training, and move forward to Iraq."

Bailamos

People danced the night away, played dominoes, ate authentic cuisine and shot pool at the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Day celebration.

Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th PAD

Music, dancing, dominoes and pool set the scene for a good cultural time.

The Zone 1 Community Center was filled Friday for a celebration of Puerto Rico's commonwealth status.

"It's very simple (why we held this celebration)," said Sgt. 1st Class Armando Rosario, event coordinator. "First, we're far away from home. Another reason is that in July of 1950, Puerto Rico wrote its own constitution to become a commonwealth of the United States. We also wanted to see the Hispanic community on Arifjan enjoy themselves."

The festivities included authentic Puerto Rican food, Jenga, dominoes tournament and Salsa dancing.

"(We choose these activities) because they are typical of a (Puerto Rican) family gathering. Almost every house is like this on a holiday," said Staff Sgt. Gustavo Vega, event coordinator.

The night started off with a Puerto Rican dinner, including rice with chick peas, slow-roasted pork, jibaritos fritos (bananas

breaded and fried), and alcohol-free pina coladas.

The pork was hard to find and a chore to cook, according to Sgt. 1st Class Hector Catala, who helped prepare the pig.

There is no pork on the local economy, but one of the dining facilities had a pig that was ordered, but never picked up, according to Catala. Upon finding the pig, coordinators hoped to prepare and serve it for the celebration. The pig was 209 pounds and took six hours to roast.

Dominoes, pool and Salsa tournaments got underway after the food had been served.

Everything was judged according to Puerto Rican rules.

"It's a great thing (to win) because it's something we've practiced. I taught my partner

"It was well worth the time and effort to put together. I would do it again."

in three hours – one hour for three days.

Staff Sgt. Gustavo Vega

She knew a little when we started," Catala said, Salsa winner. "I just wanted to have fun. I wanted to be in the contest even if I didn't win."

The turnout was something that some of the organizers were expecting, while others weren't, they said.

"At the beginning of the night I expected 100 to 150 people to show up, but I think there



Photos by Spc. Michael Noggle

Sgt. 1st Class Hector Catala and Sgt. Vasti Gomez practice a few dance steps before the Salsa dance contest at the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Day at Camp Arifjan.

were more. We got good support from the community out here," Vega said.

While Vega said he was impressed by the turnout, another organizer, Rosario, said it was anticipated.

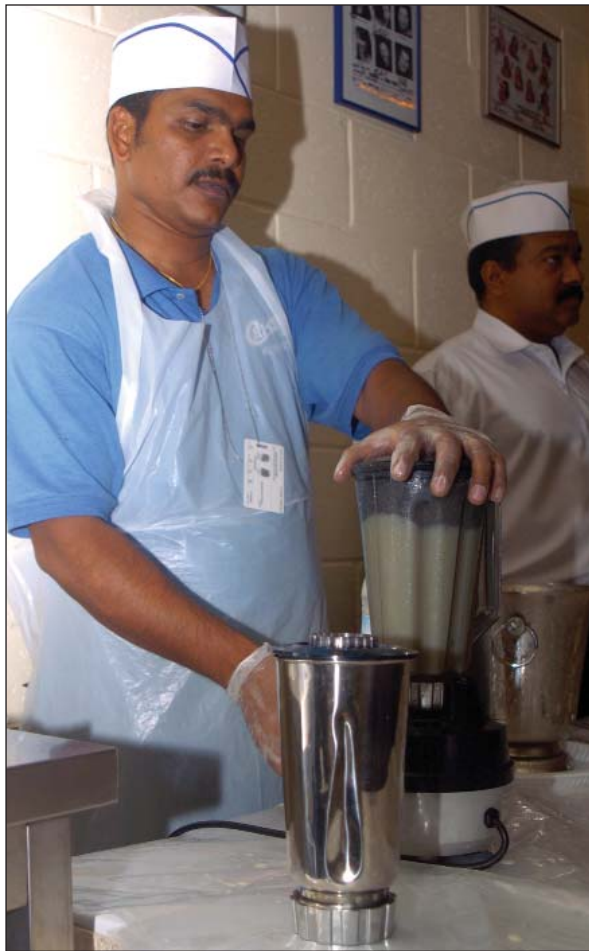
"I expected the turnout to be this big. (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) did a great job advertising," Rosario said. "All of the Hispanic community was looking forward to coming

tonight."

Because of the large turnout, Vega said organizers are considering holding another celebration for Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 – Oct. 15.

Vega said the work the organizers put into the night made it a success.

"It was well worth the time and effort to put together," he added. "I would do it all again."



Alcohol-free Pina coladas were a popular drink among the celebrators. The frozen drink along with other Puerto Rican cultural food were served.



Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Myatt laughs after knocking over the Jenga tower.



Feet were moving at a fast pace to Hispanic music during the Salsa dance competition.



Spc. Debralee Crankshaw

A Puerto Rican Soldier competes in the pool tournament at Camp Arifjan. Second Lt. John Atkinson won the field of 10 competitors. He won a gold medal and a pocket watch for winning the event.



A group of dominoes players begin the domino tournament which featured six players. The participants played for prizes and fun.

Out with the old, in with the new...

Marines deliver, receive equipment

Spc. Michael R. Noggle
11th PAD

Marines from Combat Service Support Group 3, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, were back at the Seaport of Debarkation, to off-load and load supplies and vehicles onto the Cape Douglas roll-on, roll-off ship, June 18 - 22.

This load of equipment was recently pulled out of Iraq because it was found to be non-operational for the 2nd MEF.

"Right now we are shipping excess equipment and vehicles that are no longer serviceable," said Marine Warrant Officer John Bradley, Movement Coordination Center Kuwait assistant air officer.

A month ago, the maintenance unit based at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, off-loaded new Marine Armor Kit Humvees, Abrams tanks and tank-retrieval vehicles that were distributed to the units with 2nd MEF in Iraq.

Bradley and his crew of Marines spent three days working to off-load more than 150 MAK Humvees and then reloaded almost 600 vehicles and containers that were no longer functional or excess to the unit.

Most of the equipment loaded on the ship was either destroyed in a fight or the parts were borrowed to fix other vehicles, Bradley said. Five-ton trucks were missing tires and trailer beds, M-2 Bradley tanks had no tracks and Humvees were missing doors.

"It's pretty much like a clean-up mission," said 1st Lt. Benjamin Gorman, Service Distribution Deployment Command, 595th Transportation Group night shift officer in charge.

Most of the equipment on the loading ship belongs to the Marines, Gorman said.

He added, they went through all their redeployment yards, motor pools and camps, and gath-



Spc. Curt Cashour

A Marine from Combat Service Support Group 3 directs a Humvee onto the back of a loading truck that will transport the vehicles to the SPOD to be shipped back to the United States.

ered anything they found of no use and shipped it home for repair or spare parts.

While the plans for staging and loading the equipment of the ship seemed perfect, executing was difficult.

Gorman and his team of Soldiers organized and assisted the Marines in their mission.

The Marines, Soldiers and contractors here have been working hard these past few days, Bradley said.

He added, Operations were slow due to moving the broken vehicles as well as only having one operating crane.

Though it was a little difficult, the three were able to accomplish the mission in the three-day timetable and send the shipments to Jacksonville, Fla., Gorman said.

The shipment wasn't as easy as expected, said Staff Sgt. Robert Charles, terminal operations non-commissioned officer in-charge 1185th Terminal Transportation Brigade,

Lancaster, Pa. At some points the ports had to load more than 1,000 vehicles and containers – not an



Staff Sgt. Robert Charles

An overview of vehicles to be loaded on to ships.

easy task.

It is a long process for a unit coming into the port to be allowed on the ships, Charles explained. When units are redeploying, the vehicles and supplies must be staged, washed and then cleared through customs before they can be shipped.

As for the vehicles that came off the ship, all of the MAK Humvees will convoy their way up to Iraq to the Marines in the 2nd MEF.

One of the Marines on the

loading team, Sgt. Jose Gaucin, heavy-equipment mechanic, had been at the port for a few days seeing everything going on and off the ship.

Gaucin said it sends a strong message to the rest of the Marines that the equipment is becoming advanced and well-equipped.

"It's good to see the Marines sending equipment home and spending the money to get it fixed or replaced," Gaucin said. "It shows that they really care for us and want us to have the best."

First naturalization ceremony held in Kuwait

41 servicemembers cite oath of allegiance

Spc. Janine Coogler

11th PAD

Tears ran down the faces of a few servicemembers while others grinned from ear to ear as they were congratulated.

The emotion that filled the room made people cheer, hug, smile, laugh and cry. This was not an ordinary day. It was a day that some servicemembers dreamed about for years: the day they became American citizens.

Servicemembers who were permanent American residents became American citizens July 20 in a naturalization ceremony on Camp Arifjan. The ceremony was the first performed in Kuwait. This joyous day came after a long process of paperwork and years of waiting to become citizens.

To recognize the contributions of the immigrants in the U.S military, section 329 of the Immigration Nationality Act allows non-citizens to expedite the naturalization eligibility through their active-duty status in the military during times of war.

Applicants for naturalization must be permanent residents, submit background information, fingerprints and be very patient. Although the process was hurried along because they were military, servicemembers still had to wait for the paper trail to go through the proper channels.

"The process of the paperwork takes at least three months, said Karen Landsness, director of U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services, Moscow Office.

Current military members have advantages

when applying for naturalization, Landsness said. The application fee and the three- to five-year waiting period are waived. In addition, the ceremony does not have to be done in America.

"Soldiers don't have to wait until they come back from deployment to finish the process and become citizens, we come to them," Landsness said.

The expedited naturalization process for the U.S. military has positively affected Soldiers, Landsness said.

Equipped with their U.S citizen certificate, these servicemembers are able to pursue their dreams.

Spc. Paul Defay, 844th Engineer Battalion engineer, originally from Haiti, said not having his citizenship was the only thing that was stopping him from going ahead with his goals.

"I have a Bachelor of Arts in electrical engineering, with a minor in mathematics, and can speak four languages fluently. So I think I have the credentials to be an officer," Defay said.

As a citizen, he is realistically able to pursue such goals.

As permanent residents, the Soldiers carried most rights and privileges natural-born citizens have, but not all.

"If the people are considered the voice, then I wanted to be part of that voice," said Sgt. Franklin Rivera, 40th Finance Division, originally from Nicaragua. "I'm ready to be able to make political decisions," he said.

Standing proud with their right hand in the



Spc. Janine Coogler

Servicemembers cite oath of allegiance during a naturalization ceremony July 20.

air, servicemembers took the oath of allegiance. They were ready to become American citizens and pursue all their goals and dreams.

They walked into the chapel as residents. They left as proud American citizens.

Servicemembers who took the oath of allegiance and their countries of origin

Staff Sgt. Alex Lopez	Philippines	Spc. Vichous Charles	Grenada
Sgt. Eknow Aentwi	Ghana	Spc. Norka Celentano	Ecuador
Sgt. Andrew Armstrong	Canada	Spc. Tae Chung	Korea
Sgt. Ayi Ayayi	Togo	Spc. Paul Defay	Haiti
Sgt. Amanda Bunch	Canada	Spc. Evroy Forsythe	Jamaica
Sgt. Maribel Castro	Peru	Spc. Adeyemi Gbogboade	Nigeria
Sgt. Gino Caspillan	Philippines	Spc. Yair Hodge-Marta	Panama
Sgt. Valery Doh	Cameroon	Spc. Sergio Toscano-Jara	Ecuador
Sgt. Eugene Gault	S. Korea	Spc. Tivia Jarrett	Jamaica
Sgt. Maria Gregg	Mexico	Spc. Wen ShaoLoftis	Peoples Republic of China
Sgt. Rodrigo Palacios	Mexico	Spc. Rames Morris	Liberia
Sgt. Bernard Gyan	Ghana	Spc. Kerry-Ann Nicely	Jamaica
Sgt. Seifu Kassa	Ethiopia	Spc. Ralph Nichols	Dominican Republic
Sgt. Adriana Frias	Mexico	Spc. Alvaro Padilla	Nicaragua
Sgt. Juan Zarate-Chevarria	Mexico	Pfc. Edwin Albeno-Aguirre	El Salvador
Navy PO2 Romuel Agaton	Philippines	Pfc. Joseph Kokotiuk-Braaten	Costa Rica
Spc. Divine Agbale	Ghana	Pfc. Marie Laurent	Haiti
Spc. Richard Bamfo	Ghana	Pfc. Reina Rivas-Bonilla	El Salvador
Spc. Lesline Bennett	Jamaica	Pfc. Alba Armenta-Rivera	Mexico
Spc. Rafael Bigai-Baez	Dominican Republic	Pfc. Jairo Torres	Honduras

Using food, water, services, maintenance ...

DOL fuels Soldier train

Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

11th PAD

Napoleon said, "An army marches on its stomach."

The Directorate of Logistics is here to make sure those stomachs stay full as well as to provide other services to the troops.

DOL provides combat service support including food, water, fuel, maintenance, transportation services, property book services and ammunition resupply and is responsible for contracting services to all units operating in Kuwait.

"In short, we provide anything needed to arm, fix, fuel or feed the Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Joerle Blackman, director of logistics, Area Support Group – Kuwait.

DOL oversees distribution of nearly 4 million gallons of fuel a month, 1.8 million bags of ice annually and storage of more than 100,000 cases of water.

They also operate the 1,000 light sets on Camp Arifjan and have rebuilt more than 350 battle-damaged, up-armored High-Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicles.

DOL has approximately 60 Soldiers and 10 Department of the Army civilians supervising the different operations.

"We are here to oversee, we don't actually put our hands in to do the work," said Sgt. 1st Class Linwood Nelson, support operations non-commissioned officer in charge, ASG – Kuwait.

DOL employees may only supervise, but according to Nelson, they have an important job.

"Without DOL, you would have no support, no supply – nothing. There is no one else in theater to control all these entities," Nelson said.

DOL's mission has been a little more difficult lately with the task of moving their services from Camp Doha to Camp Arifjan and Camp Buehring, according to Blackman. They are also transitioning out Kellogg, Brown and Root and establishing a sustainment contract.

"We've had activities at Doha since the Gulf War. There was so much there we couldn't just pick it up and move it," Blackman said. "We had to phase the service out and transition into a new facility as it became available."

DOL missions here and in the states are very



Photos by Spc. Debralee Crankshaw

Thomas Josephkutty (left) and Prasad Bhagawan, Directorate of Logistics contract workers sort a shipment of items that need to be delivered to units.

similar, Blackman said, but one major difference is the numbers of Soldiers supported in theater.

"We've got essentially nine installations to support with Soldiers coming in and out from (Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom)," Blackman said. "Three hundred thousand Soldiers come through here on an annual basis. A tremendous amount of

logistics goes into supporting those forces."

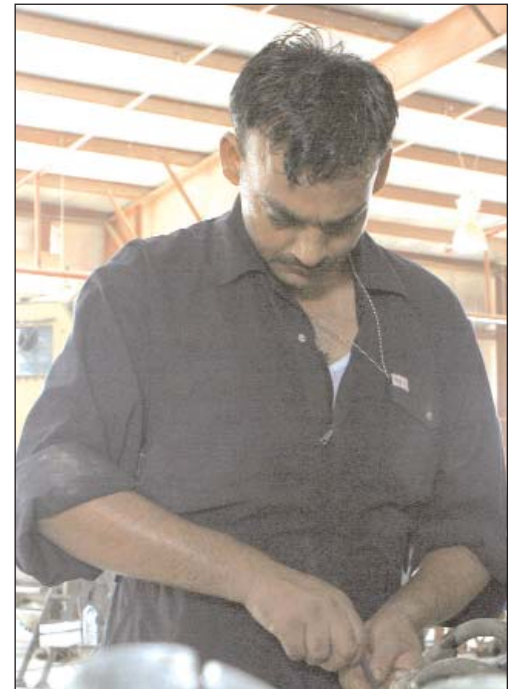
To keep up with so many Soldiers, Blackman said he is constantly trying to get ahead.

"The biggest challenge is to keep pace with this operation. Requirements are so large you have to stay on top of it every day," Blackman said.

"No day is the same. A situation will arise that you have to react to. You have to be forward-thinking and prepare for something (to go wrong)," he said.

Blackman said he is always trying to prepare for something to go wrong, but knows he sometimes needs to take it easy.

"A big challenge I have is knowing when to turn off the light," Blackman said. "You need



Ansari Reyazuddin, DOL contract worker, begins removing bolts and screws to remove the grill and repair an engine.

to relax. Just when you think you have something taken care of – the next day there is another hurdle for you to cross."

Community

happenings for July 27 through August 3

Arifjan

Wednesday

Hip Hop Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
 Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Food Court
 Country Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Stage
 Lap swimming, 5 - 7 a.m., pool

Thursday

Country Western Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
 Mexican Music Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Food Court
 R&B/Old School Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage
 Cardio kickboxing, 5:30 a.m., Stretch and flex, 8 a.m. Circuit weight training 3 p.m., Zone 2 gym
 Lap swimming, 5 - 7 a.m., pool

Friday

Arifjan Boxing Team, 7:30 p.m., Zone 6 gym
 Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
 Lap swimming, 5 - 7 a.m., pool
 Interval training, 5:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym

ASG-KU Softball Championships, 6 a.m., 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 9 p.m., Zone 1 Softball Field

Saturday

UNO tournament, 7 p.m. Zone 1 Community Center
 Jazz Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
 ASG-KU Softball Championships, 6 a.m., 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 9 p.m., Zone 1 Softball Field
 Circuit weight training, 5:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym
 Lap swimming, 5 - 7 a.m., pool

Sunday

Mexican Music Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
 Hip Hop Music Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Food Court
 Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage
 ASG-KU Softball Championships, championship game, 6 p.m., Zone 1 Softball Field
 Lap swimming, 5 - 7 a.m., pool
 Cardio kickboxing, 5:30 a.m., Stretch and Flex, 8 a.m., Circuit weight training, 1 p.m., Step Aerobics, 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym
Monday
 A Summer Night's Sundae and a Movie, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center, movie is XXX - State of the Union

Arifjan Boxing Team, 7:30 p.m., Zone 6 gym
 Lap swimming, 5 - 7 a.m., pool
 Legs, butts and guts, 5:30 a.m., Stretch and Flex, 8 a.m., Step aerobics, 1 p.m., Circuit weight training, 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym

Tuesday

Bingo Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
 Lap swimming, 5 - 7 a.m., pool
 Cardio kickboxing, 5:30 a.m., Stretch and flex, 8 a.m., Circuit weight training, 1 p.m., Step aerobics, 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym

Wednesday

Hip Hop Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
 Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Food Court
 Country Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Stage
 Pingpong Tournament, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center
 Lap swimming, 5 - 7 a.m., pool

For more information call 430-1205/1302

Buehring

Wednesday

Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole
 Aerobics, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., MWR Tent 4

Thursday

Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole
 Tae-Kwon-Do class, 7 p.m., MWR Tent 1

Friday

Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole
 Weight-lifting competition, 7 p.m., MWR Gym

Saturday

Tae-Kwon-Do Class, 7 p.m., MWR Tent 1

Sunday

Walking Club (10 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole

Monday

Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole
 Aerobics, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., MWR Tent 4

Tuesday

Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole
 Tae-Kwon-Do class, 7 p.m., MWR Tent 1

Wednesday

Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell flagpole
 Aerobics, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., MWR Tent 4

For more information call 828-1340

Kuwaiti Naval Base

Friday

Leg-press competition, 6 p.m., MWR gym
For more information call 839-1063

Navistar

Tuesday

Smoking cessation classes, 10 a.m., Rec. tent
 Education/Awareness/Prevention, 1 p.m., Rec. tent

For more information call 844-1137

Spearhead/SPOD

For information call 825-1302

Victory

For information call 823-1033

Virginia

Wednesday

Spades tournament, 7 p.m., MWR tent

Thursday

Karaoke Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

Friday

Dominoes, 7 p.m., MWR tent

Saturday

Hip Hop Night, 8 p.m., Dusty Room

Sunday

Foosball, 7 p.m., MWR

For more information call 832-1045

Doha/Arifjan Shuttle Schedule

Departs Doha Stop 1*	Arrives Doha Stop 2*	Departs Doha Stop 2*	Arrives Arifjan	Departs Arifjan	Arrives Doha
			0545		
0700	0715	0830	0845	1000	1015
1025	1040	1200	1300	1430	1445
1450	1505	1615	1630	1745	1900
1910	1925	2045			

* Stop 1 is behind the Building 6 PAX Tent
 Stop 2 is between Buildings 28 and 31

Send event and activity listings to the *Desert Voice* editor at the e-mail address listed on page 2.



**Fun in
the
sun ...**

