DESERT VOIGE

May 31, 2006

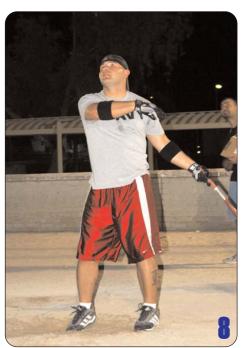
Serving the U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait



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Trade in old ACUs

Troops deployed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom can exchange Army Combat Uniforms using the Army **Direct Ordering Program.**

Enlisted leaders visit Kuwait

Twenty-five National Guard senior-enlisted advisors visit Kuwait to see firsthand the training their Soldiers receive while in theater.

Hardwood behind the scenes

A year of planning and a committee of dedicated individuals brought Operation Hardwood II to the troops.

Returning coaches

Six coaches and sports personalities return for a second time to coach basketball teams and visit troops during Operation Hardwood II May 23-28.

KNB Home Run Derby

Servicemembers from Kuwait Naval Base gather at the old sandlot to compete in the first KNB Home Run Derby May 24. The derby features 24 participants.

Koreans work with U.S.

Korean forces at Camp Virginia work closely with American forces to accomplish the mission and increase cultural awareness among the troops.

Singer displays talent

Pfc. Michael Trotter motivates his fellow troops throughout Camp Buehring with the smoothness of his voice.

Community Events

Upcoming events: Texas Hold 'em tournaments, Edison Band shows, pingpong, Yoga classes, Tae Kwon Do, Softball leagues and tournaments.

Best Damn celebrity

Photo by Sgt. Robert Adams

Leeann Tweeden, Best Damn Sports Show Period correspondent, interviews Kelvin Sampson, Indiana University, during Operation Hardwood II Thursday.

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Third U.S. Army **Command Sergeant**

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On the cover

Sgt. Robert Adams

Tom Izzo, Michigan State Unversity head coach, goes over a play with his Camp Patriot basketball team during Operation Hardwood II Thursday.

Having problems replacing worn-out uniforms?

Capt. Tonva Gillard

ADO Program Officer

oldiers deployed in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom have an easy way to exchange damaged Army Combat Uniform items.

Army Direct Ordering is a web-based program where Soldiers can go online, order items and have them shipped directly to their mailing address. A Soldier must turn in unserviceable uniforms to unit supply before receiving replacement items.

Only units currently in theater, or about to deploy, may enroll in the ADO program.

Units can enroll immediately and begin to use ADO after their first 30 days in theater. They do not have to wait until they have been deployed for six months. They will automatically be disenrolled 45 days prior to redeployment to complete shipment of all pending orders.

Soldiers can confirm their unit is enrolled by going to the ADO Web site, https://army.kyloc.com, using their Army Knowledge Online information and entering their unit name in the submit-unit-name box.

Commanders determine whether individual Soldiers or the unit supply sergeant will submit orders.

A Soldier can place orders by logging onto the ADO Web site, entering the unit name in

the submit box and clicking on his unit name. The Soldier will be prompted to enter his name and social security number. The orders menu will appear and the Soldier can select the items and quantities needed to replace the damaged items.

ADO has built-in restrictions on quantities based on authorized initial-issue and predetermined wear-out dates. The process is the same if the supply sergeant places orders for unit members except the Soldier's information is used to access the ordering menu.

In either case, once the order is placed, the command designated unit validator will receive an email indicating that an order needs validation. Validators have the ability to change the shipping address if the Soldier is not located at the default location.

Validators must approve orders before they can be submitted to the Kentucky Logistics Operations Center, the organization responsible for packing the items and shipping them to soldiers. Troops will receive their shipment seven to 14 days after the order has been approved.

Once a unit is enrolled, it's a great program. Instead of Soldiers having to get on the road to the central issue facility, they get items delivered to their door.

The following support items can be replaced through the ADO program:

• rigger's belt

- hot weather boots
- sports bra
- utility cap
- camouflage helmet cover
- ACU jacket
- ACU trousers
- desert boots
- drawers
- elbow and knee pads
- black fleece overalls
- boonie hat
- · coat and trouser cold weather liner
- wicking t-shirt
- digitized name, rank and U.S. Army tapes
- colored flags

There are 1,153 units enrolled in the ADO program as of Thursday. Almost 39,000 orders worth more than \$15 million have been submitted since the program began.

Army Central Command funds ADO by multiplying the number of soldiers in the unit by \$55 to determine the unit's monthly allocation, but there is not a restriction on how much a unit can spend on an individual Soldier in a month.

There is no retroactive funding and unused allocations do not carry over to the following

To learn more about the ADO program or how to enroll, contact me at DSN 430-5001 or via e-mail at

tonya.gillard@arifjan.arcent.army.mil.



Coaches salute

Spc. Michael R. Noggle

Camp Virginia team two coach Bobby Lutz, UNC-Charlotte, salutes the crowd as the engine of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle is fired up.

The group of coaches toured facilities around Camp Arifjan to include the Third U.S. Army Headquarters, Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer, Emergency Medical Facility-Kuwait and took rides on a Bradley, Abrams Tank and up-armored humvee Saturday.

Enlisted leaders gather, tour Kuwait camps

Sgt. Kara Greene 115th ASG PAO

Some of the top Army senior-enlisted advisors gathered in Kuwait recently to see firsthand the training and services available to Soldiers in theater.

Twenty-five National Guard senior-enlisted advisors joined currently-deployed command sergeants major at the first National Guard Senior-Enlisted Workshop sponsored by the National Guard Bureau and Third U.S. Army May 15-17.

The command sergeants major toured Camp Buehring, Camp Virginia and the theater life support area, the central hub for Soldiers entering and leaving theater.

"This was a hands-on workshop where they can see the dangers Soldiers are seeing and dealing with every day," said coordinator Sgt. Maj. Bradley Murfitt. "They have the opportunity to impact the training that Soldiers need to have completed before deployment."

"They can also relate their personal experiences of what they saw and the events that they participated in," Murfitt explained.

These leaders impact the training focus for their Soldiers, so Soldiers are not wasting time training on tasks they will not be required to perform."

While the command sergeants major came to learn more about the training and deployment process in Kuwait, they left with a better understanding of how the troops live and function daily - having experienced it firsthand.

These senior leaders lived in tents with latrine and shower facilities down the "street." They ate in the dining facility – standing in long lines to get their three square meals a day and they traveled from place to place like all Soldiers, in buses. It was these experiences that allowed them to understand the deployment process and see the improvements that the camps are constantly undergoing to improve the quality of life for all servicemembers.

The quality of life in theater is constantly evolving, said Oregon's Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Moe, who has visited the theater about every six months since the war began.

"Three years ago this place was the wild west. There was no "Reveille", no "Taps"," Moe recalled. "I'm pleased Soldiers are offered Morale, Welfare and Recreation events, fitness centers and ways to communicate with their home."

Arkansas's Command Sgt. Maj. Deborah



Arkansas' Command Sqt. Maj. Deborah Collins looks at a few items given to Soldiers at the rapid-fielding initiative facility during the conference.

Collins agreed that as the theater matures, life becomes more livable for Soldiers. She was impressed with that there was running water and air-conditioning, things she said were lacking in 2003.

When not in meetings or viewing slideshow presentations, the attendees participated in simulated battles with insurgents in Iraq using the indoor Electronic Training

They convoyed through the live-fire ranges and they rolled over a humvee in the Army's newest training tool, the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer. HEAT simulates a vehicle rollover, allowing servicemembers to practice life saving techniques.

It was the training events that the attendees found most valuable, seeing that their Soldiers are getting the best possible training before facing the dangers of combat, Moe said. The general consensus was that training during the final phase of mobilization has improved greatly.

"Since Soldiers focus on individual skills prior to coming into country, trainers here are able to focus on unit-level training," Moe said. "With this kind of preparation, I'm confident my Soldier will be just fine up north."

"Every day Soldiers are better prepared for the war fight in Iraq. Initially they have no idea what they are up against. But as the war goes on, the Army is coming up with better ideas for fighting this war," said California's Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Courtney.



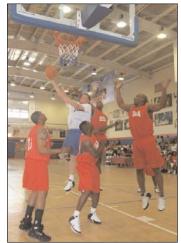
Illionois' Command Sgt. Maj. Bingse W. Young fires an M-16 rifle on the Electronic Training System during his visit to Kuwait.

After visiting Kuwait, the sergeants major now have a better understanding of the mobilization process - from the time their Soldiers leave the home state, until they report to their final duty station.

This was the purpose of the conference, the organizers said, to give the senior-enlisted advisors a snapshot of Soldiers' experience in Kuwait, and, with this knowledge, better prepare Soldiers for their deployment.



Photos by Sgt. Robert Adams (Left) Camp Navistar basketball coach Gary Williams, University of Maryland, demonstrates an offensive drill during a team practice prior to their game Friday.



Nathaniel Taylor, Buehring Ballers' point gaurd, take a shot over four Arifjan Renegades Thursday.

Operation Hardwood II: behind the scenes

Year's worth of planning put into action

"It's time-consuming to coordinate,

Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

Third U.S. Army PAO/11th PAD

"The dictionary is the only place that success comes before work. Hard work is the price we must pay for success."

Vince Lombardi

Coordinators for Operation Hardwood II agreed with this sentiment, putting in long hours and many meetings to ensure the event would be smooth and enjoyable.

Planning for Operation Hardwood II began in August, immediately following the first, with the coaches sending an after-action review to Area Support Group - Kuwait. When the Operation Hardwood II committee was formed in March, it reviewed the AAR and based the plans on what the coaches wanted to do.

"Most of the time they just wanted to be around the Soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class

Dwayne Williams, ASG - Ku Directorate of Installation Support office noncommissioned officer in charge.

The committee included all the major planners for the event including the Directorate of Installation Support, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Entertainment Branch, MWR

sports coordinator and the public

but after it's done, it's a lot of fun." Clayton Bovey, Entertainment Branch manager affairs office.

The committee held meetings to coordinate all the events of the tournament and the coaches' itineraries.

The committee discussed a variety of topics including how many games would be played, what type of bracket would be used in the tournament and what activities to plan for the coaches.

The committee built into the coaches' schedule a visit to the **Command Operations** Information Center, Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer and the hospital. They also had the opportunity to drive a M1 Abrams tank, Bradley Fighting Vehicle and a variety of humvees.

"It was a challenge getting everyone's input and tweaking it, into such a short period of time... We really had to narrow it down," Williams said.

Planning

was a group

effort, but

other parts of the committee had their own missions to complete.

The Entertainment Branch was responsible for all logistics including transportation and paperwork including passports and visas. They also provided advertising.

"The hardest part was collecting all the documentation in a timely manner," said Clayton Bovey, Entertainment Branch manager. "It was on us to follow the itinerary to get the coaches to the places and times indicated."

Another large part of the tour-

nament planning was done by the MWR Sports Coordinator, Kevin Scott.

His office was responsible for the Arifjan team tryouts and final picks, three-point and slam-dunk contests coordination and sending "feelers" to other camps to ensure they knew what was needed for the tournament.

The sports coordinator also wrote a memorandum of instruction for all the teams which included the rules of National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball.

"It was quite a bit of running around to make sure Hardwood was successful," Scott said.

All the coordinators said planning the tournament took a lot of time, energy and communication, but it was important for the servicemembers to have this opportunity.

"It's time-consuming to coordinate, but after it's done, it's a lot of fun," Bovey said. "It's all worth it to see the smiles on the servicemembers' faces."



Photos by Sgt. Robert Adams

Dave Odom, University of South Carolina head coach, talks to his Camp Patriot "All-N-One" baskeball team during an Operation Hardwood II basketball game May 24. Odom is one of six coaches from the first Operation Hardwood returning to Kuwait.

Six coaches begin second tour

Sgt. Robert Adams Assistant Editor

Six of the 12 coaches of the Operation Hardwood II basketball tournament returned for their second time to coach and meet troops.

Tom Izzo, Michigan State University; Mark Gottfried, University of Alabama; Dave Odom, University of South Carolina; Kelvin Sampson, Indiana University; and Jay Bilas, ESPN analyst and former Duke University player, quickly jumped on the opportunity to revisit troops after their first Hardwood experience in August.

"Coming back here is like coming back home," Odom said. "It's like seeing how much your

brothers and sisters have grown."

The returning coaches agreed during a town meeting with troops that they were eager to coach and thank troops again.

"Having been here one year ago, I feel more seasoned," Gottfried said.

He added, "I enjoy getting to know the people here and I just want the troops to know we came for them."

Gottfried said he took the opportunity to learn about his Camp Virginia players and learn about the daily military routine at Virginia.

"I like my team.... They are very enthusiastic and play really well together," he said.

"I want to get to know them, stay in touch and they're always

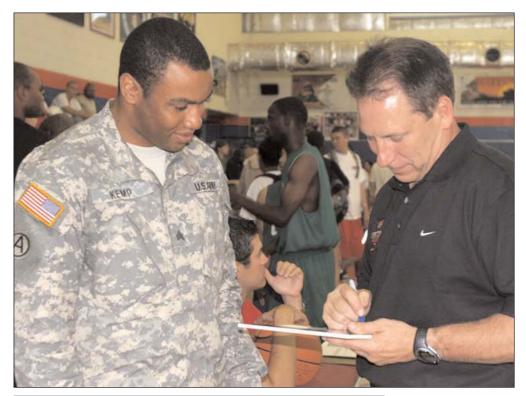


Bobby Lutz, University of North Carolina - Charlotte head coach, and his Camp Virginia "Vipers" join hands for motivation May 24.

welcome to come to an Alabama game."

The coaches walked away in August with a better understanding of the military and Kuwait

The six new coaches got the opportunity to join their veteran counterparts in riding in an M1 Abrams tank, a Bradley Fighting





(Above) Jay Bilas, ESPN analyst and former Duke University player, teaches his Camp Buehring "Ballers" basketball team a drill May 24.

(Left) Tom Izzo, Michigan State University head coach, signs a picture for Sgt. Damon Kemp, Coalition Forces Land Component Command Staff Judge Advocate, at Camp Arifjan's Zone 1 gym Thursday.



Mark Gottfried, University of Alabama head coach, dribbles around one of his Camp Virginia "Scorpions" basketball team players while demonstrating a basketball drill May 24.

Vehicle and on a camel.

"Let me tell you something... you ride a camel, you drive a tank... and you coach basketball all in the same day - you have had one hell of a day," Odom

"That was the most moving anthem I've ever experienced as a player or coach," Lutz said.

Lutz added, "I can honestly tell you that I have never felt as honored to be an American as

came and

said after "I can honestly tell you that I have never when I his first Hardwood felt as honored to be an American as experiwhen I came and experienced this with enced this experience.

with all of Bob Lutz you."

Lutz said he will never forget the national anthem last year when all the coaches were standing at attention in Army desert combat uniforms.

Izzo agreed that last year's event was a really important time in his life.

He said he remembered how grateful the troops were to have



Kelvin Sampson, Indiana University head coach, speaks to his Camp Arifjan "Renegades" basketball team during halftime of one of their Operation Hardwood games Thursday.

the coaches and that made him want to come back.

"We will never give you as much as you've given us, but we will promise you to spread the word and tell what you are all about when we get back home," Izzo said in August.

"When you get back home and share these experiences that you had, after awhile there is the

tendency to put it in the back of your mind," Odom said. "Then you get a call to come back and you could ask yourself: 'Well my players need me here, I'll be leaving my family again, how about I let someone else experience it?""

Odom said, "But how could I not come back, it is truly a lifechanging experience."



Photos by Spc. Michael R. Noggle

(Top) Maurice Graham hits his 12th and final home run of the final round to give him first place in this year's Kuwait Naval Base Softball Home Run Derby. (Right) Greg Garza (left), Graham (center) and Tim Whiting (right), were this year's top-three winners in the derby.



3...2...1... liftoff

Heavy hitters take part in KNB Derby

Spc. Michael R. Noggle Third U.S. Army PAO/11th PAD

In the midst of the 1933 Major League Baseball season, the first all-star game was held as a part of the World's Fair in Chicago. Having featured the game's top players, more than 50 years later, the Home Run Derby was introduced as part of a display of baseball's long-ball hitters.

As part of their intermission to the unitlevel softball season, 24 servicemembers from Kuwait Naval Base participated in the first-ever Softball Home Run Derby.

"We are about midway through our softball season and fans like to see players hit home runs," said James Brainer, Morale, Welfare and Recreation sports coordinator. It's like the slam-dunk competition in the NBA. A home run is the most exciting thing to happen in a game."

Round for round, sluggers teed-off as Maurice Graham took home first place with a final-round score of 12 dingers.

"It was an interesting contest with great competition," Graham said. "I just tried my best to hang with these younger guys."

After a two-and-a-half hour first round, Greg Garza and Tim Whiting paced the pack with a respectable 12 and 11 home runs.

"I wasn't aware of the caliber of players

here," Garza said. "My object was to hit as many home runs as possible and, hopefully, no one would catch me."

"My mind set was to get into the third round and go from there," Whiting said. "I focused more on my stance and keeping my eye on the ball."

At the start of the second round, the field was narrowed to nine, but the competition was just heating up.

Rebounding from six home runs in the first round, Graham launched nine out of the park and took second in the frame behind Garza's 10.

"I knew who the winners were going to be from the beginning," said Hector Rivas. "I feel proud of myself for making it into the top five."

"It's not as easy as it looks," Graham said after completing his second round. "You have to get your pitch to hit and I did."

"I felt confident heading into the final round," Garza said. "Other than Whiting, the one person I had to keep an eye on was Maurice."

With the final round set, five contestants — Garza, Graham, Rivas, Whiting and Greg Kluck — took aim for the first-place trophy.

Following Kluck's six homers and Rivas's seven, Whiting took center stage and launched 11 balls into the Kuwait desert

night.

"Getting to that point, I knew I was going to compete," Whiting said. "After hitting 11, I had a chance, but I knew Garza wouldn't hand me first place."

Following a tough act and knowing the upcoming competition, Graham left no doubts with a final round longest-distance ball at 395 feet

Garza approached as the final hitter; the contestants looked on expecting him to match Graham's efforts. Having surged early in the round, Garza quickly grabbed nine home runs with five out. However, he would add one more in his final five outs and fell to third place.

"I lost focus," Garza said. "I was thinking about the trophy, but I wasn't tired."

A sigh of relief from Graham appeared in his face, having fended off the two boppers in Garza and Whiting, as he was crowned this year's home run champion.

"He was humble," Whiting said of Graham. "It's always nice to lose to a classy guy who is humble in victory. I think he shook my hand four or five times when the derby ended."

"It was a fun event and I enjoyed it," Graham said. "I think it's a great thing from MWR and it gives a little morale back to the troops."

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Koreans benefit mission, enhance cultural awareness

Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

Third U.S. Army PAO/11th PAD

Camp Virginia troops and Republic of Korea soldiers have worked together to cement their friendship.

The Korean Kuwait detachment support unit works directly with American forces to accomplish its missions.

These missions include reception, staging, onward movements and integration for Korean soldiers and coordinating with the Aerial Port of Debarkation for distinguished visitors.

They provide resupply and onward movement for their soldiers in Erbil, Iraq.

"The Korean Kuwait detachment has a similar mission as we do – we both provide life support for transit troops," said 1st Lt. Marion Stephens, 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery Regiment coalition officer in charge.

Stephens added, "If they didn't have a liaison cell here it would still get done, but I don't think it would be with the same efficiency."

While U.S. forces are thankful for the Korean's support, the

Koreans are appreciative of what their experience with the Americans here has taught them.

The Koreans have learned a lot from the United States, especially RSOI, said Korean Lt. Col. Myung Dong Hur, Kuwait detachment commander.

He added, "We have an annual RSOI exercise in Korea."

Hur added that he thinks that the knowledge they have obtained here will help their training in Korea.

Not only have the Koreans learned from American operations, but have worked together to solve issues.

"The U.S. forces always help eliminate problems," Hur said. "They encourage us to execute ideas and help make them a reali-

Stephens said working with the Koreans is just as rewarding for the American forces as the Koreans.

"They're very self-sufficient. It's a joy to work with them," he

He added, "I think everyone feels the same way I do and really enjoys working with the Korean Army."

The Koreans not only work



Korean soldiers in Kuwait sort through items to be transported to their soldiers deployed to Iraq.

closely with the United States for missions but also to increase cultural awareness with the rapport they've developed.

To express their appreciation for all the support they've been given, the Koreans invited the camp commander and staff to their hail and farewell.

They invited them to strengthen their relations between ROK and the United States. Hur said.

He added, "At first we were hesitant to invite them because we weren't sure if they'd like the food, but they really showed a willingness to learn about our food and the Korean culture."

The Koreans also help increase cultural awareness by sitting on the dining facility committee and giving recommendations for food selections. Currently the DFAC offers Kimchi as part of their cultural food selection.

Hur said he hopes the Koreans and Americans can continue to have this close relationship and strengthen their friendship.

Eagle cash card brings convenience, security

Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw Third U.S. Army PAO/11th PAD

new financial management tool will soon be available for servicemembers and contractors in Kuwait and parts of Iraq.

The Eagle Cash Stored Value Card replaces physical currency with electronic currency to assist deployed servicemembers, civilians and contractors in protecting their money from loss and theft.

The card will begin its initial phase in Kuwait and some parts of Iraq in June and will be available for use by the end of July.

More than 1.7 million cards have been issued and \$683 million in electronic value has been loaded onto these cards since the program's inception in 2000.

"It's like a prepaid gift card – it's the same concept," said Sgt. 1st Class Camilla

Johnson, Eagle Cash card project manager noncommissioned officer in charge.

There are two main components to the card, the kiosk and the point-of-sale terminal. The kiosk is similar to an automated teller machine. A pin number, given when the customer receives their card, is required for use. It gives customers the ability to access their funds anytime without visiting the finance office. Customers can also perform card to card transfers with the Kiosk.

The point-of-sale terminal will be located in Army and Air Force Exchange Service, concessionaires and the post office. To use this service, customers must show photo identification.

Cash can also be used in addition to the card for a transaction.

"This reduces cash in theater, providing more security," said Capt. Carl Kleinholz, Eagle Cash card project manager officer in charge. "Servicemembers don't have to worry about piles of cash in their wall lockers."

The card is also valuable to the Army because it saves on logistics and money brought into theater, he added.

A lost card can be blocked and reissued normally within 48 hours with the funds replaced. The servicemember must visit finance to complete this. If the card is lost or stolen while the finance office is closed, customers should report the card lost or stolen to the provost marshal's office. They will still need to visit the finance office and fill out an incident report.

To enroll in the program, customers can visit their local finance office.

"You can use it immediately after enrollment and issuing the card is quick and easy," Kleinholz said.

Visit the finance office for more information on the Eagle Cash Card.

Soldier's smooth voice echoes across Buehring

Sgt. Marcos Alices Kinch

Third U.S. Army PAO

A songwriter, singer, husband and Soldier, Pfc. Michael Trotter engages his listeners with the sound of his voice as he croons about situations that people can relate to.

On his second tour in the Middle East, Trotter, a 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division supply specialist, raises the spirits of his fellow servicemembers through the use of his voice and his positive attitude.

"Trotter has touched many people with his singing," said 1st Lt. Kimberly Cowlin, 63rd Engineer Battalion. "He has been blessed in many ways, but most of all he has been blessed with a beautiful voice."

Trotter's mother noticed that he had a gift at the age of 3 and ushered him into the church to sing. With his family's influence, Trotter developed his skills, but did not realize he had talent until the age of 9.

From the trials and tribulations of a boy growing up in Washington D.C., to his time in Iraq and Kuwait as a Soldier, Trotter has always expressed himself through his music. He started writing his own music at the age of 13, but he did not start concentrating more on his writing until he was deployed to Iraq.

"I wish they had a title of music called life because my music is life," Trotter said. "My music does three things with life – builds life, encourages life and gives life."

Writing music was his way of opening his heart, according to Trotter. He writes about the life issues that he faces everyday. His song entitled "Forgiving" was his way of expressing the guilt that he felt for having his child out of wedlock and how he dealt with this issue. He also has another song about the situations troops go through on a deployment. The song talks about the brotherhood among Soldiers, the strain a deployment has on a family and the experiences he went through. He shares each new song he writes



at. Marcos Alices Kinch

Pfc. Michael Trotter rehearses one of his songs. He uses his singing and song writing talent to tell stories about life.

with his fellow Soldiers for feedback.

"I want to use my talent to the best of my abilities, not for personal gain," Trotter said. "I do not care about the money, fortune or fame. If you can smile at the end of my song, then my purpose was filled."

Trotter wants to use his music to change

people's lives. He has sung for seven candlelight vigils

"I want to use my talent to the best of my abilities, not for personal gain,"

against domestic violence. He was able to connect with this issue because he faced this problem in his family.

The problems between his parents grew until his mother sought refuge at a domestic violence center, a place where battered women and their children can find safety and security.

When asked to perform for one of these vigils, he said yes with no hesitation. He also uses his talent to honor fallen Soldiers.

"It wasn't enough for me to salute them. It wasn't enough for me to remember them," Trotter said. "I wanted to offer the best part of me... my gift — which is singing."

He has sung at several memorial services in Kuwait, Iraq and stateside. Trotter started singing at memorial services after he lost two fellow Soldiers while serving in Iraq. He wanted to show his appreciation and honor them by singing.

The emotions he felt when he was singing

were unforgettable, Trotter said. Seeing tears come to his fellow Soldiers' eyes

Pfc. Michael Trotter

made him realize how his singing can help people deal with the loss of a friend and he decided he would continue to sing for more memorials.

Trotter's singing raises morale among his servicemembers, but it is his positive attitude that means the most to Soldiers, said Spc. Angel Regalado, truck driver.

"I don't know how he does it, but when I talk to him I feel better about myself," Regalado said.

Trotter said he makes it his responsibility to have a positive attitude and keep his head up for his fellow Soldiers. He is constantly seen stopping to ask servicemembers about their day and he reminds them that a better day will always come. Morale is important in a deployed environment, but to Trotter it means everything.

"He has a way of catching people's attention," said Spc. Christopher Wilson, 2nd BCT.

Trotter is catching the music industry's attention with his smooth voice as he continues to pour his heart out in his lyrics.

He is anticipating the release of his first album in 2008 as he works with people to reach his goal of changing the world with his music.



Community happenings for May 31 through June 7

Ali Al Salem

For information call 442-2005

Arifian

Wednesday

Texas Hold 'em tournament, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Rock & Roll Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Country Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage

Thursday

Pingpong tournament, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Community Center Ballroom Dance class, 8 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Country Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Friday

Latino Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Hip-Hop Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage Yoga, 5 p.m., Zone 6 Community Center Core Abs class, 6 p.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center

Saturday

Hip-Hop Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Core Abs class, 6 p.m., Zone 6 Fitness Center

Sunday

Old School Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage Yoga, 5 p.m., Zone 6 Community Center

Monday

Karaoke, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Tuesday

Karaoke, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage Ballroom Dance class, 8 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center Yoga, 7 p.m., Zone 6 Community Center

Wednesday

Rock & Roll Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center Country Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage

For more information call 430-1205/1302

Buehring

Wednesday

Texas Hold 'em tournament, 7:30 p.m., Oasis

Edison Band show, 7 p.m., stage

For more information call 828-1202

Kuwait Naval Base

Wednesday

Step Class, 6 p.m., Aerobics Room Dominoes tournament, 7 p.m., Recreation Center

Thursday

Latin Dance Night, 7 p.m., Aerobics Room

Saturday

Tae Kwon Do, 6 p.m., Aerobics Room Bingo, 7 p.m., MWR stage

Latin Dance Night, 7 p.m., Aerobics Room

Wednesday

Step Class, 6 p.m., Aerobics Room

For more information call 839-1082

LSA

Wednesday

Movie and Memorial Day celebration, 7:30 p.m., Stage

Thursday

LSA Bazaar, 9 a.m., Sunshade area

Saturday

Edison Band show, 7 p.m., stage

Sunday

Texas Hold 'em, 8 p.m., MWR Tent

Monday

Movie, 8 p.m., Stage

Tuesday

Bingo, 8 p.m., MWR Tent

Wednesday

Movie 8 p.m., Stage

For more information call 859-1060

Navistar

Wednesday

Softball, 8 a.m., through Friday, Softball field Tiger Woods PGA Tour 06, 8 a.m., through Friday, MWR tent

Foosball, 8 a.m., through Friday, MWR tent

Thursday

Edison Band show, 7 p.m., stage

Monday

Hearts, 8 a.m., through June 9, MWR tent NASCAR '06, 8 a.m., through June 9, MWR

Sorry, 8 a.m., through June 9, MWR tent

For more information call 844-1137

Spearhead/SPOD

For information call 825-1302

Virginia

Wednesday

Pingpong, 7 p.m., Community Center Edison Band show, 7 p.m., MWR stage

Pool, 9-ball, 7 p.m., Community Center

Friday

Texas Hold 'em, 7 p.m., Community Center Free throw, 6 p.m., Fitness Center

Saturday

Fun Run, 5k, 6 a.m., Community Center Spades tournament, 7 p.m., Community Center

Softball tournament, 6 p.m., Softball field

Sunday

Softball tournament, 6 p.m., Softball field Retro Games, 7 p.m., Community Center

Monday

Pingpong, 7 p.m., Community Center

Tuesday

Bingo, 7 p.m., Dusty Room LAN Party, 7 p.m., Community Center

Wednesday

Unit Feud, 7 p.m., Dusty Room

For more information call 832-2544

