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Desert Voice Magazine
Serving the U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait

July 19, 2006

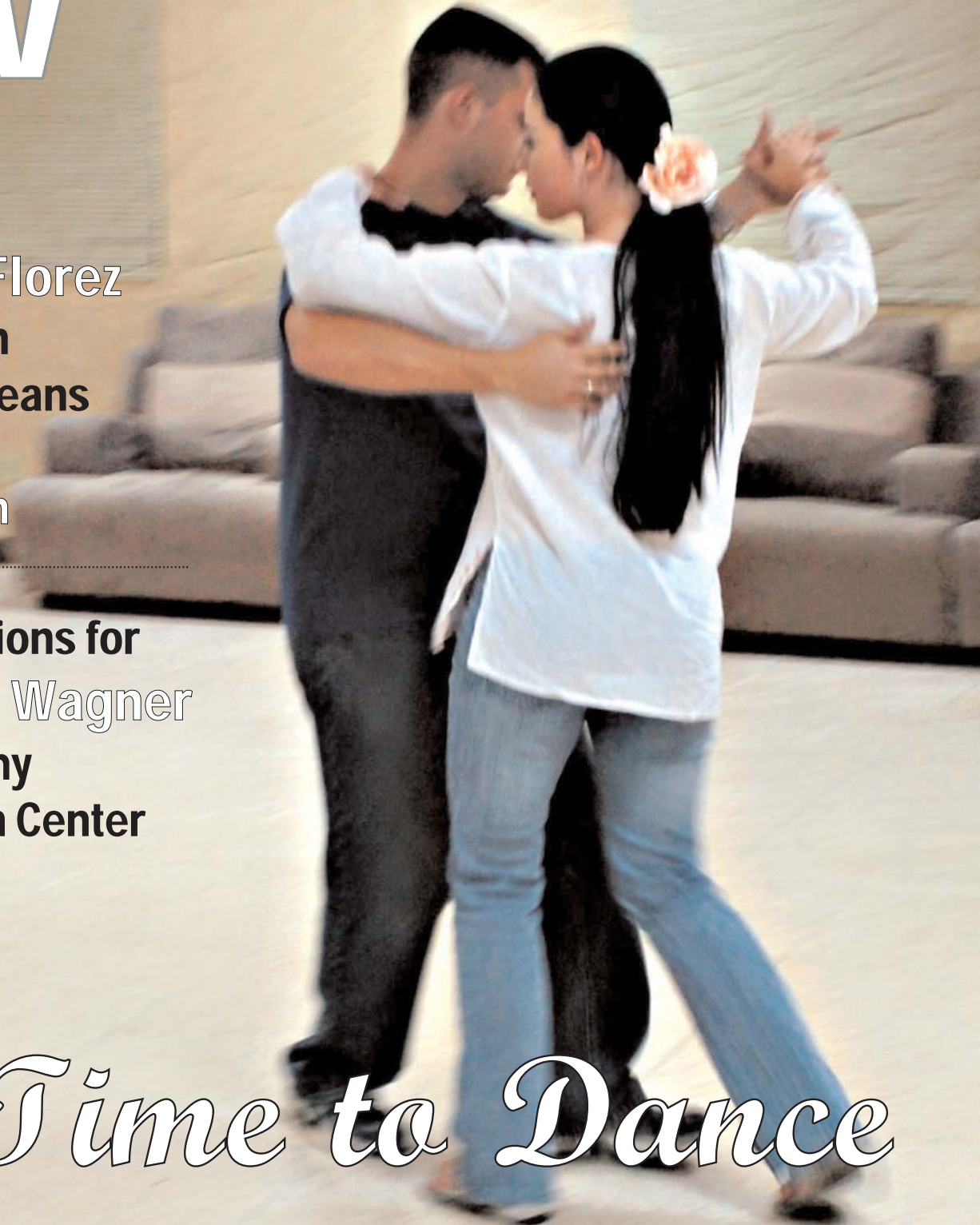
Citizen Florez

A story on
what it means
to be an
American

Six Questions for
Dr. Mary Wagner
of the Army
Education Center

A Time to Dance

**From Two-Steppin' to The Waltz,
Camp Arifjan is learning how to boogie**



Great opportunities await servicemembers at camp education centers

More than 5000 servicemembers stationed in Kuwait over the past year have used their free time to complete college coursework.

This year, even more personnel are expected to take advantage of educational opportunities following a consolidation and reorganization of educational services. In order to meet the needs of individuals wanting to take courses, we also hired additional staff to accommodate the increase in services.

Prior to the end of last year, the education facilities headquarters in Kuwait were housed in two buildings located on Camps Arifjan and Doha. During the closure of Doha, the two primary education centers located at these facilities were relocated from two separate buildings to Building 159 at Camp Arifjan.

This new facility is a full-service education center and offers college lecture courses, a computer lab and counseling. In addition to these services, testing is one of the most popular services offered. During the past year, over 1000 servicemembers have participated in the testing programs.

Until August 2005, due to limited staffing, the education center staff was required to travel to the outlying camps once a week. With the additions of Jewel Everett and Mary Newkirk, education services specialists, programs and services have expanded with additional education facilities being constructed and manned at Camp Virginia, Camp Buehring and Camp Patriot. Plans are underway to soon open a new facility at the Life Support Area.

All these facilities have resources that servicemembers can check out to prepare for exams. Army Personnel Testing provides DLPT language exams, DLAB, AFAST, AFCT, and typing exams. Through the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES), CLEP, DSST, Excelsior, ACT, SAT, and GED examinations are provided free to servicemembers. To check out study materials or schedule an appointment, contact Riza Duran at 430-1322.

Dr. Mary Wagner, education services officer, has played an integral part in the growth of the Army Continuing Education System (ACES) in Kuwait. Full-time contracted



Col. Brick T. Miller
ASG-Kuwait Commander

counselors, test examiners and administrative staff travel throughout Kuwait and live and work on the camps. Field representatives and traveling lecturers from the University of Maryland, Central Texas College and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University are also brought to Kuwait to support servicemembers.

In May 2006, ACES initiated a new program for Soldiers to receive tuition assistance (TA). Soldiers obtain TA at the website www.GoArmyEd.com. To complete the enrollment process Soldiers need to bring the education counselors a signed statement of understanding and their degree plan. These documents are then

For more information, contact your camp representative.

Camp Buehring- Alex Ulrich, 828-1058 or Jewel Everett, 828-1054

Camp Virginia- Rick Melzi, 832-2314

Camp Arifjan- Kristen Kovach, 430-1373, Mary Newkirk, 430-1382, or Dr. Mary Wagner, 430-1321

scanned to the Soldier's education records. To assist Soldiers with the enrollment process, state-of-the-art computer equipment is being installed and available for Soldiers at the education centers.

Often when Soldiers conduct an out brief with the ASG-Kuwait commander, one of the expressed regrets is that they did not start right away with college courses. College lecture courses are offered every ten weeks. A servicemember completing two courses each 8-week term will complete ten courses in one year. This 30 semester hours is as much credit as a full-time student at a college setting. The education centers are open from 0800 to 1700 hours everyday except Thursday.

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DV
Desert Voice
Magazine

Dr. Mary Wagner, with her Ph.D. in Education, is at the helm of the Camp Arifjan Education Center.

**Six Questions for
Dr. Mary Wagner**
Education Services Officer,
Army Education Center

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What can the Education Center do for deployed soldiers?

“We have programs from high school completion to graduate level. We offer students who do not have their GED to obtain one here in Kuwait.”

Do you have courses taught by actual teachers in Kuwait? What kind of courses? Who sponsors them?

“The Army continuing education system has tri-services contracts for lecture courses with the University of Maryland, Central Texas College and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. These academic institutions provide lectures as well as distance learning courses. Class room instructors come TDY, as active duty, as contractors, or as local instructors. We have two residing at Arifjan, one at Virginia and two at Bahrain TDY. Teachers offer first and second year required courses, such as Math and English and science. We also offer upper level courses in management. August through October we’ll offer an eight-week graduate level course. It’s the first time a graduate level course has been offered in Kuwait.”

What kind of course load can a Soldier expect to carry while deployed? What realistic expectations can a Soldier have of the educational opportunities offered in Kuwait?

“Soldiers who do not have any college should start out with one course they are interested in and then next term take two courses. If they want to do more they can take seminars and testing. Prior students are able to take two courses every eight weeks, earning as much credit as a full-time student.”

How can the Education Center facilitate Internet course work?

“We’re working on that. The computer lab is getting state-of-the-art equipment and updating its internet connections. We have a computer lab that’s open in the evening from 5:00pm to 8:00pm to anyone who wants to use them. It’s open to the public.”

Do you recommend Internet courses rather than fixed-scheduled course in Kuwait?

“Some people don’t have a choice because their work schedule won’t allow them to take fixed-scheduled courses. Our courses are during the day, during lunch and in the evenings. We have a variety of courses during off-duty hours but it may be hard for shift workers to attend. Not everyone has access to a computer or works in an office, but some people do well with distance learning. It appeals to them. They have the discipline to work alone on the web. Some course though just don’t work well on the web because they’re more hands-on, like math.”

How does the Education Center work around Soldier’s schedules?

“We have morning, lunch time and evening classes, and we have distance learning.”





Specialist Vicente Florez swears in as a United States citizen in a ceremony in Kuwait this spring.

Photo courtesy of Spc. Vicente Florez

Earning Citizenship

Spc. Chris Jones
Desert Voice Staff Writer

A story of pride and sacrifice: Columbian-born U.S. Soldier shows what it means to be an American

On Oct. 20, 1999, 13-year-old Vicente Florez-Zapata was chatting with a group of friends before class at a middle school in Medellin, Colombia, when another boy walked up with a pistol in his pocket. The boy aimed the gun at one of Florez's friends and shot him in the head, killing him instantly.

This may not be surprising considering the statistics. During the 1990's, Medellin had the highest ever homicide rate of any

city outside a war zone. A March 2005 article in National Geographic dubbed the violence, fueled primarily by the city's dueling drug lords, an "urban war," likening it to Iraq.

Six years later, Florez finds himself in an actual combat zone, three months after becoming a United States citizen.

Shortly after his friend's death, Florez was given the opportunity to leave Colombia for the U.S. His mother, Patricia Zapata who had worked at John Deere in Colombia, was offered a position in America, and was allowed to bring one family member.

"I didn't want to go," Florez said. "My family was in Colombia. I didn't want to leave them."

The constant violence in Medellin was somewhat overshadowed by the fact that Florez would be leaving nearly his entire family.

Eventually, Florez decided to join his mother, who had taken a job in Orion, Ill.

From a city sometimes resembling a battlefield to a quiet Midwest community of 2,000 residents, Florez saw opportunities develop that "would have been impossible in Colombia."

School, sports, traveling – his passion for America grew quickly. By his sophomore year of high school, he had already made the decision he would join the military. One of the causes that led to him enlisting was perhaps an unusual one – while playing for his high school soccer team, he was inspired by the town's pride in the high school teams, and he saw a similar relationship between Americans and their military.

Photo by Spc. Chris Jones



"I never expected to become an American," said Florez. "And I never expected to be proud of it."

But Florez has embraced his new role. It's the same puzzle; he just

"I wanted to join after that soccer season," Florez said. "There was so much pride in that town, for the school and the country."

The thing that ultimately brought Florez to swear in to the Illinois National Guard, however, was the basic feeling of wanting to "give back."

"I wanted to show that, even though I wasn't born in this country, I am thankful and proud of being in the United States," said Florez, now an artilleryman with 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery Regiment, Illinois National Guard.

At the time of his enlistment, Florez was well aware that he would be deploying, and he wanted nothing more than to do just that.

"So many people turn their backs on the army in a time of war," Florez said, "but that's when you are needed the most. You're not just fighting for the government, but for the people."

An artilleryman by trade, Florez was

tasked with working at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center on Camp Navistar – an assignment he never expected.

Much of the rest of his unit is patrolling the streets of Baghdad, while his current field of work involves telephone and Internet connections; distributing books, magazines and movies; helping organize concerts and shows by NFL cheerleaders.

Not a bad gig, he said, but not what he was trained to do.

"I expected to be in Iraq," he said. "I expected to be on the streets of Baghdad."

plays a new piece.

"It's a good feeling, when guys come back from Iraq, to get them on the Internet and phones to talk to their families," he said. "It's important to feel loved."

Other Soldiers in his unit see his pride and dedication on display.

"Some Soldiers are over here because they had their arm twisted and were told to come. [Florez] is here because he wants to be," said Staff Sgt. Robert Emmert, who works with Florez at the Recreation Center at Camp Navistar.

Emmert and Florez have more in common than being two artillerymen far outside their normal job – they come from the same high school. They first met when Florez, who worked at Pizza Hut in high school, delivered a pizza to Emmert's house near Orion.

Florez, who knew Emmert was already in the National Guard, told his

soon-to-be NCO that he had joined as well.

As Guardsmen, they will return home to their civilian careers and educational pursuits – and also, they return with connections to each other that are developed through these combat tours. As Florez says, "These guys are more than my friends. It becomes personal. It becomes a part of me."

Emmert continues, "I don't think we are able to fully appreciate the bonds we make until we are home."

Florez deployed to Kuwait in late September. Now on the final leg of his deployment, he is looking to return home and continue college.

He has finished one semester at Black Hawk College in Moline, Illinois. His interests – psychology and law enforcement.

The things he witnessed in Medellin could have led to a lifetime of emotional and psychological scars. Instead, he couldn't be more inspired or positive.

"I never expected to become an American," said Florez. "And I never expected to be proud of it."

Florez still keeps in contact with his family and friends in Colombia through e-mails and phone calls, and he said he is still proud of his former homeland.

"Colombia is a beautiful country," he said. "The truth is that Colombia is full of hard-working people who will do anything for their family and friends."

But Illinois is home now. At an April ceremony, he became a U.S. citizen. Before that, he was already a U.S. Soldier.

"There really isn't a difference between serving in the Army whether you are a citizen or not," he said.

"But I really am proud that I can now say that I am a United States citizen."

Still, he says, the hardest decisions he has ever made are the ones that involve leaving behind his loved ones. He has done it twice now.

"Being in the U.S. Army was never my dream," he said. "My dream was to find something to defend. The people became that. They became what I wanted to defend."

Dancin' in the Desert

Soldiers of all ranks have come to the Camp Arifjan Recreation Center to dance their worries away.

Spc. Debrah Robertson

Desert Voice Staff Writer

Put on your dancing shoes. There's something in the air.

MWR's Zone 1 Community Center at Camp Arifjan hosts dancing lessons nearly every night. Both ballroom and country are taught to Arifjan residents who need to get in-step.

Dance nights, featuring salsa, country, and ballroom, occur several times a week and everyone is welcome, according to Barbara Timpte, the secretary of the general staff with the 335th Theater Signal Command.

Sergeant Maj. Dale Hill, the NCOIC of Support Operations for the 377th Theater Signal Command, began teaching dance classes for MWR at the Community Center nearly a year ago, but soon he will be leaving his reins to fellow instructors Timpte and Spc. Justin Fauver, a unit supply specialist with the 608th Ordnance Detachment.

They will step into his shoes and continue teaching both the ballroom and country dance lessons to left-footed Arifjan residents.

"The Colonel does a good job," said Hill of Timpte. "She makes it fun for the students."

There currently are no plans for replacements after both Timpte and Fauver leave in a couple of months.

"Everyone is welcome," Fauver said. "We especially need more females."

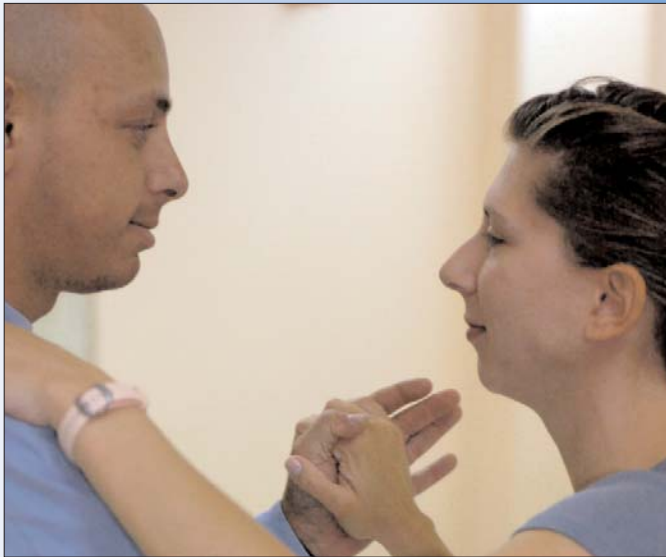


The ballroom dancing class (pictured right) begin at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday and are a always a favorite with the regulars.



Luis F. Alvarado, an aircraft electrician, leads Tamila Morgan, an American Red Cross volunteer, in a slow dance during a ballroom dance class.

Photos by Spc. Debrah Robertson



Class Schedule

Tuesday

Ballroom Lessons, Zone 1 Community Center, Room 102, 7 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday

Country night, Zone 6 stage, 7 to 11 p.m.

Thursday

Country Lessons, Zone 1 Community Center, Room 102, 7 to 9 p.m.
Country night, Zone 1 Community Center, Mirage, 7 to 9 p.m.

Friday

Salsa night, Zone 1 Community Center, Mirage, 7 to 11 p.m.

Saturday

Country night, Zone 6 stage, 7 to 11 p.m.

Sunday

Salsa night, Zone 6 stage, 7 to 11 p.m.

(Left) Sergeant Keith Fike, a combat engineer with the 243rd Engineer Company, enjoys a night of dance with HM1 Nicole Gonzalez, a hospital corpsman at the Emergency Medical Facility. Specialist Robert T. Eachus, a special electrical device repairman with the 180th Transportation Battalion, gives Gonzalez a twirl during their country 2-step lesson.



R. Lee Erme, *Mail Call* host, former Marine and Digital Video and Imagery Distribution (DVIDS) Atlanta filming the 100th episode of the History Channel's *Mail Call*, highlighting Third Army's Digital Video and Imagery Distribution (DVIDS) mission, telling service member's stories.

Mail Call for Third Army

The History Channel flaunts the Army's new battle

Spc. Tanya Van Buskirk
Third Army Public Affairs

Producers from The History Channel's *Mail Call*, a one-hour weekly show highlighting military history and events, arrived to an enthusiastic reception at Third Army's Digital Video and Imagery Distribution Hub in Atlanta. R. Lee Erme, former Marine, award winning actor and host of *Mail Call*, visited with the military and civilian staff throughout the day.

The television series is dedicating their 100th episode on the DVIDS mission and how Third Army Public Affairs tells service-members' stories around the world through DVIDS and satellite technology. "Third Army's DVIDS and *Mail Call* are trying to do the same job," said Erme.

Erme explained that both organizations present a constructive view of the war to the American people.

Erme has first hand knowledge of the importance of balanced reporting.

The former U.S. Marine Corps staff sergeant served 11 years on active duty. He served a tour of duty in Vietnam and spent two years as a drill instructor.

Erme is also a Golden Globe nominee and Boston Society of Film Critics Award Winner for Best Supporting Actor in director Stanley Kubrick's *Full Metal Jacket*.

But *Mail Call* is no Hollywood production.

"Our show is not a fictitious story," said Erme. "It is based on realistic situations that people can learn from."



and award winning actor visited Third Army's (DVIDS) Hub in Atlanta, June 30. Ermey was in History Channel's *Mail Call* program which will highlight Imagery Distribution System's contribution to

Photos courtesy of Third Army PAO

Third Army battlefield tool

But the show's motivation runs even deeper than providing information.

"We at *Mail Call* want to feel as though we are part of the military," said Ermey.

"We want people to know how squared away, honorable and respectable the military is and the modern technology available to them to get the job done."

The show seems to be making the desired impact on the viewers.

Ermey said that in talking to Marine Corps recruiters, he has learned that enlistment is up because of *Mail Call* and for the first time

What is DVIDS?

The Digital Video and Image Distribution System (DVIDS) is the newest and the most potent public affairs asset in today's U.S. Army, providing units in the field with mobile and durable satellite systems, able to transmit live footage from the most remote areas of the battlefield. "The DVIDS initiative was developed to provide frontline coverage of events in Iraq and Afghanistan, interactive interviews with overseas personnel to local and national news as well as personal messages to families of Soldiers serving through the holidays," Lt. Col. William Beckman, the DVIDS Hub chief in Atlanta, in a U.S. Army press release. (Note: The Third Army Public Affairs Office (Forward) supports the DVIDS mission by conducting live interviews and holiday greetings of servicemembers stationed in Kuwait with hometown television stations.)



Ermey visited with the military and civilian staff of Third Army's Digital Video and Imagery Distribution System Hub, located outside Atlanta, June 30. Left to right; Ermey, Sgt. Maj. (Retired) Larry Stevens, DVIDS Hub Media Relations Manager and Lt. Col. William Beckman, DVIDS Hub Officer In Charge. DVIDS teams operating in the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters shoot footage that is then transported to Atlanta for distribution.

ever, 14-year-old children are going into recruiter's offices asking what they need to do to get ready to join the military when they turn 18.

More information, along with impressive video and photos needs to be made available to the media, said Ermey.

"And that is what DVIDS is here to do."

DVIDS has provided Ermey and his team with countless video clips received through portable transmitters deployed around the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Military journalists working in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Qatar feed their stories to DVIDS Hub, here, using satellite technology where it is marketed to news outlets by a team of media relations specialists.

Third Army and other military units use

DVIDS as a way to engage the public through mass media and keep them informed about what is happening around the world in the fight against terrorism.

"We are excited and think it's an interesting idea that they would use DVIDS as a narrative framework," said Lt. Col. William Beckman, director of operations at DVIDS. Beckman said that six vignettes from across Iraq will be rolled into a one-hour program to highlight "some of the great things the Soldiers and Marines are doing, and how Third Army is supporting the Global War on Terrorism."

The 100th episode of *Mail Call*, featuring the story on Third Army and DVIDS program will air on The History Channel in early fall.

Author points out importance of spiritual battle buddy

Capt. Mike Wallace
Public Affairs Officer, 377th TSC

Weber: "You're not alone, you're never alone, and the greatest battle buddy you can have is Jesus Christ."

His opening comments set the tone for the July 13 prayer breakfast at Camp Arifjan.

"I come here not alone, but with lots of people's greetings and wishes from home," said Stu Weber, the Senior Pastor of the Good Shepherd Community Church in Portland, Oregon and a former Green Beret that earned three bronze stars for his actions in Vietnam.

The Oasis meeting room was filled with Soldiers that wanted to hear the prolific author's insights to finding a harmony with one's self, and one's duty.

Weber's first message was clear—that we, as Soldiers, are not alone. He warned soldiers about feeling isolated during their deployments.

"Do not be alone. Everyone needs someone. We need somebody to help carry our soul in trying time—yes, we have Jesus for our spiritual needs, but if you're try to make a difference, you will notice that things aren't easy.

Help someone uplift and help carry their soul—take care of your buddy. The soul of battle belongs in the chest of people, it's the will, not the technology that wins the wars. It's the soul that leads to victory.

"People back home are finally getting it. They are finally realizing that you, as Soldiers, are fighting for their freedoms and that nobody does more than the Soldiers, because you put everything on the line while performing your duties. They are beginning to show their appreciation."

Major Dana Duggins, who is the 377th Theater Support Command (TSC) deployment and redeployment operations chief of sustainment,

Stu Weber, best-selling Christian author, signs a copy of one his books for Maj. Dana Duggins, a 377th TSC operations officer.



Photo by Capt. Michael Wallace

found Weber's inspirational message uplifting. "He demonstrated that our most important need when going into battle is to have someone big enough to carry us when we are hit (physically or spiritually). His premise was that our greatest weakness is in our human nature—we attempt to be, know, and do all things for all people. We try to be 'Super' when inside, we're still just us."

"We need a true friend, a ranger buddy. Someone who knows us fully, accepts us as we are, is willing to help us in our struggle and holds us accountable for our actions. Pastor Weber suggested the most important thing we could do in hard and uncertain times, was to find just such a friend to hold on to."

According to Duggins and other soldiers who have read Weber's books (*Tender Warrior*; *All the King's Men*; *Four Pillars of a Man's Heart*; and *Spirit Warriors: A Soldier Looks at Spiritual Warfare*) it is important to listen to God as he gives us a 'wake-up call' and heed his intent for living.

Latvian troops complete six-month tour in Iraq

Spc. Debrah Robertson
Desert Voice Staff Writer

"They understand the price of freedom," said Maj. Tim Zack, a Task Force Gator country officer who liaisons with Latvia. "They understand the mission in their hearts, in their souls."

The Company B, Second Latvian Battalion, has recently redeployed to Camp Virginia and will then return to Latvia after six months in the heart of Iraq.

Under command of the Polish army, the Latvian company provided convoy escorts and security in the Al Quadisayah and Wasit areas of Iraq, said Capt. Vents Lapsenbengs, commander of the Company B, 2nd Latvian Battalion.

They received mortar attacks, were ambushed, and saw a lot of Improvised Explosive Devices, but

Latvia has no plans to discontinue the mission.

"They have no doubts about being there," said Zack about the Latvian army. "They want to help Iraq become a democracy," because other countries helped them when they were under a dictatorship. "They fought

for almost 60 years to be freed from the Soviet Union."

Being a part of the coalition is important to them, Zack added. "They are well disciplined, well trained soldiers dedicated [to the cause]. "They have no plans to pull out. Their support for the U.S. is open-ended,"

renewed every six months with each rotation.

As an infantry company, they patrolled to show military presence and offered protection to the Polish team training the Iraqi army, said Lapsenbengs of his company.

They learned a lot about Quick Reaction Force tactics from the Polish army, Lapsenbengs continued, especially helicopter disembarkment, and they also performed live fire drills from moving helicopters.

"Every day, every exercise, we learned something," he said. "It was a good experience for my soldiers."

There were no deaths, only minor injuries, Lapsenbengs said.

Photo by Spc. Debrah Robertson



Private Ritvars Kristapans, Pfc. Martins Polumicka and Pvt. Raimonds Obolevics: three troops from the trail party from Company B, 2nd Latvian Battalion, who have been left to finish the last details of their redeployment.

New safety guide, fire prevention information

Charles A. Coffman

CSA Fire Inspector, ASG-KU Fire Prevention Office

In order to consolidate several existing regulations, standard operating procedures and handbooks into one plan, the ASG-Kuwait Safety Office will include a new fire prevention chapter in the updated ASG Kuwait Safety Plan, due out later this summer.

Making one reference available makes it easier for staff sections, agencies and units to comply with fire prevention requirements. The information is not meant to be all inclusive, but reflect typical ASG fire prevention issues unique to the Kuwait area of responsibility.

Along with the new Safety Plan, officials continue to make great strides in informing area residents of safety tips and guidance. In an attempt to help servicemembers avoid buying products that cannot be used in living quarters, AAFES now displays advisories in the kitchen appliance and candle aisles informing customers of ASG-KU restrictions on use in work and living areas on installations.

The Fire Prevention Office recommends that all designated facility managers and section supervisors at Camp Arifjan attend Facility Manager's Fire Prevention training given by the Fire Prevention Office on Thursday and Friday at 0900 at the Zone 1 Fire

There have been a number of fires caused by smoking material recently. The Fire Prevention Office offers these tips to prevent container fires:

- dispose of smoking materials in a metal container with a closed lid in the designated smoking area
- never dispose of smoking material in dumpsters, plastic traffic cones, or throw lit smoking materials on the ground
- remember that smoking material will easily ignite any ordinary combustibles in this hot, dry environment take the extra step to dispose of smoking materials properly

Station. Facility managers and section supervisors from other camps can set up an appointment for training by calling 430-3154.

This training will inform facility managers and section supervisors on ASG fire prevention requirements. It also provides tools and checklists so facility managers can properly prepare for official fire prevention inspections.

The training also provides information on requirements that facility managers may not be aware of otherwise. One example is the requirement for a barbeque permit. The Zone 1 Pavilion next to the track is the only authorized location to grill without a permit. Servicemembers wanting to grill in any other location must obtain a permit by going to any fire station on the day of the barbeque.

For more information on fire prevention matters call 430-3154.

ASG-Kuwait

Just One Question...

What is your favorite sports team and how do you keep up with them while you're deployed?



"*Lakers*. My whole family is a Laker house...if I miss a game, my brother and sister tell me what happened."

Sgt. Jasper Sebastian, 377th Theatre Support Command.



"My favorite sports team is the *Yankees* and the way I keep up with them is the Stars and Stripes."

Master at Arms 2 (MA2) Ronald Boersted, Navy Law and Order Detachment.



"It's all about Internet. I'm from Seattle, so my favorite team is the *SUPERSONICS*."

Sgt. Sean Washburn, 4-101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).



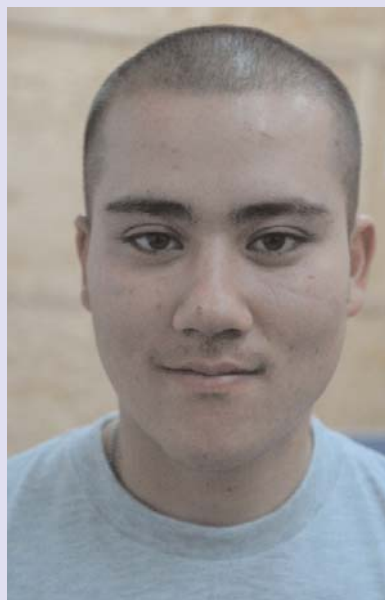
"I like the Miami *HEAT*. I work at the dining facility; we have a TV and that's how I watch them."

Spc. Leeron Murray, 53rd Field Artillery Battalion.



"Pittsburgh *Steelers*. Newspaper, television, my wife writes from home."

1st Sgt. Edward Stone, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 143rd TRANSCOM.



Hometown Hero

Senior Airman Michael Lawrence, vehicle operator, 424th Medium Truck Detachment, Camp Navistar

On his hometown Hampton, Va.

"The water, the beach and the fishing. There's just so much history there. During Bay Days, the city comes out. It's a festival with music, seafood, vendors, music. Everyone is there."

Tops In Blue

Senior Airman Matthew Bowman, a vocalist with the Air Force traveling show group Tops in Blue, performs a solo during a show on Camp Arifjan's Zone 6 stage Saturday night. The performers come from many different Air Force bases -- Colorado, Wyoming, California, Oklahoma -- but tour together for troops at deployed locations.



Photo by Spc. Chris Jones

Community happenings for July 19 through July 25

All Al-Salim

For information, call 442-2005

Arifjan

Wednesday -- Mystery Prize Bingo, 7:00 p.m., Zone 6 Community Center

Saturday -- Ping Pong Tourney, 7:00 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Chess Tourney, 7:00 p.m., Zone 6 Community Center

Sunday -- Poolside Cinema "Pirates of the Caribbean", 7:00 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Monday -- Karaoke, 7:00 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

Tuesday -- Bingo, 7:00 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center

For information, call 430-1302

Buehring

Wednesday -- 2.5k Fun Run, 6:30 p.m., Zone 1 Green Beans

Thursday -- Ping Pong Tourney, 7:30 p.m., Rec Center

Thursday-Sunday -- Sand Castle Building, Theatre Courtyard

(Buehring cont.)

Friday -- Bingo, 7:30 p.m., Events Tent

Saturday -- Hot Dog Day BBQ, 3:00 p.m., DSN/Internet Office

Power Lift Competition, 4:00 p.m., Gym

3on3 Blacktop B-Ball Tourney, 5:00 p.m., B-Ball Courts

Sunday -- Sand Castle Judging, 4:00 p.m., Courtyard

Tuesday -- Chess Tourney, 7:30 p.m., Oasis

For information, call 828-1202

Kuwait Naval Base

Wednesday -- Pool Tourney, 7:00 p.m., Rec Center

Friday -- Bingo, 7:00 p.m., Rec Center

Saturday -- Unit Soccer Tourney, 6:00 p.m., Soccer Field

Sunday -- Unit Soccer Tourney, 6:00 p.m., Soccer Field

Tournament Madness, 7:00 p.m., Rec. Center

For information call 839-1082

ISA

For information, call 859-1060

Navistar

For information, call 844-1137

Virginia

Wednesday -- Unit Feud, 7:00 p.m., Dusty Room

Basketball League, 7:00 p.m., B-Ball Courts

Thursday -- Basketball League, 7:00 p.m., B-Ball Courts

Chess & Checkers Tourney, 7:00 p.m., Community Center

Friday -- Texas Hold'em Tourney, 7:00 p.m., Community Center

Dead Lift Competition, 7:00 p.m., Fitness Center

Saturday -- 3-Point Shootout Competition, 7:00 p.m., B-Ball Courts

PS2 Tourney, 7:00 p.m., Community Center

Sunday -- PS2 Tourney, 7:00 p.m., Community Center

Monday -- 8-Ball Tourney, 7:00 p.m., Community Center

Tuesday -- Bingo, 7:00 p.m., Dusty Room

For information, call 832-2544