



# The Desert Voice

Third Army/United States Army Central  
"Ready Tonight ... Sustain The Fight ... Shape The Future"

October 7, 2009



## Drawdown from Iraq

# DV

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Photoillustration of Spc. Brandon Babbitt watching MRAPs being loaded onto a C-17 Globemaster III, by Sgt. Daniel Lucas and Spc. Monte Swift

## Contact us

Comments, questions, suggestions, story ideas? Call the Desert Voice editor at 430-6334 or e-mail at [desertvoice@arifjan.arcent.army.mil](mailto:desertvoice@arifjan.arcent.army.mil).

## Remarks from President Barack Obama: Responsibly Ending the War in Iraq

*...On my first full day in office, I directed my national security team to undertake a comprehensive review of our strategy in Iraq to determine the best way to strengthen that foundation, while strengthening American national security. I have listened to my Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and commanders on the ground. We have acted with careful consideration of events on the ground, with respect for the security agreements between the United States and Iraq, and with a critical recognition that the long-term solution in Iraq must be political – not military. The most important decisions that have to be made about Iraq's future must now be made by Iraqis.*

*We have also taken into account the simple reality that America can no longer afford to see Iraq in isolation from other priorities. We face the challenge of refocusing on Afghanistan and Pakistan, of relieving the burden on our military, and of rebuilding our struggling economy – and these are challenges that we will meet.*

*Today, I can announce that our review is complete, and that the United States will pursue a new strategy to end the war in Iraq through a transition to full Iraqi responsibility.*

*This strategy is grounded in a clear and achievable goal shared by the Iraqi people and the American people: an Iraq that is sovereign, stable, and self-reliant. To achieve that goal, we will work to promote an Iraqi government that is just, representative, and accountable, and*

*that provides neither support nor safe-haven to terrorists. We will help Iraq build new ties of trade and commerce with the world. We will forge a partnership with the people and government of Iraq that contributes to the peace and security of the region.*

*What we will not do is let the pursuit of the perfect stand in the way of achievable goals. We cannot rid Iraq of all who oppose America or sympathize with our adversaries. We cannot police Iraq's streets until they are completely safe, nor stay until Iraq's union is perfected. We cannot sustain indefinitely a commitment that has put a strain on our military, and will cost the American people nearly a trillion dollars. America's men and women in uniform have fought block by block, province by province, year after year, to give the Iraqis this chance to choose a better future. Now, we must ask the Iraqi people to seize it.*

*The first part of this strategy is therefore the responsible removal of our combat brigades from Iraq.*

*As a candidate for President, I made clear my support for a timeline of 16 months to carry out this drawdown, while pledging to consult closely with our military commanders upon taking office to ensure that we preserve the gains we've made and protect our troops. Those consultations are now complete, and I have chosen a timeline that will remove our combat brigades over the next 18 months.*

*Let me say this as plainly as I can: by August 31, 2010, our combat mission in Iraq will end...*

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# DV

The  
Desert  
Voice

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<http://www.youtube.com/user/dvidshub?blend=2&ob=1>



# Calories Burned

The label on Muscle Milk claims that it provides “healthy, sustained energy.” Each 11-ounce carton contains 220 calories, 21g protein, 11g fat and 9g carbohydrates. It also contains about 20 percent of the Daily Value of several vitamins and minerals. Muscle milk will make you feel full considering 45 percent of the calories come from fat. The fat is from heart friendly sunflower, safflower and canola oil. Muscle milk also contains medium chain triglycerides, a type of fat more easily absorbed by the body.

Muscle milk could be used as a snack or part of a meal if you enjoy the taste. It is not the best drink for recovery unless it is combined with other foods – specifically carbohydrates. An optimal recovery meal or snack should have a 4:1 ratio of carbohydrates to protein. You need at least 10g of protein after an exhaustive workout for muscle



**Capt. Kate Schrumm R.D.**  
**U.S. Army Central Surgeon's Office**

repair, but you need carbohydrates to restore your muscle glycogen. Muscle milk has the opposite ratio – 1:4. If you drank this shake with some additional carbohydrates like fruit, cereal or a granola bar, it would be okay. Without the added carbohydrates, your glycogen stores will decrease and you may not be able to work out as hard next time you work out.

A cheaper alternative for recovery is chocolate milk or soymilk since they both have the 4:1 ratio. Other good snacks would be peanut butter and fruit, cereal and milk, or yogurt and granola. Eat within 45-60 minutes of a long, exhaustive workout since this is the best time to restore glycogen.

Just remember that extra calories, adequate protein plus hard workouts are what build muscle. Carbohydrates and fluid should be your focus for recovery. **A**

# National Fire Prevention Month

October is National Fire Prevention Month, a time when we should all be aware of ways to help learn fire safety and prevention. According to Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency, most people underestimate their risk for fire. Many either lack emergency response plans or fail to practice them with fire drills. National Fire Prevention Month is an excellent opportunity to focus on fire hazards, but we should all practice fire safety every day: at home, at work and at play.

We must caution ourselves against complacency and encourage everyone to take the next step. It is important to realize that fire safety does not just happen; it requires careful planning, coordination and education of fire prevention. We need to know how to properly notify the fire department using the 911 system and save emergency phone numbers into your cell phones. Fire Wardens should regularly inspect

buildings for fire hazards and, if necessary, ask local fire department for assistance. Avoid the over use of electrical outlets, extension cords and power strips and make sure they are used properly. Inspect exit doors, ensuring they are working properly. Create or update detailed escape routes and evacuation plans of buildings, making them visible to personnel. Conduct fire drills and urge everyone to take each alarm seriously. Lack of urgency in responding to a fire could mean the difference between life and death.

Take advantage of the upcoming winter months where you are inside to look around your home for ways that can prevent fires. This is the time to take care of the overloaded outlets and get rid of the worn extension cords. Look for old candles that have outlived their usefulness. It is also a good time to clear that clutter that may be a hazard or hindering your fire escape route. **A**



**Ready Tonight**  
**Sustain the Fight**  
**Shape the Future**  
**Third Army/U.S. Army Central**



# Marines support warfighters in Afganistan

Article and Photos by  
Staff Sgt. Helen M. Searcy  
**MCLC Fwd-Iraq**

In 2006, the retrograde lot opened its gates, and its primary mission was to allow units to turn-in their excess equipment as far forward as possible.

Since that date, the retrograde team, comprised of Honeywell Service Technology Incorporated personnel and a handful of Marines, has taken on an additional mission, supporting the Marines in Afghanistan with equipment being retrograded out of Iraq.

When Combat Logistics Regiment 27 took charge of providing Marines in Iraq with logistical support, the Marine Corps Logistics Command Forward Iraq picked up the pace to accomplish their mission.

“The primary mission of the MCLC Fwd-Iraq is to assist moving gear out of Iraq and source it to wherever it’s needed,” said Marine Maj. Charles W. Hill, operations officer, MCLC Fwd-Iraq. “The supplementary mission is determin-

ing what equipment is operational for Afghanistan.”

Equipment turned in by redeploying units to the retrograde lot called, LZ Dogwood, is inspected by supply personnel from CLR-27 (Fwd) and MCLC Fwd-Iraq. It is then determined if it can be redeployed or retrograded.

Gunnery Sgt. Jeffrey D. Inman, staff noncommissioned officer in charge, Electronics Maintenance Company, Maintenance Battalion, CLR-27 (Fwd), deployed to Iraq with five other Marines from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., to help inventory the communications equipment.

“I’m here to identify what’s in good working order and what’s not,” said Inman. “I’m trying to alleviate any problems [with equipment] before going to Afghanistan.”

Once the equipment is identified as ready for issue or retrograde, it is put into containers or loaded on flat racks for follow on movement to either Afghanistan or the U.S. with the Army or Air Force’s assistance.

“The Army is critical in providing the truck support,” said Hill. “I am tremendously happy with their efforts.”



Marine Maj. Charles W. Hill, operations officer, Marine Corps Logistics Command Fwd-Iraq, goes over a Limited Technical Inspections form with Master Sgt. Eric Ingram, logistics chief, Marine Corps Element Kuwait, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Nicholas Tazza, strategic mobility officer, MCE-K, at the retrograde lot.



Rows of radios are lined up waiting to be inventoried by Marines from Electronics Maintenance Company.

Camp Al Taqaddum, Iraq

# Third Army's new strategy moves equipment to Afghanistan faster



Article by Sgt. David Nunn

Photo courtesy of AP

## 203rd Public Affairs Detachment

In the pursuit of sustaining warfighters in Afghanistan, a New Equipping Strategy has been implemented by Third Army to refine the process of transitioning units and improve their readiness, while reducing their workload and saving the Army money.

“We have developed a new equipping strategy that allows us to get a unit into the operational battlespace quicker and more efficiently,” said Army Lt. Col. Dennis C. McCallum Jr., the Deputy Force Management Director for Third Army and a native of Rich Square, N.C. “By reducing the number of pieces of equipment transported, Third Army allows a more expedient deployment of units in and out of Afghanistan.”

Two units currently going through the transition process have benefited from Third Army's guidance, allowing the outgoing unit, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 10th Infantry Divi-

sion (Mountain) to leave some of their equipment behind for their replacements and minimizing the logistical support necessary to continue the mission. Because of this new initiative the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team was able to leave 33 percent of their total equipment at home station, falling in on everything from computers, to vehicles and weapons.

“In the past, each unit began their deployment with a clean slate, bringing in their own equipment that sometimes would have a tough time getting to them,” said Army Lt. Col. Bill P. Dillon, Force Management Action Officer for Third Army, and a native of Cape May, N.J.

Such efforts by Third Army to minimize the traffic of logistical support into the Operation Enduring Freedom area of operations are aided by outgoing units leaving behind functional equipment to their replacements. In coordination with Department of the Army guidance, Third Army continues to refine the process and expand their efforts to both Operation Iraqi Freedom

and OEF unit transitions.

“Our goal with this new strategy is to streamline the entire process and to constantly reduce the gear necessary to move in and out of the country,” said Dillon.

Third Army has been moving equipment and forces throughout the Central Command area of operations continuously for the last eight years to support operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. If the plans for an eventual surge of troops into Afghanistan to further aid in the War on Terror becomes a reality, such strategies as the Third Army's New Equipping Strategy will become all the more important.

“If [The United States] decides to increase the number of Soldiers and equipment in the Afghanistan theater, then we will really need this new strategy,” said Dillon. “The strategy's impact on the mission will become more substantial if a surge happens. The 173rd's deployment was just a great opportunity for us to really make this plan happen.” <sup>A</sup>

# The hub of the drawdown

How Third Army takes equipment coming from Iraq and makes it fit to fight for Afghanistan

Article by

Spc. Brandon Babbitt

Photos by

Spc. Brandon Babbitt and Spc. Monte Swift

**203rd Public Affairs Detachment**

A dusty trail caused by vehicles and equipment leads south out of Iraq into the neighboring country of Kuwait. The drawdown is starting to take place. Camp Arifjan is the place that makes it happen.

The maintenance facility at Camp Arifjan is the sole caretaker for all equipment coming out of Iraq. What happens at Building 450 here is a unique process that includes over 500 civilian contractors working side by side with servicemembers.

“The bottom line is every piece of metal coming out of Iraq will go through us,” said Sgt. 1st Class George Bayer, Maintenance Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge for the 2-401st Army Field Support Brigade. “Right now we have over 34 different programs to retrograde equipment coming out of Iraq. This includes mechanical support, painting, washing, tire repair and transportation.”

Bayer went on to comment on the dynamic operation of fixing up a broken piece of equipment at Building 450.

“Basically, we strip them and rebuild them from the ground up,” Bayer added. “We fix things up for the Army, Marines and even special forces.”

With the drawdown of coalition forces from Iraq already underway, Maj. Anthony Linyard, Support Operations Officer for the 2-401st Army Field Support Brigade, has the busy task of preparing for over 60,000 containers of equipment coming out of Iraq.

“We have been doing war game scenarios in preparation for the drawdown for over the past three months,” said Linyard, a Beaufort, S.C. native. “We here are tasked with having the capability to receive, store, fix and reissue equipment coming from up north.”

The biggest challenge for Linyard and his troops is the unknown. Things coming in from the drawdown have been slower than expected thus far, and they are anticipating a huge surge in equipment from Iraq at any moment.

“When the bow breaks, we expect the worst and we have to prepare for it,” said Linyard. “Right now we have the capacity to handle up to 3,600 pieces per-month. Anything over that and we will be stretched to the limit with space and personnel.”

“We alone already repair almost 5,000 tires per month,” added Linyard. “As the drawdown heats up, the goal will be close to 7,200 each month for the war effort.”

With all the vehicles, trailers, and military machines coming out of Iraq, a systematic approach is in place at Camp Arifjan



**LEFT:** Petty Officer 2nd Class Alan Benjamin of Prior Lake, Minn. with the NAVELSG checks fittings on vehicles brought in from the Iraq drawdown to assess how much repair is needed.

**BELOW:** Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Victoria Diaz, a Salinas, Puerto Rico native, repairs an antenna on an armored vehicle at the maintenance facility as a member of NAVELSG.

**BOTTOM:** Contractors use pressure washers to clean an M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle as part of the assembly line process before preparing to move them to Afghanistan.

for the needs of the military.

“Lot 58 is the receiving point for all convoys and coming out of Iraq,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jesse Fields, Maintenance Officer in Charge for the 2-401st Army Field Support Brigade. “In just 24 hours of receiving a rolling piece of equipment, a plan is put together for its use. Within five days it is either moved to a holding area, shipped out, or the process for it to be retrograded begins with us here at Building 450.”

With the drawdown in Iraq, and the knowledge of the increasing violence and danger in Afghanistan, there is a big emphasis on getting repaired equipment to support Operation Enduring Freedom. With that in mind, the maintenance facility’s focus is on having everything it needs to complete the mission of supplying servicemembers deployed to Afghanistan.

“We have over 16,000 parts in our warehouse to support our efforts,” said Fields. “With the drawdown in Iraq, the mission has now shifted on fixing up the stuff coming from the north, and sending it off in support of OEF.”

Staff Sgt. Larry Johnson, Systems NCOIC for the 2-401st Army Field Support Brigade, gets a strong feeling of purpose with what he does and those he works with at Building 450.

“This is an ever evolving process with a lot of involvement from a number of different levels of the military,” said Johnson, a native of Claxton, Ga. “Even a lot of the contractors who work with us here are ex-military, and they too know the importance of getting this equipment repaired to send off to Afghanistan.”

With the personnel, tools, and will to fix and ship equipment from a brigade leaving Iraq, to one entering OEF, the maintenance facility here will play an important part with the end result in the War on Terror.

“We are here to help out our armed forces brothers and sisters,” said Linyard. <sup>A</sup>



# Third Army says, "Goodbye" to 4th BCD



**U.S. Army Sgt. Noshad Chaudhry, from Arlington Heights, Ill., holds the 4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment flag during a transfer of authority ceremony at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. The Third Army commanding general transferred authority of air-ground tactical integration efforts, supporting Central Command military operations, from 4th BCD to the 1st BCD.**

*Article and Photos by  
Dustin Senger  
Area Support Group Qatar Public Affairs Office*

Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, Third Army commanding general, transferred authority of air-ground tactical integration efforts, supporting Central Command military operations, during a ceremony at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, Sept. 27. The 1st Battlefield Coordination Detachment replaced 4th BCD inside the Coalition Air and Space Operations Center at the Qatar air base.

"Up front, I want to thank my team," said Col. Kevin Felix, 4th BCD commander, during the ceremony. "Bottom line, your efforts helped destroy the enemy and saved American lives every day." The BCD coordinates Combined Air Operations Center missions with Central Command land components. The Army detachment clarifies ground troop requirements, as well as educates land forces about air and space support capabilities.

"To my fellow joint peers within the CAOC," said Felix, "I have enjoyed every minute of my service with all of you. That does not mean we didn't disagree. We all know you cannot gain any traction without a little friction, but our dis-

cussions always remained professional and focused."

Immediately after deploying in October 2008, Felix started discussing and implementing new integration ideas with the 1st Space Brigade commander from U.S. Army Space and Missile Command. The 4th BCD planned and executed numerous joint fire and effect missions for CENTCOM war fighters on the ground. With 1st BCD in place, the 4th BCD will return to Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

In December, Felix will refocus his coordination leadership capabilities to meet a large-scale garrison need: relocate the Third Army headquarters' assets roughly 200 miles to the right, from Fort McPherson, Ga., to Shaw AFB.

"He is a great organizer," said Air Force Col. Troy Stone, CAOC chief of combat plans, regarding Felix serving as a Third Army liaison officer for the headquarters' move. "He is an attention-to-detail kind of guy, exactly what they need."

"Colonel Felix never lost focus or energy. He pushed hard all the way to the end of his tour," said Stone.

The Third Army headquarters' relocation plan is made in compliance with the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1990, Final Selection Criteria. The physical move to Shaw AFB is expected to be complete in the summer of 2010, as directed by the command's transition team. 

# Graduating Class of WLC 703-09

Article and photos by  
Sgt. David Nunn  
203rd Public Affairs Detachment

U.S. servicemembers lined the walls, packed together in clusters within doorways; every available seat was taken in the large hall of the Camp Arifjan base chapel to bear witness to the graduation ceremony for the Soldiers of class 703-09 of the Warrior Leader Course.

The size of the base chapel made it the perfect location for the gathering, and yet the hush that befell the crowd as winner of the Warrior Ethos essay contest began the ceremony seemed to make the location even more appropriate.

“From day one [Soldiers] learn the Army Values and the Warrior Ethos, we are taught how to work well together, respect each other and the basics of leadership,” said Spc. Rasheem Brady, of the 518th Military Police Office, Balad, Iraq. “It wasn’t until I was deployed with all of you that I truly begun to realize the importance of our values and the Warrior Ethos.”

The Warrior Ethos contains four lines that each and every Soldier is taught during initial training and expected to live by. I will always place the mission first, I will never accept defeat, I will never quit, and I will never leave a fallen comrade. The Soldiers of class 703-09 were tasked by their instructors to write an essay explaining what those oaths mean to them.

Brady’s soft voice echoed through the microphone across everyone in attendance, describing surviving combat and attending the funeral of his fellow Soldier. His voice breaking, he explained how he could have never made it through those events without the Warrior Ethos and the support of his fellow Soldiers.

“I have survived those events, and have successfully gone through this training because of the Warrior Ethos,” said Brady. “Our standards and values are not just words to me, I live by them.”

The ceremony continued with the guest speaker, Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin L. Hill, the senior enlisted leader of U.S. Central Command.

Stepping from the podium, he broke the solemn air of the chapel with his booming voice, and ready smile.

“I want to thank the graduates, their leadership and the cadre of the Warrior Leader Course for their service. You all didn’t have to be here, you decided to take the hard route and advance yourselves,” said Hill. “Since the War on Terror there has been thousands of reasons why not to do such training as this while deployed, but what better situation than here to attend a course designed to train warriors to lead. I salute you for accomplishing this.”

The command sergeant major went on to explain the importance of empowering Soldiers to become stronger leaders. He spoke about how the mission is accomplished because of junior non-commissioned officers; they enforce the standards and work directly with the Soldiers.

“You, your units, and the Army are better off now that you stepped forward to attend this training. Know that your leadership is proud of your accomplishment,” said Hill. **A**



Main Photo: Newly graduated Soldiers of the Warrior Leader Course, Class 703-09, sit together at the Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Post Chapel during their Graduation Ceremony. Bottom Right Corner: Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin L. Hill gave a speech as the guest speaker during the ceremony.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Homeowner Assistance Program now under way

A program to help military homeowners caught in the downturn of the housing market started processing applications Wednesday, sources said, with the publication of the implementing rules in the Federal Register.

About 4,300 homeowners have applied for assistance under the expanded Homeowners Assistance Program, which was signed into law Feb. 17 with \$555 million in funding. Eligible are people on permanent change-of-station orders, wounded warriors, surviving spouses and those affected by base realignment and closure actions.

Wounded warriors and surviving spouses receive priority in the program, although about 98 percent of the applications received so far have been in the PCS category.

The Army Corps of Engineers, which runs the program, has been increasing staff and preparing to start processing applications. Some servicemembers have said that HAP officials have been doing initial reviews of their applications, asking for more information, to further prepare in advance.

But the primary issue that has held up the program for six months still looms: homeowners who receive benefits under the expanded HAP will have to pay taxes, and the taxes will be withheld upfront. Recently introduced legislation that would fix the problem and make the benefits tax-exempt is still pending.

## New name, same mission for 92-year-old Fort Dix

For 92 years, being sent abroad or brought home by the Army has often meant passing through the New Jersey installation known first as Camp Dix, then Fort Dix.

It was where Elvis Presley was demobilized after his duty in Germany ending in 1960; Hall of Fame Dodgers pitchers Don Drysdale and Sandy Koufax had basic training there; even comedian Redd Foxx's Fred Sanford television character talked about kitchen patrol there.

Some six million lesser-known Soldiers also passed through.

Fort Dix has been merged with neighboring McGuire Air Force Base and Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station to make the military's first three-branch base, a 65-square-mile behemoth stretching through farmland and forests and given the clunky moniker Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

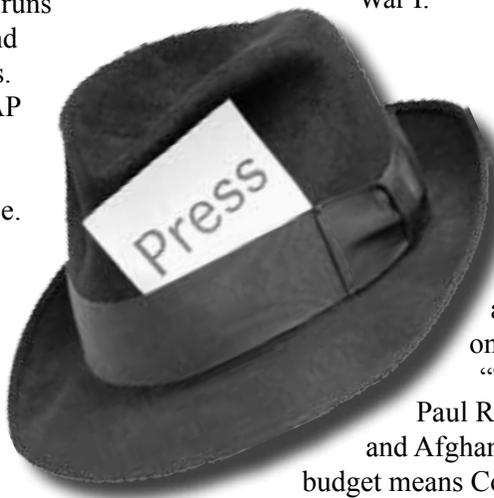
And like that, a storied Army spot, current commander

Col. Patrick Slowey calls it "one of the big kahunas," will be a lesser partner in a hyphenated operation.

The merger was a compromise from the 2005 round of military base closures and realignments. The three continue to exist and with essentially the same functions: training and mobilization for the Army, logistics and transport for the Air Force, designing and testing aircraft components for the Navy.

It's part of a strategy of reorganizing and standardizing the services. Twenty-six bases around the country are to be merged into 12 new joint bases, a move Defense officials say could save two billion dollars over 20 years.

In New Jersey, it means the Air Force will take responsibility for basic operations at the place that began as Camp Dix in 1917 to mobilize Soldiers to fight in World War I.



## New fiscal year begins with no new VA budget

The new fiscal year did not get off to a happy start Thursday for veterans groups as Congress failed for the 20th time in the past 23 years to pass a Veterans Affairs Department budget on time.

"This is completely unacceptable," said Paul Reickhoff, executive director of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. "A late VA budget means Congress is failing veterans."

"The failure, once again, to pass VA's budget on time is the latest evidence of a broken funding system crying out for reform," said David Gorman of Disabled American Veterans.

Reickhoff said the only solace is that VA is not alone. Congress passed only one of the 13 regular annual appropriations bills needed to run federal agencies.

The legislative appropriations bill that was passed Wednesday and sent to the White House included a key Band-Aid; a so-called continuing resolution that keeps VA and other federal agencies running through Oct. 31 by providing temporary funding.

The DAV's Gorman noted that the temporary funding at least includes a small increase, based on the proposed 2010 budget.

Ironically, the 2010 veterans' funding bill approved by the House and Senate that should have passed by the start of the fiscal year includes a provision that would prevent any disruption in veterans funding if Congress fails to pass a budget by the start of fiscal 2011. **A**

# Emergency Numbers

**Camp Arifjan**

**DSN 430-3160/ Arifjan Cell 6682-2120**

**Camp Buerhing**

**DSN 438-3224 Buerhing Cell 9720-5396**

**Camp Virginia**

**DSN 832-2559 /Virginia Cell 6705-9470**

**LSA**

**DSN 442-0189/ LSA Cell 6682-2467**

**K-Crossing**

**DSN 823-1327/ K-Crossing Cell 682-0095**

**KCIA/APOD**

**Cell 6706-0165-DSN 825-1314**

**SPOD**

**Cell 9720-5982**

**KNB**

**DSN 839-1334/ KNB Cell 6691-4967**

# NCO Spotlight

**Staff Sgt. David Hummer**  
**2-180th Field Artillery**



"I enjoy the camaraderie in the Army. It's what brought me back to the Military after I left active duty."

Staff Sgt. David Hummer of the 1404 Transportation Company, Arizona National Guard, has been serving in the Army for the past 12 years. The Lake Side, Arizona, native began his career on active duty, serving at Fort Bragg, then went to the National Guard after a brief time. Hummer saw one deployment in 2005 to Mosul with the 2-180th Field Artillery, and is now serving his second here in Kuwait.

# Just One Question ...

**WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST CONCERN WITH THE IRAQ DRAWDOWN?**



"My biggest concern is that the violence will go back and forth between Iraq and Afghanistan."

Spc. Thomas Newman,  
586th Expeditionary Logistics  
Readiness Squadron



"An immediate reoccurrence of violence following the pull-out from Iraq."

Spc. Mark Hebbert,  
443rd Transportation Company



"A rise in violence in Iraq, with less protection."

Airman 1st Class Cory Aston  
586th Medium Truck Detachment



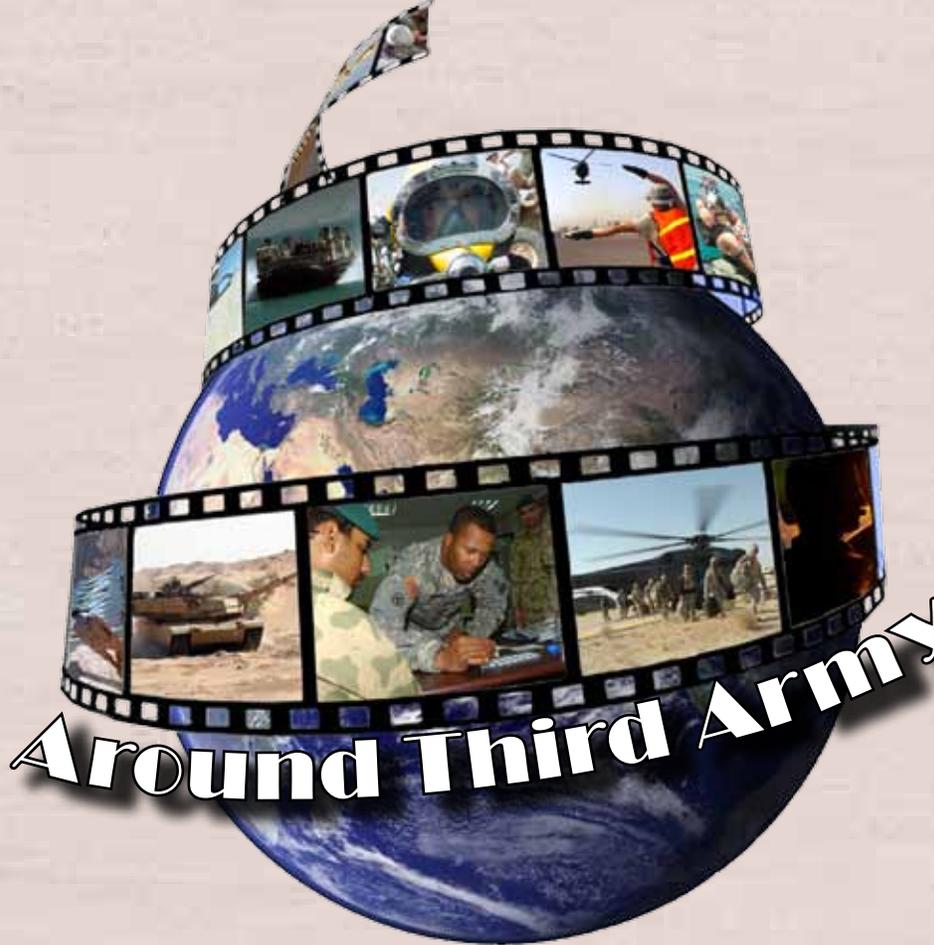
"That camp Buerhing may be turned into a demobilization site for Iraq due to Camp Virginia being over crowded."

Commander Valerie Morrison,  
Troop Medical Clinic



"A drawdown too fast, and then a surge of violence."

Pfc. Randy Romero,  
593rd Sustainment Battalion



## **Ten Miles in the Morn...**

Cool breezes and early-morning sunlight set the scene for the Fifth-Annual Kuwait Ten-Mile Run held at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, October 4. U.S. Servicemembers from around Kuwait gathered to compete in Male and Female categories based on age as well as a two-person team race. Awards were also given to the fastest male and female overall.



Photo by Spc. Monte Swift

## **Securing Kuwait's Ports**

U.S. Navy and Coast Guard units work together as part of Commander Task Group 56.5, under the Naval Expeditionary Combat command. They support the global war on terror by providing seaward security, high-value, asset escort and seaward port entry at the Kuwait Naval Base and Oil platforms. They also provide port defense training for the Iraqi navy.



Photo by MC2 Kim Harris

## **Last of the Marines**

Color guards for Regimental Combat Team 6 and Regimental Combat Team 8 dip their colors during the National Anthem aboard Camp Ramadi, Iraq. They participated in a transfer of authority ceremony where the last Marine Corps Ground Combat Element to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, transferred authority of their areas of operation to the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team (Advise and Assist Brigade) of the 82nd Airborne Division, commanded by Army Col. Mark R. Stammer.



Photo by Cpl. Meg Murray