



The Desert Voice

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

June 12, 2010

THIRD ARMY

THE SUCCESS OF AN ON-GOING MISSION

"Great work. No time to relax. We must continue to assess, predict and anticipate our warfighter's needs."

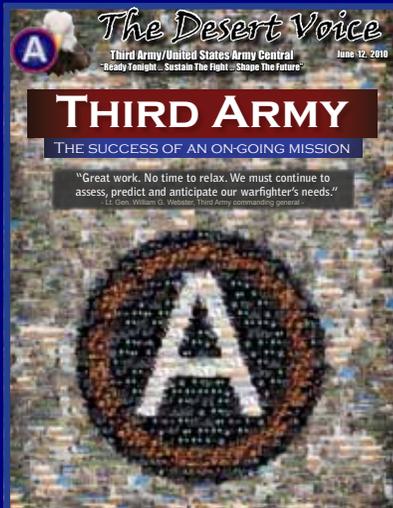
- Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, Third Army commanding general -



DV

Table of Contents

A year to remember	3
One year Later	4
Ready Tonight	10
Ready Tonight/ACP	13
Sustain the Fight	14
Shape the Future	18
Strategic Relocation	20
Around Third Army	22



Contact us

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



Lt. Gen. William G. Webster
Third Army Commanding General



Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Fourhman
Third Army Command Sergeant Major


**COMMANDING GENERAL
THIRD ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY CENTRAL
CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT
APO AE 09306**

June 1, 2010

To Third Army/USARCENT Team,

This month brings the anniversaries of two great American and Allied victories in World War Two. As we continue our tradition of service and sacrifice for the Nation, we should remember generations past.

4-7 June are the 68th anniversary of World War Two's turning point in the Pacific Theater. Between 0400 and 0700 local time on the fourth of June, 1942, the naval air engagement between US Navy/Marine Corps fighters and the Japanese Imperial Navy Air Service began the Battle of Midway. After four days and several engagements, the United States emerged victorious, avenging losses at Pearl Harbor the previous December. The US victory at Midway dealt a crushing blow to the Japanese Imperial Navy, inflicting losses including four carriers, one cruiser, 248 aircraft and over 3,000 personnel.

6 June marks the 66th anniversary of the Allied Forces' landing on the beaches of Normandy, which will forever be remembered as "D-Day." Over 100,000 ground troops from several countries, supported by over 5,000 ships manned by personnel from all sea services, conducted the invasion together. Air support came from a diverse mixture of the Allied Air Forces. This truly joint effort led to the defeat of the Axis Powers the following year.

Like the joint and coalition team that enabled our successes nearly seven decades ago, our Team today has a common goal: peace, stability, and representational governments that have the people's best interests in mind. Together, our focused and cooperative efforts will make us successful in this noble effort.

We are proud to share the memory of our brave men and women from all services, in all wars and all periods. Thank you for your service. Your hard work and sacrifices have great meaning for our future.

Patton's Own!


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


William G. Webster
Lieutenant General, US Army
Commanding General

DV
*The
Desert
Voice*

Volume 31, Issue 20

The Desert Voice is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Desert Voice are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the U.S. Army Central Public Affairs Office. This magazine is published by Al-Qabandi United, a private firm, which is not affiliated with USARCENT. All copy will be edited. The Desert Voice is produced twice a month by the 203rd Public Affairs Detachment. Find us online at www.arcent.army.mil.

Third Army Commanding General
Lt. Gen. William G. Webster
Third Army Command Sgt. Maj.
Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Fourhman
Third Army Public Affairs Officer
Col. Gerald O'Hara
Third Army Public Affairs Sgt. Maj.
Sgt. Maj. Brian Thomas
Third Army Deputy PAO (FWD)
Lt. Col. Glen A. Cunningham
Third Army PAO NCOIC
Sgt. 1st Class Duane Brown

203rd Public Affairs Detachment Commander
Capt. Tracey Frink
203rd Public Affairs Detachment Sergeant
Staff Sgt. Anaidy Claudio
Editor
Spc. Monte Swift
Print Team
Sgt. David Nunn
Sgt. Daniel Lucas
Cpl. Brandon Babbitt

A year to remember

Much has happened in Third Army over the last year. So much in fact, that it may seem difficult to comprehend that so many accomplishments can occur within a single element of time, for it was just over a year ago that Lt. Gen. William G. Webster stepped in as commander of Third Army. Assuming that command came with the task of watching over a military element that included tens of thousands of Soldiers, millions of pieces of equipment, two combat operations, with an Area of Operation of 20 countries on two continents; not to mention one of the largest logistical missions in history, Nickel II.

That mission, dubbed “Nickel II”, involves the movement of nearly an entire army and its equipment from one theater of operation to another. Such a feat has not been undertaken since WWII, when our Army was redirected to confront German forces at the Battle of the Bulge. Coincidentally, the Soldiers who turned north that cold European winter, and ultimately prevailed, did so under the command of the Third Army “A”.

Enduring the test of time, Third Army’s mission to sustain the fight still rings true. Now, as with then, the success of the mission comes down to the people, and the teamwork of the Servicemembers, Department of Defense civilians and contractors carrying out the task of getting war fighters what they need, before they need it. Everyone supporting Third Army has greatly

contributed to the successes of the past year, from Lt. Gen. Webster and his staff, to the command sections, to supporting commands and down trace units, to Department of Defense civilians. Third Army is currently ahead of the President’s schedule to build up troops and equipment in Afghanistan by making it a priority to have equipment on the ground when war fighters arrive. Along the way, the team of teams remains flexible to changes and stays ahead of those changes by anticipating them before they occur, therefore maximizing their boots on the ground time.

The “Ready Tonight, Sustain the Fight and Shape the Future” mission has been sustained through exercises such as Bright Star, Lucky Warrior, Lucky Strike, Steppe Eagle and ROC Drills which have also helped build military relationships across many organizations and countries.

But the mission is far from over as Third Army and the team of teams continues on into the busiest part of its Nickel II mission. If Third Army history has shown us anything, it is that “Patton’s Own” can and will succeed, whatever it takes.

Perhaps one day, long after Third Army’s current mission is complete, new Soldiers will compare the successes of today’s mission to their own future endeavors. Perhaps they too may find themselves doing so under the command of the Third Army flag. 



JUST OVER A YEAR AGO, LT. GEN. WILLIAM G. WEBSTER BECAME THE 51ST COMMANDING GENERAL OF THIRD ARMY. NOW, THE DESERT VOICE TAKES A LOOK AT THE COMMAND SUCCESSSES OF ONE OF THE LARGEST LOGISTICAL MISSIONS IN HISTORY.

Third Army

one year later



Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, Third Army commanding general, speaks with Third Army staff members of the Contingency Command Post at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, March 1. The CCP serves as a combat-ready headquarters, able to react to any situation in its Area of Operation (Photo by Cpl. Alex Godinez, Third Army Public Affairs).

Story by
Cpl. Brandon Babbitt
203rd Public Affairs Detachment

On May 4 of last year, Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, took command of Third Army during a change of Command Ceremony at Ft. McPherson in Atlanta. At the time, the commanding general became the leader of a “team of teams” with marching orders that spearheaded the strategic guidance of Ready Tonight, Sustain the Fight and Shape the Future within Third Army’s Area of Responsibility, which consists of 20 nations.

“We are glad to join a great team with great talent and potential,” said Lt. Gen. Webster during the change of

command ceremony. “We will continue to build upon our strengths and meet all challenges to ensure that we remain ready to accomplish all our missions. We can accomplish anything if we stay focused on our missions, prepare Soldiers and families for what they must do, and build and maintain the strong bonds of teamwork.”

In December, priorities shifted for Third Army from the Drawdown in Iraq to the Buildup in Afghanistan. The command anticipated this change of priority and redirected their efforts to accomplish the mission.

As the Army builds up in Afghanistan and draws down troops in Iraq, Third Army, and attached units, continually pushes the largest movement of military of personnel and materiel since World War II; a massive logistical operation

involving nearly three million pieces of equipment, while increasing the number of troops in Afghanistan by nearly 30,000.

The operation has been dubbed “Nickel II” by the commanding general; the code name for Gen. George S. Patton’s repositioning of an entire Army corps during the 1944 Battle of the Bulge in Belgium.

“This is an enormous task, unprecedented in modern military history,” said Lt. Gen. Webster. “But we have a well thought-out plan and the synergy and cooperation of our many teams involved will ensure we anticipate and are prepared to meet all requirements for U.S. Central Command and our Army.”

Since June of 2009 more than 225,000 pieces of equipment have been processed from Iraq, including more than 80 percent of the required Mine Resistant Ambushed Protected vehicles designed to aid the warfighter in Afghanistan in completing their missions safely.

The assessment is that Third Army and supporting units are on target to deliver the requested MRAP vehicles by the end of August.

Brig. Gen. John O’Connor, director of logistics, Third Army, views Third Army’s mission as an enduring one where anticipating the future and working together is the key to getting the mission complete.

“The flow of much needed equipment to Afghanistan is our top priority,” said O’Connor. “The Third Army team is hard at work finding solutions to meet the force requirements in Afghanistan.”



Equipment supporting coalition warfighters is loaded onto a cargo plane at an airstrip in Third Army’s Area of Responsibility (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).

Since the start of the fiscal year 2010, Third Army has redistributed more than \$1.1 billion worth of Theater Provided Equipment from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

In addition to TPE, consolidated property accountability of the logistical effort is more than \$46 billion and with an asset visibility of 4.5 million items while redistributing at least two million parts exceeding \$370 million to theater customers.

Since July 1, 2009 alone, Third Army and supporting units have moved more than 3,000 tons of ammunition and more than one million items including vehicles, repair parts, general supplies, barrier material and packaged petroleum products worth more than \$100 million from Iraq to Afghanistan.

Third Army has partnered with Army Material Command’s Retrograde and Reset Task Force to provide rapid disposition and reset of all forces and materiel retrograding out of Iraq while balancing the flow of equipment and materiel throughout the CENTCOM Area of Operations.

Command Sgt. Maj. John Fourman, Third Army command sergeant major, gives his coin to a Soldier of the 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery during a tour of the Third Army Area of Operations on Feb. 26. Third Army personnel assigned to ADA missions provide security for operations throughout the Central Command area of responsibility (Photo by Sgt. David Nunn, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).



These efforts have not only helped to reset our Army, but reinforced the concept of teamwork when it comes to saving money, which is something the Third Army finance team appreciates.

Third Army is bringing down the costs in Iraq by going through cost-benefit analyses and trying to find costly redundancies and eliminate them where possible.

“We are an integral part of a great team that established an effective Cost Culture throughout the theater,” said Col. Lester “JC” Campbell, deputy finance chief, Third Army. “This cost awareness culture yielded cost savings and enabled cost avoidance, which ultimately enables commanders at every level to routinely make resource informed decisions.” The Third Army finance team works to plan, develop, and resource programs supporting Soldiers by balancing current force needs with future force capabilities.

Over the past year, Third Army consistently demonstrated their tactical and technical proficiency to be prepared to conduct operations anytime, anywhere within its Area of Responsibility.

Third Army takes pride in keeping current on techniques, tactics, and procedures while anticipating the future and making sure Soldiers are ready.

“Meeting our warfighters’ requirements is our number one priority,” said Col. Kevin M. Batule, director of operations, Third Army. “Right after that we must do our part in resetting our Army and ensuring our training requirements are also satisfied. We are supporting the troops at home



A humvee is power-washed before being inspected and repaired in a Third Army retrograde lot at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Feb. 27. The lot, one of many at Camp Arifjan dedicated to the drawdown of Iraq, receives hundreds of vehicles a week that are returning from the north. Third Army’s mission to retrieve and repair the battle-worn equipment remains a top priority. After being repaired, the equipment will be sent back into theater to support other operations (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).

station getting ready to deploy so that when they arrive they are fully trained and proficient on the equipment they will operate.”

The biggest training focus over the last year for Third

Army has been the Assault Command Post, headed by Col. Marlon Blocker, chief of operations, Third Army. Exercises for the ACP have been conducted across the AOR involving the set-up, loading, and implementation of training and procedures to prepare Third Army troops for the unknown.

“Anything that is happening, we are supervising the execution of it for the commander,”

said Blocker. “That includes the Assault Command Post, which is a small but very capable element that can deploy anywhere in the CENTCOM AOR within 96 hours aboard a single C-17 Globemaster.”

The ACP team travelled to Saudi Arabia in April to take part in the Earnest Leader exercise where they conducted a successful three-week ACP training event.

Earnest Leader is a simulated command post exercise that uses the military decision making process to improve logistical capabilities, refine command and control, and staff planning in a tactical operations center.

Chief of Staff, Brig Gen. Stephen M. Twitty, sees the ACP as an integral part of the Third Army mission in the region, and believes getting leaders in positions to make sound decisions within the region is paramount to Third Army’s success.

“We have the responsibility to be ready to deploy at a moment’s notice anywhere throughout the CENTCOM Theater,” said Twitty. “We have the command and control capability to do so, and that is what the Assault Command Post is all about, being able to provide Lt. Gen. Webster, the flexibility to get into a hot spot somewhere and be able to command and control and bring in possible follow-on forces.”

Over the last year, Third Army stood up Third Army’s ARCENT Coordination and Support Element – Afghanistan.

The eyes and ears of Third Army, led by Maj. Gen. Peter Vangjel, deputy commanding general, ACSE-A, is



A civilian contractor sorts through hundreds of items ranging from chains to equipment parts at a Iraq drawdown redistribution yard at camp Arifjan, Kuwait (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).

positioned in Kabul and allows Third Army to quickly and effectively provide support to U.S. Forces -Afghanistan. The ASCE-A team is primarily made up of logisticians, along with engineers, budget analysts and operations personnel who support Third Army's efforts in OEF. Over the last year, Third Army planners and coordinators, along with a number of other military and government organizations, assisted in opening the Northern Distribution Network.

The NDN is a series of commercially-based logistical arrangements connecting Baltic and Caspian ports with Afghanistan via Russia, Central Asia and the Caucasus. The logistical effort in Afghanistan can't be accomplished by Third Army alone, as "Patton's Own" relies on other parts of the Army team to get the logistical effort in Afghanistan accomplished, which includes down trace elements like the 1st Theater Sustainment Command, which is based at Fort Bragg, N.C., and has a forward command post in Kuwait.

The 1st TSC, commanded by Maj. Gen. Jim E. Rogers, provides logistics support to select forces in support of combat operations across the full spectrum of the CENT-COM AOR while redeploying rotating forces and sustaining operational forces.

Lt. Gen. Webster gives much of the credit to Rogers's warriors for the Army exceeding expectations and hav-

ing the majority of the required MRAP vehicles and other equipment on the ground in Afghanistan in the first six months as part of the Nickel II mission.

"I'd like to give the 1st TSC acknowledgment for the great work they're doing," said Lt. Gen. Webster. "But also these great heroes we've got on the ground that are doing this hard work, driving the trucks, guarding equipment, delivering and repairing equipment. Maj. Gen. Rogers has 6,000 troops out there doing those types of things that I just mentioned, and he and his Soldiers are making it happen every day. That's the big difference for us."

Two stories highlighted Third Army and the 1st TSC and AMC in March as the Associated Press' Dennis Steele and the New York Times' Stephen Farrell came to Kuwait and covered the challenges associated with drawing down troops and retrograding equipment at one end of the spectrum and building up the force in another part of the AOR.

SHAPE

U.S. personnel flights in and out of Afghanistan were diverted to an alternative Aerial Port of Debarkation Airport Of Disembarkation in Kuwait, in April, following a pause in operations at the Manas Transit Center, in Kyrgyzstan, after a pause in operations there due to political unrest in that country.



A U.S. Servicemember supporting Third Army guides a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle into a C-17 Globemaster at an air field within Third Army's Area of responsibility. MRAPs have remained an important part of Third Army's mission due to the increased safety that they offer Servicemembers against Improvised Explosive Devices (Photo by Cpl. Brandon Babbitt, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).

Manas resumed operations days later, and Third Army suffered no degradation of capability due to their ability to quickly anticipate the event and implement a contingency plan.

The command has continued security cooperation events over the last year to foster relationships with nations in the region while anticipating and shaping conditions for the future.

Third Army has conducted over 200 Theater Security Cooperation events in the past two years, fostering relationships with its 20 partner nations while managing to anticipate and shape conditions for the future.

This past year, exercises such as Steppe Eagle, Bright Star and Lucky Warrior were lauded by our host-nation partners for strengthening ties between forces.

Col. Charles Eubanks, international military affairs chief, Third Army, believes these events build strong ties with regional friends and enables Third Army to shape the future in the AOR.

“Third Army has made a difference for our partner nations in the CENTCOM area of responsibility, from rebuilding relationships with our allies in Egypt thru the Bright Star exercise, to the humanitarian assistance in Tajikistan, to exchanging lessons learned in support of military operations on urban terrain and sniper tactics with the Lebanese special ops,” said Eubanks, “I am just as proud of Third Army troopers who’ve executed our events.”

The Third Army Surgeons Office organized a team of experts on H1N1 Virus to develop proactive response plans, establish isolation facilities, implement screening and testing procedures,

institute active preventative medicine measures and educate commanders, servicemembers, civilians and their partners in the region on the potential threat.

The effort by the Third Army Surgeons’ Office allowed Third Army to stay in Kuwait, giving the Kuwaiti government the assurance that Third Army was able and willing to do all it could to neutralize the potential threat.

Now, with less than 500 days to go before standing up the command at Shaw

Air Force Base, Third Army has plenty of work ahead while moving an entire Army headquarters, families and civilian employees to their new home.

For the current command, anticipating needs and being proactive are the cornerstones of Third Army operations; this includes looking after Soldiers and their Families.

Events over the last year, such as March’s Relocation Expo and the Shaw Tour, both hosted by Lt. Gen. Webster, have helped Third Army and their family members get a

“ Our goal is to exceed our own goal. ”

- Brig. Gen. John O’Connor -
Third Army G4



Col. Marlon Blocker, Third Army Chief of Operations, hammers down a stake while setting up the Assault Command Post at Camp Beuhring, Kuwait, Feb. 12. Blocker, who was awarded the Bronze Star by Lt. Gen. William Webster for his service to Third Army in Kuwait, was responsible for the ACP exercises in 2010. The ACP performs critical core command functions in tactical operations for special purposes (entry, deployment, retrograde operations). The ACP exercise is designed to test Third Army’s readiness to deploy within 96 hours (Photo by Cpl. Brandon Babbitt, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).

chance to tour the area and meet with local citizens in preparation for the upcoming Strategic Relocation to Shaw in 2011.

During these events, the commanding general thanked representatives of the Sumter community for coming to the expo and stressed the important role their community will play in the command's upcoming move.

"Thank you for coming here today," said Lt. Gen. Webster. "We view this move as a significant and positive change in all our lives, and we look forward to joining the growing military-civilian community at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter County."

The force behind the move will be Col. Bob Young, who has been serving with Third Army's ACSE-A on the logistics side of the OEF effort. Young will be Third Army's new Chief of Staff in charge of the Strategic Relocation, replacing Col. Kevin Felix.

Anticipating what's to come presents many challenges for Patton's Own, but Third Army remains Ready Tonight to Sustain the Fight to Shape our Future while growing and evolving into a leader for tomorrow's Army under the leadership of Lt. Gen. Webster and his command.

The commanding general takes a lot of pride in the Third Army mission and is confident in the direction of his force, despite all the challenges of having his command spread throughout the region.

"You know, we have Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Lt. Gen. Webster. "I've got a command element in each place. And I also have headquarters back in Atlanta



Maj. Gen. Peter Vangjel, Deputy Commanding General for Third Army, and his staff walk through an empty tent that once contained H1N1 patients at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, Nov. 21. Third Army saw a significant drop in the number of cases just weeks after making the H1N1 vaccines mandatory in early November (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).

and Shaw Air Force Base. But here in theater, on any given day we're working in eight to 10 countries."

"I'd like to say thanks to all of our partners and teammates who are helping us do this," he added.

The Third Army team of teams, in cooperation with many nations and their militaries, are adaptive to the missions in the region and "Ready Tonight" to make an immediate impact where ever and whenever needed while anticipating and planning for future events. **A**

Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, Third Army commanding general, speaks to military and civilian leaders who gathered at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, June 8, for the Third Army hosted Nickel II Responsible Retrograde and Re-deployment Rehearsal of Concept Leadership Conference. The purpose of the event was to coordinate, synchronize and prioritize the end-to-end retrograde and redeployment of personnel, equipment, sustainment stocks and capabilities from Iraq, as well as the sustainment of force expansion throughout Third Army's AOR and the buildup in Afghanistan (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, Third Army Public Affairs Office).



Ready Tonight



Sgt. 1st Class Julius Jackson, Third Army joint fires non-commissioned officer, talks with a Kazakhstan army soldier about a Baikal shotgun at Camp Illisky, Kazakhstan, Sept. 13. Soldiers from the Kazakhstan army displayed weapons systems to participants from the U.S. and British Armies, who are working alongside them in the multinational exercise Steppe Eagle (Photo by Sgt. Beth Lake, Third Army Public Affairs).



A light-armed vehicle from Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, assaults the beach from a landing craft during an amphibious assault demonstration conducted as part of Bright Star 2009. The multi-national exercise is designed to improve readiness, interoperability, strengthen the military and professional relationships among U.S., Egyptian and participating forces. Bright Star is conducted by Third Army, and held every two years (Photo courtesy of 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit Public Affairs).





A boat crew assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan conducts patrols in a rigid hull inflatable boat during multinational exercise Bright Star 2009. (Photo by W. B. Swoboda, Navy Visual News Service).



Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, Third Army commanding general, comments during a combined arms rehearsal for the unit's Lucky Strike exercise at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Aug. 23. Webster is flanked by his Chief of Staff, Brig. Gen. Stephen M. Twitty. Lucky Strike is held to prepare the unit for the Operation Bright Star exercise in Egypt, and is designed to ensure that the Third Army team stays ready to conduct operations anytime and anywhere (Photo by Sgt. Beth Lake, Third Army Public Affairs).



Cpl. Ian Dalton, 1-325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, checks wind ground speed minutes before Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne performed a strategic parachute jump along with forces from Egypt, Germany, Kuwait and Pakistan during Operation Bright Star. Third Army led the event, which helps to support its shape the future mission by building positive military to military relationships with countries in its Area of Responsibility (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Craig L. Collins, 70th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment).



Coalition forces conduct amphibious operations to move U.S. Marines from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit on the U.S.S. Bataan, sailing in the Mediterranean Sea, to a staging area on Mubarak Military City near Alexandria, Egypt, in support of Operation Bright Star 2009. The Third Army spear headed event is a multinational exercise designed to improve readiness, interoperability and strengthen military and professional relationships among U.S., Egypt, Pakistan, Germany and Kuwait (Spc. Lindsey M. Frazier, US Army Public Affairs).

Ready Tonight





(Above) The Assault Command Post waits to be loaded onto a C-17 Globemaster during a training mission March 22. (Right) A Humvee and trailer, one of four vehicles that make up the Assault Command Post, is loaded onto a C-17 Globemaster as part of a training exercise to test Third Army's readiness to deploy the ACP anywhere within Third Army's Area of Responsibility within 96 hours (Photos by Cpl. Brandon Babbitt, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).



"Ensuring our ACP is ready is one of Third Army's three major missions, and could change the status of Third Army faster than any other."

- Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, Third Army commanding general -



Assault Command Post

(Above) The Assault Command Post, or ACP, is a small slice of Third Army's necessary staff consisting of three vehicles and trailers and less than 40 personnel that can all fit inside a C-17. This allows the ACP to deploy faster with less support than the larger Contingency Command Post, and provide more flexible command and control anywhere in Third Army's Area Of Responsibility within 96 hours (Photo by Sgt. Daniel Lucas, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment). (Above Right) Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, Third Army commanding general, tours the ACP during a training event for Soldiers of the command post (Photo by Cpl. Barandon Babbitt, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment). (Right) A Third Army Soldier fires a M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon during a training event for Soldiers of the ACP. The training focused on everything from ACP job specialties, to team building and basic Soldier skills (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).



Sustain the Fight

A Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle is loaded aboard a C-17 Globemaster at an air field within Third Army's Area of Responsibility. The vehicles, which are proven safer for Servicemembers against Improvised Explosive Devices, remain a focus in Third Army's mission to support the war fighter and build up operations in theater (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).



U.S. Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, conduct a combat mission, in Afghanistan's Helmand province. Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, such as the Maxx Pro shown, have proven safer for war fighters against Improvised Explosives Devices due to their v-shaped hull which helps to deflect blast energy away from the vehicle. Third Army sends many MRAPs into theater every month as part of its buildup mission (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Efren Lopez, Joint Combat Camera Afghanistan).

A crane is used to load a Humvee to a ship at a sea port located within Third Army's area of operation. Third Army uses the fastest means to get equipment to war fighters in theater including ships, planes, convoys and by trailer (Photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Taylor, Third Army Public Affairs).





An Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter is loaded into the cargo hold of a ship at Port of Shuabia, Kuwait, Jan. 24. Third Army uses many means of transporting equipment between theaters and the U.S. including planes, ships, convoys and by trailer. The 1185th Deployment Distribution Support Battalion, along with civilian contractors and other military branches support Third Army's mission in the buildup of equipment in theater (Photo by Sgt. David Nunn, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).



A storage container mover arranges storage bins at Third Army's redistribution yard at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The yard processes thousands of items (foreground) returning from the drawdown in Iraq every day, getting it back into circulation so that it may continue to support the war fighter in other areas (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).



Marine Wing Support Squadron 274, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) Marines and 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Soldiers, stage their vehicles to conduct a convoy brief and perform load and radio checks before leaving for Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, June 1. Due to the increasing number of U.S. Servicemembers in theater, Third Army is working to buildup supplies so that they reach ground before the war fighter needs them, therefore allowing them to make the most of their time there (Photo by Cpl. Ryan Rholes, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Public Affairs).

Sustain the Fight





“In support of ongoing combat operations, we aggressively prioritize requirements, anticipate how these requirements could be sourced & issue directives to get the right equipment to the right place at the right time.”

- Col. Kevin Batule, Third Army G3 -



Shape the Future



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jesse Fields, 2nd Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, guides Col. Abdullah Mohammed Al-Khozam, a Maintenance Commander with the Kuwaiti military, during a recent visit to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The purpose of the visit was for dignitaries of the Kuwaiti military to gain a better understanding of how Third Army moves its equipment. The event helped to further enhance military relations between the two countries (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).



Debra K. Jones, Ambassador of the U.S. to Kuwait, greets Major Garry Dodard, an operational sustainment officer-in-charge attached to Third Army. Jones visited Camp Buehring, Kuwait, to tour Third Army's "Lucky Warrior" training event to get a firsthand view of their operations and capabilities, June 2, 2009 (Photo by Cpl. Alex Godinez, Third Army Public Affairs Office).

“Third Army has made a difference for our partner nations in the CENTCOM area of responsibility; from rebuilding relationships with our allies in Egypt through the Bright Star exercise, to the provision of humanitarian assistance in Tajikistan, to exchanging MOUT and Sniper tactics with the Lebanese special operations.”

- Col. Charles Eubanks, Third Army G5 Chief -



Third Army's 3rd Medical Deployment Sustainment Command, 343rd Ground Ambulance Medical Company, Medics Spc. George Hutchins and Spc. Mark Black, instruct Kuwait National Guard soldiers during a Combat Life Saver course held at the Kuwaiti National Guard Base in Kuwait City, Feb. 18 (Photo by Sgt. Dominic Hauser, 1st Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs Office).



Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, Third Army Commanding General, a medical facility founded and run by Egyptian Armed Forces during a visit to Afghanistan, Dec. 11. The purpose of the visit was to meet with military leaders and discuss Third Army's involvement in the troop surge (Photo by Cpl. Alejandro Godinez, Third Army Public Affairs).

Strategic Relocation



Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, Third Army commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Fourhman, Third Army command sergeant major, break ground where the headquarter's new command and control complex will be located at Shaw Air Force base in Sumter, S.C., Aug. 17, 2009 (Photo by Sgt. Beth Lake, Third Army Public Affairs).

The move to Shaw

Third Army is currently working on a very different mission than that of its drawdown and build up mission in Iraq and Afghanistan. Aside from being Ready Tonight, Sustaining the Fight and Shaping the Future, it is also focused on its Strategic Relocation mission from Fort McPherson, Ga., to its new home at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

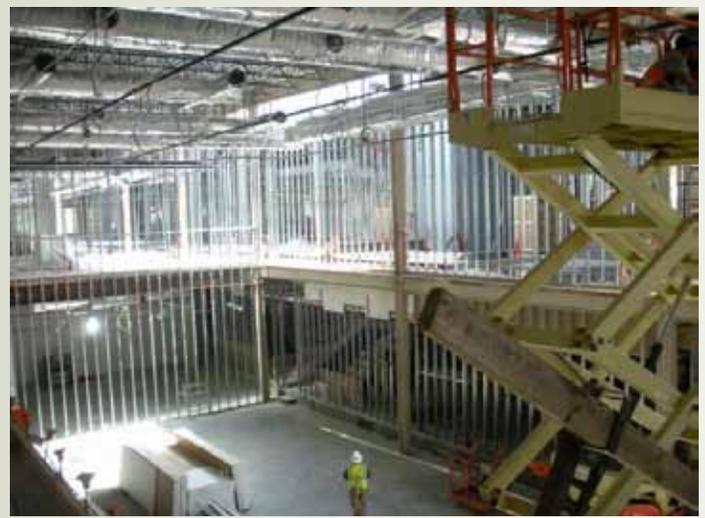
The new facility, which is set to open in the Fall of 2011, will include a command and control headquarters, a headquarters and headquarters company facility and a motor pool.

“Third Army, when established on Shaw Air Force Base, will significantly add to the military missions and overall military presence in the Sumter community and in the state,” said Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, Third Army Commanding General. 



Third Army Headquarters Complex

Shaw Air Force Base, Sumter, South Carolina





Around Third Army

Events over the last 13 months

The first Florida National Guardsmen of the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team step off the plane in Kuwait to start their mission providing route security and base defense for Third Army in Kuwait and other sustainment operations, March 1. More than two thousand strong, this marks the largest deployment of the Florida National Guard since WW2. "The morale is tremendous," said Col. Richard Gallant, commander, 53rd IBCT. "We have more than 2,400 great Floridians, great citizen Soldiers, excited to be here. They are well rehearsed with the mission and have a sense of excitement and urgency to get on with the mission and do an excellent job" (Photo by Sgt. Daniel Lucas, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).



A Explosives Ordnance Disposal Soldier supporting Third Army wires explosives for a controlled detonation at the Udari Range. EOD performs many tasks for Third Army, one of which is to destroy unusable ammunition which has returned from the drawdown in Iraq (Photo by Pfc. Mathew Ketter, 20th Public Affairs Detachment).



Adm. Mike Mullen (Center), Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visits with Soldiers in Kuwait prior to their departure to Afghanistan. Mullen made the stop in Kuwait following a trip to Iraq (Photo by Cpl. Alex Godinez, Third Army Public Affairs).



Lt. Gen. William G. Webster (Right), Third Army commanding general, leads Gen. George W. Casey, Chief of Staff of the Army, on a tour of the drawdown and buildup facilities at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait (Photo by Cpl. Alex Godinez, Third Army Public Affairs).



Third Army Soldiers line up to shake hands with the family and sponsors who hosted a Christmas celebration at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Zone 6 stage. The event featured gifts, music, games and entertainment, all of which helped to bring some holiday spirit to Servicemembers serving in Kuwait (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).

“My assignment to Third Army has been a very rewarding and broadening experience; unmatched by any other assignment to date. I now have a much better appreciation of the Third Army mission, which will serve me well in my next assignment.”

- Col. Marlon D. Blocker, ARCENT Chief of Operations -





Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, Third Army Commanding General, briefs business representatives at a conference hosted by the National Defense Industrial Association. Webster touched on Third Army's current mission of the responsible retrograde of equipment and the buildup effort in Afghanistan while pointing out key contributions by civilian contractors (Photo by Cpl. Alejandro Godinez, Third Army Public Affairs).

Third Army Soldier Spc. Saliyev Djamoliddin (left), a native of Tajikistan, converses with a member of the Tajikistan Army at Kulob, Tajikistan, May 16. A Third Army humanitarian mission brought tents to the country for civilians who recently lost their homes to flooding. Djamoliddin expressed his pleasure with being able to come back to his home country and make a difference as a member of Third Army while helping the flood victims of Tajikistan. "This is why I came to the U.S. from Tajikistan," said Djamoliddin. "It is a nation with a military that is there to aid those who need it" (Photo by Staff Sgt. Dominic Hauser, Civil Military Operations Center).



Secretary of the Army John McHugh (Center) is given an overview of the inner workings of vehicle by mechanic Eldon Stivers, Red River Army Depot, during a visit to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. McHugh focused his attention on Heavy Equipment Transports and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, which have played an important role in Third Army's logistical mission during the Iraq drawdown and other sustainment operations (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).



Force Protection Officers James Vansandt and Radhakrishnan Koickal use mirrors and flashlights to inspect a vehicle entering Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 9. The FPO's, many who are former military, are responsible for providing 24 hour security all over Camp Arifjan and other camps within Kuwait. The large number of civilian security forces reduces the number of military needed for the job, allowing for more troops on the ground in theater (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).



Third Army Soldiers receive their graduation certificates during a Warrior Leader Course graduation ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait's, Zone 1 Chapel, June 1. The Third Army hosted course, held at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, teaches new non commissioned officers and those who will become NCOs, the basics of Army leadership, training and war fighting skills. The course helps Third Army Soldiers sustain the fight by giving them the tools to serve as role models for other Soldiers (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).



Brig. Gen. Stephen M. Twitty, Third Army Chief of Staff, receives new shoulder boards reflecting his rank of brigadier general from wife, Karen, (left) and daughter Ashley Twitty during a promotion ceremony Nov. 30, as his mother Belinder, and daughter Brooke, 4, observe. (Photo by Cpl. Alex Godinez, Third Army/USARCENT Public Affairs).



A Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle is backed into the cargo hold of a C-17 Globemaster at an air field within Third Army's Area of Responsibility. (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).



Soldiers assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division, Company F, 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, practice team movement drills at an advanced marksmanship course at Camp Buehring, Kuwait (Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski, U.S. Army Public Affairs).



Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, Third Army commanding general, promotes Brig. Gen. Phillip E. McGhee to the rank of major general at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Feb. 8. Maj. Gen. McGhee is the Director of Resource Management for Third Army and is responsible for resourcing both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and the management of theater Army dollars (Photo by Cpl. Alex Godinez, Third Army Public Affairs).



Third Army Spouses visit the Grand Mosque, April 5, during a visit to key community sites in Kuwait as well as Third Army facilities to meet with community representatives and faculty members (Photo by Cpl. Alex Godinez, Third Army Public Affairs).



Command Sgt. Maj. John Fourhman, Third Army command sergeant major, passes out a blanket to a resident of the Atlanta VA Medical Center Nursing Home during a visit Dec. 9. Fourhman, along with Brig. Gen. Stephen Twitty, Third Army chief of staff, and 25 other Third Army Soldiers visited during the holiday season as part of Third Army's ongoing commitment to showing its appreciation for fellow veterans by adopting the home. Third Army Soldiers visit the home at least once a month (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Wiley, Third Army Public Affairs.)



Soldiers of the 29th Brigade Support Battalion, Hawaii National Guard, and the 190th Brigade Support Battalion, Wyoming National Guard, stand at parade rest during the Transfer of Authority Ceremony at Life Support Area, Kuwait, July 27, 2009. 190th BSB is assuming responsibility as the new Command Cell of the base providing a wide range of services for approximately 500 permanent personnel and 2,000 - 6,000 transient residents per week (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jorge Saucedo, Third Army Media Transit Team).



Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, Third Army commanding general, as well as other Third Army command staff, take part in a Third Army hosted Rehearsal of Concept drill Dec., 2009 (Photo by Cpl. Alex Godinez, Third Army Public Affairs).



Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, Third Army commanding general, makes one of many visits to Iraq as the commander of Third Army. The purpose of the visit was to meet with Third Army personnel who would be helping to sustain the drawdown of Iraq (Photo by Cpl. Alex Godinez, Third Army Public Affairs).



Maj. Gen. Randy Manner (Center right), Third Army deputy commanding general, and Brig. Gen. John O'Connor, Third Army G4 and commanding general Army Material Command – Southwest Asia, stand with Third Army G4 Soldiers following a coin presentation to Lt. Col. Cynthia Lang (Center), Mobility Sea Branch Chief, prior to her departure home. The G4 is a mobility section who is the primary advisor to the general for transportation, policies, systems, movement planning and execution (Photo by Cpl. Brandon Babbitt, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).

Staff Sgt. Henry Aruvierreh (Left), noncommissioned officer in charge for predeployment team, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment of Vilseck, Germany, is interviewed by Staff Sgt. Anaidy Claudio, detachment sergeant, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment attached to the Third Army Public Affairs Office. Aruvierreh and his team were sent forward from the 2nd SCR to Kuwait to supervise the transportation of their Stryker vehicles forward to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Third Army continues to support the war fighter by rapidly deploying equipment and materiel across the Central Command 20-country area of operations (Photo by Sgt. David Nunn, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).



Fire Fighters of Station One at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, pose for a group photo Oct. 12. The fire departments, as well as law enforcement, are part of Area Support Group – Kuwait, which assists Third Army by providing base operations for all camps within Kuwait (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).

Spc. Robert Jordan and Sgt. Jaren Davis, both of S4, Third Army Special Troops Battalion, perform a vehicle check to one of several vehicles the section loans out to units serving Third Army. Aside from issuing vehicles, the STB also handles ranges, security, supply, movement and accountability for Third Army (Photo by Spc. Monte Swift, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment).

