

# THE SUSTAINER

SUSTAINMENT WARRIORS



SUSTAIN THE FIGHT

## VICTORY!

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### Raider Hope

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Insignia

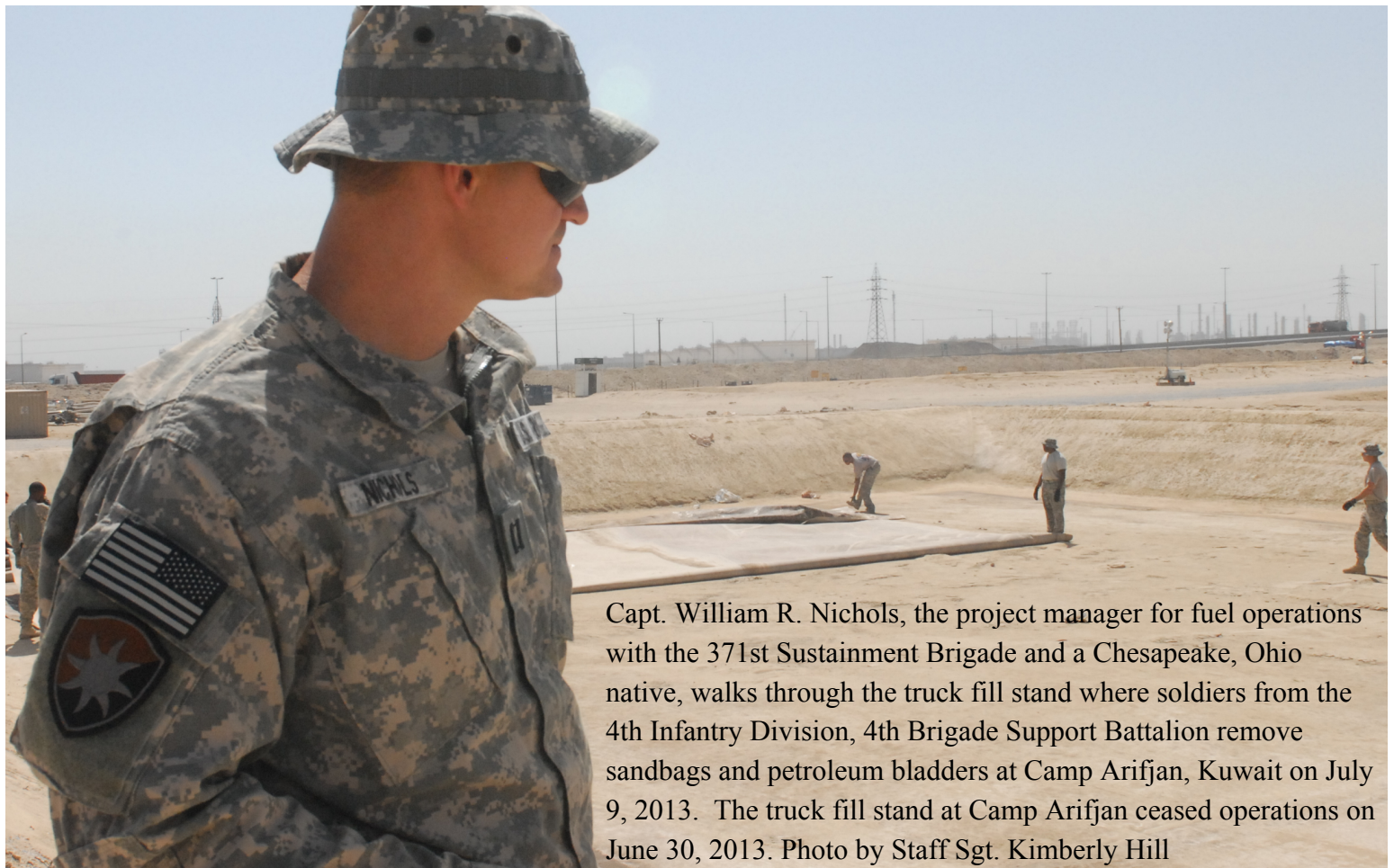
## Patriotism

By Command Sgt. Maj. Rebecca J. Herzog

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Capt. William R. Nichols, the project manager for fuel operations with the 371st Sustainment Brigade and a Chesapeake, Ohio native, walks through the truck fill stand where soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division, 4th Brigade Support Battalion remove sandbags and petroleum bladders at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait on July 9, 2013. The truck fill stand at Camp Arifjan ceased operations on June 30, 2013. Photo by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Hill

## Good to the last drop:

Camp Arifjan's Truck Fill Stand closes

By Staff Sgt. Kimberly S. Hill

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait (July 11, 2013) – Camp Arifjan's Truck Fill Stand, which provided fuel for military installations throughout Kuwait, officially ceased operations on June 30, 2013 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

This closure leaves Camp Buehring as the U.S. military's only operating fill stand left in country, reducing our footprint in the area, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Terry A. Pinto, the responsible officer of fuel operations for the 371st Sustainment Brigade.

"The closure will save the government over \$1.9 million each

year," said Maj. Christopher Johnson, Operational Contract Support officer with the 135th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

The fill stand opened in 2001 and has been operated by KBR contractors since 2002. It has served in providing and processing fuel received from local refineries to U.S. military installations in Iraq and Kuwait, said Capt. William R. Nichols, the project manager of fuel operations with the 371st Sus. Bde.

"At the peak of operations in Iraq, the fill stand was pushing out roughly 1.5 million gallons of fuel a day," he said.

The need for fuel, however, has decreased substantially in the area since U.S. military operations have

ceased in Iraq, said Nichols.

The 371st Sus. Bde. was tasked with coordinating the fill stand's closure in cooperation with KBR employees and Area Support Group Kuwait upon their theater arrival in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in June.

"We pretty much hit the ground running," Nichols said.

The closure will streamline fuel operations, save military resources and will not have any impact on the mission of troops currently deployed to the area, said Pinto.

Since fuel operations have ceased, the 371st Sus. Bde. is currently working with KBR employees to ensure the area is properly cleaned and environmentally safe.



# Combat Patch

By Staff Sgt. Kimberly Hill

Soldiers of the 371st Sustainment Brigade received their combat patch during a ceremony on July 1, 2013 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

The former war time service shoulder sleeve insignia, or combat patch, denotes a soldier's unit affiliation when he or she deploys to a combat zone, said Command Sgt.

Maj. Scott M. Barga, command sergeant major of the 371st Sus. Bde.

"It helps create a feeling of unit cohesion and esprit de corps," he said.

The origin of the combat patch can be traced to the Revolutionary war, when under general George Washington, soldiers who had served in a combat zone placed their unit patches on their right shoulders to signify their participation.

"I feel a sense of accomplishment, like I earned it," said Sgt Allison Kay Dingus, a human resource specialist with the 371st Sus. Bde.

The 371st Sus. Bde. has deployed in support of WWI, WWII and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and their current deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to Kuwait marks the brigade's third deployment in 10 years.



Sgt. Maj. Joseph E. Miracle, the support operations sergeant major for the 371st Sustainment Brigade and a Mechanicsburg, Ohio native places the 371st Sus. Bde. combat patch on Spc. Alexandra K. Turowski, a petroleum supply specialist with the 371st Sus. Bde. and a Louisville, Ohio native during a ceremony on July 1, 2013 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Photo By Staff Sgt. Kimberly Hill



A photograph of a man in a tan uniform reaching up to catch a yellow and blue volleyball. Another person is in the foreground, out of focus, wearing sunglasses and a patterned shirt. The background is a tan wall with a grid pattern.

# To The Victors Go The Spoils

**371st Sus. Bde. Wins Camp Arifjan's  
Commanders Cup**

**Story by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Hill**

**Photos by Capt. Scott Detling**



A mixture of sunscreen and sweat burns their eyes as they pull with all their might, their muscles aching and burning.

They ignore the pain, and keep pulling with every muscle they have, their bodies contorted in impossible angles, knowing that victory is only moments away.

Finally their muscles feel relief as the other team loosens their grip and tumbles toward them, the rope going slack, then falling to the ground.

The team erupts in cheers, echoing the audience watching them.

They congratulate each other, smiles on their faces, knowing that they have not only won the tug of war event, but they have won the Commander's Cup for their brigade.

Soldiers of the 371st Sustainment Brigade celebrated their Independence Day by winning the Commander's Cup on July 4, 2013 at

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

The Commander's Cup pitted 11 units against each other in gaming and sports events over a three day period, beginning with a basketball tournament and concluding with the tug of war competition.

The basketball team was led by Sgt 1st Class Steven Barnes, the communication's security custodian with the 371st Sus. Bde. Although they failed to make it further than the first round, their hard work and dedication was evident, said Command Sgt. Maj. Scott M. Barga, command sergeant major of the 371st Sus. Bde.

The following day consisted of a horseshoe contest and a spades tournament.

The 371st fell short against their higher, the 135th Theater Sustainment Command in the horseshoe event, but the team captain, Chief Warrant Officer 4

Jack L. Reppart, the safety officer for the 371st Sus. Bde., was still proud of his team.

"We had our best 371st representatives, it was a good game," said Reppart.

Although the 371st Sus. Bde. may have lost the horseshoe and basketball tournament, the spades event began to turn the tide in their favor.

Command Sgt. Maj. Rebecca J. Herzog, the command sergeant major of the 371st Special Troops Battalion, 371st Sus. Bde. and Sgt. 1st Class Manuel S. Perez, a human resources sergeant with the 371st STB, 371st Sus. Bde., won hand after hand and dominated the competition.

Still riding high from their sweeping victory in spades, the winning streak continued on the 4th of July, with the 371st taking second place in dodgeball, led by 1st Lt. Kelly K.



Col. Gregory W. Robinette, commander of the 371st Sus. Bde., hoists Camp Arifjan's Commanders Cup after his brigade won the trophy on July 4th, 2013 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait





Left: Pfc. Zackaree Forro, an information technology specialist with the 371st Sus. Bde., demonstrates "the five D's of dodge ball" on July 4th, 2013 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Center: Master Sgt. James Hawke, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 371st Special Troops Battalion, proudly sports his unit shirt on July 4th, 2013 at Camp Arifjan Kuwait. Right: Command Sgt. Maj. Scott M. Barga, Command Sgt. Maj. of the 371st Sus. Bde., and Staff Sgt. Joel Gottke, public affairs broadcast specialist with the 371st Sus. Bde., time their teams swimming relay on July 4th, 2013 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Spisak, an intelligence officer with the 371st Sus. Bde.

Later that day, the 371st Sus Bde. was represented by an 11 person swim team in a 1000 meter relay, led by team captain Staff Sgt. Joel M. Gottke, a public affairs sergeant with the 371st Sus. Bde.

"I was very proud of our team, we had a great showing," said Gottke

The swim team's loss didn't discourage the Soldiers or shake

their confidence. It seemed to fan the competitive fires instead, since the prize of the Commander's Cup fell on the results of the last two events; the volleyball tournament, and the tug of war.

"It was an honor to represent the 371st Sus. Bde. and contribute to the winning of the Commander's Cup," said Staff Sgt. Jennifer Albrecht, a volleyball team member and a motor transport operator with the 371st Sus. Bde.

The final two competitions sealed the victory for the Soldiers of the 371st Sus. Bde., with the competing teams taking first place in a sweeping victory.

"Congratulations to all the Soldiers in the 371st, great job," said Col. Gregory W. Robinette, commander of the 371st Sus. Bde.





Above: Maj. Brandon Tackett, deputy of support operations for the 371st Sustainment Brigade, swims his leg of a 1,000 meter relay on July 4th, 2013 at Camp Arifjan Kuwait.

Below: Soldiers at Camp Arifjan compete with their higher commands for the base's Commander's Cup. This competition is a collection of events where each place is worth a designated amount of points. The command with the most points at the end of the day wins. This year's winner is the 371st Sustainment Brigade on July 4th, 2013.







By Command Sgt. Maj. Rebecca J. Herzog  
Command Sgt. Maj. 371st Special Troops Battalion

The Webster's Dictionary definition of PATRIOTISM is: "love or devotion for one's country." While the definition seems short or small, the reality of the kind of devotion a patriot has is far from short or small. I grew up in tight knit community that adores the 4th of July. Families choose to come home to Upper Arlington for the 4th of July instead of the usual holidays like Thanksgiving or Christmas because the community transforms to a large

block party for the day. A celebratory day that begins with a loud speaker truck traveling the city streets to awaken everyone for a morning parade and ends with a wonderful fireworks display that I can watch from the carport/patio of my home. My community is like many others. The people share a common bond of being devoted to their (our) country and want to celebrate a profound independence that most countries can't begin to understand. The United States of America is built on devotion to one's country and to the diverse men and women that live within its shores.

As we live and embrace the Army Values which embody patriotism through the sheer act of volunteering to serve a great country, I realize how deep the devotion for one's country can go within a soul. As a funeral honors and ceremonial honor guard leader, I've spent hours honoring our Nation's Veterans at their final resting places. The military burial service becomes a memory of the sacrifice of the Veteran as well as a memory of the values each service member undoubtedly embraces as they march through their military career, no matter the length of time one serves.





Command Sgt. Maj. Rebecca J. Herzog, Command Sgt. Maj. of the 371st Special Troops Battalion, demonstrates funeral honors at a patriotic observance on July 4th, 2013 at Camp Arifjan Kuwait. Photo by Staff Sgt. Joel Gottke

Men and women serve our country because they feel called to serve. They serve because they somehow believe in something bigger than life so they're willing to put their lives on the line to defend those beliefs. Patriotism cannot be ignored when it's a part of your soul.

As the 371st Sustainment Brigade celebrated the 4th of July with activities of fun and resiliency, I enjoyed seeing service members, civilians and contractors wearing their patriotism through their red, white and blue clothing as well as the activities they participated in. People were laughing, enjoying the

company of their battle buddies by going to a movie, by competing to win a sporting event, a card game or in the case of the 371st, the coveted Commanders Cup. Others observed the essence of the 4th of July by gathering to share in the glory of our U.S. Colors and the independence she represents as well embracing the different faith systems we embody in our formations. No matter the activity, the 4th of July screamed of patriotism on Camp Arifjan just as we know, our communities at home were waving banners that remind us we are a blessed, free, independent society. An independence given

through vision, insight, bloodshed and the determination of our founding fathers so many years ago.

I ask that you reflect on this: Our service allows patriotism to continue into the history books of our country. We are devoted to our country whether we serve at home or abroad; but this 4th of July season, we are more aware of the value of the devotion we have. We are the essence of the United States of America. Land of the free, home of the brave. We are PATRIOTS, devoted to one's country.



## Where the land meets the sea:

Training Exercise brings Army Watercraft and 4th BSB together to deliver humanitarian hope

by Staff Sgt. Kimberly S. Hill

The ground guide waves the driver of a dust covered vehicle backwards impatiently; beads of sweat roll off his face in the 125 degree weather.

Despite the heat, soldiers crowd around the ramp. The sight of a vehicle backing unto the ramp isn't what's holding their attention. It's the blue-green waters of the Persian Gulf beneath the dock that are fascinating them.

The driver leans out the window, looks behind his vehicle, and presses on the gas. The vehicle rolls back and forth for a few moments before lurching backwards, tires rolling over the wooden beams on the ramp and easing uphill toward the deck of the watercraft, sending a few wooden splinters into the waves of the water below.

After the last vehicle is safely parked on the deck the drivers walk carefully off the slippery ramp and watch as the loading ramp is drawn up and the watercraft vessel begins to pull away from the shore.

The drivers rest and wait for the second vessel to pull up to the beach so they can begin loading again, making it only the second time the soldiers have driven their vehicles onto the deck of the boat and the first time most of the soldiers have been on an Army watercraft vessel.

Soldiers from the 4th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division and the Army Watercraft Company (provisional) participated in a training exercise with support from the 371st Sustainment Brigade and the 135th Expeditionary Support Command on July 15, 2013 at Kuwait Naval Base, Kuwait.

The training exercise gave the soldiers practice in logistical coordination and loading and unloading cargo, including over 35 Army vehicles and humanitarian aid onto army watercraft vessels.

The 4th BSB, 4th ID participated in the training event to practice quickly deploying their equipment and soldiers to set up a humanitarian site providing resources and aid to those in need, said Capt. Tim C. Sechrist, the battalion operations officer for the 4th BSB, 4th ID, based out of Fort Carson, Colo.

"We are the foot in the door for the U.S. for humanitarian assistance," Sechrist said.

Many of the soldiers driving the vehicles on and off the ramps are motor transport operators by trade, and while backing onto a boat might be different than driving through the mountains around Fort Carson, Sechrist said he was confident in the expertise of his soldiers.

"It's a little different, but they can make it over the mountains of Fort Carson in a heavy equipment transporter hauling engineer equipment," Sechrist said.

After the cargo and vehicles were loaded on Logistical Support

Vessel-6, James Louxe the watercraft cruised along the coast and the crew went to work manning the vessel and practicing their fire drills, including an abandon ship drill.

The abandon ship drill is one of the many drills that the crews of the watercraft vessel practice, to ensure they are proficient in reacting to any emergency while at sea, said Sgt. 1st Class Martin Peerson, the senior enlisted mariner on the deck of the LSV-6.

"We want to make sure we have our food, our blankets, our flashlights and our medical kits, everything that's pertinent for us to get into our life rafts and keep everyone alive and stable during that time afloat," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 John A. Grabowski, the navigation, operations and communications officer for the LSV-6.

The crews of Logistical Support Vessel-5 MG Charles P. Grove and LSV-6 not only got to hone their skills and sharpen their fire drills, they were also able to give the soldiers of the 4th BSB experience loading and unloading cargo unto boats - something many soldiers aren't even aware the U.S. Army has, said Grabowski,

"We're opening up our vessel as a training platform for familiarity, so in the event that something did happen, we could do it in an efficient manner," he said.

The exercise also gave the 371st Sus. Bde. and the 135th ESC an opportunity to provide logistical and operational support to the training





The view of the deck of the USAV LSV-6 James Louxe, loaded with vehicles and cargo from the 4th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division on July 15, 2013 at Kuwait Naval Base, Kuwait. The soldiers participated in a training exercise loading and unloading humanitarian aid and cargo. Photo by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Hill

exercise, ensuring it would go smoothly.

As dusk approaches, LSV-6 pulls along the dock and parks.

The day and exercise nearly over, soldiers begin ground guiding the drivers off the deck; the waves gently splash the tires as they pull onto the land and into the parking lot

nearby.

The training exercise gave soldiers important practice in quickly deploying their resources to deliver humanitarian relief and also a chance to see the capabilities and importance of Army watercraft vessels, said Staff Sgt. Jennifer Albrecht, the sea mobility sergeant for the 371st Sus. Bde.

“This exercise was a great opportunity to train and familiarize troops with vessel movements and improve time frames for loading and unloading”, said Albrecht. “It was a good mission to show the capabilities and importance of the Army Watercraft Company (provisional).”



# INDEPEND



Left: Spc. Brian Soucie, an intelligence analyst with the 371st Sus. Bde., proudly displays his gold medal after winning the Wounded Warrior Project Ruck Relay on July 5th, 2013 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. This event was one of many in a weekend long celebration of Independence Day. Photo by Staff Sgt. Joel Gottke

Bellow: Sailors and soldiers gather together on July 4th 2013 to honor the veterans who have served before them at a patriotic observance held by the 371st Sus. Bde. at Camp Arifjan Kuwait. Photo by Staff Sgt. Joel Gottke

Right: Sgt. 1st Class Brian Nagy, an information technology Specialist, playfully finishes the Peach Tree 10k shadow run at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait on July 4th, 2013.

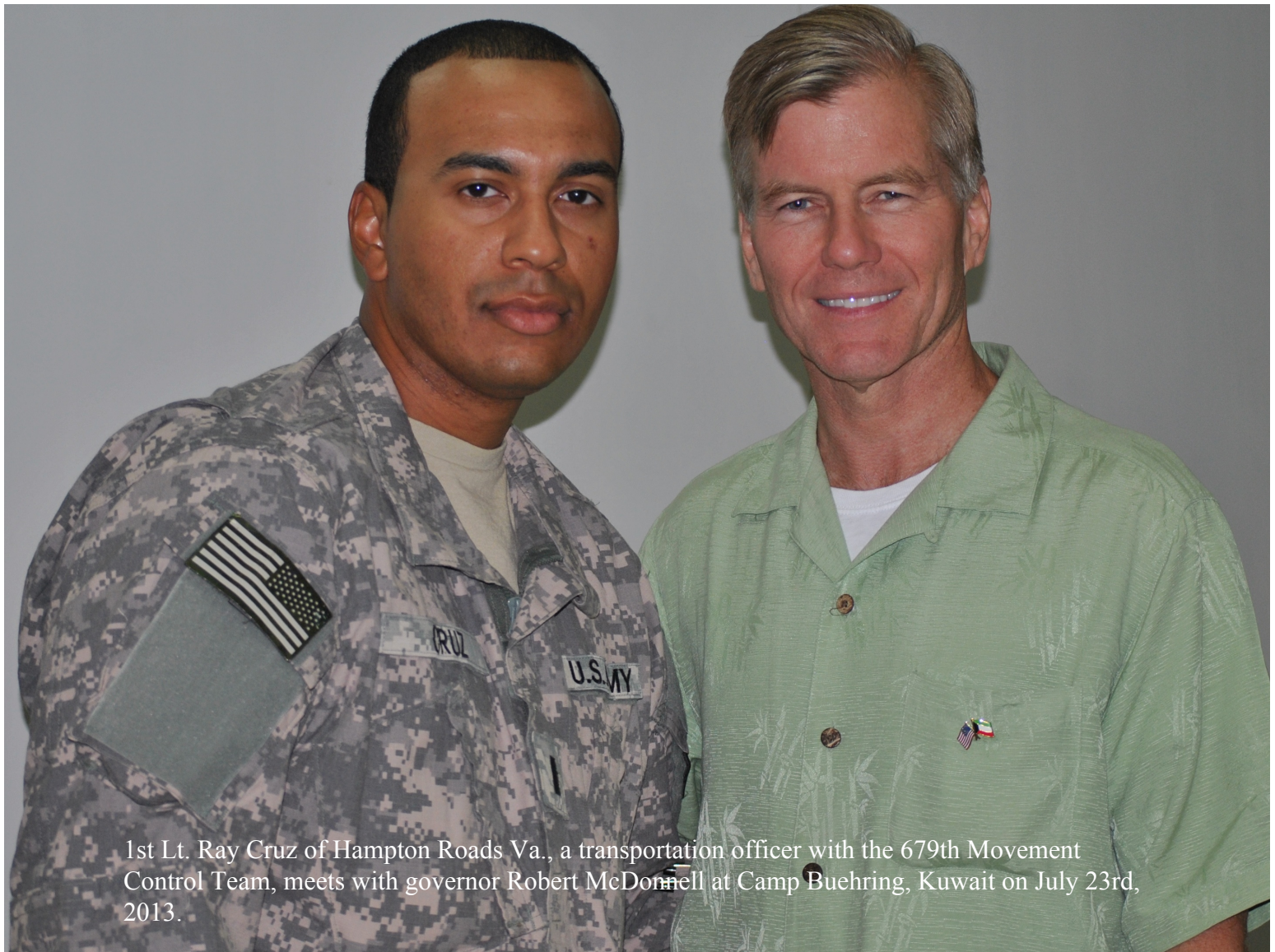




# ENCE DAY







1st Lt. Ray Cruz of Hampton Roads Va., a transportation officer with the 679th Movement Control Team, meets with governor Robert McDonnell at Camp Buehring, Kuwait on July 23rd, 2013.

## Va. Governor Visits Troops

By Sgt. Georgina Felix  
53rd Movement Control Battalion

Bob McDonnell, the Virginia State Governor, visited with US Army deployed troops in Camp Buehring, Kuwait on 23 July 2013.

McDonnell, a former Lt. Col. with the US Army Medical Services Corps, gave a speech to a large collection of soldiers and then broke off the session to meet constituent Soldiers of the state of Virginia.

1st Lt. Ray Cruz, a transportation officer with the 679<sup>th</sup> Movement

Control Team, said "I wanted to meet my Governor because he is the face of my state and someone who will help improve Virginia's economy and infrastructure."

Cruz had the opportunity to ask the governor about his specific living area of Hampton Roads. "I like that he was well-informed and had a formulated plan. It was a pleasure to meet my governor and get answers, whether I like them or not, and have some sense of reasoning by some of the recent developments in my area of residence," said Cruz.

1st Lt. Kristopher Gustafson, a transportation officer with the 679<sup>th</sup>

MCT, also enjoyed the question and answer session sitting with the governor. "Governor McDonnell's visit was an excellent and rare opportunity to personally meet the most influential public official in our state. The occasion allowed me to ask the Governor his thoughts on issues that impact the Soldiers of the 679th Movement Control Team," Gustafson said.

The governor spoke to soldiers for over an hour and had the opportunity to tour the camp, meeting with soldiers before he traveled to other installations in Kuwait.