



# POWER LINE



Photo by David Ruderman, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs

Army Field Support Battalion-Kuwait Soldiers and contractor line bosses huddle on the field before a day of Heavy Brigade Combat Team equipment issue to 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. The equipment issue began Jan. 3 and ran through Feb. 8.

## AFSBn-Kuwait issues APS-5 to 1-1st Cav

By David Ruderman, 402nd AFSB Public Affairs  
**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait** – The Army Field Support Battalion-Kuwait, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, began an issue of Heavy Brigade Combat Team equipment to the 1st Cavalry Division's Ironhorse Brigade, Jan. 3 at Camp Arifjan.

When the equipment draw is completed in mid-February,

the unit will be properly equipped to conduct security cooperation, training and joint exercises with Kuwaiti forces, said officials.

The operation is a mission of the 402nd AFSB that dates back to the U.S.-Kuwaiti Defense Cooperation Agreement signed in 1991, said Lt. Col. Kenneth Gill, AFSBn-

Kuwait's commander.

"That was the original core mission of the battalion, which at that time was called the Combat Equipment Battalion," said Gill.

The present operation is a "deliberate draw" to be conducted over a period of weeks, rather than a **See APS DRAW, page 3**

# Two sides to brigade OND accomplishment

By Command Sgt. Maj. Robert A. Canterbury, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade



Usually, we proclaim our successes with what we accomplish.

Retrograding thousands of vehicles from dozens of locations throughout Iraq, moving hundreds of containers worth untold millions and even billions of dollars, and closing out a presence in a country where we all hope peace will take root and the population will prosper.

But perhaps our most significant accomplishment was what didn't hap-

pen, and I am sure that there are many mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters across America who would agree with me. During perhaps the most fluid period of Operation NEW DAWN, we managed

to accomplish our mission without one Soldier, Army civilian or contractor losing life, limb or eyesight.

When you consider the sheer volume of property that members of the Power Team directly impacted,

the many high volume operations we ran, and the vast distances over which we coordinated transportation, this is a huge accomplishment.

In all my many years of military experience in places such as Kandahar, Sarajevo, Port-au-Prince and Mogadishu, I have never been as proud of accomplishing any mission as I am today of what all the many team members in the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade have done over the past several months.

So when people ask what role you played in the retrograde from Iraq, don't forget to mention the things that didn't happen as well. It is true that there is huge monetary value on the property that we brought out of theater, but the most precious commodity that any of us have been entrusted with is the lives and welfare of the sons and daughters of our Nation.

## POWER LINE



**402nd Army Field Support Brigade**  
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

**Commander**

Col. John S. Laskodi

**Command Sgt. Major**

CSM Robert A. Canterbury

**Public Affairs Officer**

David Ruderman

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## 402nd Army Field Support Brigade is on



*Did you know you can view, print and email links to photos from life in the 402nd AFSB with a few clicks of a computer mouse?*

*Open a web browser to the 402nd home page: <http://www.aschq.army.mil/home/402.aspx>. Scroll down the page to click the Flickr icon, and browse the photo collections. Double click a particular photo and select "View all sizes" to download and print it; or, copy the URL and paste it in an email to send to family and friends.*



Photos by David Ruderman, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs

**An Ironhorse Brigade Soldier (above) secures service manuals after conducting preventive maintenance checks and services during Heavy Brigade Combat Team equipment draw operations at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 17. Two Ironhorse Soldiers (below) give a thumbs up after packing their unit's Basic Issue Inventory for transportation.**

“hasty draw,” which would have called for the completion of the issue within 10 days, said Ned Bryan, AFSBn-Kuwait’s deputy commander.

As a result of the deliberate pace of the draw, the 402nd AFSB team has been able to conduct regular feedback sessions with all participating elements. The aim of the self-evaluation process is to capture and deliver lessons learned to the Army Sustainment Command and to the Army at large, said officials.

“We are grateful to the ARCENT Commander and the ARCENT team for supporting us in conducting this deliberate draw” said 402nd AFSB Commander, Col. John S. Laskodi.

Codifying lessons learned from the operation will benefit the Army’s Materiel Enterprise at large and contribute to improving like operations across the Army, he said.

“This is going to be a big deal for the Army,” said Laskodi. “I have every confidence in the team; we’re going to set the standard. Let’s do this deliberately and safely.”

The draw is taking place in four phases that repeat for each unit of the

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## Simple act of caring crosses cultural borders

By Pvt. 2 Jirad Williams, 402nd AFSB Public Affairs

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait** - A terrible accident involving Indian contractors working for the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade led to a simple act of compassion recently that revealed the cultural barriers that both separate and bind us all together.

A traffic collision took place Saturday afternoon Jan. 7 along Highway 30 involving a bus carrying contractors who work for the 402nd AFSB. The bus, carrying more than 30 passengers, was hit from behind by an SUV. The collision was so forceful that the driver of the SUV was killed upon impact, and many of the passengers on the bus suffered injuries, some very serious.

As news of the accident spread, Spc. Samuel Garcia, 402nd AFSB chaplain's assistant, received a phone call from Stephen W. Lockridge, 402nd AFSB deputy to the commanding officer. Lockridge wanted to organize a party to visit the four Third Country National (TCN) contractors still receiving treatment in two local hospitals.

The Brigade's chaplain had recently redeployed and his replacement was still inbound, so Spc. Garcia reached out to Chaplain (Maj.) Kenneth Alford, 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), to join our small 402nd AFSB group, comprised of the DCO, chaplain, chaplain's assistant and contractor representative, Iona Brewer. The 364th SC(E), like the 402nd, is assigned to the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) here in the ARCENT AOR.

"Mr. Lockridge wanted to show and communicate that we cared for the 402nd Brigade team members," said Alford. The party visited the two hospitals where the four patients were being treated. Some were recovering from their injuries and others were awaiting surgery, said Garcia.

"There was a patient that had deep cuts on his forearm and legs, and another patient had spinal problems caused by the impact. Another patient was going to return back to his native country of India to proceed with surgery there because his brother is a doctor there," said Garcia.

The last patient's hand was in a cast, his fingers having being cut badly during the collision, he said.

The 402nd group brought food trays for the patients and their other visitors. "Most of them



**Spc. Samuel Garcia, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade chaplain's assistant, comforts one of four third-country nationals hospitalized after a severe traffic accident last month. A group from the 402nd AFSB visited to share support and express their wishes for swift and complete recovery to the men who work for the brigade at Camp Arifjan.**

were also workers. They'd have a cousin or a brother-in-law working here as well," said Alford.

The four patients, all in their 30s or 40s, were clearly the breadwinners for their families back home, he said. He found that one of the injured workers was Muslim, two were Hindu and one was Catholic.

"It was a surprise to me that a Christian was there, so we prayed with him in a way that was meaningful and familiar to him," said Alford. Then one of the Hindu workers asked to be included. "He said, 'I pray to the Almighty, and I will accept prayers from everyone,'" Alford said. "I prayed with everyone that wanted me to pray with them."

The shared experience moved everyone to tears, said Garcia. "Both Mr. Lockridge and I wished them a quick recovery. Each and every visit counted; they were moved by the visit itself," he said.

Mr. Lockridge commented, "They make you all pretty tough down in India," which brought laughter from all. He told them they are an **More SIMPLE ACT, page 7**

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Photo by David Ruderman, 402nd AFSB Public Affairs

**Army Field Support Battalion-Kuwait Commander, Lt. Col. Kenneth Gill (left to right), 1st Support Command (Theater) Commander, Maj. Gen. Kenneth S. Dowd, 1st Brigade-1st Cavalry Division Commander, Col. Scott Efflandt, and 402nd Army Field Support Brigade Commander, Col. John S. Laskodi, discuss the status of the APS-5 draw at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 18.**

brigade. In Phase One, the units conducting the day's draw arrive at Camp Arifjan and are briefed on the operation and safety parameters. Safety procedures and heightened awareness have been stressed repeatedly during the equipment issue, and the effect has been positive, officials said. There have been no accidents, incidents or injuries through three weeks of the draw.

Once briefed and oriented, Soldiers proceed to various

equipment lines to receive and check their prepared inventories and conduct preventive maintenance checks and services. This second phase is the essence of the draw, and can be the most time-consuming. Soldiers work closely with contractor provided line bosses and technicians under the supervision of AFSBn-Kuwait personnel to ensure that equipment is in good working order, resolving discrepancies and technical issues on the spot to

minimize delays.

During each day's draw, AFSBn-Kuwait Soldiers and contractor representatives man the operation's on-site command and control center, monitoring individual unit progress and issuing status reports every four hours to ensure delays are identified and dealt with quickly and effectively.

"The 402nd has been very

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Photo by David Ruderman, 402nd AFSB Public Affairs

**A contractor team loads tracked vehicles at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 17 for transport to Camp Buehring.**

proactive, flexible and accommodating to the Ironhorse Brigade throughout the whole process, from the planning stages through the issue of each unit passing through,” said Col. Scott Efland, Ironhorse Brigade commander.

Once company commanders are sure that all items are accounted for, they release their Soldiers to begin Phase Three, working with the AFSBn-Kuwait and 402nd AFSB accountability cell to ensure the complete and accurate transfer of responsibility for the equipment from the Army War Reserve Deployment System accounting database, which tracks equipment at the Army level, to the Property Book Unit Supply-Enhanced system, which tracks assets assigned to the individual unit’s property book.

Reconciling discrepancies between the two systems has been one of the challenges of the draw, and the 402nd team has relied on support from Army Sustainment Command experts to identify solutions. As a result, changes to software coding that run the two systems are being developed for future implementation.

For the present, 402nd and the Cavalry unit developed work-around solutions to keep the operation going and minimize delays, and have met every contingency. By the third week of the issue process, the team began hitting the 12-hour timeline for a complete company-level issue.

“We should be able to do it digitally,” said Laskodi. “This is just a reverse RPAT [Redistribution Property Assistance Team] process; that’s all it is. We’re learning along the way.”

Once property book issues are reconciled and hand receipts are signed, equipment is loaded for transport and convoyed to the brigade’s base of operations, Camp Buehring, where the units will commence their missions.

Despite the usual hiccups and occasional delays inherent in such a large-scale and complex operation, reaction among the receiving units has been very positive, said Lt. Col. Jason Kidder, 1st Brigade executive officer.

“They are not used to having the equipment laid out in this organized a way, and most of the equipment we are receiving is new. It’s in very good condition compared to other draws I have been through,” he said.

The issue will continue through Feb. 9. Once completed, a cumulative After Action Report session will be conducted and all parties will walk away with lessons learned and updated versions of their standard operating procedures to have in hand for equipment issues in future.

Once the brigade begins its missions at Camp Buehring, the 402nd AFSB’s on-site Logistics Support Element-Kuwait will provide follow-on

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Raul Tirado, U.S. Army Central Public Affairs

Soldiers download a tracked vehicle Jan. 20 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, after its arrival from Camp Arifjan.

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maintenance support, said 402nd AFSB officials.

“Now that our combat forces are out of Iraq, we still have a mission here in South-west Asia,” said Laskodi.

To date, AFSBn-Kuwait has issued more than 1,000 pieces of rolling stock and 2,000 pieces of non-rolling stock to the Ironhorse Brigade, said Gill.

“The 402nd has done an outstanding job,” said Lt. Gen. Dennis Via, U.S. Army Materiel Command deputy commanding general, who visited the Arifjan site Jan. 11 for a briefing and tour of the main equipment issue lines.

## Simple act of caring crosses cultural borders

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important part of the team and to get well soon. Since then, all the injured workers have been released from hospital, but the memory of their exchanges still lingers, said Alford.

“The thing that impressed me the most, walking in, walking out of the hospital, were the expressions on people’s faces, the same expressions that I’ve seen everywhere, in every hospital I have been, of people caring for their children, caring for their loved ones. You see those expressions across the world. It was a definite point of commonality,” he said.

“I was glad that I got to go out to the hospital, it was similar to what I would do back home,” said Alford. “I certainly think we bridged the cultural gaps with that trip. I really felt like a pastor that evening and I thank God for that.”

“My job requires me to nurture the living, care for the wounded and honor the dead,” said Garcia. “The mission remains the same, whether dealing with fellow Soldiers or civilians from around the world who are part of our team.”