



# POWER LINE



## A Time of change

By MSG Betheny Jones, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait** — The month of July 2013 was a very busy one for the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade. Not only was the Brigade changing out its command team, but two of the battalions were also having a change of leadership.

Eager to kick things off, on July 3, 2013, the Army Field Support Battalion-Kuwait held a change of command ceremony at the new Army Materiel Command Forward Facility 1 (AMCFF1). Surrounded by Army Prepositioned Stocks-5 (APS-5) vehicles, Lt. Col. Manuel A. Jimenez surrendered command to Lt. Col. Marc D. Staats, who came from the NATO Rapid Reaction Corps, Headquartered in Lille, France. Jimenez continues his career as an instructor at the U. S. Naval War College in New Port, Rhode Island.

Next up, the 402nd AFSB held a joint change of command/change of responsibility ceremony on July 14, 2013, with Maj. Gen. John F. Wharton, commanding general of the Army Sustainment Command, presiding. Col. John D. Kuenzli was replaced by Col. James D. Kinkade, and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Ferdinand took over for Command Sgt. Maj. Nathaniel Bartee.

Kinkade and Kuenzli are literally switching positions, with



Photos by MSG Betheny Jones, 402nd AFSB PAO

**Maj. Gen. John F. Wharton, Army Sustainment Command commanding general, passes the guidon to the incoming 402nd AFSB commander, Col. James D. Kinkade, while Col. John D. Kuenzli, the outgoing commander, looks on.**

Kuenzli replacing Kinkade as the G-3 Executive Officer at the Army Materiel Command in Huntsville, AL, and Kinkade taking over command of the 402nd AFSB. Ferdinand arrived in Kuwait from Schofield Barracks, HI, leaving his duties as the command sergeant major of the 225th Brigade Support Battalion to be a part of the 402nd Command Team. Bartee is headed to 18th Headquarters Corp. located in Fort Bragg, NC.

Last, but certainly not least, the Army Field Support Battalion-South West Asia also conducted a joint change of command/

change of responsibility ceremony. On July 23, 2013, at the Zone 1 gym, the 402nd AFSB commander, Col. James D. Kinkade presided over the passing of the battalion colors from Lt. Col. Michael C. Sauer and Command Sgt. Maj. Mary K. Jackson to newcomers Lt. Col. Kevin Z. Smith and Sgt. Maj. June M. Spinler.

Smith is taking command over the AFSBn-SWA, also known as the "Work Horse" battalion. Smith is coming from Headquarters, Department of the Army, as

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a strategic analyst for a Secretary of the Army Commission, Institutional Army Transformation Commission. Spinler's last assignment was director of instruction for the 9th Battalion QM, 94th Division, out of Des Moines, Iowa.

Sauer continues his Army career with the U.S. Army South at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, while Jackson returns to Ft. Eustis, VA.

The 402nd AFSB now settles back to work, focused on the mission, with new leadership and new vision at the wheel.

"Power Forward!"



Photos by MSG Betheny Jones, 402nd AFSB PAO

**402nd AFSB's outgoing command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Bartee, hands the NCO sword to Command Sgt. Maj. Ferdinand, the incoming command sergeant major while Col. Kinkadee observes, during the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade change of command on July 14, 2013.**



Photos by MSG Betheny Jones, 402nd AFSB PAO

**(Above) Master Sgt. Donald Guillory, senior enlisted advisor for the AFSBn-Kuwait, stands as the commander of troops in front of the color guard during the AFSBn-Kuwait's change of command on July 3, 2013, at the AMCFF1.**

Photos by MSG Betheny Jones, 402nd AFSB PAO

**(Below) During the 402nd AFSBn-Kuwait change of command ceremony, Lt. Col. Manuel A. Jimenez, outgoing commander, exhibits his emotion when he shares the support he received from the Soldiers, DA Civilians, Contractors and the missions accomplished during his year of command.**



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## Rapid Draw - Rapid Success

Story by CPT Avery W. Evans, AFSBn-KU Supply Operations OIC/COR



Photo by MSG Betheny Jones, 402nd AFSB PAO

**Staff Sgt. Johnie Vaughn, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, performs Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS) on an M1A2 tank during the rapid draw exercise with AFSBn-KU on 25 June 2013, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.**

The Army Field Support Battalion-Kuwait (AFSBn-KU) Supply Operations Cell which consists of Supply Operations, Accountability Cell and the Support Operation (SPO) section, conducted a Contingency Draw Training Exercise of Army Pre-Positioned Stock-5 (APS-5) equipment to 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, from 24-25 June 2013, in support of Operation SPARTAN SHIELD (OSS). The objective of the contingency draw training exercise was to fine tune AFSBn-KU's capability to issue essential equipment to the Armored Brigade Contact Team (ABCT). Further, the exercise is a precursor to future contingency draws.

The first day of the exercise was comprised with the overview brief and leader's recon. Key leadership from the Gaining Tactical Unit (GTU) performed a guided walkthrough of all station nodes with AFSBn-KU key personnel and ITT Exelis personnel, in order to familiarize the GTU with the battalion's issuing processes and footprint. This walkthrough was conducted in order to prepare for the next day's timed exercise.

On the second day, the contingency draw exercise began with an issue brief, after which the (GTU) convened at various issue sites. The GTU validated their hand receipts, conducted a

modified PMCS on designated track vehicles, and inventoried the Basic Issue Items (BII). Capt. Reynaldo R. Valdejutt, the Fires Support Officer/Sensitive Items OIC from 1-22 REGT, stated, "The equipment and BII were properly laid out. "This expedited the hand receipt validation process. Once the validation and inventories were complete, the GTU finalized its hand receipts with the Accountability Cell."

Sgt. Kevin McCrary, 1-22 REGT said, "The draw was quick and proficient training. It allowed the GTU to draw and receive equipment in a timely manner in order to take care of mission in the region." The exercise ended with an After Action Review (AAR), hosted by the 402<sup>nd</sup> AFSB commander, Col. John D. Kuenzli. During this review the group discussed the sustains and improves for the contingency draw.

The contingency draw Exercise encompassed the AFSBn-KU's full spectrum operations. All participants agreed, "It was a great exercise!" Validating AMC systems instilled confidence in both the AFSBn-KU's personnel as well as the GTU. In summary, the exercise showcased the AFSBn-KU's ability to rapidly issue APS-5 equipment.

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Photo by MSG Betheny Jones, 402nd AFSB PAO

**Spc. Paul Lewis, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, checks to confirm the shock housings are level on an M1A2 tank during the rapid draw exercise with the AFSBn-KU on 25 June 2013, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.**

## Rapid Draw . . .

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Photo by MSG Betheny Jones, 402nd AFSB PAO

**Spc. Michael Allen, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, conducts inventory on the Basic Issue Items (BI) during the rapid draw exercise with the AFSBn-KU on 25 June 2013, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.**



Photo by MSG Betheny Jones, 402nd AFSB PAO

**Pvt. Tyler Mills, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, performs Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS) on an M1A2 tank during the rapid draw exercise with the AFSBn-KU on 25 June 2013, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.**



Photo by MSG Betheny Jones, 402nd AFSB PAO

**Spc. Evander Dutchie, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, performs Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS) on an M1A2 tank during the rapid draw exercise with the AFSBn-KU on 25 June 2013, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.**



Photo by MSG Betheny Jones, 402nd AFSB PAO

**David Ransom, a mechanic with General Dynamics, explains the PMCS checklist to Staff Sgt. Jose Dorado and Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Williams, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, during the walk through phase of the rapid draw exercise with the AFSBn-KU on 24 June 2013, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.**

## Holding the line through Sequestration

Story by Temekka S. Ellis, 402nd AFSB, DA Log. Mgmt. Intern



Photo by Ms. A'Keta Vasser

**Maj. Gen. Kurt J. Stein, commanding general for 1st TSC, speaks at the Army Materiel Command Forward Facility 1 (AMCFF-1) Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on May 24, 2013, in Kuwait.**

The US budget deficit for fiscal year 2013 has been estimated at \$642 billion. President Barack Obama signed the sequestration bill, which would roughly cut \$15.8 billion from the US Defense Department's budget. All organizations across the Department of Defense (DOD) would have to operate with significantly fewer funds, yet maintain a high standard of readiness. Col. John D. Kuenzli, commander of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade (AFSB), stated "We have to hold the lines" in displaying his determination to operate efficiently and effectively as an organization. The 402nd began doing its part immediately.

Col. Kuenzli was at the helm of returning over \$190 million unobligated dollars from the 402nd annual budget back to DOD. Two major strategies were implemented; the Internal Cost Management Plan and the Army Prepositioned Stock-5 (APS-5) Cost Management Initiative. As part of the Internal Cost Management Plan, a variety of contracts were carefully reviewed to see if there were any costs that could be reduced or avoided. Several scheduled projects were identified as no longer mission essen-

tial and cancelled reducing expenditures by \$850,000. Another cost avoidance of \$50,000 came from combining contracts within the same industry classification. This resulted in lowered manpower and personnel requirements for oversight of various support contracts.

The Internal Cost Management Plan also included various adjustments to Department of the Army Civilians and staff augmentee personnel and associated costs. The 402nd mirrored the intra-theater battle rhythm of 1st Theater Sustainment Command (1st TSC) and reduced scheduled overtime by 36 percent, saving approximately \$4.2 million. This was achieved while still support-

ing the hierarchy of Army Sustainment Command (ASC) and Army Materiel Command (AMC) without hindering mission support.



Photo by Ms. A'Keta Vasser

**DA Log. Mgmt. Interns Shauntelya Tyler (left) and Temekka Ellis (2nd left) talk with Col. John D. Kuenzli, 402nd AFSB commander (center), Maj. Gen. Kurt J. Stein, commanding general 1st TSC (center), and Lt. Col. Manuel A. Jimenez, AFSBn-KU commander (right).**

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## Holding the line . . .

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In other areas, a new relationship was fostered with the Civilian Logistics Career Management Office (CLCMO) at Ft. Lee, VA. Department of the Army Logistics Management interns were deployed forward to complete their rotational on-the-job training in Kuwait. This proved to be mutually beneficial for each organization to meet their goals. This opportunity promoted the professional development of future logisticians, while providing the 402<sup>nd</sup> with additional staff augmentees.

One of the largest projects was placing a portion of the APS-5 into a leased facility. The 402<sup>nd</sup> played an instrumental part in facilitating a lease between KGL Logistics and the United States government. The facility would house a portion of the Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) and Armor Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) rolling stock (RS). This initiative significantly decreased "Delayed Desert Damage", which reduced maintenance costs. Maintenance



**Aerial View of part of the APS-5 fleet on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait; date of photo unknown.**



Photo by MSG Betheny Jones, 402nd AFSB PAO

**A row of High Utility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles, part of the APS-5 fleet, are lined up neatly inside the newly leased warehouse.**

on rolling stock (RS) equipment would only be required every 48 months and track vehicles every 30 months. This provided a cost savings of \$21.46 million for the current fiscal year and an estimated \$100 million per year over the next four years.

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FROM 402ND AFSB**

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## DA interns invade the 402nd AFSB

Story and photos by MSG Jones, 402nd AFSB PAO



Photo by MSG Betheny Jones, 402nd AFSB PAO

**(Left to Right) Col. John D. Kuenzli, 402nd ASFB commander, Ms. Temekka Ellis, Ms. Shauntelya Tyler, and Command Sgt. Maj. Nathaniel Bartee, 402nd AFSB command sergeant major.**

Interns, Mrs. Temekka Ellis and Ms. Shauntelya Tyler, arrived to the Brigade on May 16, 2013. And it seems like they are everywhere.

Most everyone in the 402<sup>nd</sup> Army Field Support Brigade has seen Mrs. Temekka Ellis and Ms. Shauntelya Tyler around the 402<sup>nd</sup> footprint since May, and rightly so. They are part of a Department of the Army internship program that began over ten years ago to recruit and train civilians as Logistics Management Specialist interns to become a member of the Army civilian team, supporting Soldiers throughout the world. As interns, not only are they here to learn, they are also here to support. In learning the world of logistics, they have been all over the lots, warehouses; and traveled to Ali Al Salem, Kuwait City International Airport

(KCIA/OKBK), and the Al-Shuaiba Port/Sea Port of Debarkation (SPOD).

This isn't a tourist trip. Ellis was assigned to the Support Operations (SPO) section, specifically the Transportation SPO, where she assisted in the retrograde of equipment, cargo, and supplies back from Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn. She also wrote taskers and operation orders; helped with the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) process; was the action officer for the MABRY bridges which were transported to another area of operations. Responsibilities also included the Intra-theater Airlift Requests (ITAR's), daily retrograde report and Trans Snapshot; and was trained in the Army Mobility Asset Tracking System (AMATS) for over-sight purposes.

"The DA intern program gives you a good overview of Army Logistics at a management or strategic level," said Ellis.

Tyler has been very busy as well. As support in

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the S-3 Plans section, she re-vamped the BDE Plans calendar from an outdated PowerPoint document to a living document in Outlook; created several general officer level presentations; revised the Army Material Command Concept of Support presentation, "Posturing the CENT-COM AOR Theater Base 2020;" developed a brigade Master Synch Matrix to plan significant support decisions points through FY16; and was selected to brief Brig. Gen. Tatum, deputy commander, 1st TSC, Joint Security Area Georgia (JSA-Georgia) and U. S. Army Central (ARCENT).

These interns bring experience with handling their responsibilities. Both of them are prior military. Ellis served eight years active duty in the Army as a 92A, automated logistical specialist, reaching the rank of sergeant (promotable). Tyler also served in the Army as a 68W, a combat medic. Within her five active duty years, she also became a Non-Commission Officer, earning the rank of sergeant.

The DA intern program is an intensive 18 to 24 month training program that consists of three phases at the Army Logistics University which are conducted only at Fort Lee, VA. The first phase is a 16 week course in Introductory Logistics (ILOG). The next phase is Basic Officer Logistical Course (BOLC), and is also 16 weeks. Selected courses in transportation, ordinance, and quartermaster are selected by the Program Manager. The last and final phase is the on-the-job training, or OJT, that can be conducted all over the world. The OJT phase is what brings Ellis and Tyler to the 402<sup>nd</sup>.

"The benefits of the OJT phase are the ability to see the effects on the war fighter and the immediate response," said Ellis.

Tyler describes her experience as, "something I will always carry with me in my civilian career. I feel strongly about my role in the mission of those that give up so much to be here in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan, serving their country. It's the people that affect me the most."

This is the first time the 402<sup>nd</sup> has participated in the DA Intern Program. Ellis highly complimented the command team of the 402<sup>nd</sup>.

"The 402<sup>nd</sup> Command made me feel so welcome. Col. Kuenzli took the time to teach us something, (in being future leaders of our country). He mentioned the need to 'dominate the details,' which helps to work more effectively. I greatly appreciate that," she continued.

With more than half of their OJT finished, both Ellis and Tyler say they have definitely learned more than they expected. Ellis says, "this experience has opened up my eyes to the importance of accountability on a larger scale. I now have more insight into the waste of millions of dollars."

"I learned that lack of effective communication can affect people, and the mission. I have a lot of take-a ways from this experience and some of the major ones are about communication, taking care of personnel, and getting the little details right," said Tyler.

The end of September brings an end to the OJT here at the 402<sup>nd</sup> for Ellis and Tyler. So what is next for them? Tyler plans to pursue Emergency Disaster Management, as logistics is the most important part. Ellis stated, "You can have all the

supplies and all the people, but if you can't get them in during an emergency, it's no good." Ellis has her eye on transportation, more specifically port operations.

"My father was a crane operator on the Shore of the Elizabeth River in Norfolk, VA. Seeing the river always brings back memories, and makes me feel closer to him," explained Ellis.

More interns arrived this month, and it will be exciting to see what experiences they will bring to the 402<sup>nd</sup>, as well as take with them in their civilian careers.

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

### Commander

Col. James D. Kinkade

**Command Sgt. Major**  
CSM Ronald Ferdinand

**Public Affairs Officer**  
MSG Betheny Jones

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## TACOM offering Unit Support

Story and Photos by Reginald Herring, Senior Command Representative, TACOM, LCMC

TACOM LARs provide troubleshooting assistance, equipment maintenance assistance, and Soldier's sustainment training to all units within the CENTCOM AOR. LAR, David Urbi assists in training and troubleshooting equipment using the Maintenance Support Device (MSD).



Photo by Reginald Herring, TACOM SCR

TACOM LAR David Urbi is assisting supported unit 1-43 ADA in troubleshooting an M1079A1P2 that had multiple leaks coming from the compressor.



Photo by Reginald Herring, TACOM SCR

TACOM LAR David Urbi is assisting supported unit 1-43 ADA in troubleshooting an M1079A1P2 that had multiple leaks coming from the compressor.

## AMCOM ensuring Mission Capable Status

Story by Gary A. Wade, Senior Command Representative, AMCOM



Photo by Joe McCormick, Patriot SSTR,

**Larry Lyles (left) assists Rafael Guzman with an Improved Target Acquisition System.**

Mr. Larry Lyles has currently been on location at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait assisting with the verification and checkout of 28 Improved Target Acquisition Systems (ITAS) utilized for firing TOW Missiles on hand in APS-5 storage. Lyles is an assigned Raytheon Contract Field Engineer assigned to Afghanistan who was dispatched by the AMCOM Close Combat Weapon System - Project Office (CCWS-PO). AMCOM Missile SSTR, Rafael Guzman, has provided all required assistance during Lyles' visit to Camp Arifjan and with APS-5 personnel.

During his visit to Army Prepositioned Stock-5, APS-5, Lyles was initially sent to repair two non-operational ITAS Systems. During initial inspection, Lyles found two additional systems requiring repairs as well. While surveying the problem for cause of system failures, it was discovered that the storage location for the systems, (outside Sea Land Container), might be part of the problem. Lyles recorded ambient temperatures and noted internal temperatures in the Sea Land Container reached temperatures as high as 156 degrees. It's suspected that the probable cause for system failures was the result of the long duration of equipment non-use and high degrees in temperatures. Lyles recommended to APS-5 warehouse personnel that all ITAS Systems needed to be relocated to a more temperature friendly environment, which did occur.

During the visit, systems were tested for their mission capabilities. Lyles will remain on sight for any unforeseen issues.

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## The AFSBn-SWA Command Duo

Story by 1LT Niberley N. Hutson, 402<sup>nd</sup> AFSBn-SWA, Support Operations Officer



On July 23, 2013 the era of Lt. Col. Michael C. Sauer’s Work Horse Team ended. Sauer and Command Sgt. Maj. Mary K. Jackson successfully led the battalion through a productive year. The unit’s mission is to sustain Joint Forces in support of combatant Commanders by ensuring strategic logistics support, strategic flexibility, and depth throughout the CENTCOM AOR. You think that sounds complex? Yes it is. The hard work and dedication of the staff aided in the success of the command duo.

It is always mission first at the Army Field Support Battalion–South West Asia. With a responsible staff, Sauer and Jackson remained mission-focused and worked on developing an agile strategic logistic force by expanding its capabilities through Southwest Asia. By maximizing its organic strength and leveraging reinforcements, the command duo exceeded the expectations of its higher headquarters, the 402<sup>nd</sup> Army Field Support Brigade.

With a clear vision ahead, Sauer saw the direction he wanted to lead his troops for the year, and execution was not accomplished without his partner, Jackson. They worked carefully and collectively to guide the battalion through a year of increasing up-tempo and rapid changes.

The battalion’s strength is a unique composition, comprised of fifty percent of Department of the Army civilians. Mr. Douglas Workman, GS-13, wholesale responsible officer (and retired Army chief warrant officer five), sees Sauer as “not the type to mince words.” Since the beginning, at the

command philosophy brief, Workman remembers the commander stating, “I’m never late, I don’t expect you to be late.” “Sauer hasn’t strayed this entire year,” concludes Workman. As in his vision, Sauer has been consistent and steadfast in the direction he’s led his Work Horse Team.

Lt. Col. Rodney Richardson, Logistics Support Element–Kuwait Chief, remembers Sauer as “always expecting more from us; [he] has high standards.” As a part of an investigation team, Richardson remembers the Commander’s example of “the band and the hand.” The hand represented Sauer as the main element, the leader, that held everyone together and the bands were the fingers that stood for the five personnel on the investigation team. Everyone played a pivotal role, but Sauer led from the front and with elevated expectations.

Jackson is the first female to hold the command sergeant major position of the battalion. She took the time to mentor both Soldiers and Civilians. Used to having green-suitors, Jackson transitioned nicely to developing and counseling Civilians as well. As a first lieutenant, I took the time to get to know Jackson. With over 30 years of Army service, I knew that I wanted to know what she knows in order to be a better-rounded officer. Jackson continually supported and developed the non-commissioned officers of the battalion and within the entire brigade.

Jackson “lives up to the NCO Creed,” says Workman. He had the pleasure of working with her this year and expresses “highest regard for her.”

Not only did the Work Horse Team toil together, but we also related as a family. The end of tour evaluation will speak for itself, but what it will not exemplify is the bond we developed over the year.

Sauer will be remembered for his leadership and Jackson will be remembered for her mentorship. This year, we “walked the mile” with Sauer and Jackson and kept up in our motto of “One Team . . . One Fight! - Work Horse Strong.”



## Celebrating Women's Right to Vote

Story by Patty Vyncke, Acting EEO Manager, 402nd AFSB

On August 26th, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which granted women the right to vote, was ratified. This was the culmination of the long struggle by women searching for the right to vote. In 1971, the U.S. Congress designated August 26th as Women's Equality Day to commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment and to celebrate women's continuing efforts toward equality.



### WHY CELEBRATE WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY?

We celebrate Women's Equality Day to commemorate the tremendous positive change brought on by the Women's Movement. Due to the countless millions of women who planned, organized, lectured, wrote, petitioned, lobbied, paraded, and broke new ground in every field imaginable, our world is irrevocably changed. Women and men of our generation, and the ones to follow us, are living the legacy of the women's rights won against staggering odds in a revolution achieved without violence. Women can be proud of the legacy of the Women's Rights Movement. Today's

activists remind us all to celebrate and cherish past and present accomplishments of the Women's Movement before they are lost to history.

The beginning of the fight for women suffrage is usually traced to the "Declaration of Sentiments" produced at the first woman's rights convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y. in 1848. Four years later, at the Woman's Rights Convention in Syracuse in 1852, Susan B. Anthony joined the fight, arguing that "the right women needed above every other...was the right of suffrage," (there was criminal prosecution of Susan B. Anthony for illegally voting in the 1872 elections; fined \$100.00). In 1878, a constitutional amendment was proposed that provided "The right of citizens to vote shall not be abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." This same amendment would be introduced in every session of Congress for the next 41 years. In May 1919, the necessary two-thirds vote in favor of the women suffrage amendment was finally mustered in Congress. It appeared that the amendment might fail by one vote in the Tennessee house, but twenty-four-year-old Harry Burns surprised observers by casting the deciding vote for ratification. At the time of his vote, Burns had in his pocket, a letter he had received from his mother urging him, "Don't forget to be a good boy" and "vote for suffrage." Women had finally won the vote. In 1912, Theodore Roosevelt's Progressive (Bull Moose) Party became the first national political party to have a plank supporting women suffrage.



Portions of this article are references from the Women's History Project and the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI). (Local reproduction is authorized and encouraged). Web: [www.patrick.af.mil/deomi/observances](http://www.patrick.af.mil/deomi/observances) and <http://www.nwhp.org>

# POWER LINE

## False Witness

By Lt. Col. Gregory Distad, , 402nd AFSB Chaplain

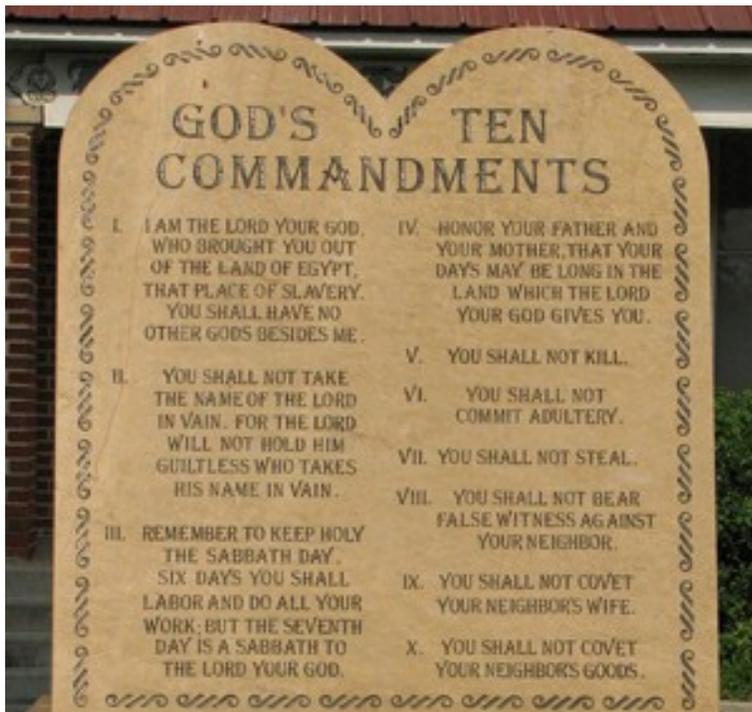
**“THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHBOUR” Exodus 20:16**

This commandment is given in the context of a courtroom. But the courtroom is not limited to the four walls of a building, for the whole world is God’s courtroom. Furthermore, the neighbor is not just the person who lives next door, but it is anyone with whom we have dealings.

Public justice can only be served when people tell the truth. Where there is no truth there can be no justice. We all demand that a judge be just and fair. We expect an accuser is not accusing out a vindictive spirit, but is telling the truth. We expect the witness to tell the truth, and nothing but the truth. We expect the lawyer not to be a liar. In the spirit of truthfulness, we expect the accused to confess his guilt - if he is indeed guilty.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Commandment forbids the deadliest lie. That is, the lie that condemns an innocent man for a crime he did not commit.

It is not just about the false testimony that people give in court. It is also about the lies they tell their neighbors over the backyard fence - and the rumors they repeat. Dishonesty comes in all different sizes. There are the big lies - the whoppers. There are the little lies - the white lies. There are the half-truths, the flatters, and the fibs. We overstate our accomplishments - to put ourselves in the best light. At the same time we exaggerate other people’s failings - thinking and saying the worst about others. We mislead, misquote, misinterpret. We take things out of context. In these and many other ways, we exchange



the truth for a lie. The most blatant violation of the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment is any lie that harms someone else. What is especially forbidden is falsehood against our neighbor. Like a forest fire set by a single careless individual, so a single person with a lying tongue consumes everything in its path.

One problem with gossip is that it tries to steal the treasure of a good name. When this is done in speech it is called slander. When it appears in print it is called libel. Either way, the victims of gossip never get to defend themselves. They never have a chance to explain their circumstances - clarify their motives - or correct the misconceptions people have about them. Instead they are charged, tried, and convicted in the court of public opinion.

It is not easy to stand up for the truth. George Orwell said, “In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act” (George Orwell, as seen on a Philadelphia bumper sticker). The reason we are called to be people of truth is because we serve a

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The 402nd Unit Ministry Team (UMT) is here to nurture the living, care for the dying, and honor the dead. Consistent with that mission and mandate, the 402nd UMT conducts a weekly Bible Study in the 402nd Headquarters and provides a Sunday sermon at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

During the week Chaplain Gregory Distad provides pastoral care by circulating within the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade.

**Unit Ministry Team contact information:**

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UMT phone: 318-430-4667

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truth-telling God. If God is true to us, then we must be true to Him, and also to one another.

I grew up in the North, but I have great respect for a man from the South: Robert E. Lee. He was misunderstood and misrepresented. He was an honor graduate of West Point (2<sup>nd</sup> in his class). Lee was the Superintendent of West Point for three years, from 1852 to 1855. But when he



led the Confederate forces, some considered him a traitor who should be tried for treason. But those who say that do not understand the heart and soul of this good man.

The following story is told by William J. Johnson in his book, *Robert E. Lee, the Christian*.

Long after the war, a Northern Grand Army man told of meeting Lee in the field at Gettysburg under circumstances which revealed to him the true heart of the Southern commander:

"I had been a most bitter anti-South man, and fought and cursed the Confederates desperately. I could see nothing good in any of them. The last day of the fight I was badly wounded. A ball shattered my left leg. I lay on the ground not far from Cemetery Ridge, and as General Lee ordered his retreat, he and his officers rode near me.

"As they came along I recognized him, and, though faint from exposure and loss of blood, I raised my hands, and looked Lee in the face, and shouted as loud as I could, 'Hurrah for the Union!'

"The General heard me, looked, stopped his horse, dismounted, and came toward me. I confess I at first thought he meant to kill me. But, as he came up, he looked down at me

with such a sad expression upon his face that all fear left me, and I wondered what he was about. He extended his hand to me, grasping mine firmly, and looking right into my eyes, said:

'My son, I hope you will soon be well.'

"If I live a thousand years, I shall never forget the expression on General Lee's face. There he was, defeated, retiring from a field that had cost him and his cause almost their last hope, and yet he stopped to say words like these to a wounded soldier of the opposition who had taunted him as he passed by! As soon as the General had left me, I cried myself to sleep there on the bloody ground."

(William J. Johnson, *Robert E. Lee the Christian*, reprinted by Mott Media, Milford, MI., 1976, p. 113-114. In *God We Trust: Tour Guide*).

Sometimes we misunderstand the heart of someone - and slander them in our heart - and slander them before others - and bear false witness against our neighbor.



# POWER LINE

## Change . . .

Continued from page 2



PHOTOS BY MSG Betheny Jones, 402nd AFSB PAO

(Top Left) During the AFSBn-Kuwait change of command on July 3, 2013, at the Army Materiel Command Forward Facility 1, Master Sgt. Donald J. Guillory, AFSBn-KU's senior enlisted advisor, passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Manuel A. Jimenez, the AFSBn-KU outgoing Commander, while Col. John D. Kuenzli, the 402nd AFSB commander and Lt. Col. Marc D. Staats, the incoming AFSBn-KU commander, stand fast.

(Top Right) Lt. Col. Staats passes the guidon back to Master Sgt. Guillory, signifying assumption of command.

(Bottom, Clockwise, left to right) During the AFSBn-SWA change of command on July 23, 2013, at the Zone 1 Gym on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Command Sgt. Maj. Mary K. Jackson, outgoing command sergeant major for AFSBn-SWA, passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Sauer, the AFSBn-SWA's outgoing commander; who then passes it to Col. James D. Kinkade, the commander of the 402nd AFSB. Col. Kinkade passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Kevin Z. Smith, the incoming AFSBn-SWA commander. Lt. Col. Smith then passes the guidon to Command Sgt. Maj. June M. Spinler, the incoming AFSBn-SWA Sergeant Major.

