

LUCKY 6 Sends

The start of the New Year brings the start of a new set of opportunities and challenges for us to meet at U.S. Army Central / Third Army. We can look back on 2011 with satisfaction that our support of the increased force presence in Afghanistan, the rapid fielding of armor enhancements to military vehicles used by our brothers and sisters serving there, and the reduction of forces as well as equipment to bring an end to Operation New Dawn conducted during a year that relocated the command's U.S. headquarters from Atlanta to South Carolina all can be measured as unqualified successes.

JOB WELL DONE to each of you who contributed in your own way to the success of the team as a whole. But at ARCENT we know that the missions are never complete. They are replaced by new missions. Ahead of us in 2012 will be the start of a significant reduction in military equipment, containers, and vehicles from Afghanistan. This is an effort that will demand the best from us in creatively solving extremely complex problems while lifting the burden off of the backs of our U.S. Forces – Afghanistan teammates who are achieving steady progress in giving Afghanistan a chance for a successful, free future.

As part of this effort in Afghanistan we will again meet the directives of our Commander in Chief who has established specific milestones for a reduction in the number of forces deployed to Afghanistan by late 2012. Additionally, we will finish the good work that is on-going in Kuwait of accounting for, then redistributing all of the U.S. government property retrieved from Iraq.

We will continue our active involvement with militaries and security services of the countries around the 20-nation CENTCOM area of operations, improving their capabilities by sharing our experiences and “exporting” our professionalism to them. This will happen in region that is certain to remain in motion

with periodic flare-ups of violence, challenges to the governments in place, and demonstrations by many voices who are calling for changes to be made in their countries – some are calling for changes that will be for the good of all; others are calling for changes that will benefit their own lust for power at the expense of the greater good.

Our headquarters will remain divided between our continental U.S. footprint from our new headquarters in Sumter, South Carolina at Shaw Air Force base, where we will continue to become part of the community that received us so warmly and openly, and our forward-deployed footprint in Kuwait, Qatar, and Afghanistan mostly.

Finally, we will be operating in 2012 in an environment that includes elections in the U.S. and significant, but not impossible, economic challenges for our country at home. Our Army will be a part of the solutions to be found in meeting the challenges at home and there will be some reducing of the resources we have been given in recent years by our Nation. I am confident that while there may be some discomfort and there will certainly be some changes, both our Nation and our Army

will be ok because we are strong enough to change when change is needed.

On behalf of the entire U.S. Army Central / Third Army leadership team let me close by saying THANKS TO YOU for your service; THANKS TO YOUR FAMILIES for giving you the support you need to do your mission, and for sharing you with us; and THANKS TO OUR NATION for giving us the privilege of service with the support we need to accomplish what we have been asked to do on their behalf.

Let's have a great 2012!
PATTON'S OWN! THIRD – ALWAYS FIRST!



-Lt. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, Commanding General, U.S. Army Central / Third Army