



# ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY



**KUWAIT CHAPTER #8601**  
**MARCH 2007**

## AUSA Chapter Officers

### President

BG Samuel S. Thompson III  
USA, Ret.

### First Vice President

John Homerin

### Treasurer

David Hill

### Secretary

Richard Vick

### Vice President, Individual

#### Membership

Vacant

### Vice President, Military

#### Membership

Lorenzo Miranda

### Vice President, Corporate

#### Membership

Darrell Crawford

### Vice President, Corporate

#### Affairs

Frank Madrigal

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#### Relations

Beam Thompson

### Vice President, NCO & Soldier Support Programs

Vacant

### Vice President, Special Activities and Projects

Ivan Welch

### Vice President, Corporate Events

Tom Schneider

### Vice President, International Corporations

Samar Mansour

### Vice President, Kuwait

#### Business Affairs

Salem Al-Shammari

### Vice President, Communications

Jim Riley



**Navistar BBQ**

~  
**Over 200 soldiers served !!!**

The volunteer group of corporate sponsors, chapter board members, friends and family who helped with the BBQ at Navistar on 9 February 2007.

(more photos inside)

### **\*\*\* News from the Chapter President \*\*\***

Time is flying by for us. It is hard to believe that another semi-annual newsletter is already due. The last six months have been a busy time for the Kuwait Chapter covering the following events:

- Hosting a barbecue at Camp Navistar for the soldiers

(cont. on pg. 2)

~ *Welcome to our Newest Corporate Members* ~

AGT: American General Trading

Cochise

Delta Airlines

### **An Urgent Request:**



## **AUSA /KUWAIT NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE**

AUSA-Kuwait is helping to fill the Emergency Leave Clothes Closet at the LSA. It is in dire need of donations. When soldiers have to take emergency leave they can't fly in uniform, so AUSA is filling the need with civilian clothing. This effort has been managed by LTC Rich Vick, AUSA – Kuwait chapter secretary.

***Especially needed are men's pants in sizes 32 through 38 waist and 30 through 36 length. Men's shirts in sizes Medium through XXL sizes are needed but without military patches or insignia or offensive wording. Women's shoes can't be open-toed, but sneakers and boots are acceptable. Donations can be sent to the CLOTHES LOCKER at the LNO tent at Ali Al-Salem. If you don't have access to the base – email [vickr@omcku.centcom.mil](mailto:vickr@omcku.centcom.mil) or [beam.thompson@alshamel.com](mailto:beam.thompson@alshamel.com) to coordinate delivery.***



**KUWAIT CHAPTER #8601 "First in an Operational Theater"**

**~News from the Chapter President~ (cont. from page one)**

- Donating and presenting the trophies for the Great Aloha Run at the LSA
- Providing clothes for the Emergency Leave Clothes Locker
- Holding a General Membership Meeting sponsored by the Crowne Plaza with Gen (Ret.) Vuono as our guest speaker,
- Holding another General Membership Meeting sponsored by Agility with Gen (Ret.) Tilelli as our guest speaker; and
- Conducting monthly Executive Board Meetings.

We have a strong and engaged Executive Board that continues to donate both time and resources to ensure that the Chapter is successful in reaching out to make a positive difference in the lives of our soldiers. The objective for this year is to earn enough money to send the Soldier of the Year and the NCO of the Year to the AUSA Annual Convention in October.

As we look to the future we have several events before the summer season. On 16 March we had scheduled a barbecue for the soldiers of the LSA. The world-renowned Irish singing group "Arcanadh" had volunteered to entertain the soldiers at the barbecue. However, high winds cancelled our plans for the day. On 26 March we will hold an AUSA Corporate Membership night at the US Embassy. In early April, we are working on a special event called "A Day in the Desert" where we will have a camel, falcon, Arabic tent and food, and a photographer for the soldiers. We plan to hold this event on one of the military camps to keep the force protection issues at a minimum. On 19 April, we will hold the first Annual AUSA Golf Tournament, with a minimum of 72 slots available for soldiers. This is a good opportunity for the business community around Kuwait to donate towards the tournament and play golf with a soldier. Finally, we will end the year with a General Membership meeting in May featuring Gen (Ret.) Kernan as our guest speaker, and to hold a general election. As you can see the next three months will continue to be very busy.

We intend to focus membership drives on gaining more corporate members. The Kuwait Chapter will always have problems with soldier membership because of the transitory nature of soldier assignments here. It will be the corporate base of the membership that sustains the membership into the future.

We are sad to say farewell to Ivan Welch who has done an absolutely tremendous job as the VP for Special Events. He has dedicated countless hours and energy towards the AUSA barbecues and the General Membership Meetings. Ivan has been the "go to" guy and we will miss him. Ivan, thank you for your giving nature and your friendship to the Chapter and the soldier. We also had to say goodbye to Johnny Strain who was our First VP for the last year and a half. Johnny has deployed to Iraq with a new team that will train the Iraqi border security forces. He has been the spirit and the commitment behind building the famous AUSA "barbecue-mobile". Along with his very able partner Chris Berman they created the idea and the commitment of bringing the "barbecue on wheels" to the different camps. Chris Berman who had to leave us earlier to return to the USA provided the material and manpower to build the barbecue. We will miss all of these great Americans and we are better for having known them.

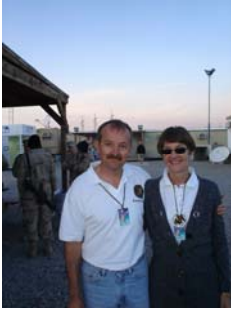
In closing I must say thank you to all of those who have helped this Chapter get started. This has been a wonderful combination of people who truly love the American Army and genuinely want to do something to help the American soldier. Our corporate members are committed to making a positive impact for our soldiers. Our Executive Board is committed to organizing and executing events to give the soldiers a little touch of home or at the very least to let them know we care about them. Thanks to each and every one of you for your continued support and assistance. We look forward to keeping up this tireless spirit during the next six months.

**AUSA supports the soldiers.**



***KUWAIT CHAPTER #8601 "First in an Operational Theater"***

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As Chapter President Sam Thompson said in his "News from the Chapter President, we want to give our best wishes to Ivan Welch and his wife Jeannie as they head on to their next assignment. Ivan has been the Chapter Vice President for Special Activities and Projects, and for the past two years in Kuwait, has been a huge help in every chapter activity that was held. We want to wish both of them well at their next location.

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**AUSA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES:**

***10 MILE RUN @ CAMP BUEHRING OCTOBER 2006***



AUSA Executive Board Member, LTC Rich Vick, competing in the 10k race



AWARDS  
PRESENTATION  
TO THE  
WINNERS OF  
THE 10K RACE



## *GEN VUONO VISIT IN NOVEMBER 2006*





*More from the Navistar BBQ 9 FEBRUARY 07*





**Calendar at a Glance:**

- 26 March – Corporate Members’ Appreciation Night @ US Embassy
- 5 April – Executive Board Meeting
- 19 April – AUSA Kuwait Golf Tournament
- \_(TBD)\_ April – “Day in the Desert”
- 3 May – Executive Board Meeting
- 22 May – General Membership Meeting, GEN (Ret.) Kernan, guest speaker

# ***AUSA***

## ***is for the Soldiers***

Welcome to two of our newest chapter members (and board members too), Tom Schneider and Lorenzo Miranda. Great to have you both with us.



**KUWAIT CHAPTER #8601 "First in an Operational Theater"**

**~ Spotlight on Corporate Members ~**  
**AGT – American General Trading Co.**

**AGT** is owned and operated by the Gittens family. They've been providing laundry services to military camps in Kuwait since 1991. They also operate **AGT Corporate Meet and Greet Services** which provides transportation and logistics services to contractors entering Iraq or leaving Iraq on R & R. The Gittens have already attended several AUSA functions and we look forward to seeing them in the future. Great to have you with us. Thanks for your support of the soldiers.

In future issues of the newsletter, we'll feature our other corporate members:

Agility	Cochise	ITT
Al Ahlea Circle Cleaning	Delta Airlines	MEBS
Alshamel Travel & Tourism	Granite Global Services	MPRI - Kuwait
Arab Orient Group	IAP	

**AGILITY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 12 FEBRUARY 07**

**Jesse Johnson,  
Cochise (AUSA  
corporate  
member), and  
Guest Speaker  
GEN (Ret.) John  
Tilelli at the  
Agility  
Membership  
Meeting**



**The Gittens family, owners of  
AGT – American General  
Trading (AUSA Corporate  
member)**





Wissam Razzouk, Delta Airlines (AUSA corporate member) and Sam Thompson, AUSA-Kuwait Chapter President

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**GREAT ALOHA RUN 19 February 2007 @ THE LSA  
(AUSA PROVIDED & PRESENTED THE TROPHIES)**



**Over 200 participants, including Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and the Australian Army. Congratulations to the winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Place - HHD, 556<sup>th</sup> PSB; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - 444<sup>th</sup> AG Det; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - 4<sup>th</sup> AG Det.**

David Hill's Report on the AUSA Conference held in Garmische, Germany - 11th 13th January:

*"The event was hosted and sponsored by Corporate from Washington attendance was good with around 30 people present who came from each of the European Chapters and ourselves. Attendees ranged from one civilian Brit as well to all current, retired, or active service military personnel.....no surprise there. The material presented was for those new to AUSA and what it was, how it could help the army and how to use the support network to assist you be a successful chapter. The program was hosted by Gerald Parks and also Corporate Executives from Washington who used the sessions to educate new members into the benefits of being a AUSA member and how to sell it to prospective members. It was also a great opportunity to share ideas and meet other chapter personnel*

*The topics covered included an overview of AUSA membership, world-wide chapter locations as well as continental US, benefits of being a member to AUSA, AUSA history and support network available through leader links and with direct contacts in Washington and within European theatre which we come under the umbrella of, Army museum and educational support structure within AUSA, Lobby movements on Capitol Hill etc.*

*There were sessions on financial status, marketing plans, membership drives, and how to win support on base and used military networks to our advantage."* David

Check out our chapter's website at [www.ausa-kuwait.com](http://www.ausa-kuwait.com) and the national website at [www.AUSA.org](http://www.AUSA.org)

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If you know of an AUSA member that would like to receive the electronic version of this newsletter, contact Jim Riley at [himself49@aol.com](mailto:himself49@aol.com)