

THE DIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

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Navy Establishes Diversity Directorate



Capt. Syd Abernathy U.S. Navy Photo

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

With a clear strategic vision of incorporating diversity into the very fabric of the Navy organization, the Diversity Directorate was established Aug. 2 in a ceremony held outside the Directorate spaces at the Navy Annex.

The new directorate will bolster the Chief of Naval Operations' (CNO) vision to create a sense for everyone that the Navy is committed to their personal growth and development from the moment they begin naval service.

"Leveraging the diversity of all our people makes us more operationally capable by cultivating all our differences...to help us make better decisions...decisions that, in turn, make us more agile, more flexible and more effective," said Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing, Chief of Naval Personnel. "I am proud of our commitment to diversity and feel strongly that our superb readiness today is the direct result of the time and attention we have devoted to improving it."

With this step, the Navy signals to Sailors and civilians that their diversity is valued for the innovative ideas and unique experiences they bring to the fleet.

"The Diversity Directorate's mission is to assist Navy leaders in creating an environment that encourages and enables our creative and innovative Sailors and civilians to reach their personal and professional potential," said Capt. Syd Abernathy, the new head of the Navy Diversity Directorate in Washington, D.C. Seeing a direct relationship between diversity and mission readiness, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark added new focus on diversity in his Guidance for 2004. Clark expanded the traditional focus of diversity beyond race and gender, and folded in a Sailor's creativity, culture, ethnicity, religion, skills and talents

"The advent of new technology and the resultant speed at which lethal decisions are made require more creative and innovative Sailors," Abernathy said.

With retention and recruitment at the highest levels in recent history, the Navy can now afford to focus on shaping the force, ensuring the best-qualified, most diverse candidates are challenged to seek leadership roles in the senior enlisted and officer ranks of the future. To focus on the strategic diversity mission, the Directorate is divided into four working groups: Accessions, Training and Development, Organizational Alignment and Communications.

The Accessions group is determined to ensure that the Navy is presented to the best and brightest potential enlisted and officer candidates available across the entire spectrum of American society. They will seek out highly qualified and skilled candidates, ensuring the Navy is presented to a diverse audience at all academic levels.

The Training and Development group strives to embed the Navy's diversity vision into all Sailor and civilian leadership training and management tools. It seeks to create a culture that values diversity through continuous education and training of Sailors and civilians, promoting individual success through opportunities and access to develop their knowledge, skills and abilities to their fullest potential. The group will track, monitor and assess promotion, advancement, program selections, and retention rates of all Sailors and civilians, and use results as trend indicators and guides for success.

The Organizational Alignment group will develop and maintain an organizational structure that ensures diversity initiatives and programs are integrated and aligned within the Navy. Two examples are the Diversity Senior Advisory Group (DSAG) chaired by the Vice CNO with members from the Navy, industry, academia, and retirees that will act as a standing body of influence to advise our most senior leaders on trends and diversity best practices. The second is the Diversity Fleet Council, with members from across the Navy, who will provide unfiltered feedback on diversity issues and will assist in execution of the Navy's diversity initiatives.

Finally, the Communications Group will inform and educate all Sailors, active and reserve, their families, retirees and Department of the Navy civilians about the current diversity initiatives, programs and opportunities. They will also work to keep the general public, potential recruits, media, and legislative and affiliated groups informed about the Navy diversity programs.

The ceremony marked the beginning of a new strategic focus not the end of a program development. "This is not the end – we can always do better – especially when it comes to sewing diversity into the fabric of our culture, and that's what we are trying to achieve here today," said Hoewing. "This new directorate will bring a new level of awareness to the fleet."

Departing diversity chief sees work to be done in the Navy



US Navy Photos

Captain Syd Abernathy and his Relief Cmdr John Hefti

By [Sandra Jontz](#), Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — It's not enough to think about diversity only during Black History Month or Hispanic Heritage Month, said Syd Abernathy, the architect of the Navy's new Diversity Directorate.

"We need to talk about this issue all the time, in other than the 'heritage months,'" said Abernathy, who for more than a year has worked to change the Navy's program, aimed at attracting a more diverse population, especially at the upper echelons.

"I see a lack of representation at the senior enlisted ranks and senior officer ranks, and unlike the [civilian world] where we could hire from one company or another, in the military, we have to grow our own," Abernathy said.

He doesn't know what has led to that lack of representation.

"That's something we have to look at, to study. We need to ... help leadership understand how to attract and keep a diverse population," said Abernathy, 46, who leaves the post in September to go to school before becoming the commanding officer of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash., early next year.

So why, decades after Martin Luther King Jr., after the civil rights and equal rights movements, is the Navy still talking about the need to improve diversification efforts?

"The Navy is a very large organization and this is a big change, and it takes a lot of time to change people's mind-set," said Cmdr. John Hefti, 40, the incoming directorate leader.

"Also, it hasn't been the focus to make it an integral part of operational readiness."

To better diversify the Navy, the newly named Diversity Directorate office, which until Monday was the Minority Affairs Office, is creating partnerships with predominantly black and women's colleges and universities, and studying diversity programs in the civilian sector to see what works and what doesn't, said Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing, chief of Naval Personnel.

The name change doesn't mean the Navy is looking to diversify in terms of race, ethnicity and sex only, Abernathy said.

The service also wants "creative and innovative sailors," those who will think outside the box, he said.

It's what Hoewing calls "putting the follow-through to the golf swing.

"How do we get distance and accuracy? It's in the follow-through." *

Chief Of Naval Reserve Shares Vision Of A New Navy



U.S. navy photo

By Journalist 2nd Class Leslie A. Shively, Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center San Antonio Public Affairs

Chief of Naval Reserve Vice Adm. John Cotton addressed more than 300 Sailors at Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center San Antonio July 17 to educate Reservists about the Active Reserve Integration (ARI).

Cotton characterized Reservists as Minutemen while sharing his vision and answering questions about the "one fleet" perspective fueling ARI, with a Reserve ready at a moment's notice to surge forward to defend homeland security, as well as national interests abroad.

Integration is the most effective and efficient use of resources, according to Cotton. He said changes in Navy posture, organization and job assignments are necessary for successful assimilation, and to that end, and every Reserve billet and unit has been and will continue to be scrutinized to determine each asset's value to the Navy.

"As we plan the future Navy, and we look at the old billets, some of them are being (zeroed out) Sept. 30. It doesn't mean you're going away, it means you'll be available for (another) assignment," Cotton said.

Ashore, existing Reserve Centers will merge into one of six regions -- Northeast, Southeast, Mid-America, Southwest, Northwest and Washington D.C. Those who live in a particular region will help defend that region, while also supporting their assigned command. Cotton also said no additional Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Centers are planned; instead, he wants to build joint forces Reserve centers.

"We can't think of ourselves just as Army, just as Air Force. We have to think of ourselves as joint warriors because when you go forward, you put on the camouflage uniforms, and it says U.S. Navy or U.S. Air Force or U.S. Army over your left breast," Cotton said. "The operative word here is us - U.S.,

United States. We work together overseas, so we need to work more together back here in the States."

Part of ongoing realignment will be evident with new ID cards. "Reserve" will be dropped, and cards will indicate Navy only, alleviating the need for replacement when a member is activated and changed again upon returning from deployment. That small change could have saved \$40 million since Sept. 11, 2001, according to Cotton.

He also suggested active billets could be reassessed. "If you have a capability, let's say mine warfare and you don't use it very often, there is a five-to-one advantage of putting that capability in the Reserve and then surging it when you need it. You don't pay for it every single day," Cotton said.

Cotton said the biggest challenge with ARI is communication.

"It's all about getting the message down and expecting commanding officers - leaders - to communicate the imperative for change," Cotton said. "Once we get that done, we can hope to start changing the culture of a lot of folks where they wait for things to happen, instead of making things happen."*

Condoleezza Rice Speaks on Diversity, Responsibility, and Culture



White house photo

The following excerpts were taken from a Convocation Speech delivered by Condoleezza Rice, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, at the 2004 Michigan State University Commencement.

"The advances that have been made during your lifetimes alone—from breakthroughs in health care, to the spread of prosperity, to the progress of democracy—have been pushed along by optimists, not pessimists. America's founders were not pessimists. Nor were the Wright Brothers, or Jonas Salk, or Martin Luther King. Nor is any man or woman of real accomplishment.

"In the wake of the September 11th attacks, it would have been easy, in our grief and our anger, to retreat behind a wall of defeatism and discrimination. But that is not the American way. We did not close our borders to the tens of thousands of students from Muslim countries seeking to study here. Even as we have done the necessary and important work of improving our visa screening, we have continued to welcome people from

other nations and we need to do more to let people know that they are indeed welcome. This response says a lot about our Nation. At a fundamental level, it underscores our faith in diversity and individual rights.

"Differences should not be a source of fear, but an opportunity to learn.

"Whatever field or profession you choose for you life's work, you will continue to meet people from different areas, different backgrounds, different cultures, and different religions. Because of what you have learned here, you will always carry with you the obligation to help bridge divides in culture and understanding.

"All people are bound together by several common desires. Never make the mistake of assuming that some people do not share your desire to live freely...to think and believe as they see fit...to raise a family and educate their children.

"There are no cultures or peoples on this earth who do not deserve the freedoms we take for granted.

"You have a responsibility to close the divides between cultures."

Condoleezza Rice's entire speech can be accessed at:

http://www.msu.edu/~acadevnt/commencement/speechconv04_Rice.htm *

Navy One Source: Real help anytime, anywhere.



U.S. Navy photo

From the Fleet Family Service Center (FFSC)

Doing well at your job. Caring for yourself. Caring for your family. Getting the monthly bills paid and making plans for the future. Coping with life's ups and downs.

Sometimes it's hard to juggle everything that's going on in your life. That's why the Navy provides the Navy One Source program—a pre-paid sailor and family resource program to help make your life a little easier. Online or by phone, Navy One Source is fast, confidential, and easy to use. It's at no cost to you. And best of all, it's there for you any time of the day or night, wherever you are. The program can give you information, advice, and support on a wide range of everyday issues, including:

?? Parenting and child care

- ?? Education
- ?? Older adults
- ?? Midlife and retirement
- ?? Relocation
- ?? Financial & Legal
- ?? Deployment & Return
- ?? Everyday issues
- ?? International
- ?? Work
- ?? Managing people
- ?? Emotional well-being
- ?? Grief and loss
- ?? Addiction and recovery

Navy One Source offers you:

- ?? Phone and online access to experienced, professional consultants? real people to talk to when you need an answer to a question
- ?? An award-winning Web site with online articles, workshops, locators, interactive self-assessments, and much more
- ?? Pre-paid booklets, audio recordings, and other materials to help you get the answers you need in the format you want
- ?? Referrals to resources, services, and support in your community
- ?? A commitment to always being there when you have a question or need help.

You can access Navy One Source online at www.navyonesource.com (userid: Navy; password: Sailor), or by phone, toll-free, from the U.S: 800-540-4123, International: 800-5404-1233, International collect: 484-530-5914. Consultants who speak Spanish, simultaneous translation into more than 140 other languages and TTY/TDD are also available.

Get in touch with Navy One Source today.

Online: www.navyonesource.com (userid: Navy; password: Sailor), From the U.S: 800-540-4123, International: 800-5404-1233, International collect: 484-530-5914.

Keep reading to see how Navy One Source has made a difference in the lives of some sailors and their families who have used its services.

Real help anytime, anywhere.

Navy One Source is always there for you, ready to help in the way that best fits your preferences, your schedule, and your needs. No matter how big or small your concern, or what point you are in life, Navy One Source service is dedicated to bringing real help to real people. Here are just a few examples.

Choosing a Summer Camp

“I don’t really know where to start,” the single father said when he called Navy One Source. “I have custody of my two children this summer. I’ve been browsing through Navy One Source Online and I read the articles on planning summer activities. I even found some specific camps that sound interesting in your Camp Locator, but I have questions, and I’d like to know more about some activities my area.”

To help him get the answers he needed, a Navy One Source consultant asked about the children’s ages, their interests and personalities, the family’s budget and other relatives who lived nearby. A few days later, the consultant mailed information about local day camp programs, along with tips on what to look for when choosing an overnight camp or a day program.

Caring for Older Relatives

Caring for an aging relative whose needs are changing can be challenging and stressful. For one sailor, Navy One Source Online provided much-needed resources. “This site has helped me look into how to cope with my mom, who has been with me for a year now. She has different ailments and I can’t see anyone caring for her but myself. The site has also helped me with the stress, which I never realized I had, from dealing with her. Thanks and keep the information coming—it’s very useful.”

Another user writes, “I truly appreciate the elder care resources. I was able to find help for my mom who had a stroke two years ago without health insurance. Within hours of searching your site, I was able to provide physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and home health aides...I am truly grateful.”

Navy One Source Online provides a fast, convenient and private way to find the advice, information and resources that you need, whenever you need it.

Plugging a Leaky Roof

“My neighbor has been watching my house while I’m away. He just called to say there is water running down my walls after the recent storm and the roof is leaking!” a sailor exclaimed when she called Navy One Source. “What can I do? I have a meeting tomorrow and can’t just cancel and come home.”

The Navy One Source consultant got right to work, and quickly identified several licensed, reputable roofers and contractors not far from the salesperson’s home—some with after-hour emergency numbers. He even located an insured, bonded individual who could stay at her house while estimates and repairs were made. Pleased, the sailor arranged for repair work to begin immediately. And the next day, she kept her appointment with the CEO.

Surviving the College Application Process

The high school senior thought he already knew what he wanted—a college where he could major in architectural design. But it had to be in his home state, and he was pretty sure he’d need financial aid. Using Navy One Source Online, he and his dad picked some schools on the College Locator and downloaded helpful articles on interviews and visits. Then they called for more advice.

The Navy One Source consultant answered their questions about applying for financial aid and sent a guidebook to help the son plan and keep track of the entire applications process. “I was amazed at all the helpful information we received,” the father said. “Navy One Source was really there for us. Every step of the way.”

Getting Control of Debt

The young couple earned a decent income, but they were over their heads in debt. When they finally called the Navy One Source program, they owed almost \$50,000.

The Navy One Source consultant reviewed the couple’s income, expenses, and spending habits. Then, they worked together to establish a plan. The couple contacted their creditors, consolidated their loans, and managed to lower some of their interest charges. At the consultant’s suggestion, they cancelled a cell phone, dropped their cable television service, changed long

distance carriers, and cut back on dining out. Now the couple is on track to becoming debt free. "We couldn't have done it without you," the sailor told the Navy One Source consultant.

Coping with Grief

Few things in life are as painful as the death of a child. When the loss is sudden, it can be even more painful. So when one sailor called Navy One Source recently, she was understandably upset. "My nephew was killed in a car accident a few days ago," she began. "I saw your brochure at work; I really need to talk to someone." The caller was tearful, at times angry. "I just can't concentrate on my job anymore. Nothing seems to matter. I can barely make myself get up in the morning and go to work."

Her Navy One Source telephone consultant offered reassurance and, following a thorough assessment, provided community resources to mental health professionals. The sailor began working through her grief. In follow-up consultation, she reported feeling much improved. "I am really very appreciative of all your help," she explained. "I've decided to continue in therapy with a counselor recommended by you, and I am finding it very beneficial. And I feel like I can focus and concentrate again. Thank you, Navy One Source."*

Event recreates first Independence Day in West



U.S. Army Photo

(Army News Service, July 7, 2004)

KANSAS CITY, Mo.— The country still turns to the Army to get tough jobs done, Lt. Gen. William Wallace told an audience of several hundred during a commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's celebration of Independence Day July 3.

Hundreds of spectators turned out at Kansas City's Riverfront Park to commemorate the first Fourth of July celebrated in the American West.

General Wallace, commander of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, served as keynote speaker for the event. He was joined by members of the Osage and Kaw tribes, Gov. Bob Holden of Missouri and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas, and several members of Congress as part of Lewis and Clark bicentennial events in Kansas City, Mo., and

Atchison and Leavenworth, Kan. Lewis and Clark's expedition, Wallace said, demonstrates the connection between today's Army and the military of 200 years ago.

"The Corps of Discovery is part of a long tradition of military exploration," he said. "Only the Army had the organization, logistics, training and discipline to do the work. The country still turns to the Army to get tough jobs done."

The Corps of Discovery's diversity was key to its success, Wallace said. "Each of the 30 soldiers brought his unique talents. They were all forged into a disciplined unit, and were led by what remains today as the backbone of the Army — the noncommissioned officers."

Today's Army, Wallace said, serves the nation just as Lewis and Clark did. "Since 9/11, America has become inspired by a new generation, who say 'I am a Soldier. I am proud to serve.'"

Wallace recognized three recruits, Pfc. Zeta Bates, Pfc. Peter Holmes and Pvt. Brian Foster, who will depart for initial-entry training later this summer.

"They will soon start on an amazing life," Wallace said, "an amazing journey as part of the U.S. Army."

The general also recognized the presence of two African-American former "Buffalo Soldiers."

"We're honored to have them here," Wallace said, "promoting the traditions of the 9th and 10th Cavalry and their role in Western expansion." These units were manned by African-Americans and often cited for their outstanding performance and bravery.

"Today," Wallace said, "in places like Baghdad and Kandahar, there are American soldiers walking point, showing dedication to the values that make America strong."

The event included performances by the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute team, the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, and the 1802 Color Guard. The Fife and Drum Corps and Color Guard are both members of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (the Old Guard) at Fort Myer, VA.

Forward-deployed civilians play vital role in terror war

**By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service
WASHINGTON (AFP)**

8/17/2004 - -- The death of a Department of the Air Force civilian in Iraq on Aug. 8 brings attention to some of the unsung heroes of the war effort: Thousands of Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy civilian employees who have voluntarily put themselves in harm's way to support the war on terrorism.

Special Agent Rick Ulbright, a 49-year-old polygraph examiner with the 33rd Field Investigative Squadron at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., died at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, from wounds received during a mortar attack.

Agent Ulbright had been in Iraq for more than two months, providing polygraph support for counterintelligence and counterterrorism efforts, said Bryan Horaist, chief of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations' regional office at Randolph AFB, Texas. He was scheduled to return home in September.

Like the thousands of other Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps civilian employees forward-deployed in Southwest Asia, Agent Ulbright "was an integral part of the effort," said Mr. Horaist, a personal friend who attended Agent Ulbright's memorial service Aug. 13 in the Washington area. "He wanted to be there," Mr. Horaist said.

Agent Ulbright was among about 1,400 Department of

Defense civilians who have volunteered for duty in Iraq, said Army Lt. Col. David Farlow, a spokesman for U.S. Central Command in Baghdad. Most wear desert camouflage uniforms, just like their military counterparts, with "DOD Civilian" tags on their chests, alongside their names.

The Air Force reports 35 employees in its work force forward deployed to the CENTCOM area, said Jennifer Stephens, an Air Force spokeswoman. Besides criminal investigation support, they are providing equipment, air traffic control, information technology, finance and intelligence support.

Army Lt. Col. Jeffrey Ogden, who supervises 12 Army Corps of Engineers civilians in Iraq, said he is "very impressed" by the commitment he has witnessed among the volunteers, all serving 120-day deployments.

"They want to be here, and they want to make a contribution," said Colonel Ogden, who heads the Restore Iraqi Electricity Directorate. "They've jumped right in, hit the ground running and shown no hesitation about going outside the international zone. They know they have a job to do, and they go out there and do it."

Robert Dennis, a Corps of Engineer employee from Clarksville, Va., who has been in Iraq since May, said he volunteered for the duty so he could play a critical role in the war on terrorism.

"When (the terrorists) attacked New York, they attacked all of us," he said. "For me, I knew it was time to come forward and do what I could."

Sharon Walker, an Army civilian for the Military District of Washington serving a six-month tour at the coalition press information center in Baghdad, said the events of Sept. 11, 2001, "definitely had an effect on me and my decision to volunteer in Iraq." She said thinking about the terror and pain caused by the terrorist attacks made her more resolved than ever to do whatever she could to support the troops.

"This volunteer opportunity came up, and it was the natural next step for me," she said.

Beth Hilliard, a civilian employee from the Corps of Engineers' Savannah district office, said she volunteered to serve four months in Iraq simply because "it was the right thing to do, something that was going to help the Iraqi people."

Ms. Hilliard shrugged off the dangers involved in the deployment.

"Different incidents go on here, but the mission takes priority," she said.

Ms. Walker said the preparation she received before deploying, both at Fort Myer, Va., and Fort Bliss, Texas, has proved invaluable in Iraq, particularly training in nuclear - biological and chemical protection, common skills and day-to-day soldier skills, such as how to pack a rucksack.

The duty has some rough aspects that many of her civilian counterparts never encounter, Ms. Walker said. She used the example of the time her plane made a "battle landing" into Baghdad International Airport.

"I get some adrenaline going sometimes when mortars hit near us, but that helps me get up off my chair," she said. "Talking to people helps me cope. Our interaction always improves my understanding and attitude."

But after several weeks in Iraq, Ms. Walker said she believes she is making a meaningful contribution to the war on terrorism.

"I'm supposed to be here doing this work," she said.

With "just 16 days and a wake-up call" left on his 120-day

deployment, Mr. Dennis said he has found tremendous satisfaction in the work he and his fellow Corps of Engineers co-workers are doing, restoring electricity to Iraq.

"We're turning the lights back on and making a huge difference in people's lives," he said.

"We're doing a lot of good work," Ms. Hilliard said. "We're really putting megawatts on the (power) grid and helping these folks."

"The job is very challenging, and the work is fast-paced, but it's very rewarding," she said. "Overall, I'm glad I volunteered. And the longer I'm here, the more I feel that way."*

U.S. Navy Commissions Military's First Buddhist Chaplain



US navy photo
LTJG Jeanette Shin commissioned by Vice Adm Cotton

**By Journalist 1st Class (SW) Hendricks L. Dickson,
Navy News Service**

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy commissioned the military's first Buddhist chaplain in a ceremony at the Pentagon July 22.

Chief of Navy Reserve, Vice Adm. John G. Cotton commissioned Lt. j.g. Jeanette G. Shin in front of several of her family members and friends, making her the Department of Defense's first Buddhist chaplain.

After taking her oath of service, Shin expressed her gratitude to her peers, and said she looks forward to making a difference in the fleet.

"I am very grateful to have the opportunities to serve the sea services - regardless of their religious faith," said Shin. "I will do my best to help you [Sailors and Marines] in any way I can."

Shin's commissioning is an important moment for the Navy's Chaplain Corps, as it continues to improve its diversity to serve Sailors and Marines from a variety of religious backgrounds. Shin was praised for her tremendous accomplishment and welcomed to the Corps by her peers.

"This is another historical moment for the Chaplain's Corps of the United States Navy, as we reach out to provide for the religious needs of our people," said Chief of Navy Chaplains, Rear Adm. Louis V. Iasiello. "You are most welcome to our ranks as a chaplain, and we look forward to working with you in the future."

“This really is your statement of care and love and concern for us,” said Rear Adm. (sel.) Harold L. Robinson, Specials Assistant Reserve Manpower Chief of Naval Chaplain's Office. “It’s a call of the Chaplain Corps to serve every human being we encounter, and that’s what we are saying. We are very blessed to have you among us.”

Shin earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from George Mason University in Philosophy and Religious Studies in May 2000. She earned her Master of Arts degree in Buddhist studies from the Graduate Theological Union/Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, Calif., in May.

Shin is currently stationed at the Navy Reserve Center in Alameda, Calif.

For submitting articles, photos, interviews, or feedback, please E-mail ENCM Darrell C. Nolan at Darrell.Nolan@navy.mil

Image of the Month



U.S. Army Photo

This statue currently stands outside the Iraqi palace, now home to the 4th Infantry division. It will eventually be shipped home and put in the memorial museum in Fort Hood, Texas.

An Iraqi artist named Kalat, who for years was forced by Saddam Hussein to make the many hundreds of bronze busts of Saddam that dotted Baghdad, created the statue.

Kalat was so grateful for the Americans liberation of his country; he melted 3 of the heads of the fallen Saddam and made the statue as a memorial to the American soldiers and their fallen warriors. Kalat worked on this memorial night and day for several months.

To the left of the kneeling soldier is a small Iraqi girl giving the soldier comfort as he mourns the loss of his comrade in arms.

Do you know why we don't hear about this in the news? Because it is heart-warming and praise-worthy. The media avoids it because it does not have the shock effect that a flashed breast or controversy of politics does.

But we can do something about it. We can pass this along to as many people as we can in honor of all our brave military that is making a difference. *