

This week saw the departure of two great soldiers who will be sorely missed. COL Bill Kirk, Chief Nurse, departed for a new assignment running the operating room at Madigan Army Medical Center. CSM Donna Brock had her Transfer of Authority Ceremony on 30 July and is en route to a new assignment in Korea. COL Kirk will be remembered for his sense of humor and ability to maintain an even strain. CSM Brock, with her high standards, knowledge of soldiers and interest in their welfare, has been an outstanding example of NCO leadership. Best of luck to both soldiers. We know they will be tremendous assets to their new units.

Progress has arrived on several fronts. The long-awaited Armed Forces Network (AFN) converters have arrived. When they are installed at both sites, we will have wider TV access than the single channel of news now available. In addition, the remainder of the parts for our Prime Power generator at Bear South have finally arrived on-site. At the same time, significant progress has been made in getting Bear North on the city power grid. This eases concerns about using our present generators through the rest of the summer. Finally, the interior paint project at Balad hospital was paid for at the city treasurer's office today, completing a significant civil assistance project for the local community.

The 21st CSH mission of providing world class combat health care continues. July was a tough month for Americans in Iraq, but we hope that with recent progress in the war the casualties will diminish and civil contentment increase. Your thoughts and prayers are as important as ever. Be assured that we think of loved ones at home every single day. Thanks for your support.