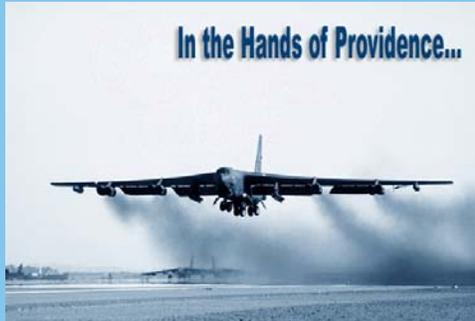




November '01

# The Inside Word

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There is no doubt in anyone's mind that we are at War. Our enemy is far more dangerous and inhuman than we imagine. If you've ever had any doubts about it, go into the archives of any news publication and type in "September 11, 2001." The photographs alone should convince you. As a nation, we find ourselves again in the midst of uncertainty and despair as our troops continue to move further into hostile territory, deep within Afghanistan. Many of our young men and women will probably experience combat for the first time in their lives, and some may not even return from this journey. It is all in the hands of Providence. As most of us who had a heartbeat on September 11th recall, in the shortest span imaginable, our nation suffered perhaps the greatest number of casualties of any pre-war period, ever. The fact is, we are still counting. Equally significant and damaging was the economic impact. Without a doubt,

most of us became critically aware of the destructive power of terrorism, virtually overnight. And with it came perhaps the strongest patriotic rally since the World War II. Never since had so many Americans come together for a common cause.

Our employees and colleagues at ALC do not need to be reminded of the significance of this mission, because most of us have been involved in similar situations for years. However, our hearts and our thoughts go out to the thousands of troops that are currently deployed (as well as those soon to be deployed) into the region. In these difficult times, our troops need as much support as we can give, and none could be as important to them as knowing that we are behind the mission all the way and through the final victory. Whatever it takes, we will be there with them. Be sure that every day you get up and go to work, your first and foremost concern is to have their backs. We are the rear, all of us. And we will meet the challenge.



## The Mail Too?...



These days, it appears that just about all of our civil servants are taking low blows from lunatics. As these characters move into the lowest levels, our unsung heroes of the post office are being targeted by perhaps the most sinister of all weapons: Anthrax. Enter now the gloves and the masks. Enter also general fear. Let us hope that the latter does not turn into panic, or their job will be complete and... Heaven help us... successful. This, we cannot allow. Therefore, ALC is encouraging its employees to use caution, wear gloves if you feel safer, and then move forward with life as if rising to this, our latest challenge, was a matter of second nature. The one item that we must keep in mind at

all times is that terrorists feed on our fear and panic. Let's not give them the edge.

Therefore, fight anxiety with caution. Educate yourself on the symptoms. Contact your physician if you must, and then help others follow this path. During our periodic security briefings, ALC will make every effort to bring its employees up to date on the latest developments and medical solutions to this dilemma, as they become available. On your part, try to concentrate on the bigger picture: the service to our country. We have a lot of work left to be done, and those who are trying to identify the perpetrators need your help now more than ever. Along these lines, report any anomalies to your FSO immediately and remain alert at all times. Any package that appears suspicious or unfamiliar to our every-day operations, merits special attention and must be isolated at once. ALC has designated a special receptacle near the photocopy machine where all suspicious packages must be deposited daily. Whenever possible, do not accept deliveries from messengers or other individuals, unless "expected deliveries" are announced at the front desk by the recipients. Any other delivery must be held, along with the individual delivering the goods or packages, at the front desk until the FSO has had a chance to meet with the individual and examine the package. Naturally, these packages must not be opened until it has been deemed safe to do so by appropriate security personnel. This simple procedure can help all of us eliminate concerns and enhance safety.



## New Video Technology



Nearly a year after introducing its revolutionary Multilingual Digital Video Disc technology to the market, ALC now incorporates IDVD or Interactive Digital Video Disc to the package. This service, ideal for training and corporate presentations, incorporates the added advantage of high compression for professional broadcasting over digital cable, or continuously over the Internet. Imagine being able to select not only the program, but also the language (or languages, depending on the type of equipment that you may have, since ALC can furnish this service in more than 65 foreign languages) that you wish to listen to, either from your personal computer or directly from your television set. IDVD technology incorporates portability and enhances resolution for training and corporate video presentations.

IDVD also allows the user to introduce audience participation and can be adapted to respond to touch-sensitive screens for use in kiosks or trade shows. As digital technology becomes more user friendly, ALC continues to seek innovative ways to provide high-quality, broadcast video and audio to the public and private sectors alike. For a

demonstration, please contact our Video Division at (301) 881-8884, or e-mail to: [marketing@alcinc.com](mailto:marketing@alcinc.com).



## Multi-lingual Web Development



Although ALC has been providing multilingual web development services for quite some time, our own web site lacked some of the very same services that we offer: multiple languages. Well, that is not the case any longer, starting this month, our corporate web site can be viewed in Spanish, French, Chinese, Russian, and Arabic. More languages are under way. This comes as a result of the company's global coverage which now spans six countries and numerous languages and dialects. While surfing our new web site, make sure that you download our corporate brochure electronically (PDF) which is now being offered to customers in multiple languages as well. However, if you prefer to receive it on CD-ROM or DVD, send us your request via e-mail and we'll have it out to you within a week. As of January, 2002, ALC will incorporate corporate video presentations in its web site, as well as on-demand video

streaming directly from its ALC Video web site. For more information, contact our Web Developer at (301) 881-8884, or e-mail to: [yueming@alcinc.com](mailto:yueming@alcinc.com) or [marketing@alcinc.com](mailto:marketing@alcinc.com).



## Frequently Asked Questions

How come you press harder on a remote-control when you know the battery is dead?

*(For the same reason we speak louder to a foreigner when we think he/she does not understand English)*

Why are they called buildings, when they're already finished?

*(Because we cannot called them "builds")*

Why does sour cream have an expiration date?

*(For the same reason that hot dogs comes in packages of 10, but buns in in packages of 8)*

Why do banks charge you "insufficient funds fees" on money they already know you don't have?

*(It's all psychological... they hope that one day you'll turn honest on them)*

When two airplanes almost collide, why do they call it a near miss?

*(Absolutely a legitimate question. They should call it, appropriately, a near hit)*

Why do scientists call it research when they are looking for something new?

*(Because they should have found it by now)*

Do infants have as much fun in their infancy as adults do in adultery?

*(Most certainly not)*

If "CON" is the opposite of "PRO," then what is the opposite of PROGRESS?

*(Why... CONGRESS, of course)*

Whose cruel idea was it for the word LISP to have an "s" in it?

*(Our competitors!)*



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