



The IGUANA



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June 27, 2003

New program offers online family support

In collaboration with Office of the Secretary of Defense, effective June 1st, United States Southern Command has been integrated into an OSD-sponsored employee resource test program called MilitaryOneSource.

MilitaryOneSource is a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week service that provides our military members and families access to information on personal support, referrals to military and community services, articles, newsletters, and confidential consultation.

This program will help fill the gap where Family Support Centers do not exist and will augment Family Support Center services where they do exist.

Phones are answered by a qualified staff of degreed, credentialed consultants and specialized research teams and there is also a Spanish language line.

Other organizations that have already been part of this valuable program include the Marine Corps, Pacific Command, and European Command.

This innovative benefit is designed to provide around-the-clock, 365 days a year assistance with all issues of everyday life. In many ways, MilitaryOneSource is a virtual Family Support/Services Center.

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Photo by Spc. Chuck Wagner

Never forgotten

Soldiers bow their heads during a prayer June 10 at the dedication of a marble memorial for five soldiers who died in a Black Hawk crash last year. See photos and story on page 4.

Soto Cano pursues SECDEF's safety goal

By Spc. Chuck Wagner
Editor

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is asking service members to work and play safer. Soto Cano has a role to play in Rumsfeld's challenge to improve the military's accident record.

In a May 19 memorandum sent to all the services, Rumsfeld said:

World-class organizations do not tolerate preventable accidents. Our accident rates have increased recently, and we need to turn this situation around. I challenge all of you to reduce the number of mishaps and accident rates by at least 50 percent in the next two years.

Overall, safety rates on Soto Cano are good. The helicopter crash last December — which caused five casualties —

“swayed” otherwise positive safety statistics, said Joint Task Force-Bravo safety officer Mike Morales.

He says the greatest safety oversights on post involve driving, sports, and heat injuries.

By far, driving presents the greatest potential threat to people.

“People have to be extremely careful driving outside the gates. It is not like driving in the United States,” Morales said. “Many Hondurans don't follow the same driving standards, like using turn signals, stopping at stop signs, or using driving etiquette many Americans are used to.”

The different driving styles are exacerbated by poor road conditions, the precarious curves in roads running across the mountains, and the habit of Hon-

duran buses and trucks to pass on blind curves, he said.

“It's important that people drive defensively,” said Morales.

“They need to try and think about what other drivers or other people might do.” He cited the example of a recent accident in which a Honduran individual stepped in front of a Soto Cano van, killing himself.

Sports injuries occur most often when people are too ambitious about joining new activities.

“We have a great sports program here. But it's important that people condition their bodies before taking part in everything that comes up,” Morales said.

The region's tropical climate can also take a toll on people.

Drinking a lot of water is the most important preventative, Morales said.

Heat injuries are most common among newly-arrived personnel. Acclimatizing the body can take two to three weeks,

Morales said. Supervisors should pay close attention that new personnel drink water and don't overstrain their bodies before they are conditioned to the environment.

During off-duty hours, it's important that people pay attention to recreational safety, especially around water. Drink-



See Goal page 2





Chaplain describes steps for seeking help

By Chaplain (Capt.) Tommy Vaughn
Joint Task Force-Bravo command chaplain

There are times in life when we all need help. Unfortunately, most of us refuse to ask for it.

Some of us are too proud to admit our need. Some feel overwhelmed and don't know where to turn to for help. For others, it's much more serious.

Many people in this world have a disease such as cancer or AIDS present in their bodies and they don't even know it. Unless it's discovered and treated in time, death will occur.

Romans 3:23 states, "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Sin is death present in our bodies and, unless discovered and treated in time, eternal death is certain.

So what should you do to get the help that you need?

First, believe what you hear about Jesus Christ. Not what the world perceives the truth to be, but what the Bible clearly states.

After WWII, a general and his young lieutenant boarded a train in England. The only seats left were across from a beautiful young lady and her grandmother. The general and the young lieutenant sat facing the women.

As the train went through a long tunnel, there was total darkness for about ten seconds. In the silence of the moment, those on the train heard two things: a kiss and a slap. Everyone on the train had his or her own perception of what happened.

The young lady thought, "I'm flattered that the lieutenant kissed me, but embarrassed that Grandmother hit him!"

The grandmother thought, "I'm aggravated that the young man kissed my granddaughter, but I'm proud she had the courage to retaliate!"

The general sat there, thinking to himself, "My lieutenant showed a lot of guts in kissing that girl, but why did she slap me by mistake?"

The lieutenant was the only one who

The Chaplain's Corner

really knew what happened. In that brief moment of darkness he had the opportunity to kiss a pretty girl and slap his general!

Our sinful nature listens for answers to meet what we perceive to be our greatest need (happiness, possessions, to get out of here).

These things are temporary. Jesus is the answer to your true need.

Second, acknowledge your need. This is so difficult in a society geared toward self-dependency.

We want to handle everything ourselves without admitting to anyone that we need help.

We're like my daughter Jessica (now 17) when she was two. You just simply couldn't help her do anything. If my wife or I tried to help her pour a drink, she would stomp her foot and yell, "Me do it!"

You and I must admit that we need help AND confess that need before others. Romans 10:9 says, "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Third, persist in seeking help. A baby was crying during a long flight several years ago.

The mother tried to calm the child, but nothing worked. Finally, Colonel Sanders, the founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken, asked if he could hold the baby and gently rocked her to sleep.

The plane's cabin became quiet. When Sanders returned to his seat some-

one said, "We appreciate what you did for us." Sanders replied, "I didn't do it for us. I did it for the baby."

The people on that plane were more concerned about their own desires than the baby's needs. That's so much like the world today.

"Forget the messages on sin and repentance chaplain! Just help us feel better and get through this!" God's Word gives hope and encouragement, but it also brings about conviction and demands repentance. If you want true peace, then you must persist in calling upon God.

Finally, eliminate obstacles and hindrances in your life. Has anything ever hindered you or proven to be an obstacle? A little boy named Tom had trouble pronouncing the letter "R" in elementary school, so his teacher gave him this sentence to practice: "Robert gave Richard a rap in the rib for roasting the rabbit so rare."

A few days later, the teacher asked him to say the sentence for her. Tom rattled it off like this: "Bob gave Dick a poke in the side for not cooking the bunny enough."

Just as Tom evaded the letter "R" because it hin-

dered him, so some of you evade the subject of sin. You don't want to talk about it because then you'd have to deal with it.

Instead, you want God to overlook your sin and bless you anyway. It's time to eliminate the things that hinder you.

If you need someone to talk to, contact Chaplain (Capt.) Tommy Vaughn, JTF-Bravo command chaplain, at 6844 or 6845.

SUBMISSIONS

The Iguana is always looking for submissions. Any articles, photos or letters to be submitted to *The Iguana* should be sent to the PAO at charles.wagner@jtfb.southcom.mil or delivered to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. D-06. If you have questions about possible submissions call ext. 4150 or 4676 to talk to the editor.

The IGUANA

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Online

From front page

Services offered by MilitaryOneSource include:

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.

Free booklets, audio recordings, and other materials to help you get answers in the format you want.

Referrals to resources, services, and support in your community. (Please keep in mind that working Latin American community issues will be new for this program.)

You can access MilitaryOneSource by phone or via the internet as noted below:

Toll free from US:
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800-346-9188

Web log-in User ID /Password:
southern/command

Website address:
www.militaryonesource.com
(Material contributed by J-1.)

Goal

From front page

ing while swimming or engaging in other water activities is dangerous.

"Long weekends really concern us," said Morales, who added personnel become lax in maintaining safety when they become overly-

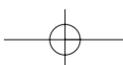
comfortable in new surroundings.

"For JTF-B to be successful in its mission, leaders must take the time to ensure safety and risk management are all integral parts of all plans and missions," Morales said.

"Effective leaders will not allow their subordinates to cut corners,

take unnecessary risks, or ignore potential hazards."

"We are very good at doing risk assessment for dangerous things. It's the little things we do frequently where we usually commit our mistakes. Things like driving to Tegucigalpa or going to the range," he said.





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News

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Briggs takes command of AFFOR

By 1st Lt. Rob Goza
Public Affairs Director

Lt. Col. Jack L. Briggs II took command of AFFOR in a ceremony held under the pavilion at the Soto Cano Air Base fire department June 14.

Lt. Col. Thomas S. Dean handed over the guidon to symbolize relinquishing command of the squadron.

Dean told the assembled crowd that when he was selected as AFFOR commander by Lt. Gen. Tom Hobbins, 12th Air Force and US Southern Command Air Forces Commander, he was given two marching orders.

"One was to keep the Air Force blue in this joint environment, the second was to rebuild the relationship AFFOR has with our sister services. Col. Giles, please inform Gen. Hobbins' mission completed." Dean went on to add that those orders could not have been completed without the leaders and professionalism of the Air Force Forces and their sister services.

Joint Task Force Bravo Commander Col. Raymond Thomas described Dean's accomplishments and that as a consummate leader, "Dean set the standard of excellence in all endeavors. He has maintained a laser-like focus on two things: mission success and the welfare of his

people... He was the consummate leader."

Thomas, in welcoming Briggs, said "Lt. Col. Jack Briggs comes to us with an exceptional record of excellence in the toughest duty positions the United States Air Force has to offer, including multiple tours of combat at the tip of the spear." Thomas went on to say that Briggs had been "specially selected for this command, is the right man for the job, and we have big expectations for him."

Briggs arrives from the 49th Operations Group, where he served as an F-17A pilot and the assistant deputy commander at Holloman AFB, N.M.

Briggs has previously served in several squadron and wing leadership positions including chief of wing safety, wing weapons officer, assistant operations officer, instructor pilot and was the first Olmsted scholar to the Republic of Hungary. He has held several NATO level staff positions, including advisor to the Combined Forces Air Component commander during Operation Allied Force.

Briggs is a command pilot with over 2,500 flying hours in three dif-

ferent aircraft and has over 99 combat sorties in Operations Desert Storm, Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

"The trust to lead the 612th mission, people and resources bestowed upon me by Lt. Gen. Hobbins, Col. Thomas and Col. Giles will inspire me to do my best every day. JTF-B has a storied past and

bright future with the 612th Air Base Squadron playing a significant role in the accomplishment of that mission. That mission here at Soto Cano and in this area of responsibility will serve as the flag on the hill we march towards as one part of the joint team," Briggs said.

Dean goes to serve at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.



Photos by Martin Chahin

Top right, Lt. Col. Jack Briggs receives the AFFOR guidon from Col. Raymond Thomas while Lt. Col. Thomas Dean, awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, fourth oak leaf cluster, for his service as AFFOR commander, looks on. Top left, AFFOR airmen, led by Maj. Douglas A. Opersteyn with Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Desilet serving as guidon bearer, stand at attention during the reading of the orders of the change of command. Left, the Honor Guard ceremonially dips the flags of individual services during the singing of the U.S. National Anthem by Army Staff Sgt. Phyllis L. Logan following the Honduran National Anthem, sang by Honduran Flight Cadet Emanuel Alvarado Diaz.





Joint Security Forces Army Staff Sgt. Shawanda Williams and Marine 1st Lt. Paul Stubbs prepare the memorial before services June 13. Below, security forces members fire off a 21-gun salute for Staff Sgt. Randall Harris.



Never F

Security forces remember comrade

By Spc. Chuck Wagner
Editor

Joint Security Forces stood in a blistering morning sun June 13 as the shadow of a cross slowly crept toward the formation.

Those in the same line of duty as Staff Sgt. Randall Harris gathered for a memorial service exactly 16 years after he was killed along Soto Cano Air Base's perimeter.

Military police erected a white cross in the spot where a deserting Honduran military policeman shot him with a stolen M-16.

He was 34 years old at the time, with a wife and three children.

"We never want to forget one of our fallen comrades. When

you are a soldier you put your life on the line every day. That's especially true of military police. As an MP, we take it to heart," said Joint Security Forces Staff Sgt. Shawanda Williams.

The ceremony included a moment of silence, followed by three rifle volleys that cracked through the valley. A wreath was laid on the memorial for the sergeant, who had served in the Army for nine years.

"Today, a lonely cross stands in tribute to him at a spot where he gave his life. Each time you pass the cross, whether on duty or doing PT, I urge you to take a moment to reflect on the sacrifice Staff Sgt. Harris made that night for his unit and country," said Maj. Tracey Meck, security forces commander.



In blistering heat, Joint Security Forces members stand before fallen comrade Staff Sgt. Randall Harris, who was killed in the line of duty on Soto Cano Air Base June 13, 1987.

Photos by Spc. Chuck Wagner





"May this memorial service be a source of healing, strength and hope for each of us."

-Chaplain Tom Vaughn

Visitors to the monument reflected on the lives lost in the December, 2002 helicopter crash. Below, the memorial is dark green marble etched with golden lettering and a Black Hawk's image.

Photos by Spc. Chuck Wagner

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Marbled marker captures memories of 5 soldiers

By Spc. Chuck Wagner
Editor

They gathered under an overcast sky, standing in a half circle before a large marble block outside the 1-228th Air Regiment Battalion Headquarters. When the sun finally poked through the clouds, it lit up golden words etched into the shiny surface.

Who else but I have seen the unclaimed peaks

The rainbow's secret

The real reason birds sing

Because I fly I envy no man on earth

They came in uniform, in soiled jeans, in the clothes they wore to work June 10, because it was the end of another duty day at Soto Cano Air Base.

They came to reflect over a monument built to remember five soldiers who died in a Black Hawk helicopter crash Dec. 11, 2002.

After half a year's efforts, the memorial is finished that honors the memories of the Talon 14 crew: Chief warrant officers Maurice Lammie and Jonathan Helman, Sgt. First Class Anthony Sieng, and Sgts. Luke DeGroff, and Bryan Abercrombie.

Chaplain (Capt.) Thomas Vaughn reminded the group the crew died pursuing a great passion for fly-

ing, and defending their love for country and family.

The unmoveable block stands in contrast to the wooden building behind it. The dark green marble is veined by a lighter shade of green. The image of a Black Hawk helicopter is etched above the names.

It feels as permanent as one of the Mayan sculptures in Copan, only it remembers a tragic event some of those in attendance helped clean up.

Several on-lookers expressed awe with the memorial, which seems to shift colors with changes in sunlight.

Yet the soldiers, airmen, and civilians weren't there to admire the artistry of Tegucigalpan artist Juan Carlos Sarmiento.

1-228th Commander Lt. Col. Peri Anest summed up the mood when he said the dedication was not about what is etched in stone, but what is held in the heart.

Helman's wife, Stacey, flew in from her home in Pennsylvania to attend the dedication.

"May this memorial service be a source of healing, strength and hope for each of us," said Vaughn during prayer.

The memorial was mostly paid for through dona-



tions that flowed in from every organization on base, said 1-228th Capt. Christopher Cisneros, who along with Capt. Marina Cobbs spearheaded the memorial project.

"We can thank everyone in Joint Task Force-Bravo who contributed. A lot of the people who helped aren't here at Soto Cano anymore, but they did their part and hopefully word gets back to them about how much it is appreciated and what it helped bring about. It turned out gorgeous," said Cisneros.

"This is not so much about us, as it is about the families. It is to show them their sons, fathers, or brothers didn't pass away unremembered. They didn't die in vain," he added.

After the Chaplain's prayers, and Anest's short, powerful remarks, participants remained a few minutes around the block of marble. Birds squawked nearby, and clouds covered the sun again. Then they departed – as the Chaplain requested – to "push ahead with your lives and the mission at hand."





Contractors awarded for service

Some of Joint Task Force-Bravo's contracted employees were recognized June 12 in a ceremony held at the American Embassy in Tegucigalpa. U.S. Ambassador to Honduras Larry Palmer said "Joint Task Force-Bravo helps us in so many ways. It makes us strong in so many ways. The employees sometimes go unrecognized, so it's nice to have this many awarded here today."



Nelly O. de Cuellar



Reina I. Zuniga



Doris L. Santos



Jose Cecilio Cruz



Ricardo Aviles



Sandra G. Zambrano



Carolina Sumar



Rosanna de Romero



Janet Argentina Zelaya



Elvia Mercedes Machado



Berilda Medina



Wendy Gomez



Rita G. Chahin



Magda L. Andino



Maria E. Bulnes

Not pictured:
Miguel A. Alvarado
Guillermo Saenz
Carlos Duron





Photos by Spc. Chuck Wagner

Birthday bash in BDUs

Above, soldiers re-take the Army oath during the Army's birthday party held in the Soto Cano Air Base theater. The Army was first activated June 14, 1775 – 228 years ago. Right, ARFOR Command Sgt. Maj. Castlo Rivers cuts a birthday cake made by the dining facility. The first pieces were given to the youngest and oldest ARFOR soldiers on base, Spc. Daryl Sizemore and Chief Warrant Officer Robin Maxwell.

MARFORSOUTH deputy commander visits JTF-Bravo, meets with troops



Above and right, Brig. Gen. Samuel Helland, MARFORSOUTH deputy commander, addresses Marines assigned to Joint Security Forces at the dining facility during his visit to JTF-Bravo June 19.

MWR Craft Fair will be held July 2-3 at the Oasis

What do mahogany chests, pewter dishes, linen tablecloths, leather bags, and cigars all have in common?

They are just a few of the many Honduran and Guatemalan products available during the MWR Craft Fair on July 2-3.

This first-ever MWR event will take place at the Oasis from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. In addition to at least 17 on and off-base vendors, the Armed Forces Entertainment (AFE) country group, "Shellie Martin" will be performing from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. both days.

The Dining Facility will also have their special BBQ

lunch at the Oasis from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. June 2.

This is a perfect opportunity to get those last-minute items before leaving Honduras, check out what is available in Honduras if you just arrived, or get your Christmas shopping done early. So make plans now to shop the MWR Crafts Fair at the Oasis. See you there!





Future firefighters tour Soto Cano's fire station



A group of 35 future firefighters from Tegucigalpa toured the Soto Cano fire station June 22. The Air Force firefighters demonstrated Hazardous Materials Response, Rescue Tools and Equipment, an Aircraft Crash Truck as well as giving the children a tour of the fire station.



Above, future fighters practice carrying one another in a Stokes litter. Right, a future firefighter whose head and neck have been immobilized for transport in a Stokes litter. Left, Staff Sgt. Jon Mills shows future firefighters how to operate a fire hose while Staff Sgt. Daryl Hogan gives advice.



Left, Humo the Fire Dog plays in the spray from a fire hose operated by future firefighters. Above, Humo, with a water bottle in his mouth, plays keep away with the young firefighters.

Photos by 1st Lt. Rob Goza



Tech. Sgt. Anthony Rodriguez, left, and Airman 1st Class Christopher Stokes, right, help future firefighters don personal protective clothing. Above, future firefighters and firefighters from the Soto Cano fire department, B Shift Operations Flight, gather in front of Crash-4, a rescue firefighting vehicle.

