

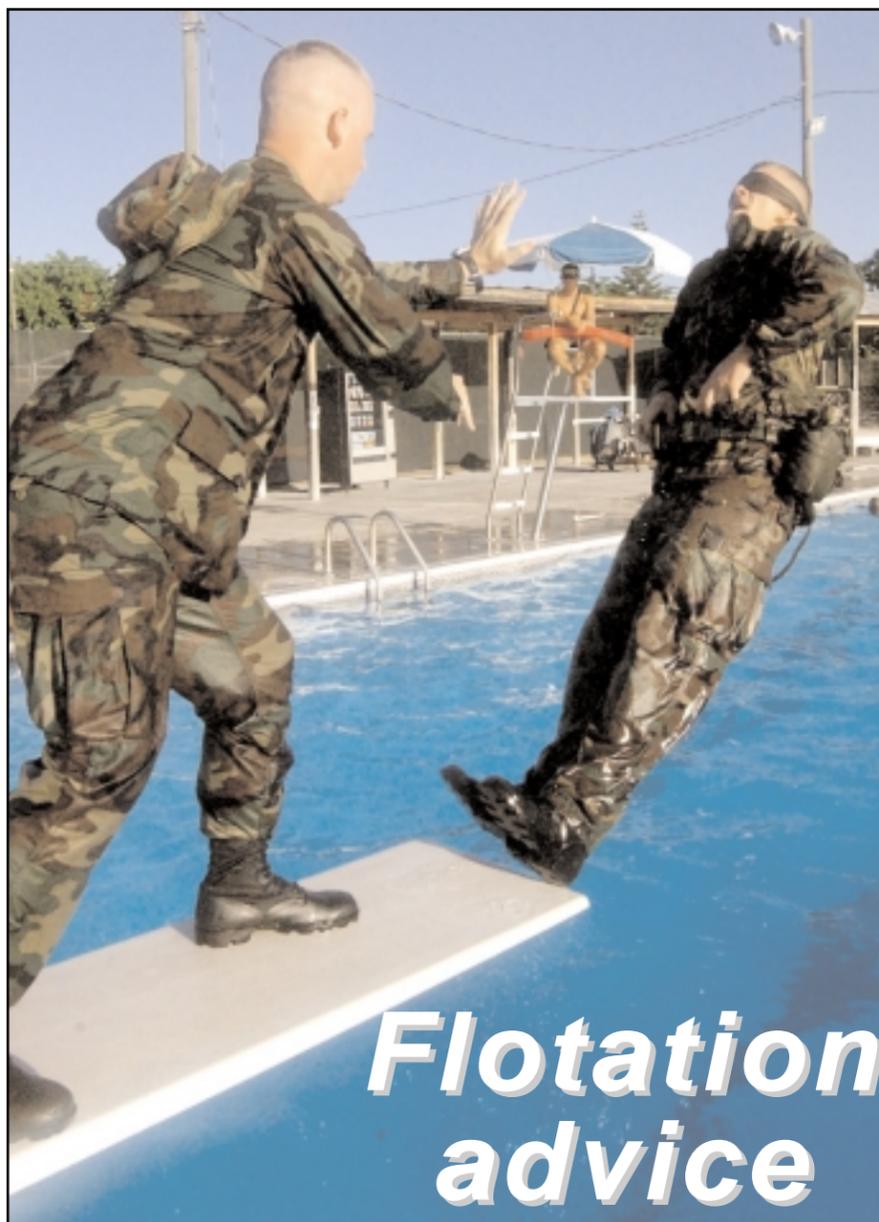


# The IGUANA



Volume 15, No. 14

July 11, 2003



Left, Spc. Ginny Akins discovers that filling her uniform with air helps her stay afloat in the pool.



Photos by Spc. Chuck Wagner

## Search and rescue team takes dip

Search and rescue team members completed a series of training drills in the Soto Cano Air Base pool July 1. Left, Capt. Thomas Swint pushes a blindfolded Spc. Kurt Madzunovic into the water. Trainees were told to take off load bearing equipment while submerged under water. Above, during another drill, SAR team members floated for 15 minutes weighted down with uniform and boots. The day's training included other drills at the rappel tower and on the flightline. Capt. Kimberly Jensen, SAR team commander, said the new training program focuses on the essentials of search and rescue, "the crawl, walk, run theory."

# 900 airmen face involuntary retraining

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – More than 900 airmen may be involuntarily moved to shortage career skills starting July 7, according to Air Force Personnel Center officials here.

Although 450 airmen volunteered to change career fields during the initial phase of this year's noncommissioned officer retraining program, it was not enough.

Around the second week of July, officials will begin notifying airmen selected as most vulnerable to retrain. They will ask the airmen to submit their choices of shortage career fields they would most like to retrain in to as part of the program's Phase II. The second phase runs through Aug. 15.

"This phase of the retraining program is necessary to help meet the needs of the Air Force by putting airmen where they are needed most," said Chief Master Sgt. Alvin Diaz, chief of the skills management branch here.

Under Phase II, not everyone is guaranteed his or her first choice. Major commands continue to accept volunteer applications.

Personnel officials encourage all eligible NCOs to also consider special-duty assignments such as recruiting, military training instructors, first sergeant duty or professional military education instructor.

"There's still time for those who have been identified for possible retraining to volunteer," said Diaz. "It's up to each airman, but if it were me, I'd think having control over my career would be a priority and help reduce the stress of not knowing whether or not I will get that notification asking me to make a selection – I'd volunteer."

The retraining program is designed to help balance

the enlisted force by moving NCOs in specialties with surpluses to those with shortages. In April, the Air

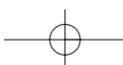
Force said it needed about 1,400 airmen to change careers.

Factors such as retention rates and new promotions have an effect on how many airmen will finally be retrained and where they will be needed, said Diaz.

"But unless a large number suddenly step up and volunteer, we'll be looking for another 900 or so," he said.

Vulnerability listings by grade and Air Force specialty code will be updated online weekly on the Air Force Personnel Center's Web site at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/Retraining/retraining.htm>

Military personnel flights have more details on the program.





# Falling into, and getting out, of sin

By Chaplain Tommy Vaughn  
Soto Cano Chapel

When I was in the 7th grade, my best friend's sister, Tammy, had a habit of picking on me. She was only teasing, but she had a tendency to keep on and on. One day, I decided to make her stop instead of just ignoring her. After all, I was a Christian and much more "mature" than she was. I wanted to show everyone that I was in control.

**Problem**—Tammy wouldn't cooperate. She just increased the amount of teasing and picking. I told her if she didn't leave me alone, I was going to "whop" her upside the head (I was 12 years old, a true gentleman and had no intention of hitting her. I was bluffing, hoping to persuade her to stop).

Did she back down? No! She got worse and started yelling at me and pushing me. I turned my back on her and warned her again to back off or else. Then I turned around suddenly and took a swing at her (just to scare her). Bigger problem—Tammy walked into my fist! I didn't mean to hit her! Honest! I just wanted to scare her and make her leave me alone!

Instead, my fist connected with her nose. She got this surprised, painful look on her face and then she started to beat the living daylights out of me! Fortunately, a teacher showed up and saved me.

As I licked my wounds, I wondered, "How did I end up here?" Instead of showing I was mature and in control, my friends were teasing me for "fighting" with a girl and losing! Have you ever found yourself suffering from the consequences of sin and wondered, "How did I get here?" You never intended to fall into sin, but there you are. How do you keep from falling into sin when temptation comes knocking at your door?

**First, keep your eyes on God.** When faced with most

## The Chaplain's Corner

decisions, our temptation is to look with human sight rather than spiritual sight. We take our eyes off God and choose what "looks" best for us rather than seeking His will through prayer. But appearances can be deceiving. Every time you take your eyes off God, you're actually moving away from God and toward sin. Don't be fooled by what you see. Keep your eyes on God.

**Second, remain separate from the world.** We stand and preach against the "worst" of sins around us, then try to justify our "petty" sins as if there were a scale. Sin is sin! Joining ourselves to the world always results in compromise and sin. Jesus said we are to be "in" this world, not "of" this world.

**Third, consistently take a stand for God.** You don't have to sin to destroy your witness. You just have to live in the midst of it and accept it as okay for everyone else around you. It's called the accommodation factor (don't rock the boat). Compromise does not make it right!

I know military life can be rough. It means dealing with physical and emotional stress on a daily basis. Unfortunately, it also means you're subjected to profanity, vulgar jokes, drinking, and crude behavior. So how do you deal with all of this? Consider the source. The world around you is made up of sinners. That doesn't mean you have to accept what they do as okay or participate in it. Don't compromise God's standards simply to make you or them feel comfortable. Consistently take a stand for God.

**Fourth, ask God to pull you away from the temptation and save you from sin.** Many of you have become so

comfortable with your surroundings that it has become "home." You've become desensitized and are no longer bothered by sin. Though I put up with profanity every day, I'm thankful that after 21 years of military service, it still bothers me.

Only the grace of God can pull you away from the sin and sinful influences in your life. You're not strong enough to do it by yourself. You need God to pull you out and save you.

**Finally, let your light shine.** Failure to live a godly life and let your light shine before your children will impact their lives. What price will your family pay due to your sins or your silence?

When I was a child, my dad would sometimes wake me in the middle of the night to repair a busted water line or work on a frozen water pump. I remember bundling up in warm clothes, then following my dad into the woods to the watershed. The further we went, the darker it got until finally I couldn't see the back porch light anymore. I had to depend upon the flashlight my dad was carrying to see. After we completed the work, I stayed close to my father's side until we reached the edge of the wood line. Once there, I could see the porch light clearly and knew the way home. My dad was a light in my personal world, helping me to see when I was afraid or when I didn't know exactly where to go.

Jesus Christ came into this world to be our light, to help us to see clearly the right path, knowing that we were already lost. He came to provide the way of escape from sin. He came to show us the way home.

If you've fallen to temptation and are still struggling with areas of sin in your life, turn back to Jesus. He is the way back home and He's left the light burning.

If you need someone to talk to, contact Chaplain (Capt.) Tommy Vaughn, JTF-B Command Chaplain, at ext.6844 or 6845.

## Deployed mom defends choice against critic

By Pfc. Christina Carde  
Freedom Watch

BAGRAM, Afghanistan—While sitting at my desk writing my daily article for the Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper for soldiers in Afghanistan, my co-worker casually turned to me and suggested that I type my name in the Yahoo search engine to see all of the articles I've written that have been posted on the Internet.

"Agape News Press - The case of Private Christina," read one of the sites on the page. Curious, I clicked on it to see what had been printed about me. I received the shock of a lifetime.

Cort Kirkwood, a journalist and editor of The Daily News Record in Harrisonburg, Va., had read an article about me run by the Department of Defense Web news site, Defend America, titled "A Mom's Mission" and had decided to rip it to shreds. He called me everything from an unfit mother for leaving my son to go off to war to a sellout for enlisting in the Army for "30 pieces of silver," a.k.a., the Montgomery G.I. Bill.

As I read the article, I realized this was not only an attack on my 3-year-old son and me, but on all mothers deployed in the service of their country.

However, since Mr. Kirkwood believes he is the subject-matter expert on the lives of women in the military he has never met or spoken to, I thought I would take the time to broaden his horizons using a few points he made in his article.

"Patriotism ain't the real reason Pfc. Christina signed up (for the Army). She enlisted for college benefits and to improve her family's lot in life, she enlisted for 30 pieces of silver."

Before I joined the Army, my son and I were living in one of the worst sections in the New York City area, where getting your next drug fix took nothing more than walking across the street or knocking on the neighbor's door. Working up to 60 hours a week was just barely paying the bills, and my 2-year-old son could have walked out the door at any time and been shot during a drive-by.

I suppose I could have taken the alternate route and applied for public assistance, so upstanding citizens like Mr. Kirkwood could pay my bills for me, but I decided to get out of the rut I was in on my own and joined the service. Now my son lives in a neighborhood where you can hear a pin drop and lights are out by 9 p.m.

"Who are the military morons who

think this is a good idea (to allow mothers to deploy overseas)?"

When I came to this portion of the article, I could do nothing but sit back and laugh at the irony of his statement. The same "military morons" who give American women a chance to serve their country and provide for their families, are the same who fight and die alongside many of these women in today's combat operations.

At least these mothers can return home with a sense of pride and accomplishment and be able to tell their children that they had a part in defending their country.

"Perhaps the would-be MacArthurs see nothing wrong with a mother dumping on her young son," was the final statement that stood out for me in the article.

Like many other deployed parents out here, I haven't seen my son in six months. However, I know my son is in a safe place with everything he needs. That is the way things should be, and if I have to deploy in search of every Bin Laden and Hussein on the planet to keep it that way, then so be it.

(Editor's note: Pfc. Christina Carde is a member of the 11th Public Affairs Detachment currently in Afghanistan.)

The  
**IGUANA**



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News

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# Changing of the guard: Briar takes JSF command

By 1st Lt. Rob Goza  
Public Affairs Director

Maj. David P. Briar took command of Joint Security Forces in a ceremony held under the pavilion at the Soto Cano Air Base fire department June 23.

Maj. Tracey Meck handed over the guidon to symbolize relinquishing command of the squadron.

Meck told the assembled crowd that through teamwork with local Honduran security agencies "we have ensured the security of Hondurans and U.S. personnel alike," and added that it was "a distinct honor and a unique privilege to work in a unit comprised of three different services."

Meck went on to add "I would like to thank the embassy commanders, J-Staff directors and senior enlisted for their support and friendship over the past year. Mostly I would like to thank the airmen, soldiers and the Marines of the Joint Security Force, both past and present."

Joint Task Force Bravo Commander Col. Raymond Thomas characterized Meck's accomplishments as a commander as "absolutely relentless in pursuit of excellence in all endeavors. The security business is a zero-defect occupation, not a line of work where one is expected to learn from their mistakes. Tracy got it right the first time, every time. She is a consummate professional

who relinquishes this command having made it significantly better."

Thomas, in welcoming Briar said "Dave, enjoy this opportunity, which is the culmination of what you've been trained to do. Provide this organization with the guidance and leadership it deserves and it will never fail you."

Briar arrives from the Army's Command and General Staff Officer's Course at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and has served in several squadron and wing leadership positions including Operations Officer for the 20th Security Forces Squadron, Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, and as commander of the 14th Security Forces Squadron at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

From July to October 1991, Briar served as the team captain for Air Mobility Command's Peacekeeper Challenge Team.

"It is a real privilege and a unique honor to come and command in a joint environment," Briar said in accepting command.

Addressing his troops, Briar said "to the Marines, airmen and soldiers of Joint Security Forces, thanks for your hard work. I'm proud of all that you've accomplished over the last few months."

"I expect that we will continue to work hard and to complete our mission of protecting the people and resources

of JTF-Bravo with professionalism, courtesy and teamwork. I want to continue building on the successes of the past and look forward to the challenges

of the future," Briar said.

Meck goes to serve as an action officer at Air Force Security Forces Center, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.



Photos by Martin Chahin



Top right, Master Sgt. Daniel Guzman, Operations Chief, passes the guidon from Col. Raymond Thomas, Joint Task Force Bravo commander to Maj. David P. Briar, symbolizing the change of command. Above, Thomas awards outgoing commander Lt. Col. Tracey Meck with the Meritorious Service Medal, for her service as Joint Security Forces commander. Right, the U.S. National Anthem is sung by Army Staff Sgt. Phyllis L. Logan following the Honduran National Anthem, which was sung by Honduran Flight Cadet Emanuel Alvarado Diaz.





*Photos by Spc. Chuck Wagner*  
Dining facility employees Ramon Avila, left, and Henry Herrera unload dessert trays as they prepare to serve lunch to craft fair attendees. Below, Lilian Canales, left, and Natividad Machado grill steaks.

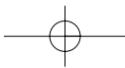


AFFOR Staff Sgt. Kenneth Lancaster browses through the selection of Central American goods.



Country music singer Shellie Martin performed from the Oasis Club's decks.





American arts and crafts at booths set up near the Oasis Club.



MEDEL Maj. Kimberly Lund looks over items for sale at a vendor's booth during the crafts fair.

# Crafty event

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation office organized a craft fair outside Soto Cano Air Base's Oasis Club July 2 and 3. Several vendors set up booths selling Central American arts and crafts. The base dining facility dished out lunch for those in attendance, while a country music band provided entertainment.





Photos by Spc. Chuck Wagner



## ARFOR organizes fun

Soldiers played sports and competed in races during ARFOR's organization day July 2. Above, Sgt. 1st Class William Brockington bounds to the hoop during team basketball competition. Right, Chino, the company mascot, uses all four during the three-legged race across Soto Cano's sports fields. Spc. James McBain, left, and Staff Sgt. James Russo, pull ahead in the race. Above right, Spc. Daryl Sizemore and Capt. Kimberly Jensen try to get in step.





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## News

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# Software speeds travel process

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – A new software program being tested by defense travel system officials will make arranging, paying and reimbursing official government travel a speedy, seamless and almost paperless process, according to officials.

A software program, called the “Enhanced Jefferson,” is transforming the way the Department of Defense does temporary-duty travel, said Army Col. Larry Schaefer, travel system director.

“The whole idea is that we are automating the TDY process for all of the Department of Defense,” he said.

The program allows the system to operate similar to many online travel Web sites by providing government travelers information for selecting airlines, rental cars and lodging.

In addition, Schaefer said it allows government travelers to complete their travel vouchers and compute costs of travel online from their workstation.

Using digital signatures for security, travelers can log onto a Web site and begin the authorization process. They select the type of travel, input departure and return dates, and make their travel arrangements, he said.

The system automatically calculates per diem rates, to include meals and incidental expenses based on the destination of travel, he said. Upon return, travelers can add additional expenses such as parking fees and mileage reimbursements.

Schaefer said that because the online version already has the traveler's information, “you can literally file a voucher within minutes.”

The program is an improvement on the paper process, which he said has been a cumbersome process that often times included “40 or 50 steps.” By comparison, the new process has just seven steps.

“Travelers will see that they get paid much quicker,” he said. “Instead of the cumbersome manual processes of today, that require some significant amount of time, everything is done automatically, and (it) saves time.”

The program is being tested at 20 pilot sites and awaiting final DOD approval before it can be used by all travelers, Schaefer said.



Photo by Spc. Chuck Wagner

## Pharmacy moved

Pharmacist Maj. John Steed talks with Lt. Col. Elizabeth Fudge-Morse recently at the relocated Soto Cano Air Base pharmacy. The pharmacy has been moved into building L00, just behind its previous location in building L31, since mid-June. The move is temporary, and allows construction to continue on an expanded medical clinic.

# Researchers combat ‘traveler’s trots’

By Staff Sgt. Elaine Aviles  
39th Wing Public Affairs

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey – Incirlik has many claims to fame, particularly during its support of operations Northern Watch and Enduring Freedom. While proud of their endeavors, most people would probably choose to do without one infamous part of Incirlik life – diarrhea.

Unfortunately for residents, Incirlik has a 10 to 15 times higher rate of traveler's diarrhea, known locally as the “Turkish Trots,” than anywhere else in the European theater.

“It's miserable,” said Penny Whaley, child development center program technician and a recent victim. “I felt really sick for about three days.”

Whaley missed a day of work, a common side effect of the illness.

“Diarrhea can have an enormous impact on the mission,” said Jim Johnston, Incirlik's diarrhea research coordinator. “It can render people incapable of carrying out their jobs.”

While a nuisance to some, for others diarrhea is much more serious. It is the No. 2 killer of children younger than 5 within developing countries and ranks fourth as a global cause of death, according to the World Health Organization.

The seriousness and frequency of diarrhea prompted base officials to contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta in 1998. In turn, CDC officials contacted Naval Medical Research Unit-3 in Cairo, Egypt, which oversees the area. They sent a team to Incirlik to evaluate the problem.

The team found the most common causes of diarrhea were the common germs that many travelers are exposed to in developing countries. This find led to further research studies by 39th Medical Group and Naval officials, including one this summer designed to determine the most effective treatment.

“Our goal is to find a better way to diagnose, prevent and treat diarrhea,” Johnston said. “We want to get people well and back to work as quickly as possible.”

Researchers timed the study to coincide with the summer, when the risk of diarrhea is at its peak. With the temperature rising, researchers are expecting diarrhea incidents to rise as well.

“June, July and August are when people are most susceptible to food-borne illnesses,” Johnston said. “The heat increases the growth rate of bacteria.”

While many may prefer to keep their illness under wraps, researchers are encouraging people to seek help.

“We'll analyze stool-sample results for specific organisms, and (people will) receive prompt treatment,” Johnston said. “We're trying to measure cures in a matter of hours rather than days. That's better than suffering for three to four days without treatment.”

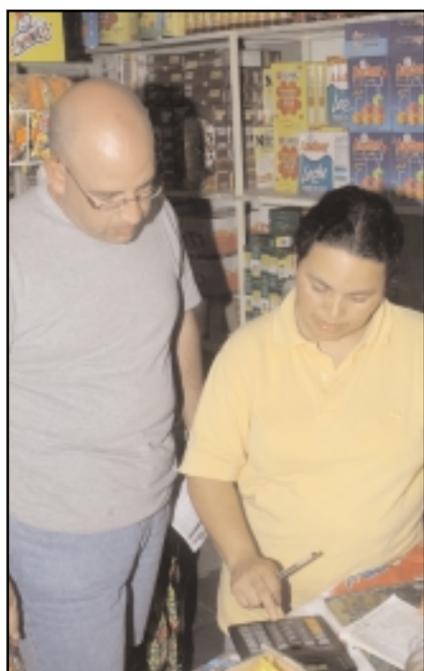
The study is open to active-duty members and civilians. Participants are asked to donate stool and blood samples twice in a seven-day period.

Although a stool donation may not top most people's list of favorite things to do, the study team is hoping to make it worthwhile. Participants are rewarded with direct access to medical care, \$25 up front and another \$25 upon completion.





# AFFOR lends helping hand to children at schools, orphanage, soup kitchen



AFFOR airmen visited Santa Ana elementary and secondary schools, Hogar Guadalupe orphanage, the Margarita Cook Home for Single Mothers, and Clementina's Soup Kitchen June 29. Airmen dispensed clothing, food, toys and candy to the orphanage and schools and delivered financial assistance to the soup kitchen. Top left, MSgt. Carlos Marrero hands out clothing, school supplies and toys. Above, Master Sgt. Robert Carroll serves a hamburger to a young girl. Above left, a little girl smiles with excitement after receiving toys. Center left, Marrero settles part of the grocery bill for the soup kitchen, with funds provided by Kid's Sake, a non-profit organization dedicated to feeding underprivileged children. Left, Clementina Martinez Lizardo stands with four children in the kitchen she uses to provide meals for 70 children each day. Bottom left, Maj. Douglas Opperstny plays patty-cake with a little girl. Below, AFFOR airmen play volleyball with girls from the Santa Ana secondary school.

Photos by 1st Lt Rob Goza

