



The IGUANA



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Scanning the skies



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Pfc. Philip Rasmussen fires a M-60D machine gun during aerial gunnery training Sept. 25. Rasmussen and other 1-228 soldiers fired the M-60D from the air, ground, and at night. See pages 4 and 5 for more details.



Transportation - Help Us Help You

By Capt. Paul Cornwell
J-4 Director

Here are some helpful instructions to assist those service members requiring official travel and individuals preparing to depart Soto Cano Air Base.

Official travel

Orders - Provide the official travel clerk with four copies of your orders 15 days prior to travel date, and if you have amendments, four copies of those as well.

Emergency Leave - Army must have a DA Form 31 with an Accounting Citation.

Air Force-must have an AF Form 92 with Accounting Citation.

Tickets - Tickets may be picked up 48 hours prior to departure. The reason there is a time limit at the pick up window is because of the large number of changes to itineraries that often occur.

Once a ticket is issued the process for canceling the ticket and recouping the costs is paperwork intensive. By issuing tickets 48 hours out, a great deal of additional work is avoided.

Cancellations / Changes - As soon as you know your travel times or dates need to be change or canceled, inform the official travel office.

Please notify your Transportation management office immediately of any change of plans, since there is a real danger of the service member having to purchase any tickets if they failed to either show for the aircraft or inform the TMO office in the case of a change to the itinerary.

This is for your financial protection, be careful.

Extra Baggage - Service members are authorized excess baggage only when stated on their orders.

The orders should also state the total number of excess baggage and the total weight allowed or the service member will be charged at the passenger terminal.

Service members should be prepared to pay for excess baggage at commercial airports. All receipts should be kept and filed

with your travel voucher.

Important Info - If you miss a commercial flight due to negligence, it is your financial responsibility to purchase a replacement ticket.

Notify the official travel clerk of necessary changes as soon as possible to allow plenty of reaction time. If your travel has been canceled you need to notify the travel office as soon as possible.

Personal Property

Packing out your personal property is the single largest portion of your PCS/TCS process.

In order to start this process out smoothly, you must make your pack out appointment 45 days in advance because the appointments fill up fast.

Right now the JPPSO office is booked solid for the next three weeks. Once you have your appointment, the next step is ensuring your orders are correct.

The JPPSO office can only authorize you to move what is on your orders, so check them closely to ensure you are authorized at least one of the following: household goods, unaccompanied baggage or hold baggage.

Then make sure the destination is correct. All shipments departing Soto Cano Air Base can only be sent to the destination transportation office indicated on your orders.

If any information is not correct on your orders, you will have to get amendments. In this case

you need to provide JPPSO copies of your original and amended orders.

Delivery - Deliveries are done Friday and Saturday. You must be in your room from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If you cannot be present to receive your shipment, you will need to have a Power of Attorney naming a specific individual to receive your shipment. That individual must be present during the delivery.

Pack out - Pack outs are done Monday-Thursday. You need to be in your room from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you cannot be present for your pack out, you will need to have a POA naming a specific individual to sign for your pack out.

You will need to provide the JPPSO with 10 copies of the power of attorney and that individual must be present during the pack out.

All items that were pre-packed by the service member must be opened so that the packers can see the contents.

Other Services

TMO also offers a variety of leisure services to include airline tickets, rental cars, and complete travel packages.

Please do not hesitate to contact the TMO/ JPPSO with any additional questions that you might have.

ITO and NCOIC: 4336
Official Travel: 4571
Leisure Travel: 4573



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

A JTF-Bravo service member books a trip at the transportation office.

TMO/JPPSO Contact Numbers

ITO and NCOIC: 4336

Official Travel: 4571

Leisure Travel: 4573

JPPSO: 4410/4803

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 james.wyllie@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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October 3, 2003

News

The IGUANA 3



Photos by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Happy Birthday Air Force

JTF-Bravo Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Raymundo Cancel and Airman 1st Class Elliott Slade cut a cake to celebrate the Air Force's 56th birthday Sept. 18. The Air Force originated in 1907 out of the Army Signal Corps' Aeronautical Division and officially became its own service on Sept. 18, 1947.

JSF celebrate birthdays in style

By Spc. James-Denton Wyllie
Editor

Members of the JTF-Bravo Joint Security Forces held an outdoor pig roast to celebrate the birthdays of several of their members Sept. 19.

The birthday members were also given presents, which came in the form of an "excused from duty" day.

The outdoor roast was more than just a chance for personnel to escape work for a few hours, said Air Force Staff Sgt. Joel Vidot, JSF. The event served two important purposes.

"People deserve to be recognized on their birthday," he said. "Plus, these events raise morale."

The pig weighed 160 pounds and was stuffed with another 20 pounds of vegetables. It was cooked over a 26-hour period by nine JSF members.

"It was a lot of work, but our people are worth it," said Vidot.

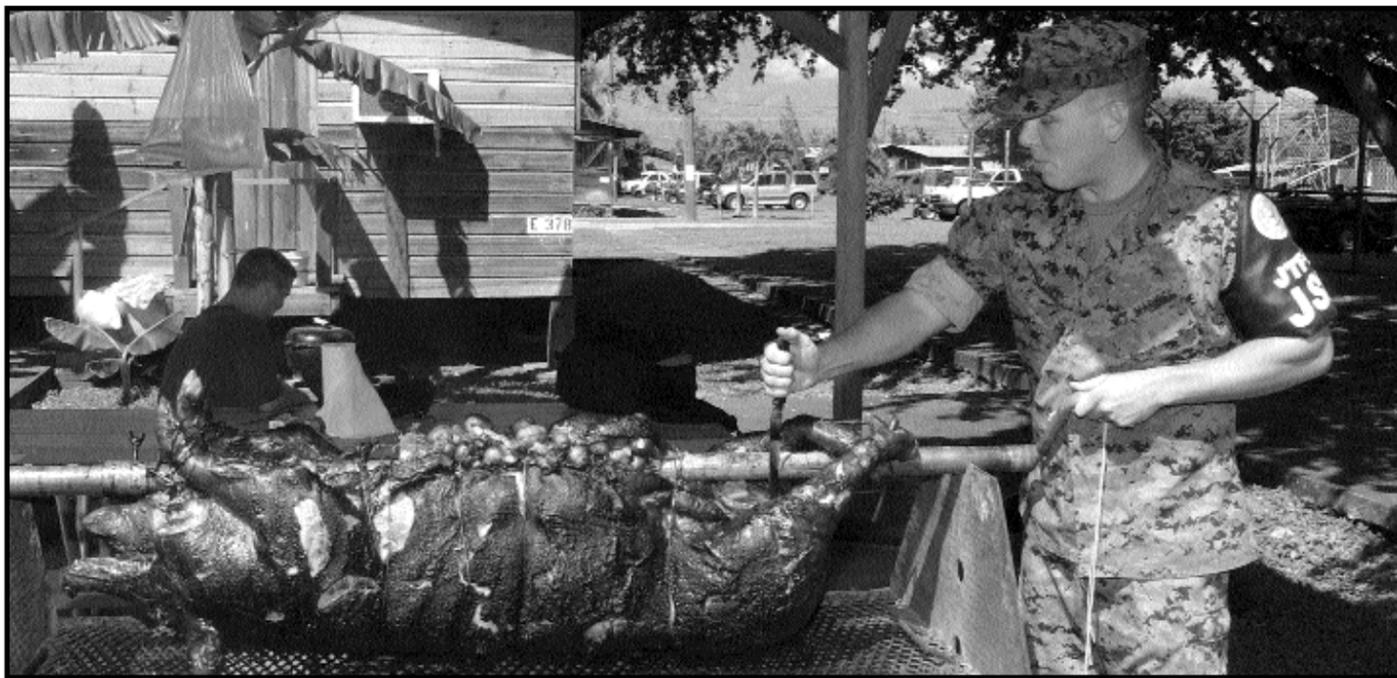


Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Sgt. Simon Phillips checks to see if a pig is ready to eat. JSF had the roast to celebrate the birthdays of several members.





Sgt. 1st Class Robin DiCarlo aims a M60-D machine gun out of the window of an airborne Blackhawk helicopter during aerial gunnery training Sept. 24.

Aerial G

1-228 hone machine gun skills at Zambrano range

Article and Photos

By Spc. James-Denton Wyllie
Editor

Sept. 24 was another day at Zambrano range for Pfc. Philip Rasmussen.

Rasmussen repeatedly looked through the sight post of his weapon, aimed at his assigned target, and fired. However, like a number of service members who go to ranges, his weapon misfired.

Pausing, Rasmussen leaned over his weapon to perform a function check. Below, the mountains of Honduras formed a green crisscross pattern.

"Nice view," he said.

Functions check complete, Rasmussen leaned back into his seat on the Blackhawk helicopter and continued to fire his M-60 machine gun from 400 feet in the air.

For Rasmussen and other soldiers from JTF-Bravo's 1-228 Aviation Regiment, this unique brand of aerial gunnery training is vital to increasing their readiness and combat skills.

"We have to keep our weapon skills current so that we can be fully effective when we go on missions both here and elsewhere," said 1st Sgt. Robert Haligowski. "We'll know if we're successful today if we hit all of our targets and are able to communicate effectively."

Aerial gunnery requires soldiers to qualify from both the ground and the air. The training is held during day and night for maximum realism. A master gunner is stationed in each helicopter during the aerial phases and evaluates each firer on accuracy and technique.

At night, the firers are tested on their ability to fire while looking through the green tint provided by night vision goggles.

"It's pretty much the same for day and night firing," said master gunner Sgt. 1st Class Robin DiCarlo. "Both require good communication between pilots and firers, it's just that it gets a bit more intense at night."

For the training on Sept. 24, 9000 rounds of ammunition were used, with each firer allotted between 300 to 500 rounds. Firers tried to hit targets that were indicated by large numbers formed by rocks on the ground below. One Blackhawk and one Chinook helicopter were used for the training, with two firers in each helicopter at a time.

Although the objective of the training is serious, the fact that firing a machine gun from a helicopter at 400 feet is fun isn't lost on the soldiers of 1-228.

"Firing a machine gun is cool," said Rasmussen. "Firing a machine gun from 400 feet is cooler."



A large number five indicates a target area.



Pfc. Philip Rasmussen checks out his assigned target area at Zambrano range. Rasmussen qualified with the M-60D machine gun.





Gunnery



before firing during aerial gunnery training Sept. 25
machine gun at a ground range prior to the aerial fire.



A Chinook helicopter off-loads equipment at Zambrano range during aerial gunnery training Sept. 24. A Chinook and Blackhawk were used for training.



A rainbow curves through the sky over Zambora range Sept. 24.



Sgt. 1st Class Robin DiCarlo loads rounds into a M-60D machine gun.



Pvt. Marcus Cooper refuels a helicopter on the flight line during aerial gunnery training.





Photos by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Tech Sgt. Allan L. Raeside, Joint Security Forces, fires at stationary paper targets while completing a timed run during the shoot and move course Sept. 16. Raeside and other JSF members, worked on their skill to successfully hit targets while mobile and while switching from a supported to unsupported positions.

Shoot and Move



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Cpl. Gary Stymiest fires from one knee during shoot and move training.

Marines and airmen hone skills at Soto Cano during shoot and move training



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

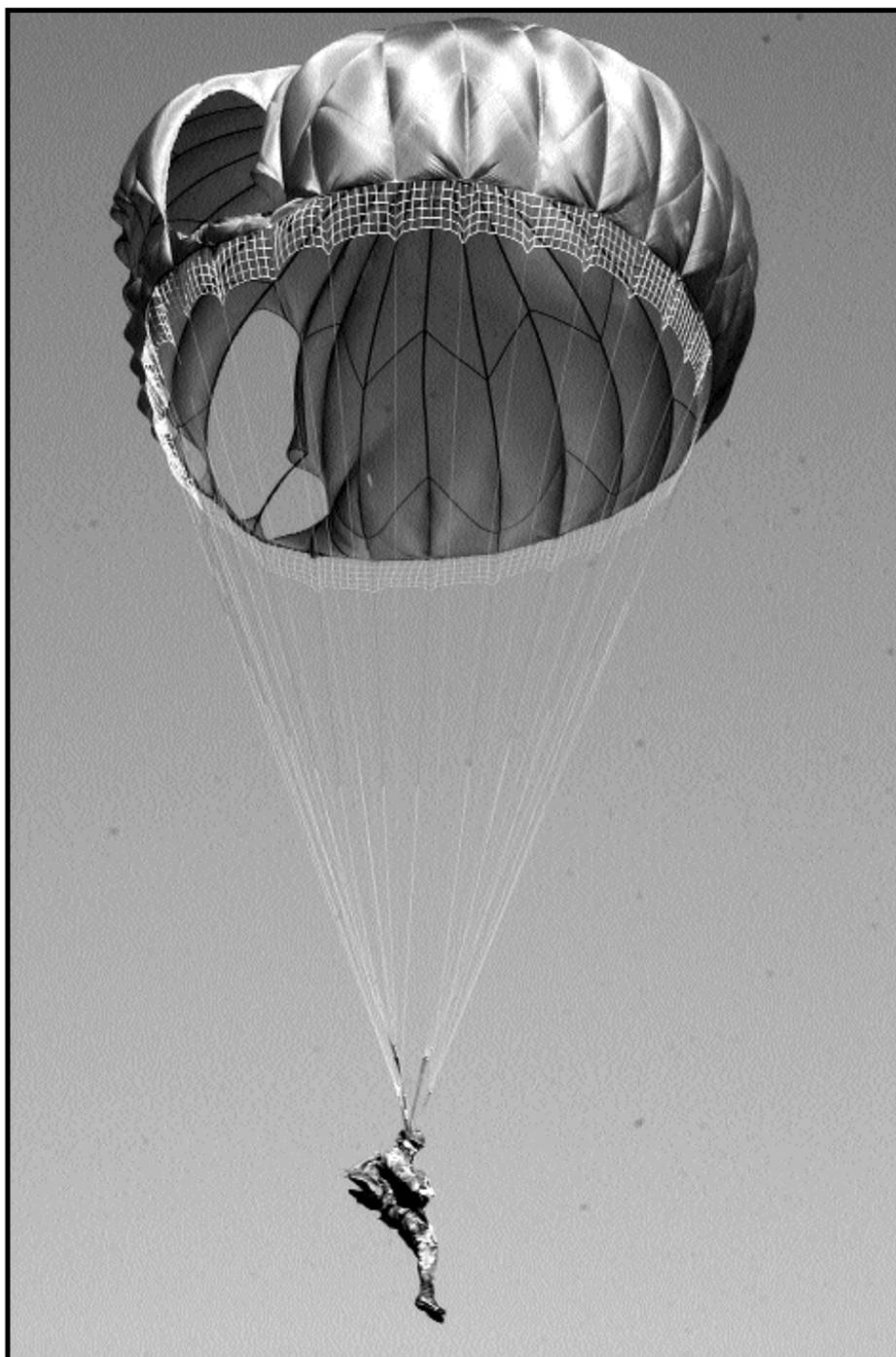
Pvt. Robert Purcell cleans his rifle after completing the shoot and move course Sept 19. at Soto Cano.



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Lance Cpl. Humberto Portillo clears his 9mm after completing the shoot and move course with zero misses.

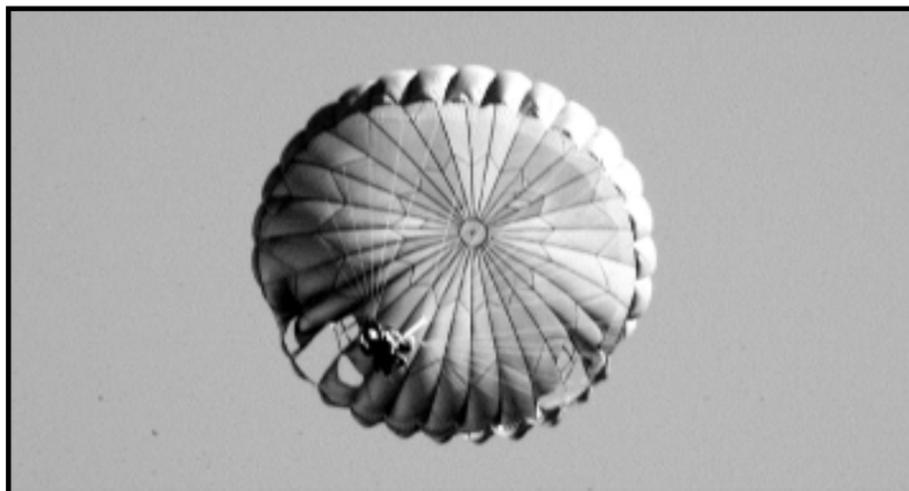




A paratrooper descends after exiting an aircraft during a joint jump at Tamara.

25 seconds of heaven

Honduran and American service members unite at Tamara Drop Zone for a joint jump.



Photos by Martin Chahin



Above: A ground-level view of a paratrooper deploying his chute over Tamara Drop Zone.

Left: A Honduran paratrooper collects the remains of his parachute after completing a joint jump at Tamara Drop Zone Sept. 17.

Right: JTF-Bravo J-3 director Lt. Col. Phillip Wyllie receives Honduran jump wings from Honduran Col. Carlos Efrain Paz after a joint airborne operation at Tamara Drop Zone Sept. 17.





Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

A disabled Honduran girl takes a swing at a pinata while members of JTF-Bravo's Joint Security Forces cheer her on Sept. 12. JSF and the 1-228 Aviation Regiment personnel celebrated Honduras' National Children's Day by holding parties for local orphanages. Below, Spc. Alan Eldridge supervises kids at pool.



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Air Force Staff Sgt. Joel Vidot leads a line of local children waiting to hit a pinata Sept. 12.



Photo by Martin Chahin

Party Time

JSF and 1-228 party with Honduran kids during local holiday



Photo by Martin Chahin

Senior Airman John O'Barsky holds a fire hose for a group of kids at a pool party.

