



# The IGUANA



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## Secretary of State visit



*Photo by Martin Chahin*

Secretary of State Colin Powell makes a point during his speech on the responsibilities of the U.S. military regarding terrorism Nov. 4. Powell spoke to Soto Cano airmen, soldiers and Marines about the state of the U.S. military in Iraq, and the importance of JTF-Bravo in Honduras and Central America.





# Finishing strong

By Chaplain (Capt.) Tommy Vaughn  
JTF-Bravo command chaplain

As a woman was driving home, the rain was coming down hard making it difficult to see.

She could just make out taillights that seemed to be going in the right direction, so she followed the car in front of her.

Suddenly, the car in front stopped. It was still raining hard and she worried that being stopped in the road might cause an accident. Then, the car in front of her turned off their lights. Her concern now turned to aggravation. Why was this person stopping in the middle of the road and turning off their lights?

Suddenly, she was startled by a knock on her window. She looked and saw a man standing in the rain wanting to speak to her.

She cracked the window open and asked what the problem was.

He said, "That's what I was going to ask you." To which she responded, "I'm not the one who stopped in the middle of the road and then turned off their lights!" To which the man said, "We're not in the road. We're in my driveway."

We all face storms in life that make it hard to see the road ahead. Rather than wait out the storm or ask for help, many attempt to make it on their own. Such determination is great, unless you end up following the wrong leader and find yourself parked somewhere in life you don't want to be!

A good start isn't enough to get you to the finish line. You need someone to guide you, to make sure you're on the right road and that you stay on the right road. God doesn't want you to simply arrive at the right destination. He wants you to finish strong. So how do you run the race of life with endurance and finish strong?

**Remember those who have run before.** The book of Hebrews describes how the great saints of the Old Testament (Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, etc.) won the race of life through faith. The writer is reminding struggling believers that *others* have struggled before them and still kept the faith. The same God who strengthened and guided each one of these great saints is the same God who directs your path today.

When you find present circumstances stormy or the future too cloudy to see which way to trav-

el, remember that others have run this same race before you. The struggles you face can be overcome with God's help. Don't lose faith.

**Remove any excess weight.** One good thing about serving in the military is that you're forced to stay in shape. You're pushed hard every day to make sure you meet the physical and weight requirements. Every runner knows you don't carry excess pounds (weight, clothing, shoes) if you're intent on winning the race.

The Bible identifies the excess weight that we need to shed as sin. Wrong attitudes, actions, or thoughts will weigh you down in life and cause you to lose the race and your reward. To win in the Christian life, *you must deal with sin now.*

**Discipline yourself.** Everyone cheers runners at the start and finish of a race, but the real race is

fought and won on the back roads where not many see and few cheer. That's where many choose to quit because they've become tired and discouraged. Prior to coming back in the Army, I started jogging at least three days a week to get in shape. Though I enjoy the peace and solitude of running alone, there were times I had to force myself to get up and run.

Running with an Army platoon is no problem because you're constantly encouraging each other to hang in there. Keep running. Stay focused. Running alone is hard though. It requires discipline to pace yourself and endure. You've got to discipline yourself if you want to finish strong. A good start is fine, but only those who cross the finish line receive the prize.

The Christian life is not a 100-yard dash or a sprint. It's a marathon. It's a long race, and long races don't require speed. They require endurance.

**Keep your eyes on the finish line.** A runner who allows the weather, spectators, or other runners to distract him will eventually stumble. If a runner really wants to win, he must keep his thoughts on making it across the finish line. In the same way, you must live your lives with the end clearly in focus. And the end is not returning home from this assignment, getting promoted or even retirement.

Our finish line is the judgment seat of Christ.

*"And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on who our faith depends from start to finish."* Hebrews 12:1-2 (new living translation)

You may have gotten off to a good start in life and planned out your future in detail, but a good start doesn't guarantee you'll make it to the finish line. Jesus is the final authority. Only He can place you on the right road and ensure that you stay there. Don't come up short. Finish strong.

If you need to talk, contact the new JTF-B Command Chaplain, Chaplain (Capt.) Dale Code, at 6844. Thanks for all your support during my tour. May God bless all of you. Serving together, Chaplain Vaughn.

## 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](mailto: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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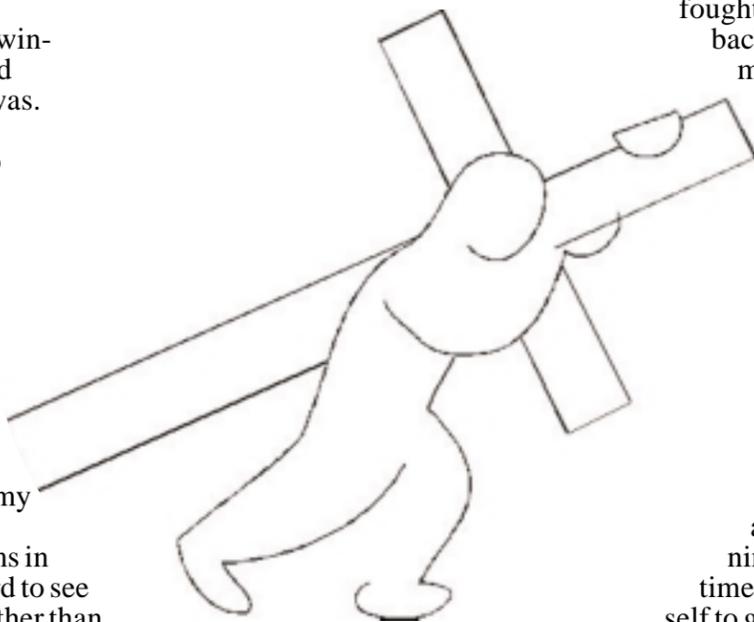
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Views

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# New Horizons 2004

By Capt. Frank Townsend,  
J-7 TM South Project Officer

The 2004 New Horizons military training exercises in Central America are fighting the battle against poverty one village at a time in Honduras and Guatemala.

The four-month project will provide six schools, four medical clinics, three water wells and medical care to thousands of people through seven Medical Readiness Training Exercises.

JTF-Bravo plays a major role in the exercises, assisting with planning, site inspections and general support for task forces deployed in the JTF-Bravo area of responsibility.

Soto Cano is the most critical re-supply node for all units deployed in support of New Horizons.

New Horizons is an annual chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed exercise.

This exercise deploys National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve Engineer Task Forces to Central America to construct schools, medical clinics, roads, bridges and water wells and conduct (MEDRETE) in selected countries.

Each year South Command has an election process, which selects one country from both the northern and the southern portion of Central America.

A Reserve unit hosts the Northern Task Force, while the National Guard hosts the Southern Task Force.

This year's humanitarian exercises are being conducted by more than 5,500 Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine engineers, medical and support

personnel.

These two Task Forces represent 31 active duty, Reserve, and National Guard units from 18 states and Puerto Rico.

Troops involved in New Horizons fall under the operational control of JTF-Bravo once on the ground in Central America.

The staff here at JTF-Bravo makes regular visits to the task forces in theater to ensure compliance with military rules and regulations and to offer a helping hand when needed.

A J-7 Engineer and a J-3 Operations Officer also deploy with the task force to the area of operations for the entire four months to mitigate any issues and help the units train to standard.

J-7 Engineering is the lead for all New Horizons planning and it supplies technical support to New Horizons Task Forces, which consists of technical inspections that ensure the construction is done to standard.

The other key elements on Soto Cano that make this mission happen are J-4 Logistics, Preventative Medicine, 1-228th Aviation, Joint Security Forces, J-2 Intelligence and the Safety Office are all critical players in finishing these projects.

The areas where New Horizons mission take place are in stricken areas where the local communities are in need of the basics.

Many of the children in these areas attend school in a dusty tin shed under the harsh sun where a one-room schoolhouse has little to offer the children other than broken, rusty desks, a single chalkboard and a worn, torn cardboard floor.

The newly constructed schoolhouses have 2 or 3 rooms, are built of hi-tech resin panels filled

with concrete, feature electric ceiling fans and insulation to keep temperatures cool and two chalkboards per room.

Often, while construction is underway in one village, in another village a MEDRETE is taking place, providing much needed medical care to families.

Roughly 30 medical personnel from the U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard units conduct these MEDRETEs.

While the benefits to our Central American neighbors are clear, what are the benefits to the U.S. military spending millions of dollars and deploying troops to the region?

The benefit can be summed up in one word: training.

By the end of the exercise they will have provided general medical and dental care to about 6,500 patients in a region that lacks basic medical services.

The ability to train forces and do it in a way that benefits our friends and neighbors creates a win-win situation for everyone.

Troops receive valuable medical training in rigorous conditions not unlike a battlefield and people living in poverty get medical care they otherwise would not normally receive.

The roads, schools, bridges, wells and clinics constructed in these projects become lasting, visible reminders of the goodwill of the United States and our commitment to our Central American neighbors.

So, if you find yourself wondering how what you do at Soto Cano can help people, think about how you support the New Horizons mission, and you'll soon see the answer.

# An Air Force of three

By Lt. Col. Jack Briggs  
AFFOR Commander

We are Airmen.

We survey the entire battle space at once, attack in parallel and support in 3-D.

We supply troops on the way in and we return the wounded home with honor.

We are there before first contact with the enemy occurs. We are there to bring the last soldier home.

We are an Air Force of three.

**Integrity:** We advance on the

mission. Our airman's mission is air and space expertise and the visible "flag on the hill" we accelerate toward.

Our word is our bond and others trust us to be there when we say we will everyday.

Integrity is the engine that drives our success. We will provide the intelligence, we will prepare the battlefield, and we will deliver the goods.

We never settle for the limits of the past to define who we can be tomorrow.

**Service:** We focus on the welfare

of others. We use our unique perspective as airmen to develop solutions to problems achieving the desired effect while often using equipment and training in new and innovative ways.

We check each other's six on the ground and in the air to mitigate risk. Imagination is our only limit in meeting other's unmet needs.

Flexibility is the key to our power. **Excellence:** We are world-class stewards of our nation's resources. We recognize that our nation, family, and friends provide us personnel, equipment, and finances to focus on

the welfare of others and advance on the mission.

We live and breathe safety because every resource preserved is another available for the mission.

We enable the synergistic advantage of joint operations by moving and employing resources when and where they are needed most.

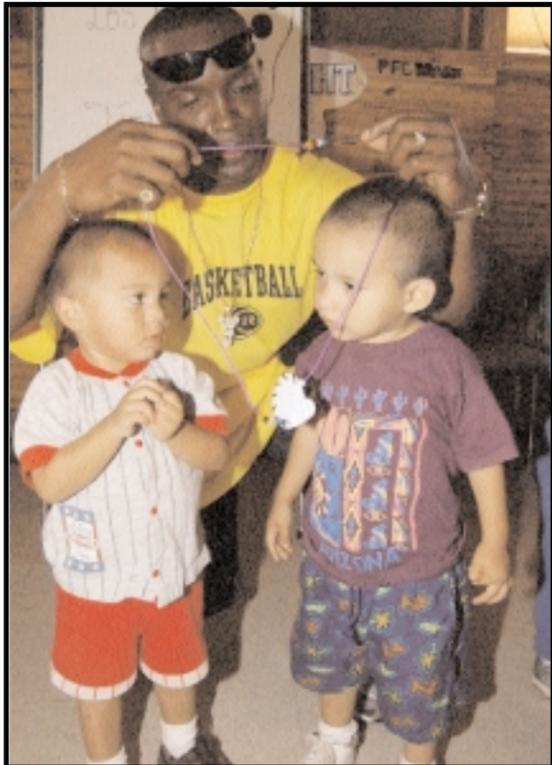
No other nation comes close to our air and space dominance.

In a modern world where everything is relative, these Air Force Core Values are three solid foundations to anchor the present and plan our future.





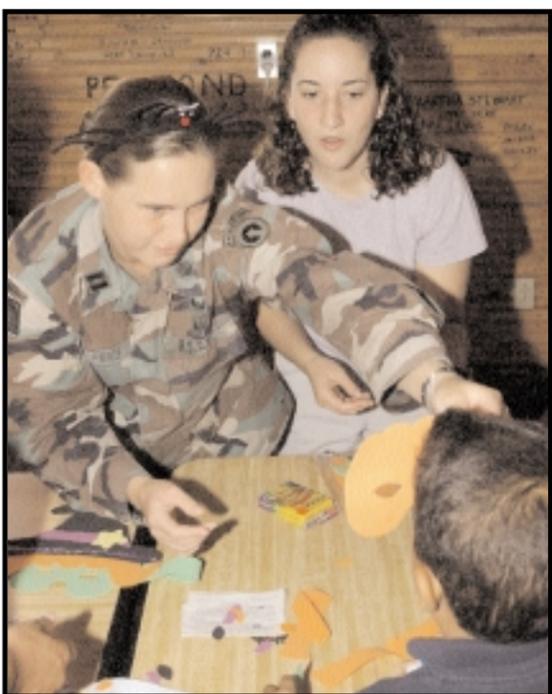
Right, Sgt. 1st Class Kim Judkins places a handmade necklace over a local child during the ARFOR Headquarters and Support Company's halloween party for the orphans of Tierra Santa.



Below, Pfc. Sarah Sequera helps a local boy to make Halloween decorations during HSC's halloween party.



Right, Capt. Phoebe Price and 1st Lt. Stacy Snyder help fit Honduran children for halloween masks at the Rally Point during ARFOR's Headquarters and Support Company's halloween party.



# A Happy H



A local youth prepares to strike at a halloween pinata during ARFOR's Headquarters and Support Company's halloween party.

## ARFOR's HSC and Honduran k

By Spec. James-Denton Wyllie  
Editor

Halloween is a holiday celebrated by children throughout the United States. It isn't uncommon for American children to dress up in colorful costumes and go from door to door yelling the phrase "trick-or-treat!"

Although celebrating Halloween is an annual event in the states, there are children in the rest of the world for whom Halloween is little more than a word.

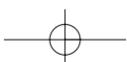
Soldiers from JTF-Bravo's Army Forces Headquarters and Support Company, attempted to change that by hosting a Halloween party for local Honduran children Oct. 31.

"The kids are all from the same age," said party organizer [Name]. "We're throwing these kids a party to let them experience the fun of Halloween."

The children split up into groups, with one group headed to the Rally Point club and another to the softball field.

At the softball field, the children participated in a balloon toss, dizzy bat and pinata. "The kids favorite thing was the pinata," said Staff Sgt. Anthony [Name]. "They really kicked out of trying to break it open."

At the Rally Point, the children participated in a variety of craft projects, including making paper lanterns, necklaces and bracelets.





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# Halloween



Photos by Spec. James-Denton Wyllie

and Support Company's halloween party for children from Tierra Santa orphanage.

## Kids celebrate holiday together.

The Tierra Santa orphanage was visited by 1st Lt. Joy Tolbert. "We're here today to let them experience what kids back home do." She split the kids into two groups upon arrival, one to the softball field and the other to the gym. The kids played soccer, water balloons and a variety of other games. "The best part out here is the tree-legged game," said Fomby. "They get a chance to eat each other down the

children engaged in a variety of activities, including making masks, neck-

Some of the kids also had their faces painted in the traditional Halloween colors of orange and black.

The children had their biggest surprise of the day after eating a barbecue lunch of chicken, cheeseburgers and hot dogs provided by the base dining facility.

"We brought out some Halloween piñatas for the kids to hit," said Pfc. Sarah Sequera. "It was a way of introducing something familiar with something new."

The day came to a close with children helping service members to clean up the Rally Point.

Afterwards, the children boarded their school buses and waved good bye to the HSC soldiers.

"I'd say the day went very well," said Fomby. "Everyone went away with smiles."

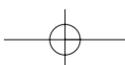


Left, Sgt. Ramon Perez lifts a Honduran boy so that he can swing at a pinata during the ARFOR Headquarters and Support Company's halloween party.

Below, Local children participate in a three-legged race at the softball field during the day's festivities.



Left, A Honduran girl smiles for the camera after putting on her halloween mask.





Photos by Spec. James-Denton Wyllie

Staff Sgt. William Woodson prepares to attach a HUMVEE to a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during slingload training at Camp X-ray. The vehicle was one of a series of loads used.



Slingload trainees board a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during a crew rotation.

# Hook-ups

## JTF-Brav members connect during slingload training

By James-Denton Wyllie  
Editor

Soldiers from JTF-Bravo's Army Forces support platoon upgraded their skills in preparation for an ARFOR field training exercise during sling load training at Camp X-Ray Oct. 28.

The training consisted of hooking a number of different loads, by means of a large harness to a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter for aerial transport.

"Basically, the soldiers in the helicopter bay will have to coordinate with the ones on the ground to make sure that the hooks are properly attached and that none of the lines are tangled," said the instructor, Staff Sgt. Todd Rivers. "The helicopter pilots will also have to take direction from the ground guides to make sure that they are in the right position to make the hook up."

The training will help those on the ground as well as those in the air during times of real emergency as well, said Sgt. Angel Cruz.

"The real-world application is that sometimes troops on the ground will be cut off from supply routes and will only to be able to receive supplies by air," he said. "Even though we are training for an exercise, we're still training to save lives."



Staff Sgt. Todd Robbins and Staff Sgt. William Woodson watch an incoming UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during slingload training.



Sgt. Angel Cruz adjusts the sling harness on a water buffalo.





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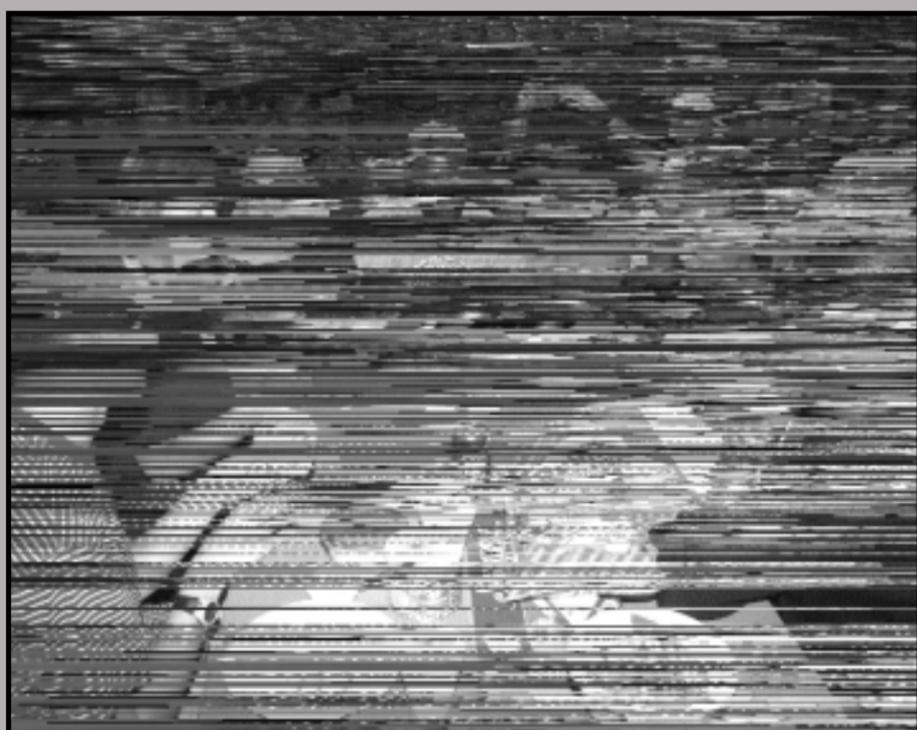
# Snapshots

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Photos by Spec. James-Denton Wyllie



Cpl. Titania Henry inspects a tapestry with a local vendor before purchase during the Soto Cano Craft Fair Oct. 30-31. Over 20 different local vendors displayed their products for servicemenbers to look through and purchase gifts for friends and family before the holiday season.



Service members play a game of Phase 10 at the opening night of club Crossroads. Patrons palyed games and competed for grand prizes in tournaments. The club is non-alcoholi, and is located next to the base chapel.

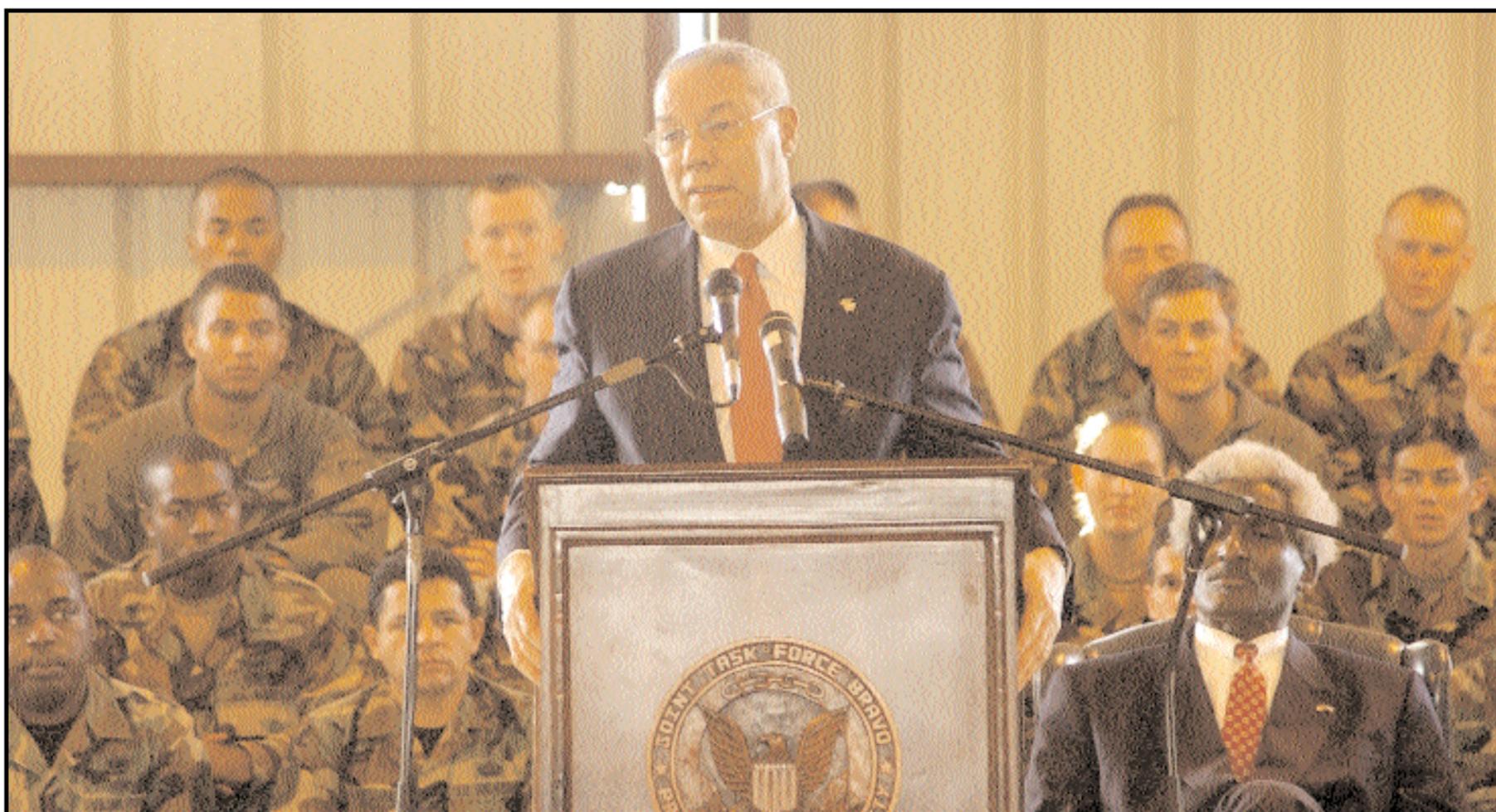


Lt. Gen. Randall M. Schmidt, 12th Air Force commander, gives Senior Airman Amanda Herndon a coin and a handshake during his official visit Oct. 25.





# Secretary of State Colin Powell visits JTF-Bravo to thank troops for hard work

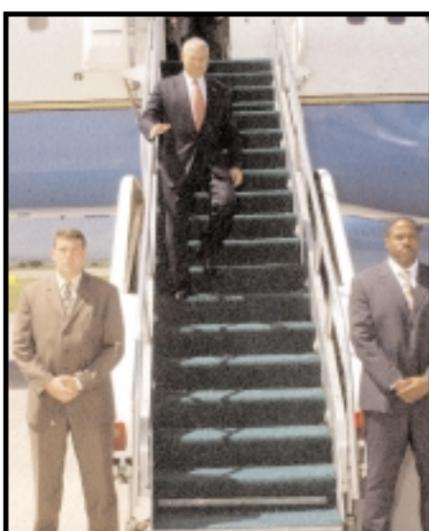


*Photos by Spec. James-Denton Wyllie*

Secretary of State Colin Powell gives a speech to JTF-Bravo servicemember Nov. 4. Powell spoke to personnel about the Army's role in the war on terror.



Secretary of State Colin Powell takes time out to take photos and give autographs after his speech.



Secretary of State Colin Powell steps off of his plane at the flight line.



Secretary of State Colin Powell greets JTF-Bravo commander Col. William G. Phelps.

