



The IGUANA



Volume 15, No. 25

December 12, 2003

Turkey Bowl 2003



Photo by Martin Chahin

JTF-Bravo Commander Col. William Phelps presents Air Force Staff Sgt. Daryl Hogan with the championship trophy at the end of the the JTF- Bravo Turkey Bowl game Nov. 25. The Turkey Bowl is an annual football game between JTF-Bravo's Army and Air Force personnel. See pages 4 and 5 for more.





Talon 14 memorial meditation

By Chaplain (Capt.) Dale A. Cole
JTF-Bravo Command Chaplain

Malachi 3:16; "Then they that feared the Lord spoke often one to another and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name."

As we open the pages of the "Book of Remembrance" of the Talon 14 Crew who fell in the line of duty a year ago; we are reminded that this is more than a stroll down memory lane to recall their deaths; rather, it is a time to remember the

impact their lives will have on posterity past, present and future.

We will not soon forget these heroes because of their gallant and selfless service. We will speak of them often, not just for lessons learned, but also for legacy's left.

When we do speak of them we will remember: their smiles (as friends); their skills (as Aviators, Crew Chiefs, Instructors, and NCOs); their service to our nation (as service members); their support (as fellow-workers); their stamina (as athletes); and their strengths (as individuals). We will also speak of the sacrifices of their survivors: their parents as their sons; their wives as their husbands; and their

children as their fathers.

We will not forget the Crew of Talon 14 because a "Book of Remembrance" has been etched not only on tables of marble and stone: but in an even more lasting way; because memories of them have been etched onto the tables of our hearts and minds which can never be erased away. No matter where we go from here their memory will always be with us.

Finally we will never forget them because in moments of quiet solitude and reflection we will think about the Talon 14 Crew and memories will flood like a torrent into our thoughts and their names will flash before

our eyes and we will forever remember these "Winged Warriors".

In Memory of :

CW2 Maurice A. Lammie

CW2 Jonathan C. Helman

SFC Anthony L. Sieng

SGT Luke A. DeGross

SGT Bryan P. Abercombie

If we'll think, we'll thank

By Chaplain (Capt.) Dale A. Cole
JTF-Bravo Command Chaplain

Have you ever heard the phrase "if you'll think, you'll thank?"

When I do it makes me remember my sixth grade teacher who challenged us as a class to tell her what five-letter word that could potentially make us better students.

After letting us struggle for several minutes; trying to figure out her riddle, she gave us another hint and said we were doing the five-letter word right then. The five-letter word she was trying to get out of us was: "think."

She was trying to get us to use our heads for more than just a hat rack. The same holds true with giving thanks; if we'll think, we'll thank. When we take the time to really think about all that God has done for us we will come to the conclusion that we have much to be thankful for.

It is an American tradition to take the time to gather together during the holidays to eat turkey and to give thanks.

This holiday season, I think I would like to take time to thank God for: faith, family, friends and freedom. People of good faith believe in a divine being who is bigger and better than they are. The forefathers of our nation believed in a "...great and glorious being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be."

It is my understanding that the English word "God," is simply a shortened version of the word "good." That description of God forms the basis of good faith—that God is good and blesses his people with his bounty and benefits.

When the Psalmist took time to reflect on God's goodness he came to this conclusion: "Blessed be the Lord who daily loadeth us with benefits." (Psalm 68:19) That's an apt description of how good God is to his people; he loads us down with

benefits. Someone said; "Serve the Lord, the pay isn't much but the benefits are out of this world!"

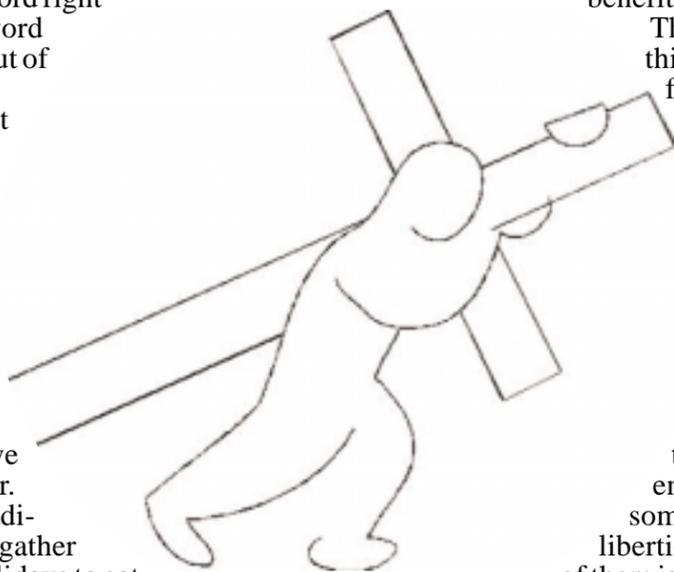
There are a few things I think I would thank my family and friends for.

I would thank my family for their love, their faithfulness and for holding the fort down in my absence. I would thank my friends for their being there for me and my family when and if needed. I think I

would thank my country for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. It is sometimes easy to take our liberties for granted until one of them is taken away; but no one

knows better than military service members that freedom is not free.

Finally I think I would like to thank folks like the civilians and fellow-service members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America for the sacrifices you make in the behalf of our great nation. God bless you for all that you do. During this holiday season let us take time to think and thank.



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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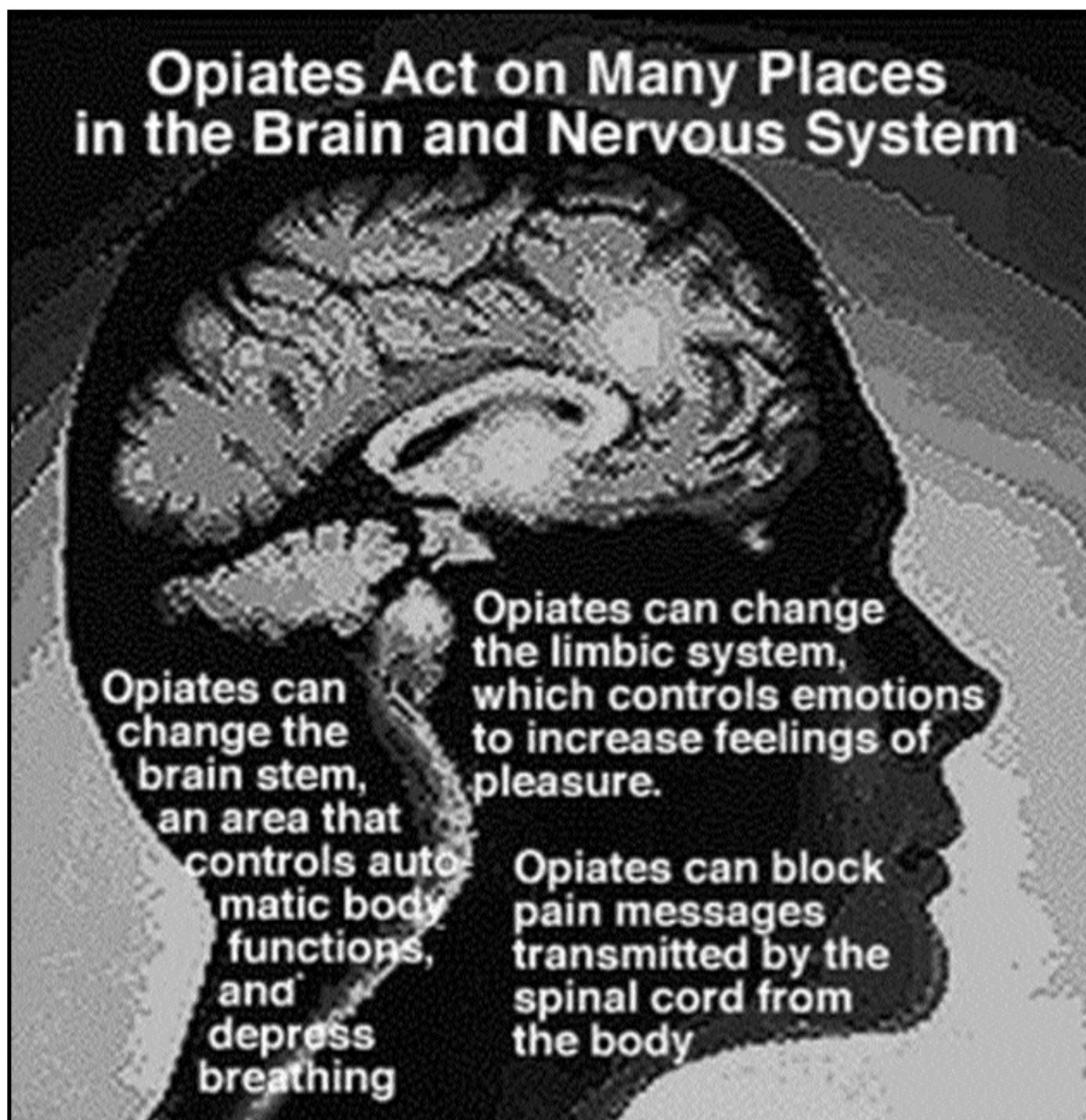


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Submissions

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Substance abuse awareness



Warning signs of substance abuse

By the MEDEI Office

- Do you ever feel guilty after drinking too much?
- Do you ever end up drinking more than you planned?
- Do you take a drink or two before going to a party where you know drinks will be served?
- Do you ever avoid a party because drinks will not be served?
- Do you find yourself sneaking extra drinks at parties?
- Do you look for excuses to celebrate and does celebrating always mean drinking?
- Do you drink alone?
- Do you take a drink first thing in the morning to get yourself together?
- Have you ever been late for work or missed appointments because you were drunk or hung over?
- Have you ever fallen or had accidents related to drinking?
- Do you look forward to a drink at a particular time of day?
- Are you drinking more than you did a year ago?
- Does it take less alcohol to get you drunk than it did a year ago?
- Do you drink more than four days out of the week?
- Do you ever drink for several days in a row or over a weekend without ever sobering up?
- Do you lie about your drinking or minimize the amount you drink?

If you have more questions contact the MEDEL office at 449-4183.

Keeping eyes and ears wide open

By the Antiterrorism Office
JTF-Bravo

Being aware of our surroundings is an important step in force protection.

Being observant and reporting suspicious activity could make the difference in a terrorist act being carried out, or the "BAD GUYS" being caught.

The following is a list of possible suspicious activities, which might precede a terrorist attack and help installation and local officials identify

attack preparations or surveillance.

Personnel observed near the installation using or carrying video/camera/observation equipment with high magnification lenses.

Personnel observed with installation maps or facility photos or diagrams with facilities highlighted or notes regarding infrastructure or listing of installation personnel.

Personnel possessing or observed using night vision devices near the installation perimeter or local area.

Personnel observed parking, standing, or loitering in the same area over a multiple day period with no apparent reasonable explanation.

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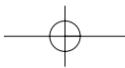
Theft of military identification cards or government license plate off-base. Non military persons in possession of military ID cards.

Military personnel being asked questions off base that pertain to the installation.

To report suspicious activity contact the Joint Security Force Desk at 4170 or MSgt Jeff Ramsey at 4257.

For further information contact the JTF-Bravo Antiterrorism Office at 4257.





ARFOR receiver Gerrell Harris ducks amidst several AFFOR defenders in an attempt to avoid having his flag pulled during a slant play.



ARFOR receiver Darrell Woody runs over an AFFOR linebacker on a while running down field.



ARFOR quarterback Alec Williams scans the field for open receivers.



Quarterback Alec Williams scrambles to evade AFFOR guard Kenneth Tolbert.

Air Force wins T



Members of the JTF-Bravo Air Force football team pose for a victory photo with the AFFOR team on Nov. 25. The football game between Air Force and Army personnel is an annual event.



Alison and the Wildwood band perform for personnel at halftime. Along with the band, MWR also provided raffle and contest prizes for servicemembers.





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Turkey Bowl 14-0



Photos by Martin Chahin

The championship trophy at the conclusion of the 2003 JTF-Bravo Turkey Bowl game is held on the week of Thanksgiving at JTF-Bravo. AFFOR won the game 14-0.



AFFOR receiver George De Leon runs past fallen ARFOR defenders as he makes his way down field for a first down on a screen play.



Airmen show their support for the AFFOR team during the game.



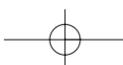
Airman 1st Class Elliott Slade runs with the AFFOR guidon after a score.



Referees pause to sing the national anthem at the start of the 2003 JTF-Bravo Turkey Bowl game. The officials were all volunteers from different services.



JTF-Bravo servicemembers watch the 2003 JTF-Bravo Turkey Bowl game.





Ingenuity improves Humvee protection

By Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson
372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Ingenuity and improvisation have been hallmarks of the U.S. Army since its inception.

Whether it is making something faster, easier, deadlier or safer, Soldiers always find a way to improve upon what they are issued.

An improvising reservist has been using his engineering skills to help provide better protection to Soldiers riding around Iraq in unarmored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles.

Capt. Darryl M. Butler, a facility engineer for Task Force 1st Armored Division's 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, an Army Reserve unit from Riverdale, Md., is the type of Soldier who is never satisfied with equipment that is simply "adequate."

A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee in his civilian job, Butler refers to himself as "an engineer through-and-through."

Butler's outlook: if he believes that he can come up with a project that will allow his fellow Soldiers to accomplish their mission quicker, safer or more effectively, it is his duty to do so.

Currently, Butler is working with a growing team of Iraqi engineers, including metal workers, sprayers and welders, piecing together his new brainchild: the Modified Protection for un-Armored Humvees.

More than 900 pounds of steel in a 25-piece kit make up what has been dubbed "The Butler Mobile," a custom, modular armor plating sys-

tem designed to be an addition to soft-top Humvees. The kit includes door pieces, floor plates and a bolt-on fortress for the rear and roof, all of which put a layer of heavy steel between Soldiers and whatever the enemy throws at them, Butler said.

The entire project, Butler said, fits right into the scheme of what civil affairs Soldiers are trying to accomplish in Iraq.

Protecting Soldiers while they are traveling to and from their mission locations boosts mission effectiveness and their confidence. And, employing Iraqis to help contributes to improvement of life and economic growth in the area.

With all that Butler has accomplished, with dozens of kits installed and hundreds on order, he is still looking at possible ways to improve upon his improvements.

"There are munitions that the MPAH is still susceptible to," Butler said. "We are ready and willing to beef the kit up even more, if need be."

The bottom line for Butler is not recognition from his command or adoration from his peers, he said. Although he has received an Army Commendation Medal for his efforts, Butler stands firm that he and his team are in the business of saving lives and getting Soldiers home safely.

"This was done out of necessity," Butler said. "With the number of Coalition vehicles hit by improvised explosive devices, we had the opportunity to do something to prevent Soldiers from being hurt and/or killed, and this thing does work."



Photo by Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson

Capt. Darryl M. Butler, facility engineer for the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, Task Force 1st Armored Division, inspects a new Modified Protection for un-Armored Humvees kit, or MPAH, before it is lowered onto a Humvee. Butler, the kit's designer, personally oversees the installation of each kit.

Yellow ribbons not just an American tradition

By Chiara Mattiolo
Army News Service

Yellow ribbons signifying hope for a safe return have been popping up all over America for years. But when M1 Abrams tanks sporting yellow ribbons on their gun barrels returned from an Italian painting contractor, heads turned.

In an unsolicited show of solidarity in the war on terrorism, workers at Armanino Import-Export have been making their feelings known by adding yellow ribbons and prayer cards to freshly painted tanks.

Army Materiel Command's Combat Equipment Battalion-Livorno has been sending vehicles and equipment to civilian contractors in order to meet a high-priority mission. "I have been working in repainting vehicles for Camp Darby since 1997, I counted over 500 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles and over 150 tanks" said Umberto Armanino, one of the owners of the Armanino Import-Export, a father & son firm.

Armanino Import-Export first delivered two tanks with a bit of non-standard gear to CEB-LI on Sept. 11, 2003.

"I knew that I was sending these vehicles back on the anniversary of the Twin Towers terrorist attack, so I decided to place a yellow bow on each vehicle to express our sympathy to the United States" explained Umberto Armanino. Also attached was a hand-written card in Italian and English, saying, "May this vehicle bring you safely home by the grace of God..."

When LTC Sandy W. Pogue, CEB-LI commander, inspected the tanks, he was impressed by more than the top-quality paint job.

"I was amazed to such solidarity, especially in these contentious times. Yellow ribbons have a deep meaning to American soldiers and their families, so I was moved to respond to the Armanino's gesture," Pogue said.

Pogue visited the shop in the small Italian town of Carrara, in November to present coins and award certificates for continuous support and solidarity shown to Americans.

The Armanino family has a history of comradeship with Americans.

"My father rescued an American pilot that crashed with his plane in Sestri Levante, during World War II. He helped him crossing the Gothic line, and brought him to the United States Com-

mand," Umberto said.

"Right after World War II, I started collecting American jeep vehicles, I from bases in Germany and in Holland. I took them, brought them to my shop, completely restored them, and sold them to collectors" said Armando Armanino, ex-partisan, and owner of the company.

"Since then I continued working thru the DR-MOs, mainly Livorno and La Maddalena, I buy old American items, I fix them and sell them. Now all of the family is sharing my project: My daughter Giuditta just opened an American military clothing shop in Sestri Levante, and we named it "Ground Zero" in honor of the victims of the Twin Towers terrorist attack," he said.

"There's always two sides to a story. We read and hear a lot about protests, but everybody needs to know that there is a lot of wonderful people here in Tuscany that supports us," said Pogue. "It's a great honor for us to receive this recognition today" Umberto said. "America is a free country that always fought for democracy, the Americans are in Iraq to free the country from a dictatorship. America is a free country, we are allies and friends, we are there to fight for ourselves too."





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News

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New CLEP tests coming

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

The College Level Examination Program, a popular route for many servicemembers seeking degrees, will introduce 14 new paper tests in April.

Since July 2001, more than 1,300 campus test centers have offered electronic computer-based CLEP tests.

The reintroduced paper-based exams are considered "high volume" exams, said Len Lipp, exam programs manager for the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support.

"They are the most popular, they have the best success rate, and they meet a majority of educational requirements of most degree programs that people use CLEP for," he said.

The new tests will replace some that will no longer be available, beginning in early 2004.

"These are aged exams," said Lipp, referring to the CLEP tests now used by DANTEs. "The current paper-based exams, after their withdrawal date, will no longer be considered valid examinations and will have to be pulled. This is not uncommon in the testing world."

Subjects such as social science, history, sociol-

ogy, psychology, humanities, college algebra and mathematics will be reintroduced in paper form, according to the DANTEs Web site.

The test material will be based on computer versions of CLEP exams being administered at national test centers located on college and university campuses.

The hard-copy exams will be available because of the "recognized need for paper-based testing in the military," Lipp said.

He pointed to locations and environments in the Department of Defense where paper-based education is a good alternative -- "where it would be very difficult to deliver computer-based testing -- for example, ships at sea and ... numerous remote locations, particularly in the Middle East and other areas."

CLEP tests offer servicemembers a chance to earn up to 30 semester hours' credit toward a bachelor's degree.

The exams, widely accepted by colleges and universities, cover material taught in most college freshman and sophomore courses.

Of the three credit-by-exams programs recognized by colleges, CLEP by far is the most popular among the military, Lipp said.

The program has been used extensively, particularly in the Air Force, which he said constitutes nearly 55 percent of the military testing volume, he said.

"Up until just recently, we were averaging in the neighborhood of about 70,000 to 75,000 exams a year," he said. That number "far exceeded" the DANTEs subject standardized tests program, which is the second largest with a volume that is around 55,000.

In the near future, CLEP tests might soon become even more popular and convenient for servicemembers, Lipp said.

DANTEs and the College Board, the organization that provides college information, testing and financial-aid sources, are working to introduce a new Web-based CLEP program, hopefully by fiscal 2006, he said.

That program will allow servicemembers to take CLEP tests online at military education centers.

For more information about CLEP tests and the nearest national test center, visit www.collegeboard.com/clep/.



.U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. A.C. Eggman

Putting the pieces together

Airman 1st Class James Amelung marshals a C-17 Globemaster III from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., to its parking spot at Balad Air Base, Iraq. As many as 30 cargo aircraft arrive each day. Amelung is with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

American military to establish global network system

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

The U.S. military is working to establish a state-of-the-art global communications network designed to provide real-time information to warfighters.

The network will gather massive amounts of information and provide users "the right information at the right time," said Ron Jost, Department of Defense director of wireless communications.

The backbone of the system will be an Internet-based Global Information Grid that will feature 101 satellite-supported communications sites set up worldwide, Jost said.

Another component of DOD's future communications system is the Joint Tactical Radio System — a single family of radios designed to replace incompatible units currently in use by each of the services, Jost said.

Advanced computer systems and sophisticated software will allow users in the field to "ask" the system for real-time battlefield information, Jost said.

"If I'm out in the field, and I need to know what's on the other side of the hill, rather than get data that's 24 or 48 hours old, I can actually make that request to get (current) information that might have come from (an unmanned aerial vehicle)" or other sources, he said.

Information security "is (designed) within the fabric of the system," Jost said. Passwords and other safeguards will be used to restrict access and monitor system usage, he said.





Photos by Martin Chahin

Lance Cpl. Nathan Myers receives a fruit cocktail cup from JTF-Bravo Commander Col. William G. Phelps at the dining facility during Thanksgiving festivities Nov. 26. Phelps and section leaders served turkey, roast beef, ham and other traditional Thanksgiving foods to JTF-Bravo personnel throughout the day.



Above, JTF-Bravo servicemembers take a group photo during a visit to the La Finca estate. "La Finca," which is Spanish for "the farm," is a hostel for impoverished locals.

Left, MEDEL Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Jozy Smarth gives food to a Honduran woman during a visit to La Finca.

