

The IGUANA



Volume 15, No. 26

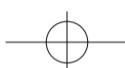
December 26, 2003

Happy Holidays



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

The official JTF-Bravo holiday tree has its lights turned on for the first time during the JTF-Bravo tree lighting ceremony Dec. 11. The lighting of the tree represents the significance of a variety of holidays celebrated by JTF-Bravo personnel. See page 3 for more on the ceremony.





JOY TO THE WORLD

By Chaplain (Capt.) Dale A. Code
JTF-Bravo Chaplain

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2: 10, 11)

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is "good tidings of great joy."

The angel's announcement was that the birth of Jesus Christ would bring "joy to the world."

Jesus Christ brought joy to the world at His birth and is still bringing joy to humble hearts that receive Him today. Not only did Jesus bring joy when He came to this world, He also left us His joy when He departed;

"These things have I spoken to you that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." (John 15:11)

There may be several things we can learn about the joy that Jesus brings.

Joy is *strange* in that it is other-worldly. Joy differs from happiness in that it does not depend on happenings, but on Jesus. This means that we can have joy even in the midst of difficulty and suffering. Sound strange? That was

the example the Apostle Peter gave when he said, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." (I Peter 4:12) That's how strange joy is—Christians can experience it even when everything is going wrong.

Joy is our strength, "...neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength." (Nehemiah 8:10) We are strengthened spiritually by receiving the Word and by rejoicing in the Lord. Jesus Christ is the Word of God and when we receive Him as Savior He gives us something to rejoice about. Our circumstances may not give us much to rejoice about but there is always much to rejoice about in the Lord. The Apostle Paul said: "Rejoice in the Lord, and again I say, Rejoice." (Phil. 4:4) A receiving, rejoicing Christian is a

strong Christian and the devil knows it.

Which brings us to our next point; joy can be *stolen*. Satan wants to strip us of joy and steal our songs of joy. In Psalm 137:1 we have this sad report: "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion." Rather than "sitting down and weeping" we should remind ourselves that "weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning." (Psalm 30:5) Instead let us rise up and sing; "Great

is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth..." (Psalm 48:1,2) The first thing to go when we sin is our joy. In Psalm 51 David lamented for his sin when he begged: "Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice." (Psalm 51:8)

David's sin had sapped his spiritual strength dry. The good news though is that joy can be restored; "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation..." (Psalm 51:12) We can rejoice in the fact that God uses our failures to correct us. Nothing sets our spirits free like the joy of the Lord!

Did you know there are *stratums* of joy? That's right, there are layers upon layers of joy. Just as there are many layers forming strata of rock; there are

levels of joy that we can find in the Lord. If you are a Christian you already have joy since joy is a "fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22). There are deeper levels of joy too. There is the "full joy" of answered prayer (John 16:24). There is the "fullness of joy" found in God's presence (Psalm 16:11). Then there is the "joy unspeakable and full of glory" of the believer (I Peter 1:8). There is also the "exceeding joy" to be had when Jesus Christ returns to earth (I Peter 4:8). There is plenty of joy to be had in Jesus, and He wants us to have His joy.

Finally, joy flows like a *stream* from heaven. "There is a river the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God." (Psalm 46:4) Joy is one of the streams or tributaries that "make glad" the city (people) of God. God wants His people to have something to smile and be glad about. Part of the second verse of "Silent Night" reads:

"...Glories stream from heaven afar; Heavenly host sing A-le-lu-ia; Christ the Savior is born." Joy streamed from heaven at the birth of Jesus Christ. So much so that screams of joy came from the mouths of those who had anything to do with his birth. While pregnant with John the Baptist Elisabeth exclaimed; "...the babe leaped in my womb for *joy*," when she came near His presence. Jesus' own mother Mary shouted; "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath *rejoiced* in God my Savior." (Luke 1:46,47)

Someone said the recipe to finding J.O.Y. is to put Jesus first; Others second; and Yourself last. Why not try it and see? God wants nothing more than joy of the Lord to stream into our lives this Christmas season both now and forevermore.

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

EDITORIAL STAFF

JTF-Bravo Commander

Col. William G. Phelps

Public Affairs Director

1st Lt. Rob Goza

Superintendent

Tech. Sgt. Tom Mullican

Editor

Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Photo Technician

Martin Chahin

E-mail:

PUBLIKAFFAIRSOFFICE@jtfb.southcom.mil

Website: <http://www.southcom.mil/home/jtfbravo>

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Content is edited, prepared and provided by the Joint Task Force-Bravo Public Affairs Office, APO AA 34042, in Building D-06. Telephone numbers are 011-504-234-4634, ext. 4150 or 4676. Fax is ext. 4550. or DSN 449-4150/4676. Readers with story ideas should call the Public Affairs office. All photographs are property of JTF-Bravo unless otherwise noted.

PRINTED BY PUBLYNESA





December 26, 2003

NEWS

THE IGUANA 3



Photos by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

The star on top of the JTF-Bravo holiday tree shines bright during the tree lighting ceremony Dec. 11. The tree will be lit nightly until Jan. 1.

Lighting up

JTF-Bravo personnel come together to celebrate the start of the holiday season

By Spc. James-Denton Wyllie
Editor

JTF-Bravo service members gathered to usher in the beginning of the holidays during the annual JTF-Bravo tree lighting ceremony Dec. 11.

JTF-Bravo Commander, Col. William G. Phelps, welcomed personnel, and praised them for their service.

"I just want to thank you all for your spectacular service," said Phelps. "I know that the holidays are a hard time to be away from home, and I really appreciate your dedication to duty during this time."

During the pre-ceremony, JTF-Bravo Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Trombley read service members a military version of the Christmas poem, "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

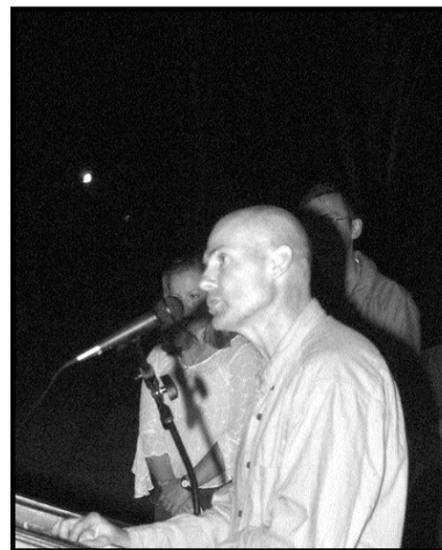
"Even though this poem was written by a Marine serving in Okinawa, Japan, it applies to all of us," said Trombley.

At the poem's end, personnel counted down from ten to start the tree lighting. At zero, Trombley and Chaplain (Capt.) Dale Code flipped the switch to light the tree

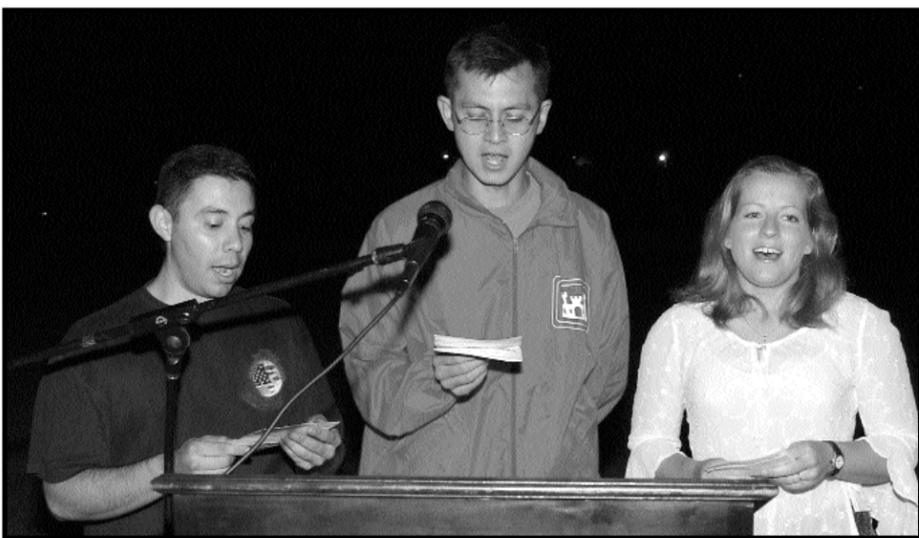
for the first time this year.

After the lighting, JTF-Bravo personnel who serve on the base choir sang the traditional songs Silent Night and Feliz Navidad. Phelps closed the ceremony with a few last words for service members.

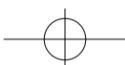
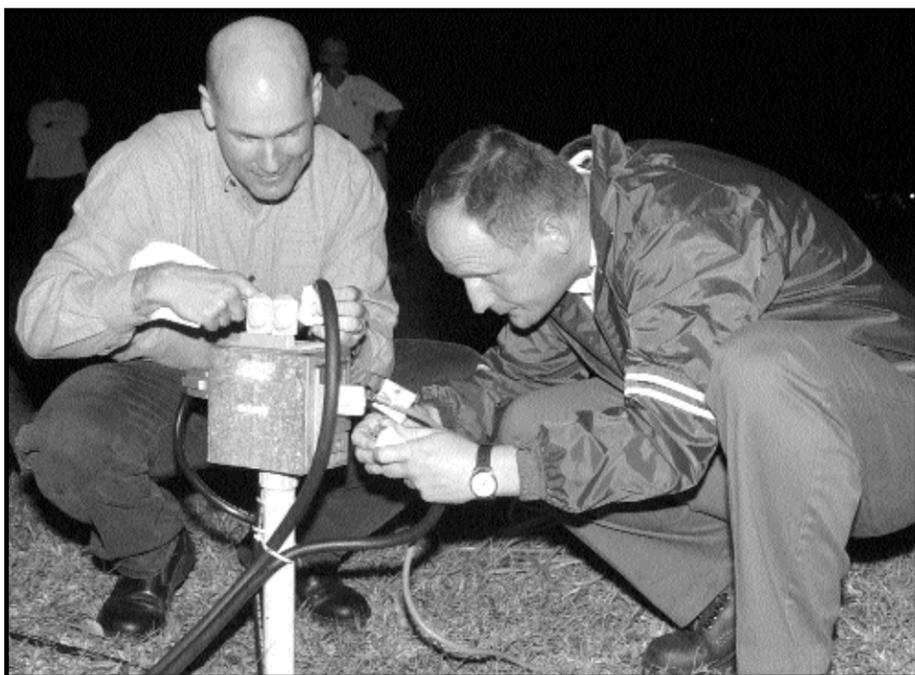
"This tree will stay lit every night until the first of the new year," said Phelps. "It will be a symbol of our commitment to those at home and those among us."



JTF-Bravo Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Trombley recites a poem.

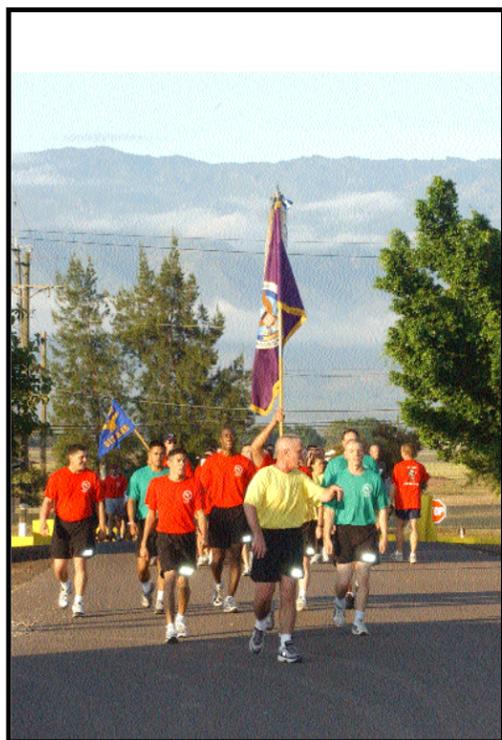


Above, JTF-Bravo choir members sing the holiday song Silent Night. The servicemembers also sang the traditional Spanish Christmas song Feliz Navidad. Right, JTF-Bravo Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Trombley and Chaplain (Capt.) Dale Code plug the tree in for its initial lighting.

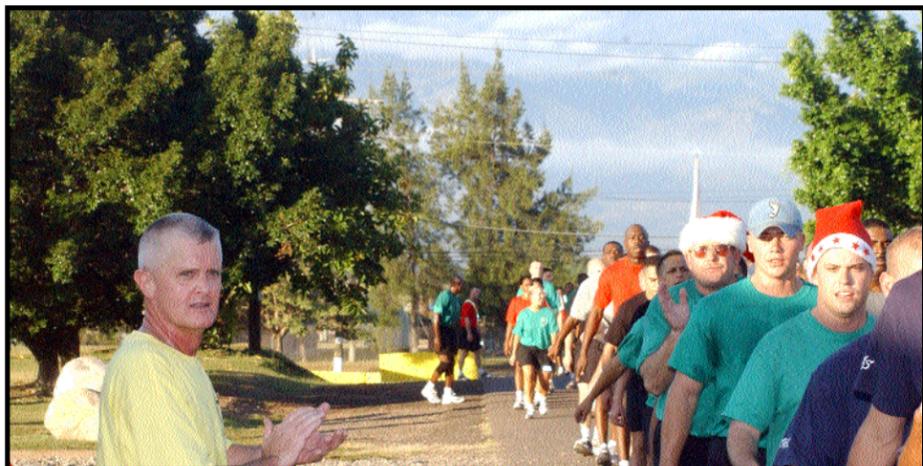




Members of the Honduran Air Force Academy run in formation with their flag.



JTF-Bravo Commander Col. William G. Phelps directs the formation after the run.



JTF-Bravo Commander Col. William G. Phelps cheers on personnel after the run.

Jingle jog



JTF-Bravo servicemembers led by JTF-Bravo Commander Col. William G. Phelps. The run featured participation by each company and regiment on Soto Cano Air Base.

JTF-Bravo servicemembers jog to boost morale and

By Spc. James-Denton Wyllie
Editor

Sometimes, it's important for service members to remember that although their main job is to complete whatever mission is given to them, they are also encouraged to have fun.

That was the goal of everyone on Soto Cano when JTF-Bravo gathered to complete a 4.5 mile group run dubbed the "Jingle Bell Jog."

"Today is all about having a good time," said JTF-Bravo Commander Col. William G. Phelps. "We're going to go on a nice little run to bring about the holi-

day season and enjoying it. The run, which took place around the perimeter and onto the streets, featured participation by members from every unit and members from the local Honduran Air Force contingent.

"We are all going to have a good time," Phelps said. "We are all going to have a good time." The Air Force led the parade by winning the Thanksgiving parade. The rest of JTF-Bravo followed.

10-year-old Orin La





all the way



Photos by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

plete the last mile of the Jingle Bell Jog with section guidons held high Dec. 12. and was intended as a morale booster for personnel during the holiday season.

opers run in Jingle Bell bring in the holidays

ives as one team." wants around the base ne included service ase, as well as mem- Air Force Academy

s run together," said iish together too." iving earned the privi- wNov. 25.

wed arranged by sec- in with members of

the 1-228th Aviation Regiment after attending the memorial for his father Chief Warrant Officer 2 Maurice Lammie and other members of the Talon 14's crew the day before.

"It was fun," said Lammie.

After the run, Phelps thanked the members of JTF-Bravo for their participation and their dedica- tion to duty. He also praised them for starting and finishing the run as one.

"I just want to say how proud I am to be serving with all of you," said Phelps. "It's an honor to be able to say as a commander that the people I have serving under me are a group of true professionals."

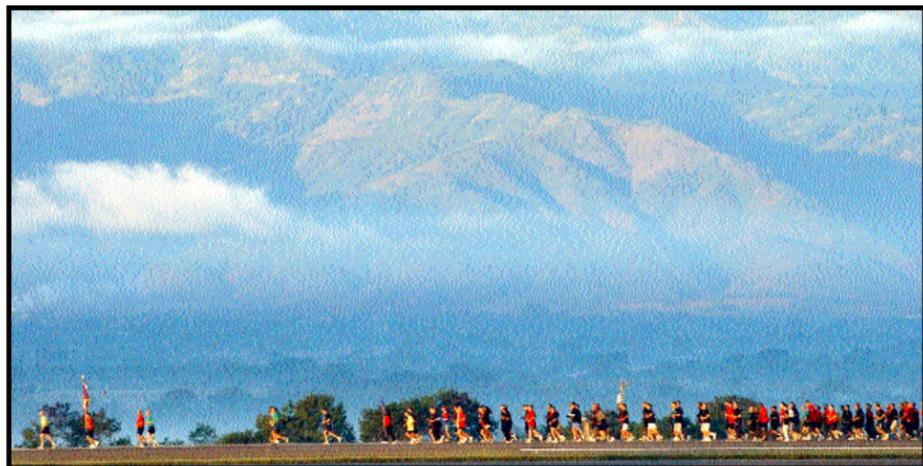


Road guard Staff Sgt. Jimmy Jimenez stretches before starting the run.

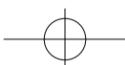


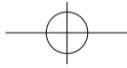
Photos by Tech. Sgt. Thomas Mullican

JTF-Bravo Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Trombley runs ahead of the formation.



JTF-Bravo service members run in formation on the flight line.



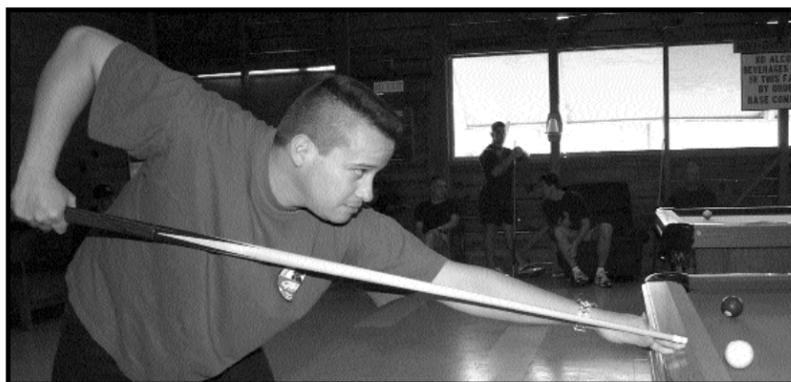


Photos by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Lt. Col. John Dawson returns a shot from Staff Sgt. Enrique Baez at the ping pong tournament during Sports Day Dec. 12. Ping Pong was one of the events that Soto Cano personnel competed against each other throughout the day. Team Honduras was the overall winner with victories in soccer and volleyball.

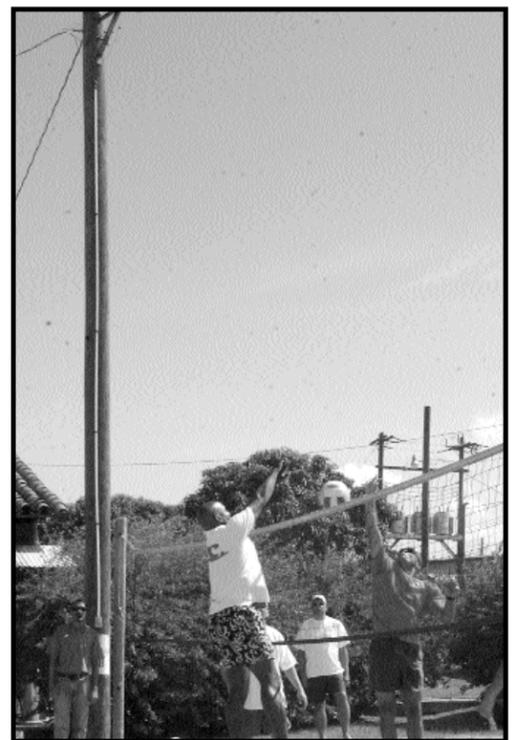


Teams ARFOR and MEDEL compete at basketball. MEDEL won the game 45-38.



Tech. Sgt. Daniel Torres takes aim during the pool tournament.

JTF-Bravo personnel battle it out for pride at Soto Cano sports day contests Dec. 12.



Teams AFFOR and MEDEL go for a score while competing at volleyball.



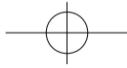


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Thomas Mullican

Capt. Frank Townsend serves Lt. Col. Glenn Werther during the opening of the commissioned officer and senior non-commissioned officer hall Dec. 12.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Thomas Mullican

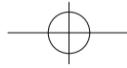


Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Above, Sgt. 1st Class John San Nicolas and Maj. Randy Denny sort money donated to the Feeding the Future of Honduras Fund by JTF-Bravo personnel. The money will be used to secure food, and other supplies for needy locals.

Left, JTF-Bravo Commander Col. William G. Phelps officially reopens the Zone as the commissioned officer and senior non-commissioned officer hall Dec. 12.



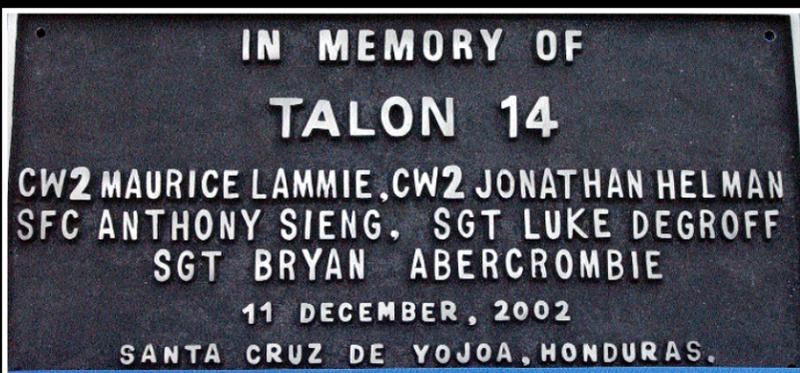


Talon 14 remembered



Photos by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Spc. Ted Williams presents a bouquet to Beverly Lammie and son Orin Lammie during the Talon 14 memorial ceremony Dec. 11 at 1-228th Aviation Regiment Headquarters. Beverly's husband Chief Warrant Officer 2 Maurice Lammie and four other 1-228 members died one year ago in a helicopter crash.



The memorial plaque with the names of the Talon 14 crew members.



Above, 1-228th Aviation Regiment members observe a moment of silence for their fallen comrades during the Talon 14 memorial ceremony. Left, JTF-Bravo Commander Col. William G. Phelps pays his respects to the fallen crew members of Talon 14 in front of their memorial plaque.

