



# The IGUANA



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## Honduran hoop dreams



*Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie*

Sgt. 1st Class Damon M. Randolph glides past opposing players as he scores two points on a finger roll for the JTF-Bravo basketball team Jan. 5. Randolph and other servicemembers are competing in a Honduran basketball tournament with local teams. See pages 4 and 5 for more details.

# Integrity begins with 'I'

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

*"Judge me, O Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not slide." (Psalm 26:1 KJV)*

The theme of Psalm 26 is integrity.

Within the 12 verses of this Psalm, the writer presents what a life of integrity looks like.

The English word integrity means "wholeness" and comes from the word "integer" which in mathematics refers to whole numbers.

A life of integrity is one that is well rounded, whole or complete; not fractured.

It is a life of consistency. You come to know what to expect from a person of integrity as their

lives are characterized by constancy of behavior.

People of integrity "talk the talk and walk the walk" daily. It has been said, "The unexamined life is not worth living."

I believe people of integrity live a self-examined life.

They ask themselves questions like, "What kind of person am I?" Or, "How am I doing?"

This is why the Psalmist could boldly challenge God Himself to examine, prove, or test him; as he'd already done so himself.

Since integrity begins with "I" here is how the Psalmist described his performance:

(v.2) "I have trusted in the Lord." The basis of his life was his beliefs.

(v.3) "I have walked in thy truth." His beliefs shaped his behavior.

(v.4) "I have not sat with vain persons." His behavior affected his associations.

(v.6) "I will wash my hands in innocency." He became willing to admit and correct his mistakes.

(v.8) "I have loved the habitation of your house." His behavior also determined whom he became like.

(v.12) "I will bless the Lord." He bore allegiance to a Higher Power than himself.

These are traits of a life of integrity.

Service members and their families are called to do what is right and be people of integrity.

At the beginning of this New Year, may we, like the Psalmist, resolve within ourselves to live lives of integrity.

## Values: a way of life

By Col. Brian E. Kistner  
376th Expeditionary Mission Support Group

Most of us encounter situations in life we do not always agree with.

Positive results can stem from how we respond to these situations.

All of us in the Armed Forces have a sacred duty to adhere to the highest standards of military conduct.

We have a wide range of choices; from turning a blind eye and doing nothing to confronting situations head on and ensuring we adhere to standards.

Whatever the case, rules and standards must be adhered to at all costs.

They form the backbone for our acceptable way of life.

Just about everywhere you look; there are rules and standards to be followed to effectively meet an end.

In the military, and the Air Force in particular, without standards we become just another segment of society versus the most trusted segment of society.

Without our high standards, we would, not be able to prosecute the nation's wars.

To help avoid confusion, the Air Force adopted three core values that spell out what we are all about: integrity first, excellence in all we do and service before self.

These values are not cliché; they are the basic common values that enable people in the United States Air Force to perform the mission.

Of these values, integrity must be first, for without integrity we have nothing.

We must always strive to do the right things for the right reasons.

We must all know we can trust the person to the right and to the left of us to be forthright and to watch our back in a fight.

Our countrymen have put a great deal of faith in us to take the moral high ground when defending our country.

We are called on to fight and win the wars that guarantee our freedoms.

As an armed force, Americans require much from us and we must be prepared to deliver. We have to give our personal best and be cognizant of how we conduct ourselves.

Adherence to standards does not require a super human effort that does not allow for mistakes.

Rather, adherence requires an honest straightforward approach and the best effort we can put forward.

Doing the right things for the right reasons means simply, when presented with a tough decision, confronting the situation head on and doing what is right even when it is uncomfortable.

When faced with misbehavior by a subordinate, for example, it might be easier to turn a blind eye and do nothing vs. administering the tough justice our profession requires.

This situation quickly becomes an integrity issue and one that has far reaching implications.

When the chips are down, people will fail to do what is right if we do not hold them to this same standard in performing their daily duties.

When we fail to do the right thing, the repercussions are far reaching because in the profession of arms we all potentially may be faced with life and death decisions.

If we allow complacency and inaction to erode the fabric of our military through the lack of adherence to standards and our core values, then we threaten the very existence of the institution we hold so dear and the rest of the Nation relies upon so heavily to fight and win wars.

Standards and core values aren't cliché. They are what set us apart from the rest of society and what make us the best most trusted air and space force in the world.

## SUBMISSIONS

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# DOD resumes anthrax shots

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

A federal judge ruled Jan. 7 that the Defense Department could again legally administer anthrax immunizations to servicemembers.

Military commanders "should immediately resume the anthrax vaccination program," wrote Dr. David S.C. Chu, DOD personnel chief, in a department-wide memorandum.

The department's anthrax vaccine immunization program had been suspended since Dec. 23, after an injunction granted the previous day by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia caused DOD to suspend the program.

The department "remains convinced that the AVIP complies with all legal requirements, and there is now no judicial restraint" on administration of the vaccine, Dr. Chu wrote.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers maintain the anthrax vaccine is a safe and necessary prophylactic for U.S. servicemembers deployed in the war against terrorism where enemies may employ biological, chemical or nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

Both Secretary Rumsfeld and General Myers have received anthrax shots.

# Coalition forces get help from citizens

By Staff Sgt. Nate Orme  
3rd Personnel Command Public Affairs

Third-country nationals, called "TCNs" work side-by-side with American contractors and military personnel, in nearly every vocational field in the war on terror.

There are TCNs in management, construction and maintenance. TCNs repair M1-Abrams tank engines and communication systems. They serve food in dining facilities. They install plumbing, drywall and air conditioning into buildings. They risk and have lost their lives driving massive amounts of coalition supplies into Iraq.

Yet, due to their critical but behind-the-scenes work, their often limited English, differing schedules, pay-scales and living locations, they seem more a part of the landscape rather than the committed and enthusiastic partners they often are.

Rather than working for the military directly, most TCNs are hired by defense contractors through job agencies in their native country, said Cynthia Fowler, a human resources professional with CSA Ltd, out of Kuwait. TCNs typically respond to ads placed in newspapers or through word-of-mouth information, often from friends already hired. Potential workers submit a resume and the best are selected based on the job requirements. Strong candidates usually have some English skills and, often with skilled positions, a degree.

Third country nationals can be found throughout the theater, just on Camp Arifjan in Kuwait, there are about 3,500 TCNs, said officials with the Provost Marshal Office.

Mohammed Basheer works as an administration assistant for the Public Works Branch of the Installation

and Community Service Department on Camp Arifjan. Basheer helps his employer organize and communicate with other TCNs working on a myriad of projects around the base.

Basheer learned about the overseas job from a cousin. He applied and was interviewed in Bombay, India, by Fowler. He has been in Kuwait for about one year.

"It has been a good experience for me. I learned a lot about conducting administration," said Basheer, in his singsong Indian accent.

"I have lots of friends in the U.S. Army," said Basheer, "I especially like (CSA) management because they support me whenever I go to them for help."

Through first-hand exposure working for the military, TCNs generally get a much more accurate view of coalition forces compared to their countrymen at home.

"When I was learning about Saddam, I had some opinions," said Basheer, "but when I came here I understand the situation better; how the United States is trying to keep the peace and stability in the region. The U.S. Army is doing good."

Still, the major incentive for TCNs is money.

"These jobs are considered high paying in places like India where unemployment is very high," Fowler said. "Workers start here at 75 KD (Kuwaiti Dinars; one dinar is about \$3.40) a month.

They bring good skills with them when they come, and they rarely leave. It's a solid paycheck for them."

Room and board are free for TCNs working for CSA, Fowler said.

"TCNs live in residence compounds and are provided three meals a day plus a snack. We provide them with transportation for work and



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nate Orme

**Mohammed Farook, from Bombay, India, works on the mechanics of an M1 Abrams tank for defense contractor ITT Industries Inc.**

there are also buses that go to Kuwait City. The residences look very much like a campus. They have libraries, cricket leagues, gyms and TV rooms.

The housing areas are owned by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense and private companies," explained Fowler, adding that the Kuwaiti government provides medical care to TCNs.

To those unfamiliar with the TCN program, it may be surprising to see TCNs working on sophisticated military equipment, as they have done here since the first Gulf War.

Mohammed Farook, also from Bombay, India, has worked for ITT Industries Inc. in Kuwait for nine years.

"When I got here it was totally new for me. I started as a driver and I

became familiar with all the U.S. vehicles. I am licensed to drive tanks, trucks - everything," Farook explained.

Farook said because of his knowledge of vehicle systems, his supervisors wanted him to become a mechanic and work on Abrams tanks. Like many TCNs, Farook got his experience through on-the-job training.

ITT management said that equipment with classified technology is removed from vehicles by military members and American workers prior to TCNs working on them.

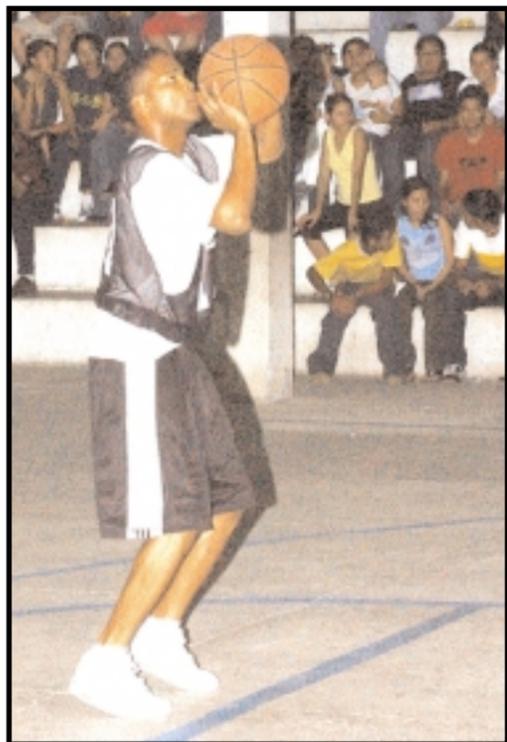
Farook returns to India every year to his wife and two children. Most TCNs get a paid trip home every two years with one month paid leave.

See TCN page 6

# For love of



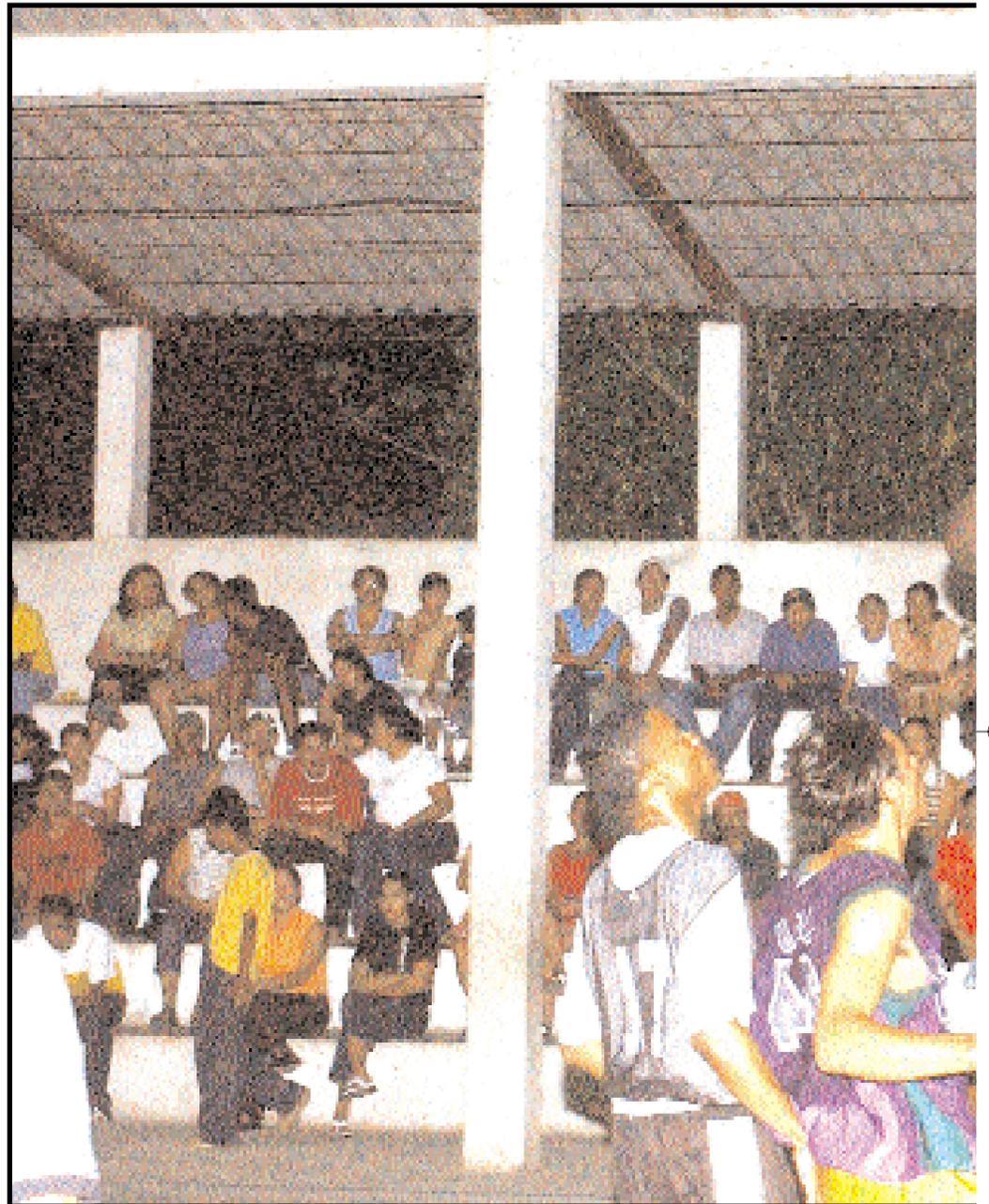
Sgt. Robert Hunter dunks the ball over a Honduran player during the game.



Sgt. Victor Turnipseed shoots two free throws after a failed shot attempt.



Sgt. Angel Cruz, (right) defends a Honduran player in man-to-man coverage.



Honduran spectators watch Sgt. Damon M. Randolph score two points for the JTF-Bravo during the game 55-32. Randolph and other servicemembers are participating in the La Paz

## JTF-Bravo servicemembers entertain Honduran neighbors during

By Spc. James-Denton Wyllie  
Editor

As guard Dexter Nelams streaked down the floor with the basketball, center Robert Hunter ran on the opposite side with his hand raised in the air.

As Nelams neared the basket he tossed the ball into the air and ducked out of the way. Hunter jumped into the air, grabbed the ball and slammed it into the basket for a monster dunk.

The crowd went crazy; setting off firecrackers and yelling out a variety of catchphrases in Spanish. "They love us here," said Sgt. Dexter Nelams.

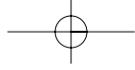
"It's different, but it's cool to play basketball their own way."

Nelams and other men participating in a basketball game at La Paz with a variety of Honduran neighbors.

The team plays every week on a basketball court, where the basketball hoop is wrapped with mattresses as a makeshift backboard.

"It's a different sort of basketball than I've played in before," said Sgt. Dexter Nelams. "The rim will tip over if it's not heavy enough to support it."

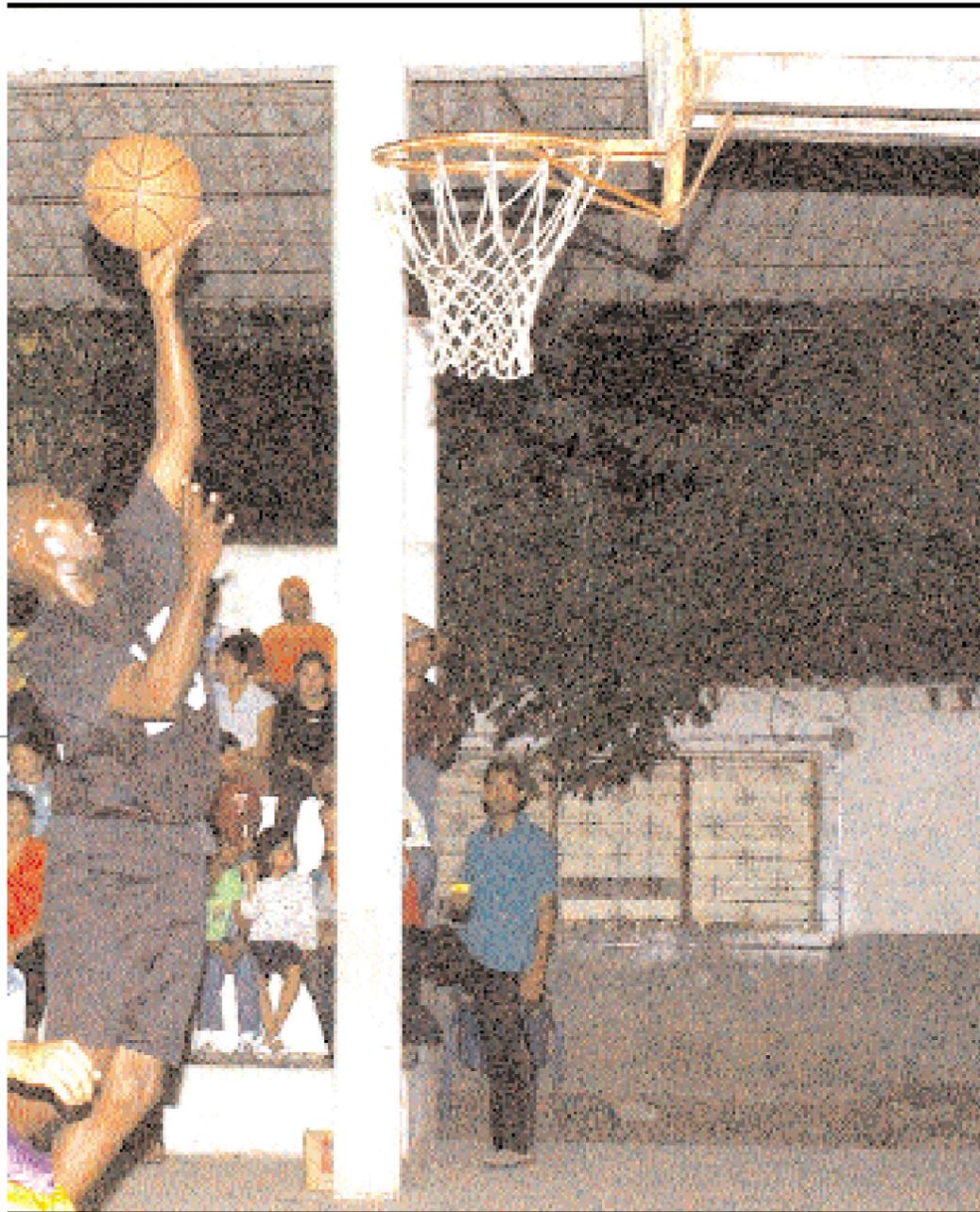
The schedule for the team is flexible, depending on the needs of the community.



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# f the game



Photos by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

bravo basketball team during a game versus the La Paz Lakers Jan. 5. JTF-Bravo won the basketball tournament playoffs against local Honduran teams.

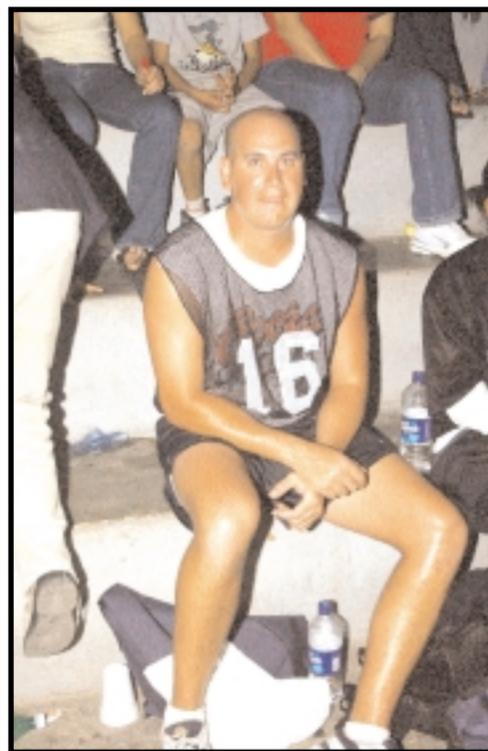
## ers hoop it up with Honduran basketball tournament

I to see them celebrate in members of JTF-Bravo are all tournament in the town local teams. week on a makeshift basketball poles are and held in place by tires. place than I have ever t. Robert Hunter. "Some because the tires aren't t"

play late into the night. However, any fatigue they might feel the next day is replaced by knowing they won their game the night before, said Nelams. "We're out here having fun and winning games, so the fatigue doesn't really bother us," he said. The team has now made the playoffs of the tournament and will have to beat seven more teams on their way to the championship. Even if they don't win the trophy, the experience itself is one worth remembering, said Hunter. "I can honestly say that this is an experience that I will never remember for the rest of my life," he said.



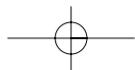
Players scramble for the ball after the second shot of a pair of free throws.



Capt. Haskell Roberts takes a breather on the bench during the second quarter.



Honduran spectators watch the game and cheer on their favorite team.



# Medical priority for disabled vets

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

Veterans Affairs officials want to send veterans with service-connected medical problems to the front of the line when it comes to receiving medical treatment at VA facilities.

Anthony J. Principi, VA secretary, issued a new directive to all VA medical facilities requiring that "priority access" be given to qualifying veterans seeking appointments for treatment.

The directive covers hospitalization and outpatient care, and does not apply to veterans seeking care for medical problems not related to a service-connected disability.

Priority access means that when qualifying veterans come to a VA treatment facility for inpatient or outpatient care, they will receive an appointment within 30 days, Mr. Principi said.

"It's really as simple as that," he said. Veterans seeking treatment need only let the administrative clerk or nurse know of their service-connected disability status, Mr. Principi said.

If a VA facility is unable to schedule an appointment within the 30-day time limit, an appointment must be arranged for care at another

VA facility or at a facility under contract in the private sector.

"I've always felt that it is important to give veterans with service-connected disabilities a priority for care," Mr. Principi said.

"I want to make sure that those who have disability related to military service have a high priority for health care, whether it is inpatient or outpatient, and this new priority scheme is to ensure that those who are disabled go to the 'front of the line.'"

The new policy will not be without its challenges.

More than 25 million veterans are in the VA's health-care system, and the department reports the number of veterans seeking medical care has risen significantly, from 2.9 million in 1995 to nearly 5 million in 2003.

The VA operates more than 1,300 medical facilities, including 162 hospitals and 800 outpatient clinics, but officials report the increase in veterans seeking care "outstrips VA's capacity to treat them."

Mr. Principi acknowledged that veterans have suffered long waits for appointments at medical facilities in some parts of the country.

He said the goal for his department will be to reduce those lines and to ensure that veterans are cared for in a timely manner.

In the past, priority access to health care went only to veterans with disabilities rated at 50 percent or more; for severely disabled veterans, priority is extended for nonservice-connected medical problems, according to VA guidelines.

However, the new directive now makes priority access available to all veterans injured in service to the country, Mr. Principi said.

The VA was established to care for the men and women who served in the armed forces, and that "we should never lose sight of that," he said.

His department's priority must "always be the men and women disabled in service to their country," Mr. Principi said.

In addition, Mr. Principi said his department will work harder to reduce the backlog of disability claims for veterans, and VA is making "tremendous progress" in that effort.

"They've shown renewed commitment ensuring that if a veteran files a claim for disability compensation, he or she doesn't have to wait six months to a year," Mr. Principi said. "We are going to get that claim decided in 100 days or less."

## Third country nationals help out U.S. servicemembers overseas

From TCN page 2

Many go home more often and stay for several months before returning to Kuwait.

Farook, who has always wanted to visit the United States, said that his experience working on base gave him a taste of what American culture is like.

"When I started, I was not fluent in English, but once into the atmosphere, I picked it up. English is like my hobby; learning slang, accents - I really like it," Farook said. "Westerners are more broad-minded, not as concerned with small stuff. Asians are more traditional. America looks to the future, not back."

TCNs come from a wide variety of cultural and religious backgrounds. Watching a small group of construction workers work on a commander's conference room is a marvel of the human ability to adapt.

Using a mixture of Arabic and English as a lingua franca, Filipino, Pakistani, Egyptian, and Indian workers work, talk and joke with each other as they install items to specification.

Occasionally, an American employee with the Army Corps of Engineers will come by on his rounds and talk with the Indian foreman. Often,

Muslim workers will roll out a small rug and pray on bended knees at various times during the day. Catholic Filipinos working in December talk about Christmas mass.

Most TCNs prefer not to think of their role as having any political implications, but few have anything good to say about the former Iraqi dictator that the coalition forces toppled, and often speak well of the coalition force's efforts.

"I'm not Iraqi," said Shizaman, who was only willing to give part of his name. "I'm Pakistani, but Saddam was no good."

Farook, the tank mechanic, waxes philosophical about his role: "I'm working with an American company and the U.S. Army. I'm kind of like a soldier because I'm supporting them, but at the same time, I'm trying to make a living."

Interestingly, the home governments of many TCNs that currently do not send troops in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, citing political reasons, are more willing to let civilian citizens earn wages - much of which is sent back home.

In the term TCN, "third country," for simplicity's sake, refers to countries other than the "first" country of Kuwait or "second," mostly Western countries. Personnel hired locally

usually fill a "Western" position, said Fowler.

Many such hires are from the Philippines. For administration purposes such local hires are not technically referred to as TCNs, although most originally came to work for Kuwaiti companies or families, often in the maid or service industries. Due to this, there are more females from the Philippines working on base than, say, India, which are almost exclusively male.

Eva Pluma, a Filipina who has been living with her aircraft mechanic husband in Kuwait for 13 years, works at the GNC health store near the Post Exchange. Pluma is brought to work by a GNC manager and works alone 15 days a month in the small store. For her, working on base has its benefits.

"I think working here is better than outside the base. Americans respect us," Pluma said.

Since most TCNs work with civilian contractors, one of the few places military personnel work with TCNs directly is in the camp dining facilities. Camp Arifjan is run by a contractor from Saudi Arabia, said head manager Raja Khurshid. Khurshid, originally from Pakistan, has been working with the U.S. Army since 1991, starting in Saudi Arabia.

He came to Arifjan last spring to open his current DFAC, which has 75 TCNs working two shifts.

American soldiers trained in culinary arts work in the DFACs to ensure that Army standards are met.

"The staff likes to work with Americans," Khurshid said. "They work very well with us. We have good friendship. The Army cooks will ask us to do this or this. They help us and teach us."

It shouldn't be said that TCNs are all smiles with no complaints. Some mention the long lines and ever-changing rules at camp entry and exit points, sometimes taking an hour or more twice a day.

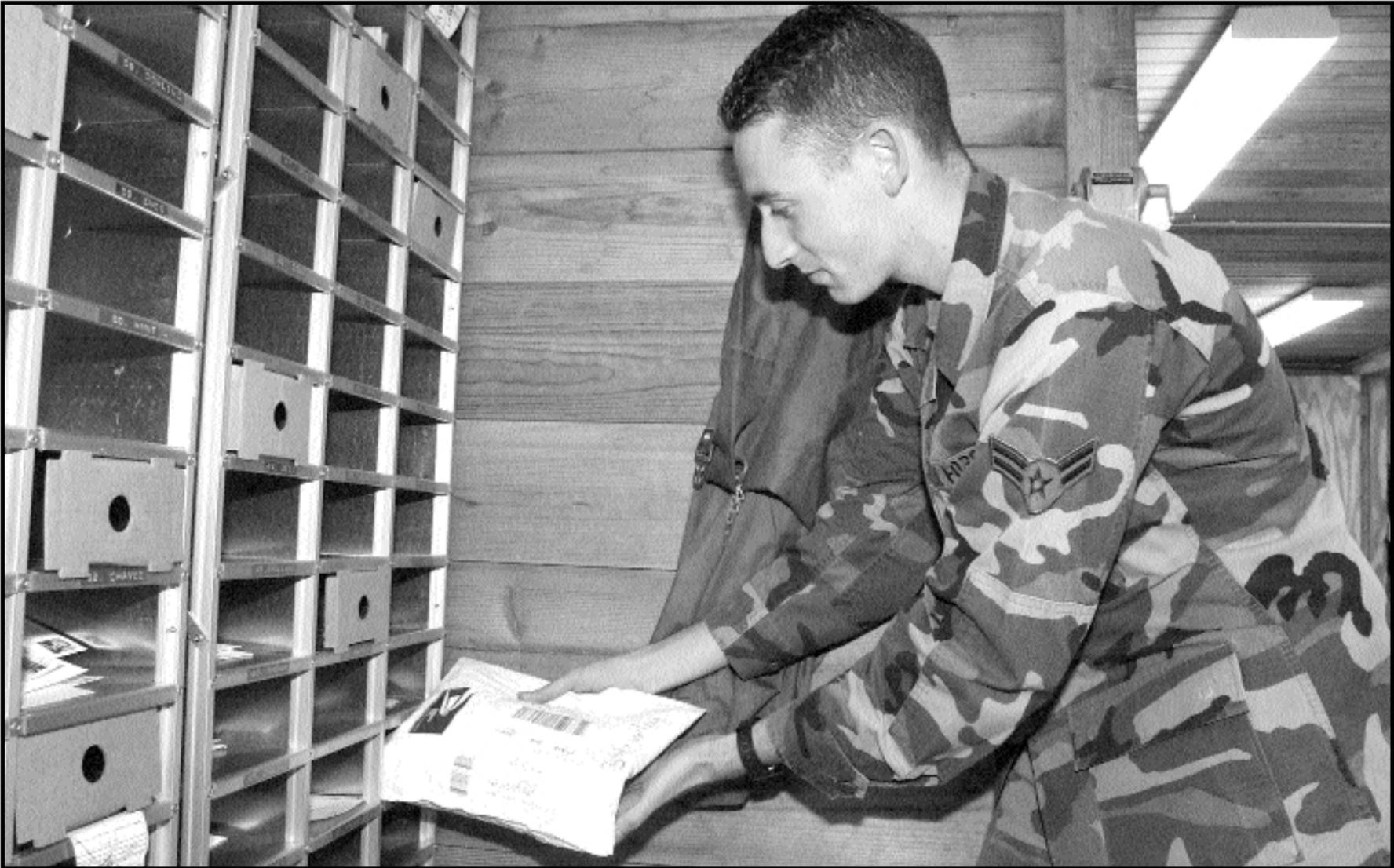
Also mentioned is the large disparity between American and TCN salaries. But most TCNs, often having had the experience back home of very low, late or no pay from employers, say they enjoy American companies' dependability when it comes pay time, as well as the friendly and supportive work environment they provide.

Thus, by teaming up with TCNs, the American military through its contractors is able to bring diverse people together, provide them opportunities and save taxpayer money, as well as achieve its own beneficent goals in the rebuilding of Iraq.

# Snapshots

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*Photos by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie*

Airman 1st Class Elliot Slade places a medical package in a mailbox for pickup. Effective May 21, 2003, an exception to Department of Defense postal policy on the weight restriction for prescription drugs eliminated the previous 16 ounce requirement. DOD Tricare Mail Order Pharmacy program will now be permitted to ship a more economical 90-day supply of prescription drugs through the military postal system.



*Photo by Martin Chahin*

Above, Honduran soldiers present awards to JTF-Bravo Jan. 14, in appreciation for their hard work in helping a contingent of 440 Honduran soldiers prepare for a future deployment to Iraq.

Left, FORSCOM commander Gen. Larry R. Ellis addresses JTF-Bravo personnel during his visit to Soto Cano Dec. 29. Ellis spoke to the troops about the state of deployments around the world, and commended them for their hard work.

# King's speech more than dream



Photo by Francis Miller

Civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. addresses the large crowd of demonstrators gathering for the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

By Denver Beaulieu-Hains  
Army News Service

It would have been Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 74th birthday.

In observance of King's birthday, Army staff at the Pentagon had the opportunity to view a play, "The Meeting," which depicts a fictional encounter between King and Malcolm X. The latter was the civil rights activist who believed that equal rights should be granted to African-Americans, "by any means necessary," contrary to King's non-violent stance.

During the play, the men stood together as opposing forces and two polarities with one thought in mind: racial equality for African-Americans.

The two wondered what kind of men they would have been "without the Selma bus boycott and the church bombings, and the stinging power of the fireman's hoses and the biting police dogs."

The play gave me a chance to reflect since, during those times I wasn't even a thought in my mother's mind; but I realized that the events of that day are little different from the times in which I raise my own children.

If you wonder why it's important, I say think again.

When Gov. George Wallace fueled the fires of racial discord in America during his inaugural address by saying, "Segregation now! Segregation tomorrow! Segregation forever!" and later stood at the "schoolhouse door" to block integration at the University of Alabama, King stood firm.

His belief was that violence perpetuated violence. Instead, King marched with other Black and White Americans non-violently. He and his civil rights movement took a prominent place in history.

On Jan. 21, the nation celebrates King's birth during a national holiday, which also leads this country into 28 days of recognition and the national observance of Black History Month in February.

King's Birthday and Black History Month should be a time dedicated to celebrating not only the contributions of King, but also the many other African-Americans who have contributed necessary everyday tools that we take for granted, like the stoplight and the cotton gin.

It's an opportunity to embrace our past difficulties and differences in order to move past those social obstacles, and to face new adversities as a united force.

The recognition is not just about the abolitionists or slavery anymore. It's a time to honor this nation's growth, maturity and prosperity because of its ethnic, social and religious diversity.

But some people don't embrace change right away. See the glass half full, not half empty. If nothing else, take the month of February and marvel at how far we've come.

As irony would have it, I had a chance meeting with one of my former Army commanders this week. He reminded me how unhappy I was two years ago when I had to hang up my combat boots. But he told me "when things seem wrong

and they aren't what you want them to be, sometimes gifts are given to people in different ways." I watched the play having greater appreciation of the message given to me.

The impact that both King and X had on the world in that statement came to life. I believe King's life was a gift to the world.

I'm convinced both men would be surprised today, because had they both lived, those ugly images seen in the 60s would have been replaced by the visions of firemen pulling a multitude of Americans of different cultures and religions and people from at least 50 other nations out of the debris of what was once New York's World Trade Center. The vicious police dogs are now docile, bomb-sniffing canines.

America is now more united than ever.

In a tense moment, during the play, King and X tussled with strength, ideology and words.

King said he won the Nobel Prize because he was promoting peace.

Malcolm replied tersely. "No, the award was for getting beat and not fighting back."

The contradiction of views came to a close as the two envisioned the possibilities of a combined effort.

"Imagine what we could have accomplished if we could have put our hands together and pushed in the same direction," said King to X. "You want to free blacks and I want to free America. Don't we really want the same things?"

This February, take a look at how far we've come as a nation.