



The IGUANA



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AFFOR takes Org Day title



Photo by Pfc. Michael Tuttle

The AFFOR team strains to pull out a victory against JSF in the tug-of-war final during Organizational Day Feb. 12. AFFOR won three events and tied with MEDEL in the basketball final to earn the overall team trophy. See the complete list of winners on p. 5.

One man's trash is another man's treasure

By Maj. Wayne Ingalls
J-2 Commander

Near the dirt airstrip, he quietly waited. The day dragged on. The jungle heat was oppressive, but he waited anyway. The sweat was staining his cotton shirt, and the man's mind drifted off to thoughts of home. His job was dangerous, but he did it all for his family. His mission, ultimately, was to make their life better. He repeated this thought. It made him feel better. The man's eyes slowly began to close.

He startled awake. How long had he been asleep? It would be dusk soon. In the distance, he heard the expected hum. This is the sound for which he had been waiting. The aircraft would be here soon. Now his work would begin, and he would offload the kilos of cocaine into the truck and drive the drugs across the border.

He would have been home for his daughter's birthday, but he got word of the schedule change two days ago. The mission was moved up. American helicopters were coming tomorrow, so the aircraft would have to land today. As the Beechcraft skidded to a stop, Eduardo started his truck to move close to the aircraft for the heavy lifting that lay ahead. Then, he would be off across the border into Mexico.

As Eduardo started his truck, several hundred miles away, US Army SGT Soldat was getting on the bus to Comayagua. It was his last night in Honduras before leaving on a Counter-Narco Terrorism (CNT) mission in the morning. His first stop was going to be El Torritos, where he planned to buy a steak dinner. Several thousand miles north of El Torritos, tonight SGT Soldat would also be buying expensive clothes, DVDs, and a wide screen television.

The connection between Eduardo missing his daughter's birthday (to drive drugs into Mexico) and SGT Soldat's spending spree is this: Trash. Critical information concerning the timing of the CNT mission found its way into the garbage, as did a complete alpha roster of SGT Soldat's unit. Both of these pieces of information have value, and were sold by enterprising individuals with somewhat shady connections. The CNT information found its way to drug traffickers who were willing and able to pay a premium for such timely information. In SGT Soldat's case, experts in credit card fraud were able to turn his social security number and date of birth into cash. SGT Soldat will soon be getting an unwelcome bill in the mail.

While both of these incidents above are fictitious, they do illustrate the value in guarding information. The first inci-

dent, a clear Operations Security (OPSEC) violation, resulted in drug traffickers successfully avoiding a JTF-Bravo CNT mission. The second incident could end up costing SGT Soldat a lot of money (as well as time and frustration).

The kinds of things that could be used against us here include things like CNT information and alpha rosters, but could also include things like old JTF-Bravo phone books. Armed with a phone book, a "bad guy" could call around seeking little bits of information. The little bits of information by themselves may be harmless, but with persistence, little bits of information can become big bits of information and fill in enough of the holes in the puzzle to give away actionable intelligence. Similarly, things like OERs, NCOERs and EPRs contain information (like social security numbers) that could be of use to someone with an evil intent.

How do you deal with this? What do you do with things that could give intelligence to druggies or personal data to rip off artists? The short answer is to shred the information. Yes, this could take some more time. You may have so much to shred that you are afraid you will burn up your shredder.

You will probably want to order plenty of shredder oil to lubricate the blades, and you may want to add shredders to your unfunded requirements (UFR) list. That way, if funds become available, you will have all the shredders you need. If you really do have materials that are too bulky or too numerous to shred, you can coordinate with the J2 and arrange to use their burn barrels to dispose of your documents. The bottom line is that you owe it to your country and to your personnel to protect sensitive information. You don't want to be to blame for mission failure, and you probably don't want to have SGT Soldat come knocking on your door.

Questions concerning OPSEC can be addressed to the J2.

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 michael.tuttle@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.

Vision of a noble man

By Lt. Col. Douglas C. Robertson
ARFOR Commander

Being stationed on an Air Base, we all hear the roar of U.S. Air Force cargo planes as they take off and land at our airfield. These great aircraft are striking symbols of U.S. military strategic power. Power that no other nation in the world possesses.

They also serve a role in supporting U.S. humanitarian relief efforts. With every cargo plane that lands at Soto Cano, I am reminded of Senator Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr., who is both a military hero and a humanitarian.

I had the opportunity to meet Senator Denton on several occasions. And each time, I was amazed at how he projected his strong set of values and leadership.

In June 1965, then Naval Commander Denton, was leading a group of 28 aircraft from the USS Independence in an attack on enemy installations in North Vietnam. He was shot down and captured, and spent the next seven years as a prisoner of war. Four of those years were spent in solitary confinement. In 1966, a Japanese television

station requested that the North Vietnamese government allow them to interview a U.S. POW. Commander Denton was chosen to give the interview.

During that interview, when asked about alleged U.S. "war atrocities" he replied, "I don't know what is happening now in Vietnam, because the only news sources I have are North Vietnamese, but whatever the position of my government is, I believe it, I support it, and I will support it as long as I live."

Those words were powerful in their own right. But not nearly as moving as when he looked into the bright lights of the camera, and using Morse Code, blinked the message over and over again for the world to see: "T-O-R-T-U-R-E".

Senator Denton told me that he agreed to give the interview because he knew that when the American people saw that he was alive, the North Vietnamese might continue to torture him, but they would not kill him. That belief helped keep him alive.

Denton retired from the Navy in 1979 as a Rear Admiral, and was elected as a Senator from Alabama

in 1980. It was during his tenure as a U.S. Senator that he devised *The Denton Program*, now officially known as *The Denton Amendment*.

This program allows donors to use the space available on U.S. Military cargo planes, ships and trucks to transport humanitarian goods and equipment to countries in need.

The program was initially created to use the extra space on U.S. cargo aircraft that were flying supplies into Central America. Today, thousands of tons of supplies are transported each year from U.S. Air Force bases and Naval ports to regions around the globe, including Central and South America, the Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia.

When you hear the next cargo plane land at Soto Cano, you can be sure that the crew has loaded and unloaded not only personnel, supplies and equipment for military operations, but also many loads of humanitarian relief supplies, all made possible by Senator Denton.

It began with the vision of a true warrior, humanitarian, and American hero. Jeremiah Denton, a truly noble man.

The

IGUANA



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ARFOR provides water support to school

Story and Photo by Pfc. Michael Tuttle
Editor

Army Forces from Joint Task Force-Bravo delivered thousands of gallons of water over three days to a Comyagua university that was running out of water due to a broken water pump.

The water donation was in response to a request from the governor of the state of Comyagua who asked JTF-Bravo to provide water to the Universidad Nacional Autonomas de Honduras.

JTF-Bravo first delivered two water buffaloes with about 400 gallons of water each to the university Feb. 11. The water buffaloes were exchanged for new ones on Feb. 12 and 13.

It was planned that two more would be exchanged on Feb. 17 and that the water pump would be fixed or replaced by then, according to Maj. Randy W. Denny, director of Civil and Military Relations.

"It feels good to be able to help the people in the community," said Sgt. Eric Rice, truck driver. "I am sure the students appreciate the water in this heat."

JTF-Bravo was able to provide the water support to the university despite its resources being spread thin.

Two water buffaloes are currently being used in Le Ceiba to supply water for the New Horizons and Joint Logistics over the Shore exercises.



Sgt. Andrew Freeman directs the way for a tank holding 400 gallons of water to be parked. JTF-Bravo provided 800 gallons of water per day Feb. 11, 12 and 13 to the Universidad Nacional Autonomas de Honduras which would have been without water due to the university's broken water pump.

JTF-Bravo soldier receives commission



2nd Lt. Enrique Baez-Torres receives his direct commission from JTF-Bravo Commander Col. William Phelps Feb. 5.

Story and Photo by Pfc. Michael Tuttle
Editor

An enlisted JTF-Bravo Soldier received his commission in a rare ceremony Feb. 5 at Command Headquarters.

2nd Lt. Enrique Baez-Torres went from a staff sergeant to a member of the officer corps when he was directly commissioned by JTF-Bravo Commander Col. William Phelps.

Phelps stated during the ceremony that he had never witnessed a direct commission before in his 25 years of service.

Baez-Torres said that he has served over six enlisted years preparing to be an officer.

"Ever since I joined the army becoming an officer was always in my mind," said Baez-Torres.

"My father is a retired officer and he always told me to try to become an officer, but I felt that being enlisted for a while would help me become a better officer."

A Puerto Rican native who grew up in Boston, Baez-Torres originally applied for Officer Candidate School two years ago.

Due to an administrative mishap however, his application was sent back to his reserve unit in Texas without being considered.

His division commanding general recommended that he then send his packet in to apply for a direct commission.

Baez-Torres is a combat engineer working in the J-7 office here. He entered the Army in 1997 as a technical engineer before reclassing as a sergeant.

He plans to complete his civil engineering degree when he returns to his unit in Texas. He then plans to earn his master's before going active duty.

Baez-Torres said that while it feels different being an officer, he will not forget where he came from.

"I'm not used to being called sir yet," Baez-Torres said, "but I'll get used to it real quick."



Photo by Pfc. Michael Tuttle

Maj. David Briar awaits the tag from his triathlon teammate Staff. Sgt. Glenn Gordon.



Photo by 1st Lt. Robert Goza

The JTF-B Organizational Day began with a 3-mile cohesion run in the morning.



Photo by Pfc. Michael Tuttle

Airman Anthony Dobbins mans the firehose during AFFOR's FireFighter Combat Challenge.

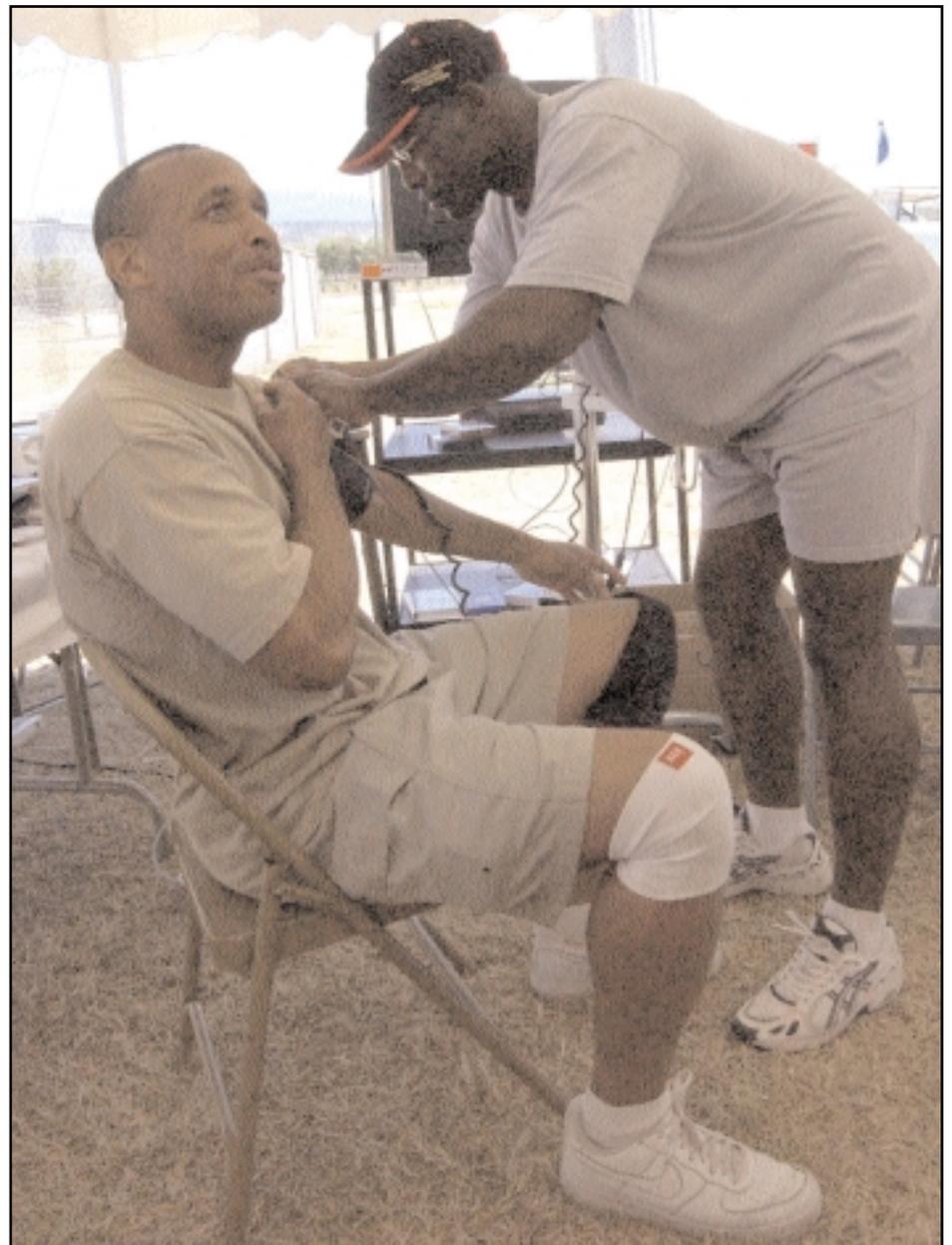


Photo by Pfc. Michael Tuttle

1st. Sgt. Sean Henry has his blood pressure checked by Staff Sgt. Jerry Mann as part of MEDEL's Health Fair during Organizational Day.

Org. Day Winners:

Triathlon:

Swim(F)	Capt. Phoebe Price
Swim(M)	Sgt. Christopher Young
Run(F)	Sgt. Monique Hernandez
Run(M)	Cabo Banegas (Hon.)
Bike(F)	Capt. Ann Starr
Bike(M)	Sgt. 1st Class Louis Bradshaw
Triathlete(F)	Capt. Ann Starr
Triathlete(M)	Capt. Scott Epler
Triathlon(team)	Viva Honduras

Team Events:

1-228's Raft Relay	MEDEL
AFFOR's Firefighter Combat Challenge	AFFOR
ARFOR's HMMWV Push	AFFOR
JSF's Tug-of-War	AFFOR
MEDEL Litter Carry(M)	Viva Honduras
MEDEL Litter Carry(Co-Ed)	MEDEL
Volleyball	1-228
Basketball(tie)	AFFOR/MEDEL
Overall	AFFOR



Photo by Pfc. Michael Tuttle

MEDEL Sgt. Tim Jensen backhands the ball over the net during a volleyball match against ARFOR. MEDEL cruised to a 21-8 victory.

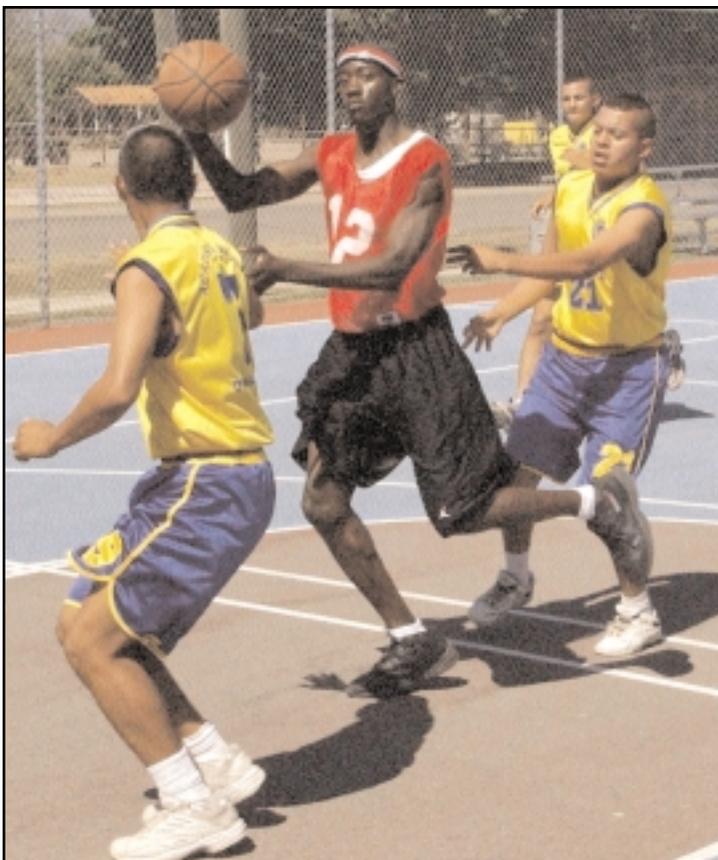


Photo by Pfc. Michael Tuttle

AFFOR Staff Sgt. Ronald Miller looks to pass as he drives the lane in a basketball game against Honduran cadets.



Photo by Pfc. Michael Tuttle

JSF Staff Sgt. David Good conquers another lap during the swim portion of the Triathlon in the Soto Cano pool.



ABOVE: Outgoing JTF-Bravo Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Trombley speaks during a change of responsibility ceremony Feb. 11. Commenting on his joy for running the 6.4-mile perimeter of Soto Cano Trombley said, "It gives me time to think and it's the best time to counsel soldiers."

TOP RIGHT: From left to right, outgoing JTF-Bravo Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Trombley, JTF-Bravo Commander Col. William Phelps and new JTF-Bravo Command Sgt. Maj. Ruben Espinoza look on during the change of responsibility ceremony.

RIGHT: New JTF-Bravo Command Sgt. Maj. Ruben Espinoza accepts the Command guidon from JTF-Bravo Commander Col. William Phelps. (Photos by Martin Chahin)

Army changes enlistment lengths to support stabilization

By Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

Basic and Advanced Individual Training will be in addition to the number of years a new recruit enlists for under a new Force Stabilization initiative.

There are 19 jobs, mainly combat-arm specialties, which fall under the recently implemented Variable Enlistment Length program.

Under VEL, Soldiers can enlist for three- to five-year VEL options. After arriving at their first unit, they are stabilized for at least three years.

Since its implementation in December more than 2,000 Soldiers have enlisted under VEL.

A smaller number of troops have enlisted under the congressionally mandated 15-month pilot program, "National Call to Service."

Since it was approved Oct. 1, about 125 Soldiers have enlisted in the Army under the program.

Similarly to VEL, the program doesn't include training as part of the time-in-service contract and only a limited number of specialties fall under it.

National Call to Service was adopted by each of the other services. The 15-month pilot program coincides with VEL because they both

kicked off about the same time, said Lt. Col. Harry Garner, chief of Enlisted Accessions Division.

They both keep initial-term Soldiers stabilized at their first duty station, but the National Call to Service is not a part of the Army's stabilization plans, Garner said.

The mission of Force Stabilization is to provide ready, deployable, combat forces, and to do that units have to first be manned, said Col. Michael Harris, the deputy director of Directorate of Military Personnel Policy, G1.

However, VEL isn't just about manning units, it's also about stabilizing Soldiers, he said, referring to the fact that Soldiers under VEL would stay at their first unit for at least three years.

The Soldiers who fall under the selected job specialties will initially be assigned to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, La., which is scheduled to begin converting to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team in October.

The 2nd Cavalry Regiment is a combat unit, which is why Human Resources Command selected specialties such as infantry, cannon crewmember and cavalry scout, Garner said.

Some of the non-combat-arms jobs that fall under VEL are human

resources specialist, 42A; administration specialist, 42L; and supply specialist, 92Y.

"VEL will be used to man all of the maneuver brigade combat teams, to include one of the brigades in the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii. It will transform into a Stryker unit by 2005," Harris said.

"Under Force Stabilization, we will synchronize Soldiers' assignment cycles with units' operational cycles," Harris added.

Most units' operational cycles are on a 36-month schedule, Harris said.

Before VEL, many Soldiers already enlisted for only 36 months, but their initial-entry training took from three months to a year. So when they arrived at their unit, they were not there for a full 36 months.

"But if you synchronize the schedules, and all the soldiers come in together, train, deploy, fight, win and return together, you will get a more deployable and ready force," Harris said.

Another example Harris cited to reinforce the push for stabilization was that Soldiers could get more familiar with their weapons. "If you're assigned an M16 at an installation, and you're there for three years, and you take that same M16 to the range ... you're going to be more proficient

with your weapon.

"In contrast, if you go to 2.3 installations over a three-year period ... and touch three different weapons, you'll probably be less proficient with your weapon," Harris said.

Force Stabilization is one of Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker's 16 focus areas.

"How the Army mans its force was an immediate area that the chief of staff wanted us to look at," Harris said.

"We've developed two programs under Force Stabilization. One is 'Home-basing' and the other is 'Unit Focused Stability,' previously known as 'unit manning,'" Harris added.

Home-basing would require initial-term officers and enlisted Soldiers to stay at their first duty station for an extended tour of up to six or seven years, Harris said.

He said VEL directly supports Stabilization because initial-entry Soldiers report to their unit at the same time and spend at least three years at that unit.

While some Force Stabilization initiatives will most likely begin this summer, the specific units and installations that will be affected will not be announced until next month after a review of the current VEL is done by the Army, officials said.

Myers salutes troops, all who serve nation

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, accepted the Intrepid Foundation 2004 Freedom Award in New York City Feb. 11 on behalf of America's men and women in uniform.

The nation's service members "serve tirelessly and with great courage and great dedication," Myers said. "They're the ones out there doing the really hard work."

Launched in 1943, the USS Intrepid served the U.S. Navy for 31 years. During World War II, the Intrepid suffered seven bomb attacks, five kamikaze strikes and one torpedo hit; yet it continually returned to action, earning a reputation among the enemy as the "The Ghost Ship."

After World War II, a modernized, angled flight deck enabled the carrier to accommodate jet aircraft. The carrier pulled duty in Vietnam and during the Cold War before it was retired. The Intrepid now is a museum on the Hudson River in Manhattan.

Myers noted that the stakes today in the war on

terror are as high as when the Intrepid fought its battles. He said U.S. forces are fighting to defend the same liberties as they have for centuries.

"Terrorists hate our values and our freedoms. They want to destroy our way of life, but we're not going to let that happen," the chairman said.

Myers said today's sailors, soldiers, airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Defense Department civilians display the same courage and dedication as those who served on the Intrepid.

They're taking on the enemy 24 hours a day, every day of the year, he added.

"They have performed superbly in Afghanistan, in Iraq, in the Horn of Africa, in the Philippines, and around the world as members of a very effective, joint and multinational team trying to defend this country," he said.

Members of the armed forces understand "probably better than anybody" that the war on terror is going to be a long war, requiring the nation's resolve and commitment," he continued. "They also understand it's a war we must win, because this is their moment to influence the course of history."

Fighting terror presents new challenges for the military, the general noted. Today's enemy is far

different from any the nation has previously faced.

"Terrorists recognize no established boundaries, be they territorial or moral," he said. "They're agile, they're adaptable. So we've had to transform our forces, and how we fight just as the Intrepid transformed over the years to be relevant."

Fighting terrorism requires the coordinated efforts of nearly every agency of the U.S. government — Defense, State, Homeland Security, Justice, Treasury and Commerce — along with local, state and federal law enforcement, the chairman said.

"It's very, very wrong," Myers said, "to assume the efforts of the military (alone) can win this war. It's going to take all elements of our power and more than that."

The "more than that," he explained, are those in the civilian community who serve their nation by contributing to the nation's prosperity and through public service.

"The best weapon we have in this country is this idea of public service," Myers said.

With the support and commitment of the civilian community, Myers said, "there is no doubt that we are going to have the patience, resolve and commitment to win this war."



Photo by Pfc. Michael Tuttle

USARSO Commanding General visits

USARSO Commanding General James T. Hill is greeted by JTF-Bravo Commander Col. William Phelps as he steps of the plane. Hill visited Soto Cano Air Base Feb. 3.

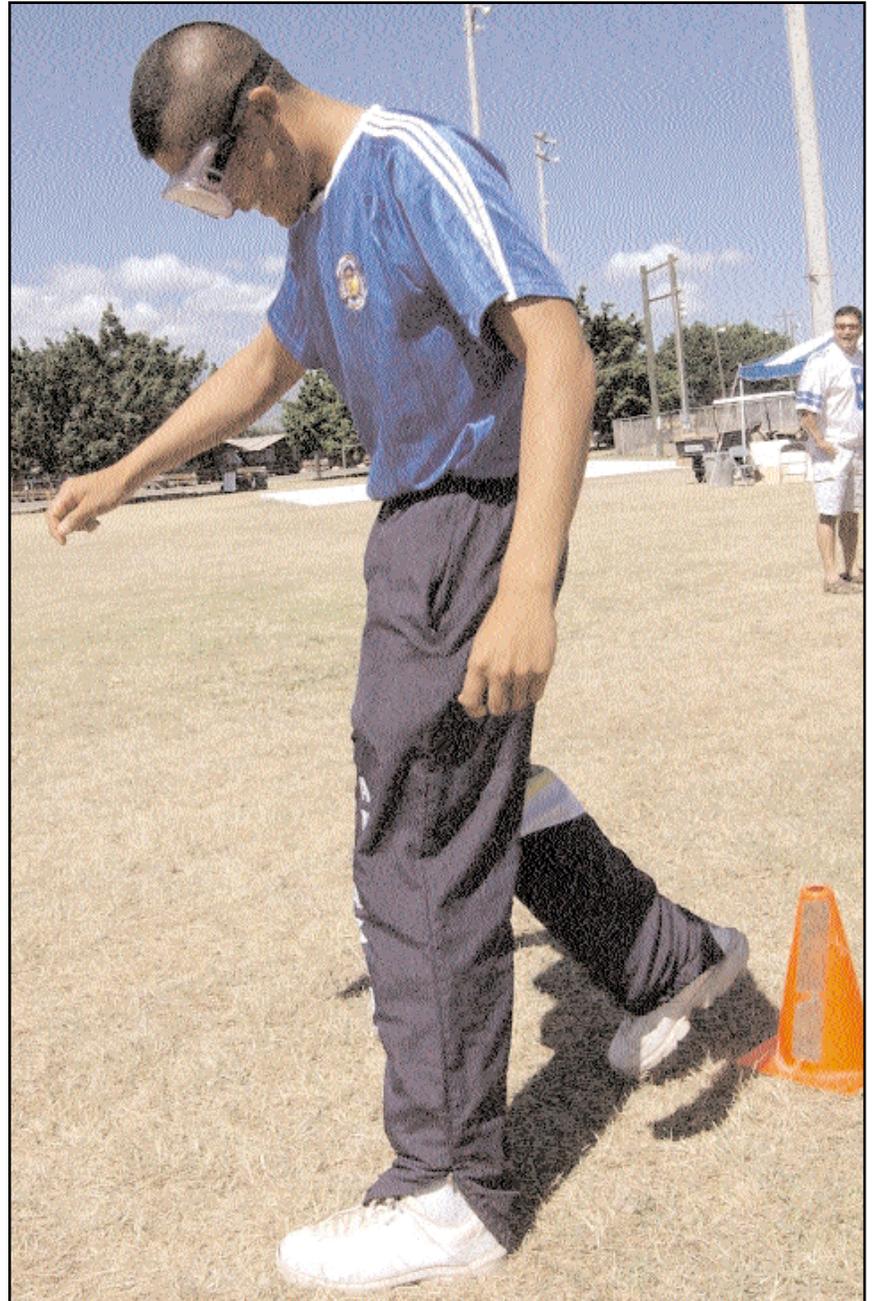


Photo by Pfc. Michael Tuttle

A Honduran Air Force Academy cadet stumbles around a cone while wearing a pair of drunk-simulator goggles. Mike Morales, JTF-Bravo safety director, had Organizational Day participants attempt various exercises with these goggles to demonstrate the disorienting effects of alcohol.



Photo by Spc. Nnamdi Anyalebechi

Participants of the Chapel Pulhapansak Falls Excursion check out the falls from the edge of a cliff.



Photo by Pfc. Michael Tuttle

The MEDEL team gained a win against the no-shows 1-228th in their tug-of-war match during Organizational Day, but lost to JSF.