

The IGUANA



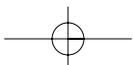
Volume 16, No. 14

July 9, 2004



MEDEL Soldiers tested

Pages 4, 5



Celebrating freedom

This Independence Day we celebrate our nation's 228th birthday and honor the legacy of our founding fathers.

Pioneers like Presidents Washington and Jefferson set a young nation on a course for democracy guided by the values of liberty and justice that have shaped our national character.

As we pay tribute to the past, we must also look to the future and face the challenges of the 21st century. Today, as throughout our history, the proud members of our Armed Forces are meeting these challenges head on, engaged around the world keeping the peace and demonstrating our firm resolve.

Through your unwavering service and commitment, you have secured America's shores and given hope to millions that liberty and justice can be theirs too.

The freedoms that we cherish come with a cost. Whether an honored veteran, new recruit or civilian, your vigilance, courage and sacrifice provide us the opportunity to live in a free society.

You have served notice to terrorists and those who threaten the vision of our Nation's founders that we will achieve victory.

We are proud of your commitment, dedication and accomplishments. Across America as family and friends gather to celebrate the liberties we all enjoy, remember those, some far from home, who make this patriotic holiday possible.

This is our opportunity to focus on our families and appreciate their sacrifices and contributions to the freedoms we hold so dear.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff and I thank you and your families for your selfless, dedicated service and for ensuring the continued security of our Nation.

May God bless you and God bless America.

Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



Gen. Richard B. Myers

Chaplain's corner

The balanced being

By Chaplain (Capt.) Rory Rodriguez
JTF-B command chaplain

According to the Holy Bible, man is a composite of spirit, soul, and body.

The body was formed from the ground; the spirit was given directly by God breathing his life into man's nostrils; the soul was the result of spirit joining the body – thus man became “a living soul.”

This is quite astonishing when you actually believe it. It is astonishing because man is a tripartite being; a creature who is able to have contact with the world (physical), with himself (soulical), and with God (spiritual). What else is needed? The answer is nothing else.

Now there is a proper order involved in man's makeup. What I mean by proper order is that if man is to be a balanced being, he must live according to his highest power.

His highest power is his spirit. So the proper order of man in his operations is: spirit, soul and body.

If this is not followed, then man is doomed to fail – fail before both man and God. History attests to this resounding fact.

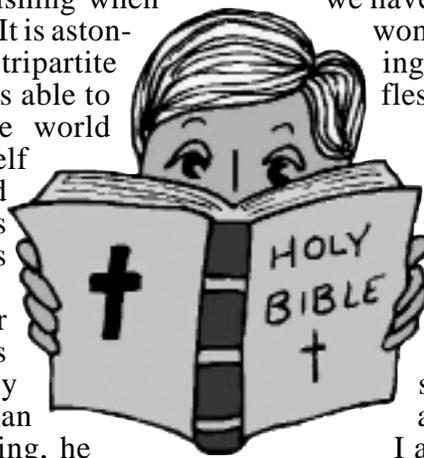
Let me explain to you what exactly this “spirit” constitutes.

The spirit is a combination of these three faculties: intuition, conscience and communion. The spirit is the noblest part of man, for that is the organ of communication and fellowship with his Creator.

Take away that and he then becomes an animal for animals only possess a body and soul.

Animals cannot commune with God. (Have you ever seen a camel on its knees thanking Him for having to go around with a hump on his back all of its life?).

The soul is a combination of these three faculties: mind, will and emotions.



We all know these three well for this is what is termed as “self.” This is whom you have to put up with all your life – good or bad.

This is who your personality, your will to go on, your desires, fantasies, ambitions, doubts, fears, likes and dislikes etc., etc.

The soul is powerful and capable of many wonderful accomplishments but also numerous mischievous and nefarious activities.

And the last part left is the body. This is what we have to look at everyday in the mirror and wonder how in the world did I end up looking like this. This body is also termed “the flesh” in the Holy Bible.

The flesh is likewise very powerful which can be used for good and evil. Woe unto you if you allow your body to be at the helm.

Blessed are ye if your body is in subjection to your spirit.

Lord willing, I will continue on this subject in my next article giving you some practical advise on how to be a balanced being in an unbalanced world.

I also will diagnose man's problem and dilemma in his world.

The IGUANA

EDITORIAL STAFF

JTF-Bravo Commander
Col. William G. Phelps Jr.

Public Affairs Director
1st Lt. Anna Siegel

Superintendent
Tech. Sgt. Roy Utley

Editor
Sgt. Jorge Gomez

Photo Technician
Martin Chahin

E-mail:

PUBLICAFFAIRSOFFICE@jtfb.southcom.mil

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

This funded, joint U.S. Air Force/Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas. Contents of The Iguana do not necessarily reflect the official view of, and are not endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense or the departments of the Air Force or Army.

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

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 jorge.gomez@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.



on the cover

Capt. Michael Chambers and Spc. Erica Martinez, Medical Element, treat Staff Sgt. Nicole Panis, a mock casualty, at the softball field during a mass casualty exercise June 25. Photo by Sgt. Jorge Gomez. For story and photos, see Pages 4 and 5.

July 9, 2004

MEDEL welcomes new commander

By Sgt. Jorge Gomez
Editor

Lt. Col. Mark McGrail assumed command of Medical Element June 30 during a ceremony at the Soto Cano Air Base fire station. The former MEDEL commander, Col. James Polo will assume brigade command of the 47th Combat Support Hospital at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Col. William Phelps, JTF-Bravo commander, said McGrail is an officer with a distinguished medical background and possesses the skills to lead MEDEL to greater heights.

"My charter to you," Phelps said to McGrail, "take this great unit and make it even better, and more importantly, take care of the men and women standing before us."

McGrail pledged to JTF-Bravo commanders that they can count on MEDEL to support their servicemembers in accomplishing their missions.

To the Soldiers of MEDEL, McGrail said "I pledge to you my unwavering support, as we work together to continue and improve the JTF-Bravo mission."

Prior to his assignment to JTF-Bravo, McGrail served as the chief of family practice at the Medical De-

partment Activity Blanchfield Army Community Hospital in Fort Campbell, Ky. Other positions include brigade surgeon for the 101st Airborne Division and the 159th Aviation Brigade at Fort Campbell.

McGrail also served as the regiment surgeon for the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) and completed two deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Delanson, N.Y., native received his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland in 1986. He completed medical school at the Uniformed Services University of Health Science in Bethesda, Md., in 1993 and his transitional internship at Tripler Army Medical Center in 1994. McGrail then completed his residency in family practice at Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Fort Gordon, Ga., in 1998.

The mission of MEDEL is to provide medical treatment for all Department of Defense health care beneficiaries, support all humanitarian and civic assistance, disaster relief, personnel recovery missions within the area of responsibility and reinforce regional international cooperation through U.S. Southern Command missions.



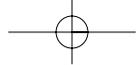
Photos by Martin Chahin

Lt. Col. Mark McGrail, Medical Element commander, receives the MEDEL guidon from Col. William Phelps, JTF-Bravo commander, during a change of command ceremony June 30.



(Above) The color guard, including the United States and Honduran flags, dignified the ceremony.

(Left) Lt. Col. Mark McGrail, Medical Element commander, pledged his support to the Soldiers of MEDEL and the JTF-Bravo community during the change of command ceremony June 30.



Sgt. Critt Peterson assists Capt. Michael Chambers to evacuate a casualty from a military vehicle at the small arms range.

Sus

MEDEL

Medical Element performed a mass casualty exercise to test the unit's readiness and capabilities.

More than 50 Soldiers participated in the exercise that began with a simulated call. Teams were immediately dispatched to treat three mock casualties in a field, followed by another three at a small arms range where casualties were reported.

At the small arms range, the team encountered resistance from a simulated enemy that blocked the entrance to the field. Team members were then dispatched to treat casualties with wounds ranging from minor injuries to amputations and those killed-in-action.

Observer controller Sgt. Jorge Gonzalez evaluated the team members' skills and adherence to medical procedures in accordance with Army regulations. At the medical station, Soldiers were faced with simulated communications as well as the challenge of handling casualty evacuation. During the event, MEDEL Soldiers practiced procedures for air evacuations to a medical facility.

Although it was primarily

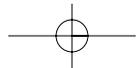


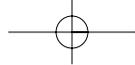
Spc. Ryan Dopson tightens a tourniquet on a mock casualty who lost a leg. Spc. Erica Martinez assists in stopping the casualty's bleeding.



Capt. Michael Chambers, Spc. Erica Martinez and Sgt. Jorge Gonzalez attend to a mock casualty during a mass casualty exercise. An observer controller in the background evaluates the team's performance.

Story and photos by Sgt. Jorge Gonzalez





staining, improving skills

DEL Soldiers rehearse mass casualty exercise

Personnel conducted a June 25 to assess the improve task proficien-

ers participated in the with a 5:10 a.m. alert diately dispatched to alties at the softball er deployment to the ere eight casualties

ange, teams encoun- m aggressors who e site. The medical en challenged to treat s ranging from head legs and handling

s stood by assessing ls in safely following g with rules and reg- al treatment facility, th conducting proper ll as triaging patients y remains. As a final ers prepared patients nother facility.

marily a MEDEL exer-



Medical Element personnel conduct an air medical evacuation of patients on a UH-60 Blackhawk.

cise, the Soldiers received assistance and support from the 1-228th, Army Forces, Air Force Forces and the Joint Staff Forces, said Capt. Liquori Etheridge, MEDEL operations officer-in-charge.

The exercise indicated the strengths of the unit and the areas that need improvement.

The teams responded in a timely manner, their individual skills proved to be sharp and communications were conducted properly, Etheridge said.

Some areas that will require re-training include reviewing rules of engagement for deployed medics, using protective equipment

and greater familiarity with the Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System, he added.

Part of the challenge of conducting operations at MEDEL is the 50 percent turn over of personnel every 90 days, said Sgt. Maj. Lynne Cheek, MEDEL senior enlisted leader.

"New personnel bring with them their ways of doing things and we need to develop a protocol so that everyone knows exactly what they're supposed to do," Cheek said. "Team cohesion is our focus."

For Staff Sgt. Herman Andrews, aviation medicine and physical exams noncommissioned officer-in-charge, experiencing the adrenaline while acting on the spot was a confidence booster.

"We had to urgently attend casualties in the midst of hostilities and saw how everything comes together," Andrews said. "The exercise built our confidence in our training."

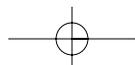
In addition to improving the Soldiers' morale, the exercise serves as an index to identify strengths and weaknesses to the new element's commander and company commander, Cheek said.



Sgt. Sean Richey prepare to evacuate at the softball field June 25. An the execution of the exercise.



Monitoring vital signs, 1st Lt. Gustavo Moreno consoles a mock patient at the medical treatment facility with words of encouragement.



Hondurans honor JTF-Bravo

By Sgt. Jorge Gomez
Editor

The Honduran vice minister of defense, the chief of the joint staff and other Honduran commanders and dignitaries honored Col. William Phelps, JTF-Bravo commander, during a ceremony June 28 at the *Estado Mayor Conjunto* in Tegucigalpa.

Phelps was accompanied by other JTF-Bravo leaders who also received a Honduran military decoration in appreciation for "earning the hearts of the Honduran people and the Honduran military," said Honduran Gen. Jose Isaias Barahona, chief of the joint staff.

Julio Edgardo Perez, Honduran vice minister of defense, said that the U.S. servicemembers' zeal in "fulfilling their duties, their dedication and interest in expanding the links of friend-



Photos by Sgt. Jorge Gomez

Col. William Phelps, JTF-Bravo commander, and Lt. Col. Phillip Wyllie, J3 director, discuss good times with Honduran Gen. Jose Isaias Barahona, chief of the joint staff.

ship between the peoples and governments of Honduras and the United States have resulted in a meritorious accomplishment."

Phelps accepted the awards on behalf of JTF-Bravo and said that it has been an honor to serve

in Honduras and to serve with the Honduran military.

JTF-Bravo and Honduras have enjoyed a special relationship for more than 20 years and "we look forward to maintaining our partnership over the next many years," Phelps said.

In the past 12 months, JTF-Bravo and the Honduran military participated in seven combined airborne jumps; supported two separate rotations of more than 700 Honduran soldiers to Operation Iraqi Freedom; supported the

New Horizons Humanitarian Assistance Engineering exercise resulting in the building of schools, medical clinics and fresh water wells; executed two counter-narcotics interdiction missions; and numerous emerging missions involving U.S. and Honduran cooperation.



Julio Edgardo Perez, Honduran vice minister of defense, pins a Honduran military medal on Col. William Phelps, JTF-Bravo commander, during a ceremony in Tegucigalpa June 28.

Barthel assumes JSF command



Outgoing JSF Commander Maj. David Briar speaks during the change of command ceremony June 28.

By Pfc. Michael Tuttle
Staff writer

Maj. David P. Briar relinquished command of the Joint Security Forces to Maj. Brian A. Barthel during a change of command ceremony June 28 at the Soto Cano Air Base fire station.

Rotations of Marines, Army National Guardsmen and Air Force National Guardsmen as well as permanent party Airmen served as the JSF personnel under Briar's command. JSF was also awarded the best small security forces unit in Air Combat Command during Briar's watch.

"Maj. Briar is a selfless officer," JTF-Bravo Commander Col. William Phelps said during the ceremony, "committed to make sure his unit was ready."

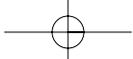
Barthel earned his reserve commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1991. He previously served as Squadron Commander, 568th Security Forces Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Barthel plans to continue the success had by JSF under Briar. "We will pursue the vision of success that Maj. Briar has set forth," said Barthel.



Col. William Phelps hands the JSF guidon to Maj. Brian Barthel as he takes over command of JSF.

Photos by Pfc. Michael Tuttle



July 9, 2004

Photo feature

The IGUANA 7



A Soldier jumps off the ramp of a Chinook helicopter.

Taking flight, dropping out



A Ch-47 Chinook helicopter approaches the Tamara Drop Zone during an airborne operation June 25.

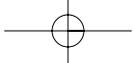


Lt. Col. Brian Pugmire, ARFOR commander, receives his Honduran jump wings after his first jump in Honduras.



JTF-Bravo Airborne Soldiers and Honduran *paracadistas* board a Ch-47 Chinook helicopter to conduct an airborne jump June 25.

Photos by Pfc. Michael Tuttle





Nathan Meckel rocks SCAB

Rock band Nathan Meckel from Nashville, Tenn., kept the JTF-Bravo community entertained with concerts June 30 at the Oasis and July 5 at the Soto Cano Air Base park. Sponsored by Armed Forces Entertainment, the band played at the U.S. ambassador's residence and at the Zamorano Agricultural College for the July 4th weekend.



Honduran employees of Soto Cano Air Base gather for a Rock and Roll lunch hour.



Photo by Sgt. Jorge Gomez

Nathan Meckel leads the Honduran employees of Soto Cano Air Base into an afternoon of Rock and Roll July 5.

Freedom Lights

Servicemembers of the Military District of Washington take part in Fourth of July celebrations in the nation's capital each year. Servicemembers stationed and deployed all over the world also take time each year to celebrate America's Independence Day.



Courtesy photo

