

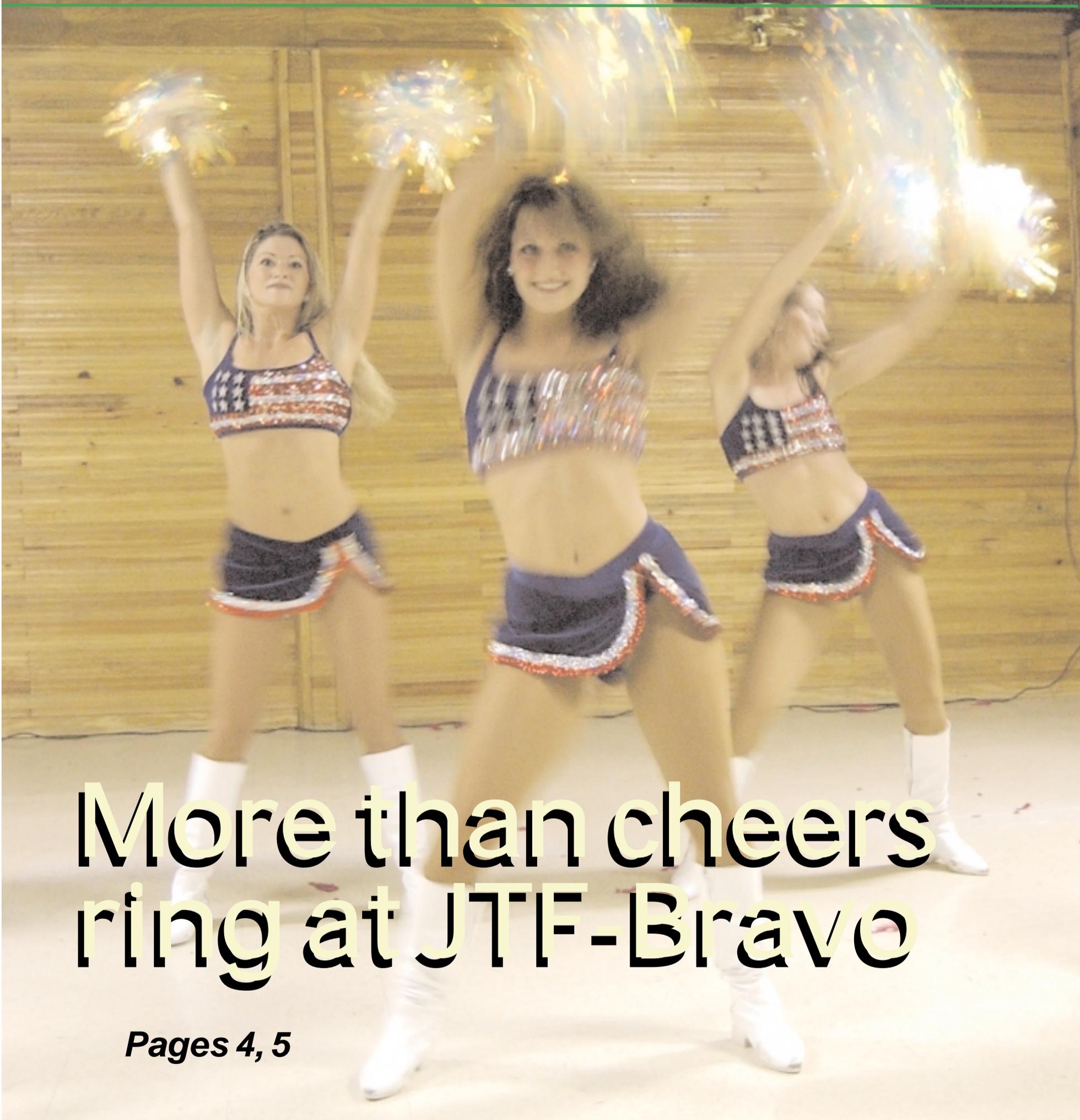


The I GU ANA



Volume 16, No. 18

Sept. 2, 2004



More than cheers ring at JTF-Bravo

Pages 4, 5

Chaplain's corner

The bottom line

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

I hear these words – the bottom line – spoken on numerous occasions. It is a common expression from military personnel, especially during meetings. The purpose of *the bottom line* is to get to the heart of the matter.

I always like the bottom line, for it breaks it down to the simplest terms. Often we ask, “what’s the bottom line” or we often say to the individual who is rambling, “just give me the bottom line.”

Sometimes the bottom line is necessary to clear up any possible confusion.

God's bottom line

Have you ever asked or wondered what the bottom line to life is?

Well, God knew that we'd ask so he has given a bottom line regarding life or living in his holy book. It's found in the Book of Ecclesiastes 12:13.

We read, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

The individual who was inspired of God to write this bottom line was none other than King Solomon of Israel.

This king's wisdom outshined every other high “mukketty muk” around. Solomon was the “capo de tutti capo,” “the big salami,” or “the big cheetah” of his time when it came to wisdom and money.

He was second to none, for the Almighty gave him wisdom, fame and fortune. He was so wise that even Queen Sheba ventured to see him and to ask him hard questions. Solomon probably said to her, “Give me a challenge.”

He was that wise.

He was so rich with gold and silver that he would make the billionaire Bill Gates look like a pauper.

If you were to ask Bill Gates, “what is

the bottom line to this life?” I wonder what he would say – maybe Windows 2025 version.

If you were to ask King Solomon the same question, he would respond “Fear God and keep his commandments”.

The question to ask

So, the question to ask oneself is, “why is fearing God and keeping his commandments the bottom line?” The simple answer is ... because to do so brings the reward of blessedness in this life and the blessedness of everlasting life in the next world.

Don't you want a blessed life now? Don't you want to live forever in absolute perfection in body, soul and spirit in eternity? I hope you do!

My friends, let me ask you “Do you fear God and keep his commandments?” Only your own conscience can give you the answer to this.

You say, “But does all of this stuff about God and his commandments really matter when the rubber meets the road?” I say, “What happens when the rubber on the road runs out?”

Common sense dictates that we must prepare ourselves when this time comes – for it will come.

We must be prepared to meet our Maker. Not to do so is extremely foolishness and utter folly.

The only way to live is by faith in God. Faith will keep the rubber on the road and the ship afloat.

Where is your faith? In imperfect self or in God who is perfect in word and deed?

I pray that we all will confess our own sins to God and to ask him for his forgiveness. Then to live out his life as it flows out through the yielded soul.

Will you not make this supreme decision today?



The enemy listens

By **Army Maj. Eugenio Soto**
J-2 intelligence director

Operations Security is the process of denying potential adversaries with information about capabilities and/or intentions by identifying, controlling and protecting generally unclassified information on the planning and execution of sensitive activities.

Intelligence collection and analysis is very much like assembling a puzzle. Each piece of the puzzle could be an item of information that is not classified or sensitive by itself but, when assembled with other pieces, could reveal classified or sensitive unclassified information regarding programs, activities, capabilities, vulnerabilities or technology.

Collectors are fully aware of the importance of obtaining small bits of information from many sources and assembling them to form the overall picture.

The premise of OPSEC is that the accumulation of one or more elements of sensitive/unclassified information or data could compromise our operations by revealing classified information.

Collectors use numerous methods and sources to develop pieces of the intelligence puzzle.

Their collection methods range from sophisticated surveillance using highly technical electronic methods to simple visual observation of activities.

Information may be collected by monitoring radio and telephone conversations, analyzing telephone directories, financial or purchasing documents, position or job announcements, travel documents, blueprints or drawings, distribution lists, shipping and receiving documents, even personal information or items found in the unclassified trash.

In order to practice good OPSEC the first step is to ensure that everyone understands what OPSEC is not. OPSEC is not a counterintelligence program, it is a countermeasures program.

What's the difference? Counterintelligence is concerned with the intentional disclosure

of classified information, whereas OPSEC is concerned with the inadvertent disclosure of classified as well as sensitive unclassified information.

Simply put, the role of OPSEC is to protect our critical and sensitive information from inadvertent compromise.

The goal of OPSEC, as a “countermeasures” program, is to deny our adversaries pieces of the intelligence puzzle in order to prevent them from “influencing” our operations.

While it is possible that almost any sensitive or classified information sought by an adversary may be uncovered sooner or later, the goal of OPSEC is to make information-gathering more difficult and time consuming.

The longer it takes an adversary to acquire our secrets, the longer our nation can maintain its defensive and technological edge.

Basic to the OPSEC process is determining what information, if available to an adversary, would harm our ability to effectively carry out our day-to-day mission.

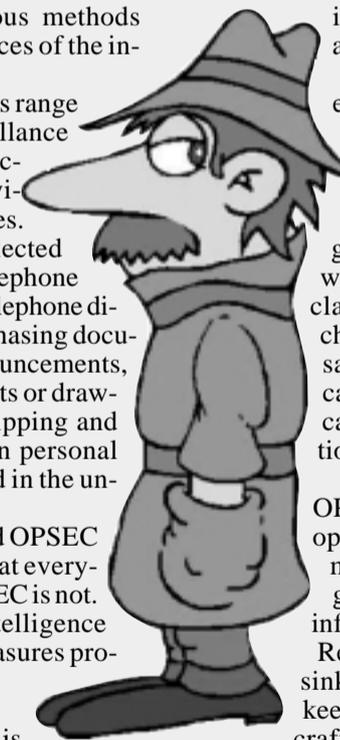
This critical information constitutes the “core secrets” of our organization, i.e., the few nuggets that are central to our mission.

Today, OPSEC is as equally applicable to our administrative activities as it is to combat operations.

If OPSEC is not integrated into our daily, as well as our sensitive and classified activities, chances are that our adversaries will acquire significant information about our capabilities and limitations.

The whole point of OPSEC is to have a set of operational practices that make it harder for another group to compile critical information.

Remember, “Loose lips sink ships.” Do your part to keep the ships afloat, the aircraft flying and the boots on the ground safe.



The IGUANA

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on the cover

Washington Redskins Cheerleaders pay tribute to the Airmen and Soldiers of Joint Task Force - Bravo Aug. 23 - 25. Photo by Sgt. Jorge Gomez.

For story and photos, see Pages 4 and 5.

Sept. 2, 2004

Techs keep base moving forward



Photo by Sgt. Jorge Gomez

Leo Hegwood, Automated Data Processing Equipment technician, replaces a chip on a sound card. Hegwood has worked with ADPE on Soto Cano Air Base since 1989.

By Sgt. Jorge Gomez
Editor

Leo Hegwood arrived at Joint Task Force-Bravo in 1989 when the base was still running on Microsoft Disk Operating System.

Seven years later he, was one of the few technicians from Automated Data Processing Equipment tasked to upgrade the base's computers to Windows 4.1 and master it to provide support.

Every other year, with the rapid growth of technology, JTF-Bravo upgrades to latest version of Windows along with a host of software programs geared for every medium of communication from electronic mail systems to slide presentations.

Hegwood and the rotating staff of ADPE keep up with the particulars of each program by reading manuals and exploring the programs for themselves.

"We have to know the programs we install so we can assist the users when they run into problems," Hegwood said.

With their experience and exposure to a variety of programs, technicians develop an instinct for how software operates and learn the basics of the program through trial and error. It isn't easy for the tech-

nicians to fly the United States to take an introductory course on the latest software, Hegwood said.

Currently, the four technicians at ADPE are transitioning JTF-Bravo into Windows XP, the latest operating system. About 80 percent of all computers on base have the new system installed, said Larry Caudell, information management director.

The challenge for ADPE technicians does not end there. About 20 percent of all computers have software that is not compatible with XP, leaving the technicians to figure out how to make it compatible.

"Sometimes we have to contact the manufacturer's technical support to find a way to make the software work with XP," Hegwood said.

From late May through July, the technicians replaced about 53 percent of the base's computers with brand new units.

The upgrade highlights the growing responsibility of ADPE technicians to ensure the running operation of all equipment on base — about 975 pieces.

The other half of the time, these technicians are fixing hardware problems including printers, monitors and anything that involves the physical setup of computer systems.

"It's not uncommon to see printer problems caused by geckos stuck inside," said Eddie Young, ADPE technician.

But the biggest threats facing ADPE are of a different kind, namely viruses and thunderstorms.

About two years ago, JTF-Bravo came down with a virus forcing all users to shut down their computers. The technicians had to go through every computer on base to locate and delete the virus one by one.

About a year and a half ago, 50 computers were damaged from a severe thunderstorm that hit Soto Cano Air Base.

When a severe thunderstorm is expected, Young said that users should unplug their computers from the power source.

"The power surge from a thunderstorm may exceed a power surge protector and burn it as well as the computer," Young said.

For Julio Ortiz, ADPE technician, identifying and fixing computer problems gives him a sense of satisfaction, but he said it doesn't compare to the pleasure of seeing the face of a happy customer.

"Our customers always remember us when we see them on base and it's rewarding to help people out," Ortiz said.

ARFOR visits orphanage



Capt. Alexander Thyne, J-1 personnel deputy director, shows images from his digital camera to children at a La Paz orphanage Aug. 21.



Photos by Sgt. Jorge Gomez

Children flock to *el gringo con dulces* Capt. Marc Bailey, J-7 engineering project officer, who distributes candy during a visit to a La Paz orphanage.

Redskins shake-up



Gold and burgundy rays exploded from pom poms leaving Airmen and Soldiers at the mercy of a single squad – the Redskins Cheerleading squad.

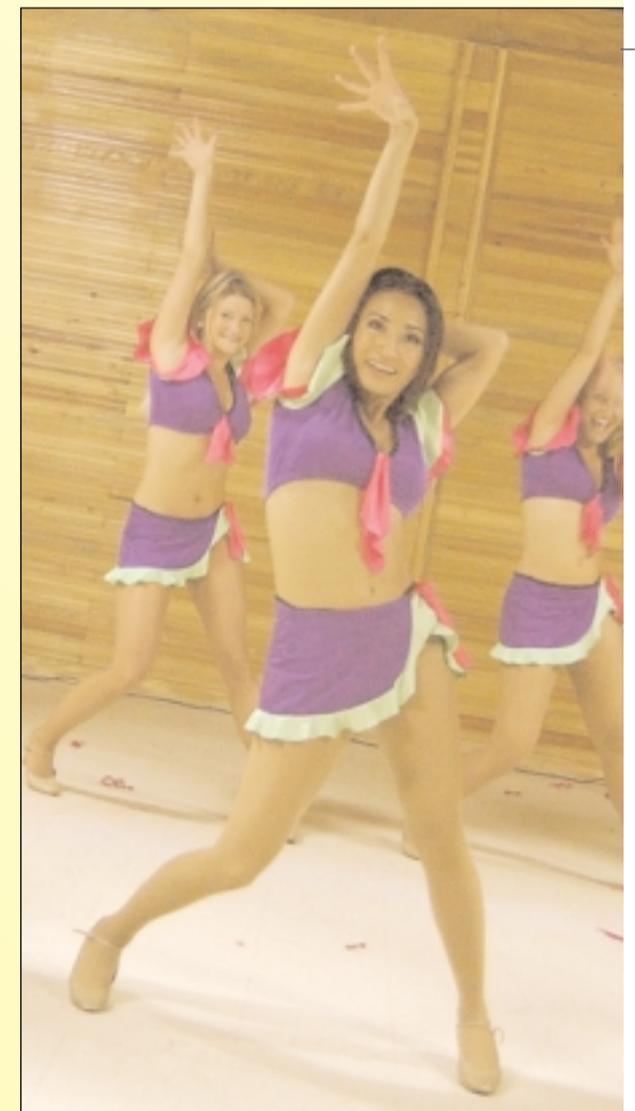
Only this squad came to Joint Task Force – Bravo to do more than cheer, dance and sing for the U.S. military, they came to deliver a personal “thank you for what you do,” said Jessica Brown, Redskins Cheerleader and public school reading specialist in Alexandria, Va.

For three nights the “First Ladies of Football” filled the Oasis with energetic performances including hip hop routines, jazz singing and audience

participation swi Service members pom pom trail to lounge to get p graphed and meet ual cheerleaders.

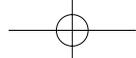
“They were gr talk and get to kn nior Airman Joh Air Force Forces “They were very of what we were d our country.”

The diverse to Redskins Cheerle matched by the c tions they travel to members. In Fe cheerleaders visite in Iraq, Kuwait a



Washington Redskins Cheerleaders Joyy Haddix, Crystal Boutselis and Makiko Nakayama burst into the Oasis to cheer on the U.S. service members of Joint Task Force - Bravo Aug. 23 - 25.

Melanie Treanor, Maki Nakayama and Steph Davis groove into a latin dance at the Oasis.



... Cheerleaders JTF-Bravo

ing dancing. followed the o the Lizard photos auto- with individ-

reat people to ow," said Se- n O'Barsky, s fire fighter. appreciative loing here for

alents of the eaders is only diverse loca- orally service ebruary, the ed with troops and Bahrain,

but their support of U.S. service members extends to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bosnia, Kosovo and Puerto Rico.

Boosting morale isn't their sole occupation. These non-profit entertainers maintain professional careers back home or carry full-time college course loads.

They are computer program managers, executive assistants, school teachers, realtors, engineers and even doctoral candidates.

So taking this kind of international tour requires them to juggle more than pom poms.

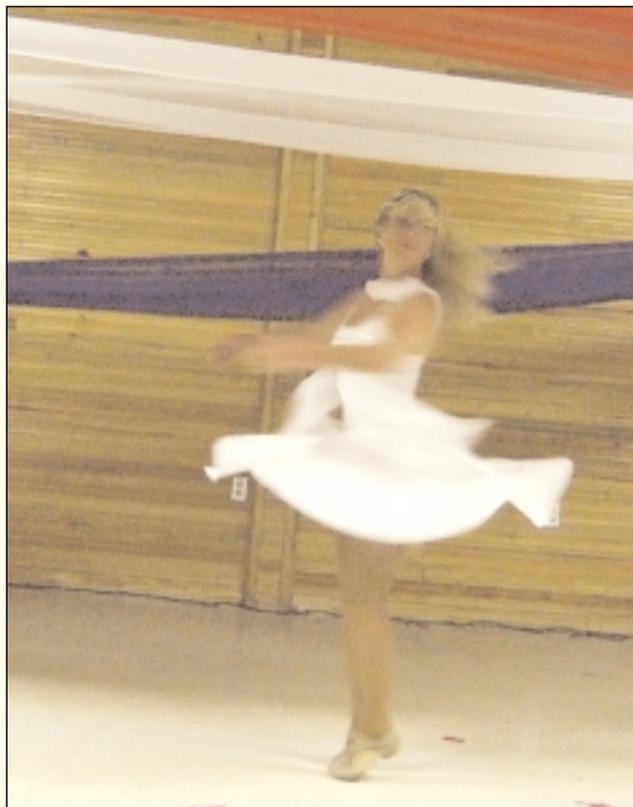
"Many of our cheerleaders have to take leave without pay

from their jobs to go on tour," said Melanie Treanor, Redskins Cheerleader and marketing coordinator for the squad.

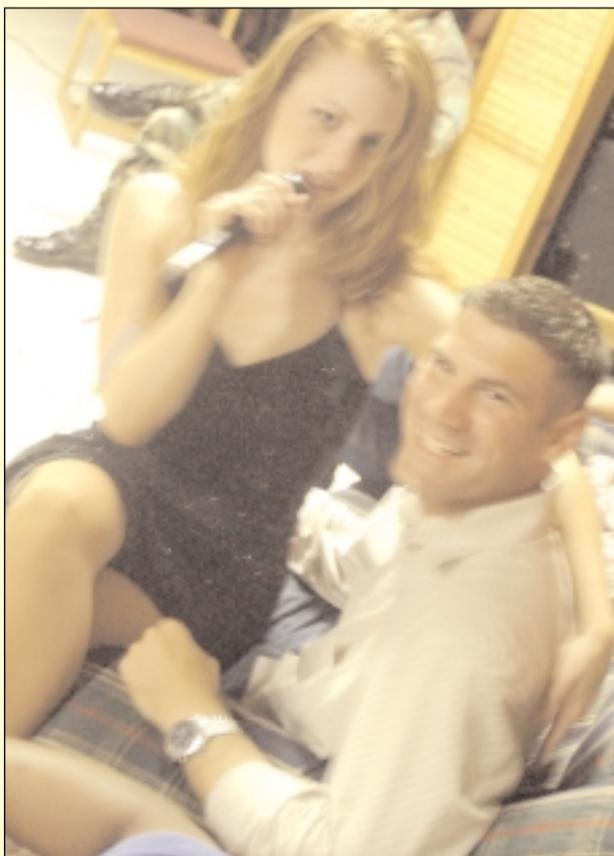
Brown, for example, is a full-time teacher and doctoral candidate in literacy instruction but said she considers it a privilege to tour with the Redskins Cheerleaders for the U.S. Armed Forces.

"Service members are the ones who make the real sacrifice by deploying for six to 12 months and sometimes more," Brown said.

"There is no more rewarding experience than to perform for those who support our country abroad and at home."



Jessica Brown spins gracefully to Lee Greenwood's *God Bless the U.S.A.* during the Redskins Cheerleaders patriotic finale at the Oasis.



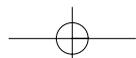
Erin Pauling "interacts" with audience participant 1st Lt. Michael Schulte, Army Forces, during her rendition of *That Don't Impress Me Much*.

(Right) Crystal Boutselis and Christy Oglevee drop their pom poms and invite their audience during a rock 'n roll dance routine.



**Story and photos
by Sgt. Jorge Gomez**

anie



Military tobacco use quiz: T or F

By Capt. Keith Palm
Preventive Medicine chief

1. Military personnel have healthier lifestyles than civilians.

False. Thirty one percent of both military and civilian populations smoke cigarettes. Military males are more likely and military females are less likely to smoke than their civilian counterparts.

Among the services, the Army and Marines had significantly higher smoking rates than the civilian population.

2. The rate of tobacco use in the military is improving.

False. From 1998 to 2002 the rate of smoking in the military actually increased by 4 percent.

Of all the services the Army had the greatest increase. The rate of smokeless tobacco use in the military has remained the same at about 12 percent since 1995.

3. Many smokers start after joining the military.

True. About 30 percent of the smokers

in the military started after they joined. Among civilians, almost 90 percent of smokers start before age 18.

4. People in the military are not going to stop smoking unless they are forced.

False. Fifty nine percent of the smokers in the military attempted to quit in the last year.

The average smoker attempts to quit six times before they are successful so keep trying. On the other hand, anti-smoking regulations and orders have been extremely effective in reducing smoking in the military work-force.

5. Certain groups, like young enlisted people, are all the smokers.

False. Certain demographic categories are more likely to smoke or start smoking but smokers can be found in every walk of life.

So what are the most common demographic categories of smokers?

They are male, white, high school education or less, 25 or younger, single or geographically separated from spouse, E-6



and below, and service members serving overseas.

6. The health effects of quitting won't matter until you are old and retired.

False. If you use tobacco, quitting is the best thing you can do for your health. Once people complete the physical and mental withdrawal from nicotine, they usually

will feel significantly better. Other benefits include less sick call visits as well as better stamina and night vision. Soldiers who quit smoking often see an increase of 10-15 points on their physical fitness test.

7. There is a tobacco cessation program on Soto Cano to help people quit.

True. Individual counseling has been available for some time but MEDEL is starting a formal tobacco cessation group Sept. 8, 3 p.m.

You can learn all the tips and tricks to quit successfully. Prescription medication is available to help. Nicotine patches alone help about 15 percent of people to quit. The medication Zyban helps about 30 percent of people to quit. Zyban and nicotine patches together allow more than 35 percent of people to quit. Proper medication combined with effective counseling maximizes the chance for success.

Call Preventive Medicine at 4500 to sign up or for more information.

Air Force race supports deployed troops



Photos by Air Force Staff Sgt. Randy Redman

Army Maj. Drew Moores makes his way across Lewis Lake during the Enduro Challenge Aug. 21. His team won the adventure race with a time of 4 hours, 23 minutes and 15 seconds.

By Air Force 1st Lt. Erin Dorrance
6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Tears of sweat, pain and joy ran down the faces of 45 hard-chargers who participated in the Special Operations Enduro Challenge VI Aug. 21.

Two-person teams were faced with a five-mile run, seven-mile canoe course, 300 push-ups and sit-ups, a canoe portage, a one-mile swim, a 12-mile off-road bike ride, a 40-pound rucksack run, an obstacle course, a memory test and firing the M-9 pistol.

The race was run to support deployed troops fighting overseas, officials said.

The 5 a.m. start at MacDill's Marina sent the participants on their way to endure a four- to six-hour race.

Most had competed in triathlons and marathons before but said they had no idea what to expect from the Enduro Challenge.

Tech. Sgt. Fitzroy Howe, a 6th Security Forces Squadron Phoenix Raven, has run 10 marathons, running his best in three hours and eight minutes.

"If I was running a marathon, I would've been done by now," said Sergeant Howe, four hours and 20 minutes into the race.

The teams said they signed up for a number of different reasons.



Senior Airman Thomas Keefe and 1st Lt. Dave Gray beach their canoe during the Aug. 21 Enduro Challenge here. Next, the team had to carry their canoe roughly a quarter mile down a sandy beach before starting the next portion of the race.

Capt. Shelley Ray and her husband, Roderick, ran the race for the challenge and to compete together, said Capt. Ray, of the 6th Medical Operations Squadron.

She said their energy kept them going and the hardest part of the race was the split event, in which one person swims while the other bikes, perhaps because they were apart.

First Lt. Mara Fair, a 38-year-old finance officer at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., and her father, Jack, a 65-year-old retired Air Force F-16

Fighting Falcon pilot, traveled from Eglin to participate in the race.

They became interested in the event when they heard the race supported the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, an organization which raises money for the children of special operations forces who have died in the line of duty, Fair said.

"Mara is my idol of an Ironman," he said referring to his daughter, who had a baby less than four months ago. "We'll be back for the next one."

Three stars visit JTF-Bravo

By 1st Lt. Anna Siegel
Public Affairs Officer

The 12th Air Force commander visited with Airmen of Joint Task Force-Bravo Aug. 22 and 23.

Lt. Gen. Randall Schmidt, his wife Lisa, and 12th AF Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Lane made Soto Cano Air Base their first stop on a whirl-wind tour of the Central American area of responsibility. After Honduras, the group visited Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Guyana and Curacao.

"We have about 750 people deployed from 12th Air Force in various (Air and Space Expeditionary Force cycles) all throughout the region and 170 stationed here," Schmidt said.

It's his priority to see that those Airmen and their families have what they need to be successful in their personal lives and

to accomplish the mission.

Schmidt said that even though JTF-Bravo already acts as the "lilly pad" or central hub for important training and exercises in Central America, that role is only going to increase as the counter narcotic/terrorism mission here becomes more prominent.

"Airmen everywhere are doing non-traditional Airmen things," he said during a barbeque with the Airmen here. "They are pushing the envelope, fully engaged in the Global War on Terror."

Mrs. Schmidt met with the ladies to encourage them to make the most of their time here, address gender-specific concerns and share some of her experiences living in Central America.

"People should take advantage of all the opportunities here, such as education," she said. "Make it a year of bettering your mind and body."

The group toured the base's newest facilities, including the quad dorms and ammunition supply point.

Lane said in his year as the 12th AF Command Chief, he's discovered many places he didn't know Airmen even were.

"Twelfth Air Force has some special challenges with the locations our people are," he said. "But all I've met here are outstanding people with incredibly positive attitudes."

All the visitors expressed their amazement at the professionalism the Airmen here possess and encouraged them to stay proud of what they're doing.

"The question to ask yourself at the end of the day is, 'When my country needed me, what did I do?'" Schmidt said.

Lane added, "Keep up the great things you're doing for the Air Force. Thank you for what you do."



Courtesy photo

Air Force Maj. John Muratore, civil engineering director, shows Lt. Gen. Randall Schmidt, 12th Air Force commander, the newest facilities constructed on Soto Cano Air Base during his visit Aug. 22 and 23.

OIF Soldiers beat 10:1 odds in firefight

By Pfc. Mike Pryor
82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — In a fight, two against one is bad odds. Ten against one is a recipe for disaster. Yet those were the odds Sgt. Tommy Rieman and his squad faced and beat when they were ambushed by more than 50 anti-American insurgents near Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq December 2003.

Rieman, 24, a team leader in Company B, 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, was awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Star for his actions during a ceremony at Devil Brigade Field Aug. 6.

On Dec. 3, 2003, Rieman was just 10 days away from leaving Iraq. He had orders to report to Fort Bragg for assignment with the 82nd. He was looking forward to spending Christmas with his family and couldn't wait to leave.

Rieman was headed home, but not in the way he planned.

At the time, he was with Company E of the 51st Infantry Long Range Surveillance Unit, part of V Corps LRS based in Darmstadt, Germany. His LRS unit had been conducting operations in Iraq since the war began. The mission that day was to investigate reports of suspicious activity at the residence of a former high-ranking general in Saddam Hussein's regime.

Rieman was in charge because he had scouted the area before and knew the terrain. LRS units are not supposed to engage the enemy, and Rieman's squad of eight men, while prepared for a fight, was not expecting one. They were driving in three light-skinned Humvees with no doors when the first rocket-propelled grenade hit.

"The thing I remember most was the sound of the explosion. It was so loud," Rieman said.

They were hit by three RPGs and a barrage of small arms fire coming from 10 dug-in enemy fighting positions. Staying in the kill zone meant certain death, so the



Photo by Pfc. Mike Pryor

Sgt. Tommy Rieman, B Company, 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment is awarded the Purple Heart by Col. Michael Ferriter during a ceremony at Devil Field, Aug. 6.

vehicles never stopped moving. Rieman knew he had to return fire.

"I dove into the backseat, laid across the gunner's legs and fired out the door," he said.

Bullets whizzed after them as the vehicles sped away from the ambush. As soon as they were safely out of the area, they halted to assess the damage. Suddenly shots rang out, and Rieman and his squad found themselves caught in another ambush.

The squad dismounted and began firing back. Rieman scrambled for cover behind his Humvee as bullets and shrapnel flew everywhere. He tried to stay calm and assess the situation.

There were maybe 50 enemy attackers blasting away at him with small arms fire from a grove of palm trees nearby. Injuries to his men were beginning to pile up. Out of his squad, Sgt. Bruce Robinson had lost his right leg in the

RPG attack and Spc. Robert Macallister had been shot in the buttocks. Rieman himself had been shot in the right arm and chest, and had shrapnel wounds to his chest, stomach and ear. Worst of all, they were almost out of ammunition.

Despite the odds and his injuries, Rieman knew he had to go on the offensive.

"I knew it was a little pain now or my life later," he said.

He began firing away with his M203 grenade launcher, raining round after round down on the attackers. After getting battered by 15 of Rieman's 40mm grenades, the enemy's guns were silent.

The squad wasn't out of danger, but at least they had some breathing room. Rieman quickly secured a perimeter, called for a medical evacuation and support from the 504th's quick reaction force, and began tending to his wounded. And then they waited.

"That was the toughest part — the waiting," said Rieman. "Just sitting there bleeding and questioning if this bird (helicopter) was ever going to come."

It seemed hopeless. One of the badly injured Soldiers in his squad started to cry, and Rieman tried to comfort him.

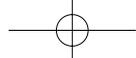
"I just kept telling him, it's coming, it's coming," he said.

Finally, after half an hour that seemed like an eternity, the helicopter arrived. Rieman and the rest of his squad were loaded on and whisked away. Only when he was up in the air did Rieman accept that he was going to live to see another day.

"I remember the burning sensation in my legs (from the shrapnel) and how cold the air was in the chopper, and all I could think about was my wife. That's when I knew, hey, I'm coming home, I'm going to make it," he said.

Despite his awards, Rieman said he's no hero. He only did what he was trained to do, he said.

"I dedicate everything I was able to do to my training," he said. "We reacted the way we did because we were taught well."



The Air Force Forces team takes the Joint Task Force-Bravo softball championship trophy after beating the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment team.



Tech. Sgt. Juan Gomez, Air Force Forces, swings at a pitch for the winning team.

AFFOR wins championship

By Staff Sgt. Zacarias Costilla
Air Force Forces

The Air Force Forces team beat the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment in the championship tournament to take the softball crown with a 16-6 victory Aug. 12.

The 1-228th was missing some key players and as a result couldn't keep up with the torrid pace the AFFOR team set.

Coached by Air Force Master Sgt. James Shappell, AFFOR scored five runs in the first inning, followed by two more in the second and nine in the third to earn a mercy-rule victory. The

1-228th scored three runs in the second and three more in the third, but they couldn't prolong the game to try and come back.

"Solid pitching and good defense were key throughout the entire season," Shappell said. "We really focused on getting one out at a time. Coupled with consistent hitting and aggressive base running, we had a team that we felt could beat anyone."

When asked who he felt the team's most valuable player was, he said "Our pitcher, Tech. Sgt. Michael Riggle. Not only did he keep hitters off balance, but he also contributed mightily with his bat."

AFFOR took a 4-2 record into the tournament and beat Comayagua in the first round by a score of 24-3.

The 1-228th had a three wins and three losses record during the season and narrowly beat the Fire Department "Fire Dawgs" 26-25 in the tournament opener to get to the championship game.

The Fire Dawgs, who had the best record in the regular season with five wins and one loss, beat Comayagua 19-17 in the final game of the tournament to take third place.

Comayagua failed to win a single game during the regular season and in the tournament.



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jake Nunes, 1-228th Aviation Regiment, rounds third base during the final softball game Aug. 12.



Staff Sgt. Toshiya Jones, AFFOR, reaches home before the tag by catcher Warrant Officer Giovanni Faraca, 1-228th Aviation Regiment.

Photos by Sgt. Jorge Gomez

