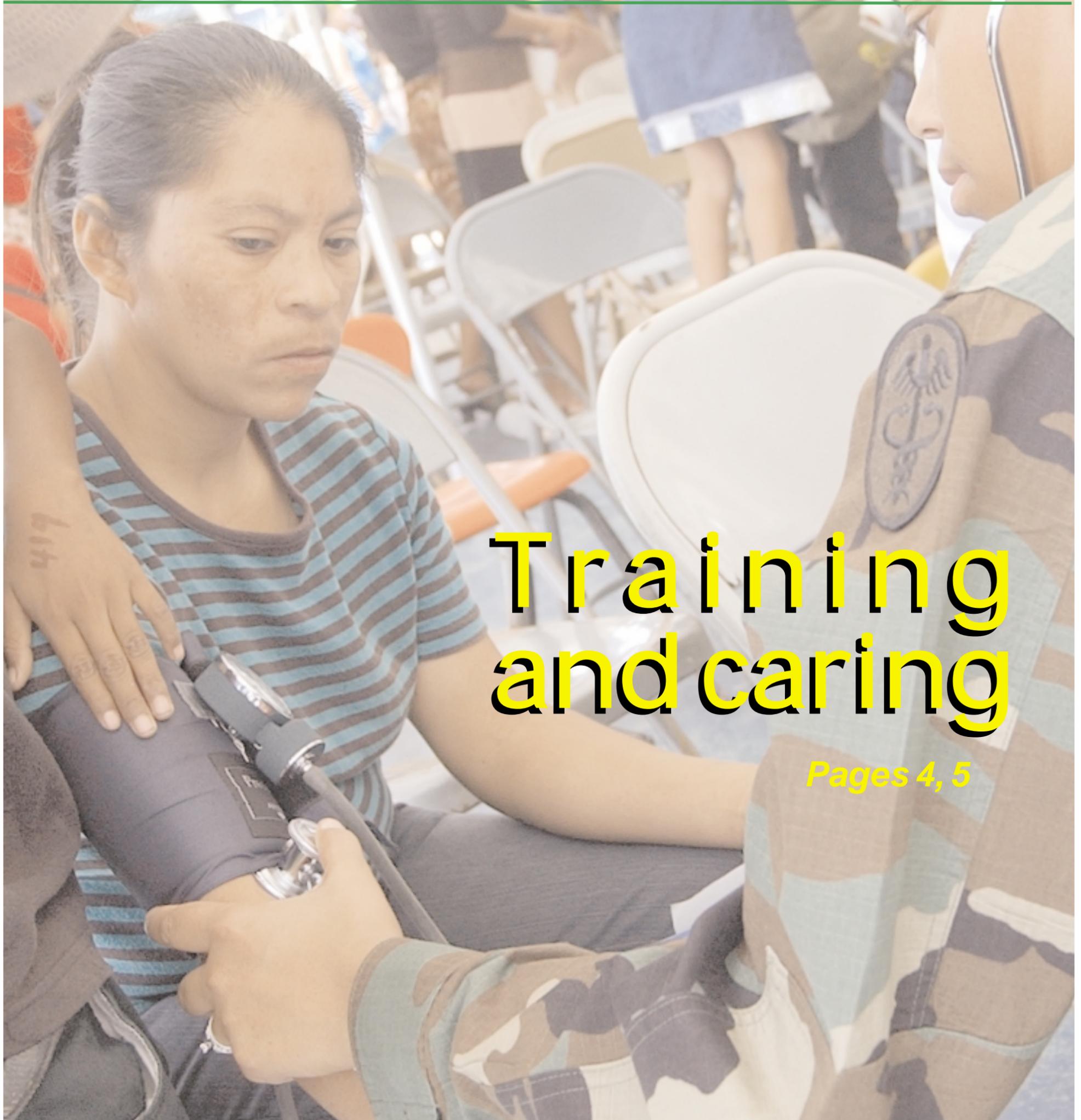




The IGUANA

Volume 16, No. 20

Oct. 1, 2004



Training and caring

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Chaplain's corner

There's a generation

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

There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up. (Proverbs 29: 11-13)

King Solomon of Israel wrote these words, and quite possibly a prophecy in my opinion, way back in the year 1000 B.C.

Do Solomon's words describe our generation? What Solomon was saying is that there will be a generation that will be disrespectful, self-righteous and full of pride. In short, a generation that could care less about the Almighty God.

Does that describe our current generation?

I don't know about you but this old sinner (that's me folks) gets tired sometimes of living in this wretched, wicked and violent world.

I am approaching 46 years of living and, Lord willing, I have about 24 more or so, should the Lord tarry his coming. I don't want to imagine what our next generation will be like in the year 2030 A.D. Personally, I don't believe in the theory of evolution, for the simple reason and fact that man is not getting better but getting worse.

Will a couple of more world wars convince you? According to the Book of Revelation, they're on their way. As I previously have stated, I am approaching 46 years old and I have seen and heard enough slop to last me the rest of my life. I can only imagine what our senior citizens have seen and heard from their youth until now. I hope to believe that there are many others who

feel the same way I do concerning where we are and where we are headed.

Let me add a few of my own "there is a generation."

There is a generation that doesn't care if they have the morals of an alley cat. There is a generation that can go day in and day out cursing, lying, deceiving and trying to get the most they can without lifting a finger.

There is a generation that is flat out lazy in both body and head. There is a generation that does not want to fulfill their responsibility in child support or owning up to their forward deeds.

There is a generation that calls evil good and good evil. There is a generation that seeks to work the system for their advantage because of the greed for power and gain. There is a generation that is unthankful for their God-given abilities of body and mind.

There is a generation that is unmerciful to the poor, to the fatherless and to the widow.

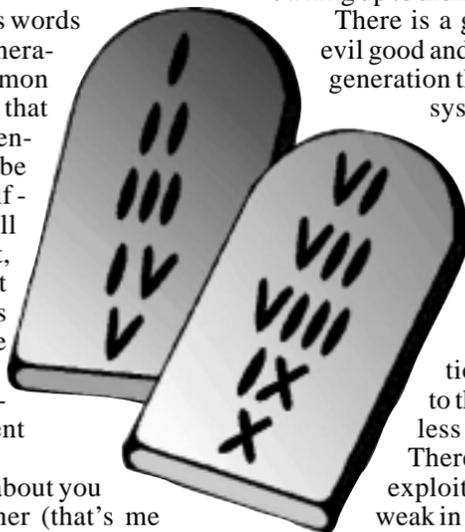
There is a generation that exploits and abuses the weak in body and soul.

There is a generation that does what it pleases and cares not about the harm caused to others. What say ye to all of this ...yea or nay?

Man has a problem, which started way back in the garden of Eden when he disobeyed God's directive. Man's problem stems from his constant refusal to yield to God, to His will, to His authority. God's solution is for man to turn from his ways, from his thoughts, and then to trust Him to make him a new creation.

He wants to provide fallen man a new heart and a new spirit that he may know Him and live for Him. Some have made that personal decision while others refuse to.

It's a matter of choice. That choice is life or death. Those are the stakes. Don't gamble with life. It is too short and too serious.



57 years of strength

By Sgt. Jorge Gomez
Editor

Air Force Forces celebrated 57 years of history making Sept. 17. Staff Sgt. Juan Bernacet, 57, and Airman 1st Class Charles Wilson, 21, had the honor of cutting and serving the Air Force birthday cake at the dining facility.

"The birth of the Air Force was not an easy one," said Air Force Lt. Col. Matthew Ash, Joint Task Force-Bravo deputy commander.

"But we are now a full-fledged sister service prepared to defend the country and there's no doubt in anyone's mind of the value and importance of the Air Force."

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper said in a message directed to all Airmen, "Our 57 years of history may be short, but they are packed with astounding accomplishments.

"We've broken the sound barrier, expanded military operations to the reaches of space, ushered stealth technology and precision-strike capability into modern warfare, delivered humanitarian aid to austere locations, jointly won the Cold War and provided decisive air and space power for wars in Korea, Vietnam, the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Today, you are the torchbearers of our



Photo by Sgt. Jorge Gomez

Staff Sgt. Juan Bernacet, 57, and Airman 1st Class Charles Wilson, 21, cut and serve the Air Force birthday cake Sept. 17. The Air Force Forces celebrated 57 years of defending the United States.

legacy. You are performing remarkably across the globe delivering aid to people in need and defending and protecting our great nation from emerging threats and new enemies.

"You represent the strength and patriotism of our great nation. America is proud of our Air Force because of you."



Graphic by Bob Rosenburgh

The IGUANA

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on the cover



Army Capt. Stacey Freeman, Medical Element operating room nurse, checks the blood pressure of a Honduran patient during a humanitarian mission in Comayagua Sept. 15. Photo by Sgt. Jorge Gomez. For story and photos, see Pages 4 and 5.

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JTF-Bravo joins counter-drug effort



Costa Rican counter drug enforcement agents in Liberia incinerate 3,000 pounds of cocaine after it was presented as prosecution evidence.

By Sgt. Jorge Gomez
Editor

Joint Task Force-Bravo provided logistical support to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and Costa Rica law enforcement agents to destroy 200,000 crops of marijuana and transport 3,000 pounds of cocaine to an incineration site Sept. 18-23.

The JTF-Bravo team consisted of more than 30 personnel including aircrew from the

1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment, Joint Security Forces, radio operators and Counter Narco-Terrorist Section members.

"The operation involved identifying the marijuana cultivation site, sampling and confirming the illegal substance and finally cutting down the field for eradication," said Army Maj. David Walton, Task Force Counter Narco-Terrorist commander.

For security and logistical purposes, JTF-Bravo air lifted the cocaine from San Jose to Liberia, a northern town in Costa Rica.



Photos by Sgt. Kirk Hoover

Army Maj. David Walton, Task Force Counter Narco-Terrorist commander, and 1st Lt. Michael Schulte, Army Forces, move cocaine evidence from a police vehicle at the San Jose airport to 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment aircraft for transport to the incineration site.

Hear today, gone tomorrow

By Army Capt. Richard Ramos
Environmental Health chief

We are surrounded by an invisible enemy that creeps up on us and robs us of one of our most precious faculties.

We can't see it, but we can certainly hear it. It causes one of the most prevalent occupational health hazards in the Armed Forces. What am I talking about?

Noise is everywhere... from vehicles and weapons to your neighbor's stereo and that pesky mosquito buzzing around your head.

We are so used to an environment filled with sound that we hardly notice it at times, and find the lack of it unusual or oddly disturbing. However, too much noise is harmful, causing both temporary and permanent hearing loss.

Hearing loss is serious and a costly burden. It is often subtle, gradual and pain-

less. It can have a profound impact on task proficiency skills as well as your personal life. A service member with hearing loss cannot hear things like movements in brush, vital communications or the loading of enemy weapons.

This condition compromises force protection and the mission. Service members can be reclassified or medically separated if the hearing loss is bad enough. Personally, the impact could be the stigma that goes along with the use of hearing aids and even worse, not hearing the voices of loved ones.

Temporary hearing loss is usually noticed after noise exposure when the individual returns to quarters or goes into a quiet area. Speech may sound muffled and more difficult to understand.

How many times have you left *Cabañas* or *Blue Moon* with ringing or buzzing in your ears? Usually your hearing returns to

normal by the next day.

Permanent hearing loss usually occurs after repeated exposure to noise, and the hearing does not return back to normal. In the early stages, it becomes difficult to hear high-pitched sounds like crickets or personnel moving through grass.

Ability to hear normal conversation is not affected in a quiet environment, but becomes dramatically reduced in the presence of background noise such as static on a radio or when more than one person is speaking.

Hearing loss can be prevented. By identifying noise hazards and implementing physical controls, the risk can be significantly reduced.

Improving habits and disciplined use of properly-fitted earplugs, muffs or sound-



attenuating head-gear prevents this hazard. If the noise is so loud you must raise your voice to be understood at a distance of three feet, the noise is hazardous.

Make your earplugs part of your daily uniform and remember to keep a spare set at home for those noisy recreational activities like wood working, lawn mowing, target shooting and rock concerts.

Learn more about noise hazards and personal protective measures at the Field Sanitation Team certification course hosted by the Preventive Medicine Department Oct. 25-29.

The course that rewards correspondence credits is open to all service members.

For more information, call extension 4500.

Making it possible

MEDEL supports humanitarian outreach

High up in the mountains at the break of dawn, a Honduran mother and her 9-year-old son begin their two-hour descent through the hills of Santiago de Puringla.

Little Daneri Rubio suffers from nose inflammation and the Americans will surely treat him, thinks Juana Vasquez.

"If I don't take the two-hour walk to reach the American doctors, I'll have to walk five hours and take a 30-minute bus ride to Santiago to have a Honduran doctor treat my son," Vasquez said.

Instead Vasquez joined the parents of more than 250 children from the surrounding communities that came to Escuela Francisco Morzan where the 59th Medical Wing conducted a pediatrics clinic day as part of their training

operation Sept. 17 - 22.

With the logistical support of Joint Task Force - Bravo's Medical Element, the 16 personnel from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, completed their training mission and won the hearts of the Hondurans, said Air Force Lt. Col. Douglas Lougee, 59th MDW team chief.

To make this mission possible, MEDEL coordinated the provision of three liaison officers, five Honduran military guards, two Airmen from Joint Security Forces, five Humvees, four government vehicles, Meals-Ready-to-Eat, cots, preventive medicine supplies and the billeting and finances necessary to host the members of the 59th, said Army Maj. Betty Garner, MEDEL.

"It was no easy task but that's what we are

here to do," Garner said.

The previous week, MEDEL supported a civilian humanitarian mission in Comayagua with tarps, chairs, water buffaloes, medical supplies, interpreters, nurses and physician assistants.

"JTF-Bravo has always been ready to cooperate and assist us with these missions," said Currie Burgess, co-leader of Bridge Ministries.

Dr. George Poehlman, a physician from Womack Army Medical Center in Fort Bragg, N.C., donated his time and expertise with the outreach mission but couldn't speak Spanish.

"The service members from JTF-Bravo are great to work with," Poehlman said. "They provide us with valuable cultural resources to make this mission run smoother."



Army Lt. mander, picking up ed the ren atric care

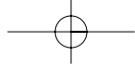


Nearly 1,000 Hondurans flood Enlaces con Cristo school in Comayagua for medical treatment provided by a civilian humanitarian mission Sept. 14 - 20. Medical Element provided logistical and personnel support to the outreach.



Army Capt. Ismael Rodriguez, Medical Element, interprets for Dr. George Poehlman, a physician from Womack Army Medical Center, N.C. The Honduran mother heard about the free medical treatment provided by the mission.

Story and photos by
Sgt. Jorge Gomez



ture



Col. Doris Burch, Medical Element deputy complays with 8-month-old Brandon Hernandez after applying some lotions to treat his skin allergies. Burch visited the site where the 59th Medical Wing provided pediatric care with the logistical support from Medical Element.



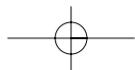
Army Maj. Betty Garner, Medical Element, assists the pharmaceutical section of the mission conducted by the 59th Medical Wing. Air Force Staff Sgt. Dahlia Gonzalez, 59th, provides Spanish instructions for taking the medications.



from Womack Army Medical in Fort Bragg, N.C. as seen from a TV announcement.



Army Capt. Michael Chambers, Medical Element physician assistant, examines a Honduran child in support of the humanitarian outreach mission conducted in Comayagua.



Soldier puts kings in check



Photo by Sgt. Jorge Gomez

Sgt. Kevin McElvany, Preventive Medicine NCO, took fifth place in the 2003 U.S. Army Chess tournament and 18th in the 2003 U.S. Armed Forces Open Chess Championship.

By Sgt. Jorge Gomez
Editor

People make mistakes, but in chess the loser makes the last mistake, said Sgt. Kevin McElvany, Preventive Medicine NCO.

McElvany, 24, who first stumbled upon the game while assigned to Fort Campbell, Ky., rose to the ranks of the Army's top chess players in 2003.

That same year, the Oklahoma City-native placed 18th in the U.S. Armed Forces Open Chess Championship but he had already come a long way from his introduction to the game in 1999.

"What fascinated me about chess initially was that it wasn't based on luck or athletic ability but purely on the ability to think," McElvany said.

After a few months of study on tactics and familiarization with openings and defenses, McElvany beat his friends who taught him the game and later won first place in a Fort Campbell tournament.

"I realized I had a knack for the game so I started purchasing more advanced books," he said.

In 2001, when McElvany was assigned to Japan and found an English-speaking tournament in Hamamatsu, he took first place in the face of 16 international players.

Although the \$50 prize didn't compensate for the \$200 round-trip ticket he purchased to go there, McElvany said it was the satisfaction of winning that made it worthwhile.

Throughout his tour in Japan, McElvany won first place in three different tournaments which led to his selection to compete in the all-Army tournament at Fort Myer, Va., in May 2003.

The seven-day tournament with games lasting three to four hours proved to be a challenge.

"I had to slow down and think about my moves. I started out aggressive but I was going up against seasoned and strategic players," McElvany said.

Although he was dethroned from his first place streak, McElvany said the tournament let him know how he compared to others. Nevertheless, he placed in the top six and qualified to compete in the all-services tournament in August that year.

"It forced me to examine my strategies, so I studied the tournament games from the logs to see where I had gone wrong," McElvany said.

In Camp Lejeune, N.C., he battled against the top 23 players in the U.S. Armed Forces finishing with a modest 18th place.

"I came away humbled. The players were tough, but in all fairness there is only a small margin of difference amongst those who placed in the middle," he said.

In May 2004, McElvany grappled for another chance to stake a claim in the interservice tournament but he trailed two places below the cutoff, finishing seventh and missing his window of opportunity.

"They had better players this year, probably due to the influx of deploying Soldiers since about half of them were Reservists," McElvany said.

"And it only takes one mistake to blow the game."

Since his arrival to Soto Cano Air Base, McElvany keeps busy studying previous games and scrutinizing his opponents strategies to improve his chances of competing in the 2005 U.S. Armed Forces tournament.

In the meantime, he's been struggling with the decision to take college classes because "it takes away from my study of chess," he said.

While his peers are amused by the latest video game release, he's amassing a theater of war on black and white squares.

Magician tricks troops at Oasis



Comic magician Chris Christian shows a card to the audience while Air Force 1st Lt. Aaron Rubi, Command Group, attempts to mentally "beam" his card using a kitchen utensil. (Right) Christian plays Charlie Chaplin with Capt. Jaime Fried, Medical Element company commander.



Photos by Sgt. Jorge Gomez



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Photo feature

7



Instructing Honduran cadet Jose Portillo through every movement, 1st Sgt. Steven Spillman, Army Forces Headquarters Support Company first sergeant, and Capt. Xavier Colon, ARFOR S-4 officer-in-charge, ensure a safe adventure down the rappel tower at Soto Cano Air Base Sept. 23.

ARFOR push cadets over top



Capt. Xavier Colon demonstrates a safety feature for Honduran cadets while 1st Sgt. Steven Spillman assumes a falling position.

By Sgt. Jorge Gomez
Editor

Not since 1988 have cadets from the Honduran Air Force Academy rappelled off a tower, said Honduran Capt. Fredy Noriega.

With the instruction and equipment provided by Army Forces, 11 Honduran cadets tested their courage and expanded their Special Reaction Team task proficiencies Sept. 23.

First Sgt. Steven Spillman, Army Forces Headquarters and Support Company first sergeant, demonstrated every step and leap off the tower while Capt. Xavier Colon, ARFOR S-4 officer-in-charge, interpreted the instruction and assisted with safety procedures.

Cadet Juan Gallo was the first brave Honduran to inch off the 34-foot ledge.

"I was very nervous when I was still on the edge but then when I descended and felt the ropes hold me I gained confidence," Gallo said. "It's exciting, I'm ready to go again."

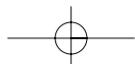
"The cadets were impressive, they listened well and picked up the techniques quickly," Spillman said.

"We appreciate Spillman's and Colon's willingness to take the time to share their expertise despite the language barrier," Noriega said.



Photos by Sgt. Jorge Gomez

Honduran cadet Josue Sabillon glides down the rappel tower.



Fire Prevention Week Oct. 3 - 9 at Soto Cano

By Air Force Master Sgt.
Nicholas J. Dmytrus
Fire prevention assistant chief

Fire Prevention Week is the oldest safety commemoration proclaimed annually by the president of the United States.

Originating as a result of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, Fire Prevention Week has become a fixture of fire department culture and the focal point for local public fire safety awareness education activities every October.

The Chicago fire began Oct. 8, 1871, and continued burning through the following day.

Fire Prevention Week then is always commemorated during the Sunday through Saturday period in which Oct. 9 falls.

As the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week, the National Fire Protection Association works with federal officials to facilitate the presidential proclamation signing each year.

The Chicago fire killed more than 250 people and destroyed more than 17,400 structures and is one of the most widely known fire disasters in the world. But it's a less well known fact that on the same day, the Peshtigo Fire roared through northern Wisconsin, killing 1,152 people and burning more than a million acres.

The Fire Prevention Office on Soto Cano advises the following:

Smoke detectors must be installed and operational outside/inside each sleeping area.

Test your smoke detector monthly.

Install new batteries at least once a year or whenever your alarm "chirps" to tell you the battery is low.

Fire safety facts:

Your chances of surviving a home fire are increased by 40 to 50 percent if your home is protected by smoke alarms.

In one-quarter to one-third of fires reported in homes that were equipped with smoke alarms, the alarms didn't work. The most common reasons smoke alarms fail are dead, missing, or disconnected batteries.

Smoking is the leading cause of fatal fires.

One-fourth of residential fire deaths resulted from fires started by smoking materials.

Two-thirds of the people killed by residential smoking fires were asleep when the fires started.

If you must go through smoke to escape, crawl low under the smoke on your hands and knees to your exit.

Fire Prevention Week activities:

Oct. 4, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.: open house; local schools will tour the fire department 9 - 10 a.m. and 1 - 2 p.m.

Oct. 5, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.: fire extinguisher demonstrations.

Oct. 6, 9 - 11 a.m.: smoke house trainer at fire department locker room (for base personnel); 10 a.m. auto extrication demonstration at chapel parking lot.

Oct. 7, 9 a.m.: all units invited to compete in fire fighter challenge (3-person teams); awards presentation for facility manager of the year and best times for unit and team contests follow event; enjoy barbecue during challenge.

For information on FPW activities, call extension 5550.



Photos by Air Force Staff Sgt. Derrick Goode

Air Force Forces fire fighters force open a vehicle with the "Jaws of Life" during a rescue simulation. Due to the power of the Jaws, team members support the operator to keep him from losing balance. Fire fighters wear silver proximity suits for structural emergencies on the initial response until the scene is stabilized.

(Right) Fire fighters yank open the door after the "Jaws of Life" have broken through. Similar demonstrations are scheduled during Fire Prevention Week.

