



# The Iguana



## S.A.R. team: Preparing for any challenge

By **Spc. M. William Petersen**  
*Iguana Editor*

It was a sunny day on Soto Cano Air Base as Sgt. Robert Hutchinson put on full "battle rattle," including a packed rucksack, helmet and rifle.

His normal duties as a chaplain's assistant at Fort Rucker, Ala., rarely called for so much gear. Those duties didn't call for rappelling in all that gear either.

Hutchinson is one of 15 soldiers, airmen and Marines comprising the Joint Task Force Bravo Search and Rescue team. The team conducted training March 13 at Soto Cano's rappelling tower, with several new additions to the SAR roster.

The team is an all-volunteer unit led by 1st Lt. Joseph Ayoub, platoon leader for Headquarters and Support Company, Army Forces, and SAR team officer in charge.

"In the next two months, pretty much the whole SAR

team will be new," said Ayoub. "We transition every four months, so we have to constantly train."

The SAR team's training includes the rappelling tower, helicopter rappelling exercises, first aid, land navigation, rescue scenario live exercises and training in Mortuary Affairs recovery operations.

The training offered is sometimes its own reward. Team members gain skills that aid in their SAR mission as well as regular duties, according to one team member.

"When it comes to missions, it increases my awareness when looking for casualties," said Spc. Katrina Hart, a water treatment specialist and SAR team member since October, 2001. "It gives me field training, we're going to the range a lot more, and it's improving my [physical training.]"

The diverse training is a chance for team members to acquire new skills and new experiences that may not be

available to them at their home station, according to Ayoub.

"It's a great learning opportunity and a chance to do different things," he said. "Here we get to do live exercises. Some people may have never done any helicopter rappelling."

In the event of a downed aircraft off Soto Cano, the SAR team is usually the first to respond. The team's missions include also searching for missing Honduran aircraft and assisting in Central Skies missions.

The SAR team is open to members of all the services in JTF-Bravo. Volunteers need to show up for physical and skill training, and "we'll take care of the rest," said Ayoub.

For more information on the SAR team, contact 1st Sgt. Rafael Torres, SAR team noncommissioned officer in charge, at ext. 4380.

"As long as they come out and want to be part of the team and are willing to learn, we're willing to train them," Ayoub said.



Photo by Spc. M. William Petersen

**Spc. Katrina Hart descends from the rappelling tower during Search and Rescue Training. The SAR team is always recruiting and training new members for their mission.**

### Waiting is ...

**Vanessa Romas, 4, waits for lunch during a Joint Task Force-Bravo Air Force-organized trip to the Honduran Orphanage of Margarita Cook. Located just 10-minute's drive from the home of JTF-Bravo, Soto Cano Air Base, the orphanage has some 40 girls ages 3 months to 12 years of age. The JTF-B Air Forces spent the afternoon sharing food and fun with the youngsters.**

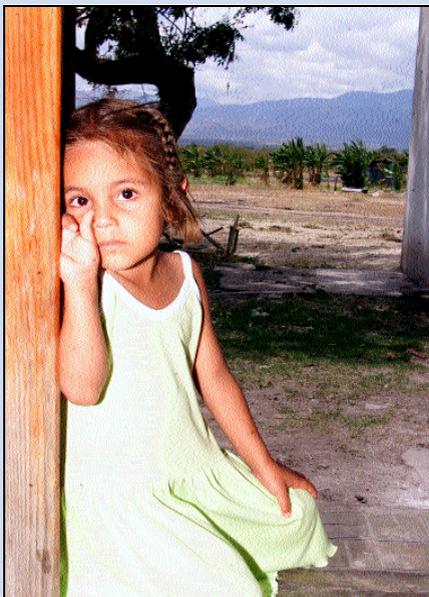


Photo by Tech Sgt. G.A. Volb

## Leadership gets hands-on

By **1st Lt. Richard Komurek**  
*JTF-Bravo Public Affairs Officer*

A group of 30 Army and Air Force captains from Soto Cano experienced a unique day of leadership development combined with Honduran culture and U.S. diplomacy during an Officer Professional Development Seminar held at the Zamorano Pan-American School of Agriculture March 4.

The day-long seminar featured an in-depth look at the Zamorano agricultural school as well as the opportunity to meet with Frank Almaguer, the U.S. Ambassador to Honduras, at his Tegucigalpa residence.

The OPD trip, the second of its kind since Col. Michael Okita took command of JTF-Bravo last July, provided an opportunity for captains to discuss leadership issues with the commander and to

learn more about other U.S. government agencies and personnel at work within Honduras. The off base OPD seminar location give captains a chance to learn about Honduran culture and provide an opportunity to meet with peers from JTF-Bravo that they normally wouldn't see during normal day to day operations at Soto Cano.

The visit to Zamorano focused on the school's historical ties to the United States, its emphasis on character development and role in Honduran higher education and agricultural research. Zamorano, founded in 1942, has graduated more than 4,700 students from 25 countries and is well known in Latin America for being one of the best schools of its kind in the region. The school is a non-profit organization that was originally founded by a large American banana company. Zamorano is not un-

*See OPD, Page 7*

## Commanders Corner

### Operations security: protect unclassified information

By Maj. Leonard R. Grassley  
Joint Security Forces Commander

How many times have you been asked seemingly innocent questions about what we do here on Soto Cano Air Base? Have you ever thought the questions being asked were unusual or even a bit too detailed? It is all too easy to just dismiss these inquiries as simply curiosity, but is it really? Most of the information we deal with is unclassified.

Many wrongly think that if information or activities are not important enough to be classified, the information does not need to be protected. However, government sources estimate that 75-90 percent of our adversaries' information collection requirements can be satisfied through unclassified open sources. We must always be extremely mindful of the content and possible intelligence value of information we receive and provide.

Operations security is a process for identifying, controlling, and protecting generally unclassified information that could be used against us to our disadvantage by an adversary. OPSEC is a discipline that focuses primarily on unclassified information and activities. This is important to remember because classified information constitutes only a small fraction of the information and activities that the majority of us use every day.

What did you do with the hard copy of the last Operations Order you read? Have you ever told anyone how many military personnel are assigned to JTF-Bravo? When's the last time you read and forwarded an e-mail that contained "For Official Use Only" information? Although none of these actions will get you court marshaled, they do represent possible considerations for OPSEC.

Consider the motive behind the person asking for the information and think carefully before providing details. These types of questions represent opportunities for collection and provide pieces to a much larger puzzle that tells the significance of Joint Task Force-

Bravo. Also, remember that "dumpster-diving" is an extremely effective means of gaining espionage information and under the ruling of the Supreme Court, it is perfectly legal. So be careful of what information you throw away in the trash.

So what can you do? The following steps can help you and your organization to better understand the risks and those measures that should be considered:

**1. Identify critical information or essential elements of friendly information.**

Examples: What units will rotate to support JTF-Bravo? What is their specific mission? When will they deploy and where?

**2. Threat analysis: Identify your threat and determine their capabilities.**

Examples: Can your phone or radio be monitored? Do they have access to our landfill?

**3. Vulnerability analysis: Determine what proactive measures you could use to reduce collection.**

Examples: Shredding, camouflage, concealment, jamming, deception

**4. Assessment of risks: Identify the best OPSEC measures to use when balancing failure against cost**

Examples: How does a specific measure impact operational efficiency? Does implementing a measure risk mission success?

**5. Application of appropriate measures: Chosen measures become SOPs**

Examples: Chosen measures are incorporated into future deployments, OPORDS and plans.

Operational Security is clearly essential to Force Protection in Honduras and our ability to effectively carry out the military operations and missions we are asked to support.

Simple conversations about sensitive information or even our own speculation about operational



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matters in public venues can be exploited by someone who's prepared to listen.

We all must remain cognizant of our surroundings at all times when discussing operational matters. So, the next time your "friend" asks; "...so how many helicopters do you have on base again?" you may want to ask yourself does he or she really need to know?

(Additional information on OPSEC is available in Army Regulation 530-1, Air Force Policy Directive 10-11, and DoD Directive 5205.2.)

## Chaplain's Corner

### Talking to yourself

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary A Pendrak  
JTF-Bravo Chaplain

Some years ago, as I was riding on a bus, I noticed a man sitting a few seats away who was talking to himself. I mean, it was a full-fledged conversation complete with gestures and everything. If it weren't for the empty seat next to him, you would have been certain that he was having a heated conversation with a close friend.

What can I say? I talk to myself too. Well, not usually in public and perhaps not with many gestures; but I do talk to myself. Usually it's something like, "Well, Gary, you really messed up this time."

In his book "The Good News About Worry," William Backus tells a story about a woman named Hester. She wanted to visit with her grandchildren in another part of the country, but

she was afraid to fly. Finally, she began telling herself, "Hester, you are safer in a commercial airplane than in a car. And, besides, if it should crash, it will only land you in heaven. Buy that ticket and get going." Hester eventually boarded a plane and had a delightful visit with her family.

A few years ago, I had what I thought was the best assignment in the US Army. I was having the time of my life. I felt that the Lord was really using me to help other people. Not only that, but I was having a lot of fun at the same time. Then I got word that I was being transferred to Tobyhanna Army Depot. Where? Tobyhanna? What part of Bavaria is that? I was told it was in the North Eastern Pennsylvania part of Bavaria.

Well, I got on the horn and begged and pleaded with anyone that I knew in authority. "Please get me out of that assignment. Don't send me there. I have always been with troops; I want to

stay with troops. Don't send me to a depot with 4,000 civilians and only a handful of military."

Well, in a short time the answer came back. I had three choices. I could go to Tobyhanna looking forward to having a great time and doing great ministry. I could go to Tobyhanna kicking and screaming and being miserable every minute I was there. Or I could submit my resignation. Well, I want you to know that Tobyhanna was a great assignment. I mean that, really. I made some great friends, I accomplished some long-range personal goals, and I saw the Lord working through me and through others. With my 20/20 hindsight, I see that it was nearly a perfect assignment for me. Thank you, Lord.

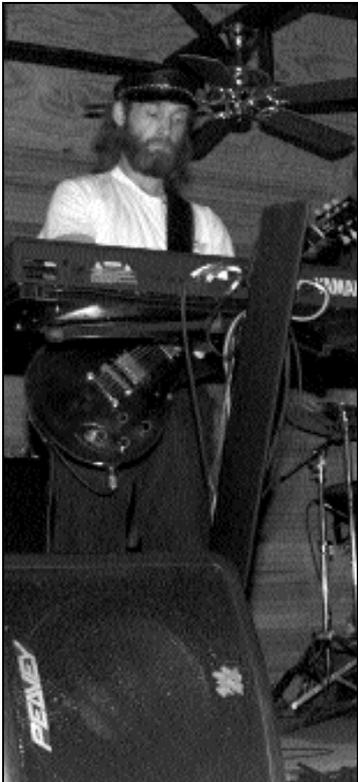
Whenever you are downhearted, be careful what you tell yourself. Instead of being negative, say: "God loves me. He saved me. He is in control."

Self-talk can be most helpful - When you talk to yourself about God.

# Hard rock returns to Oasis

From the area surrounding the Oasis the nights of March 14 and 15, a sound could be heard that any rock and roll devotee could recognize: it was the sound of Randy Rhoads tearing through "Crazy Train," which he played alongside hard rock hero Ozzy Osbourne. Upon entering the Oasis, the illusion of the deceased Rhoads once again belting out super-sonic guitar riffs was not immediately dispelled.

Terry Span has heard it be-



Above: Playing two parts of the rhythm section, William Smith switches from guitar to keyboards.

Story and photos by Spc. M. William Petersen  
Editor

fore, and doesn't mind hearing it again: he looks and sounds like Rhoads. Span is a huge fan of the deceased guitar legend, and has taken that influence and dozens of others and made a career out of continuing the legacy of hard rock.

Span and his band, Aleister Wild, came to Soto Cano Air Base as part of a Department of Defense Armed Services Entertainment tour that will eventually take them through Europe, the Mediterranean and Central America.

Span, the founder and lead guitarist, has been on five ASE tours with Aleister Wild. The current incarnation of the band has been together less than three months, but has already taken to performing and life on the road. The rhythm section, composed of Scott Zellhart on drums, Tim Workman on bass guitar and William Smith on rhythm guitar and keyboards, worked as if they'd been jamming together for years.

Jan Nemeth added lead vocals that ranged from a low growl to an operatic wail. With Span's sharp lead work emerging over all of it, the band's sound was a complete hard rock symphony ready for barrooms and arenas alike.

For the four new members of Aleister Wild, their first intercontinental tour has been an experience both on stage

and off.

"All the people we've met on the various military bases have treated us well and gone out of their way to accommodate us," said Zellhart. "As we've toured, we've actually clicked as a band. The only thing about touring is getting used to each other's little idiosyncrasies."

"And we're still getting along," added Nemeth.

Running through a playlist that included hard rock classics by Black Sabbath, Ozzy Osbourne, Led Zeppelin and original songs by Span, the band played three shows for JTF-Bravo troops, including a weeknight show at the Lizard Lounge. For Span, Honduras is one of many memorable places he's played in a music career that has allowed him to play for audiences many bands only dream of.

"I've played for United Nations troops from dozens of countries. You can't hit that many people at Woodstock," said Span. "They go to their home country with your CD and play it there, and for not being a major band, that's pretty good exposure."

With the band already accustomed to touring and their music up to break-neck speed, Span has adopted a military attitude towards Aleister Wild: "Anytime, anywhere. We'll be there."



Photos by Spc. M. William Petersen

Above: Terry Span, founder and lead guitarist of Aleister Wild, tears through a lightning-fast solo during the band's March 14 performance.

Left: Jan Nemeth sings lead vocals on a rendition of "Rock and Roll," by Led Zeppelin.



March 22, 2002

JTF-Bravo

# Crash and burn

## Witchdoctors, Fire Dawgs prepare for emergency



Along with medical and rescue personnel, JTF-Bravo Command Chaplain, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Pendrak joined the mock rescue effort by providing comfort to the wounded, including offering his beret as a head rest. The scenario for the exercise was a helicopter crash with four people involved. The injuries ranged from scrapes and bruises up to a impaled object in someone's chest. The medics stabilized the victims at the scene and then evacuated them to MEDEL for further treatment.

Pfc. Allison Smith a medic with the Soto Cano Medical Element treats one of the four injured during the mass casualty exercise March 9. Smith was one of five medics from MEDEL who responded to treat the injured.



*Photos by Spc. Jon Christoffersen*

A member of the Soto Cano Fire Department drags a one of injured from the mock crash site during a mass casualty exercise March 19 on the flightline in front of 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Headquarters. The MASCAL exercise gave the members of the fire department and MEDEL the opportunity to practice their reaction procedures in the event of a real mass casualty situation.

# Hotline aids in poison prevention

WASHINGTON, D.C. – During a news conference to launch National Poison Prevention Week, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the American Association of Poison Control Centers, and the Poison Prevention Week Council reported on the performance of the new national toll-free telephone number for poison control centers. The new number, (800) 222-1222, was launched on Jan. 30. For the first time, this new number provides everyone in the U.S. with free access - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - to their regional poison center.

In just the first full month of operation, the toll-free number received 44,000 calls about potential poisonings.

"This number is proving to be a lifesaver," said CPSC Acting Chairman Thomas Moore. "The CPSC wholeheartedly supports this innovation and hopes that families and caregivers across the nation keep this number near their phones for quick action when needed."

The goal of National Poison Prevention Week, this year held March 17-23, is to help reduce the annual toll of about 30 deaths to children less than 5 years old. The nation's poison control

centers receive more than one million calls each year about unintentional poisonings of children less than 5 years of age from medicines and household chemicals.

Experts emphasize three ways to reduce deaths and injuries from poisonings: (1) Keep medicines and household chemicals locked up, out of reach, and out of sight of young children at all times; (2) Use child-resistant packaging because it saves lives; and (3) Call (800) 222-1222 to get immediate treatment advice for poison emergencies.

National Poison Prevention Week is organized each year by the Poison Prevention Week Council, a coalition of national organizations working to prevent poisonings. According to Peter Mayberry, Chairman of the Poison Prevention Week Council, "National Poison Prevention Week is a time to emphasize the responsibility that parents, grandparents, and other caregivers have in preventing these tragedies. Adults everywhere need to remember that it can only take an instant for a poisoning to occur when children are able to reach household chemicals and medicines."

Child-resistant packaging is not child-proof. If a young child swallows

a medicine or chemical, parents must call the poison control center immediately. Dr. Alan Woolf, President of the American

Association of Poison Control Centers, said, "Our new national toll-free number (800-222-1222) makes life-saving poison center assistance accessible to everyone in the U.S. We are confident we can save lives if people call the poison center immediately."

The "Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act" provides a stable source of federal funds for poison centers and makes them more accessible to the nation.

Here are the basic poison prevention tips that every person should check during National Poison Prevention Week:

1. Keep all chemicals and medicines locked up and out of sight.
2. Use child-resistant packaging properly by closing the container securely after each use or choosing child-resistant blister cards, which do not need to be re-secured.
3. Call (800) 222-1222 immediately in case of poisoning. Keep on hand a bottle of ipecac syrup but use it only if the poison center instructs you to in-

duce vomiting.

4. When products are in use, never let young children out of your sight, even if you must take them along when answering the phone or doorbell.

5. Keep items in original containers.

6. Leave the original labels on all products, and read the label before using.

7. Do not put decorative lamps and candles that contain lamp oil where children can reach them. Lamp oil can be very toxic if ingested by young children.

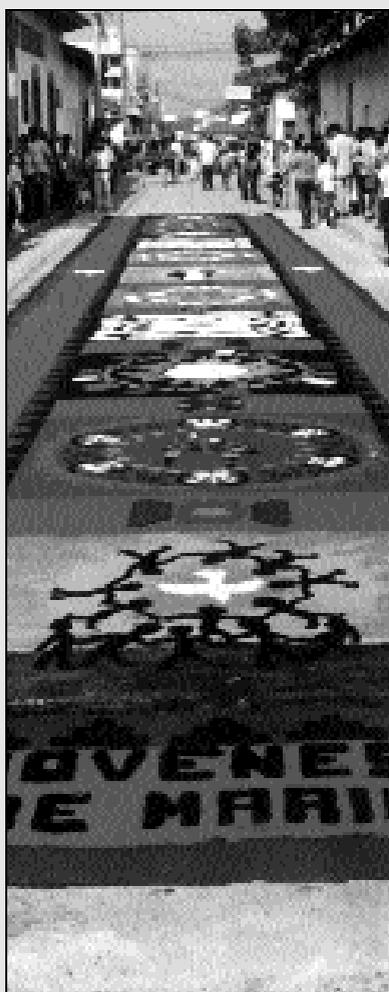
8. Always leave the light on when giving or taking medicine. Check the dosage every time.

9. Avoid taking medicine in front of children. Refer to medicine as "medicine," not "candy."

10. Clean out the medicine cabinet periodically and safely dispose of unneeded and outdated medicines.

To get a free packet of poison prevention publications, write to "Poison Prevention Packet," CPSC, Washington, DC 20207, or visit [www.poisonprevention.org](http://www.poisonprevention.org).

(Editor's Note: This story appears courtesy of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.)

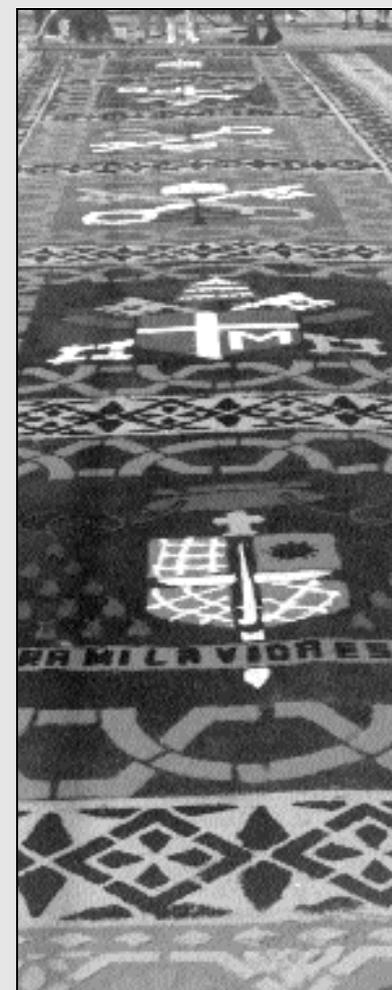


## Easter in Comayagua

The celebration of Easter in Comayagua is world famous for its displays of sawdust carpets. The sawdust floor carpets are a traditional element of the Catholic liturgy, as well as a live procession of the "Way of the Cross," and a special service at the Cathedral.

The JTF-Bravo Chapel will be hosting a trip to the Good Friday celebration March 29. Call ext. 4351 or 4696 to sign up before March 25.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation will also be hosting an outing to view the sawdust carpets in Comayagua March 29. The departure point will be the Contracting parking lot at 7 a.m. For more information, stop by MWR Tours and Travel Office or call ext. 4268.



# Pentagon reconstruction: triumph over terrorism

By Linda D. Kozaryn  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Six months after terrorists slammed a hijacked jet into the Pentagon, the charred, gaping hole in the building is gone and new five-story walls have risen from the ashes.

Two American flags fly atop towering yellow construction cranes more than 150 feet above the site where 184 persons died. Whenever work crews reposition the cranes, these banners of freedom take the lead, ruffling in high winds overhead.

To many, restoring the Pentagon has come to symbolize the nation's resolve to win the war against global terrorism. Six months from today, Pentagon officials and construction workers alike intend to have finished the most visible reconstruction, renovation project manager Lee Evey told the press in an update briefing March 7.

"We want to have people back in the building on E Ring, where the aircraft impacted, by Sept. 11 of this year," he said. "We want them to be sitting at their desks performing their mission."

Everyone associated with the project, he said, wants to bring the building back as quickly as possible. "That's our goal, and that's our mission. We want to do it as efficiently, effectively, and we also want to do it in as cost-effective a manner as we possibly can."

A large digital clock at the site stands witness to that resolve. Illuminated red numbers display the hours and minutes remaining until the first anniversary of the attack. The clock bears the words, "Let's Roll," honoring the heroes who died in the skies over Pennsylvania to prevent further attacks on Washington.

"We're counting down the days," Evey said. "This gets to zero at 9:38 a.m. on Sept. 11 of this year — just to remind everybody of our commitment and what we intend to do by that date."

As many as 1,000 workers a day have put heart and soul into rebuilding the nation's historic military headquarters. At first they worked three shifts, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"At Christmas, we insisted that all the workers take two days off," Evey said. "A group of 64 workers came and complained to us because they wanted to work straight through. We insisted they take two days off. We also insisted that they had to take two days off at New Year's."

As work progressed, managers cut the daily work force to about 600 workers, who now put in two 10-hour shifts a day, six days a week. "We didn't want to continue to push these guys seven days a week, 24 hours a day, because we're concerned that we could start to have accidents on the job," he said.

Both managers and workers are highly motivated, Evey said. Managers start arriving at 3 a.m. so that the work is laid out and everything's ready for the workers to move forward by the time they arrive about 5:30.

Original estimates indicated that demolishing the damaged area would take up to eight months. Pentagon officials are striving to improve "force protection" should the building be subjected to similar threats in the future.

"We have interviewed everyone that we could find in the building who was in close proximity to the crash at the time that it occurred," Evey said. "We're learning as much from them as we possibly can with regard to the performance of the building and how we can improve it."

Pentagon officials are also looking at ways to improve the sprinkler system, how to make the building more resistant to different types of attack, and how best to evacu-



Photo by Grant Greenwalt

Reconstruction of the Pentagon continues as work crews pour concrete for floors and walls to replace those damaged in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the building.

ate the building. Some new forms of protection had already been installed as part of renovation work under way at the time of the attack, he noted.

"Most people that were sitting in Wedge 1 on Sept. 11 had no idea that there were blast-resistant win-

dows in that building," he said. "They had no idea that we had retrofit six-inch-by-six-inch steel members. They had no idea that we had put in Kevlar cloth to catch masonry fragments. Those things were invisible to them, but they operated very effectively."

## Memorial honors fallen airman

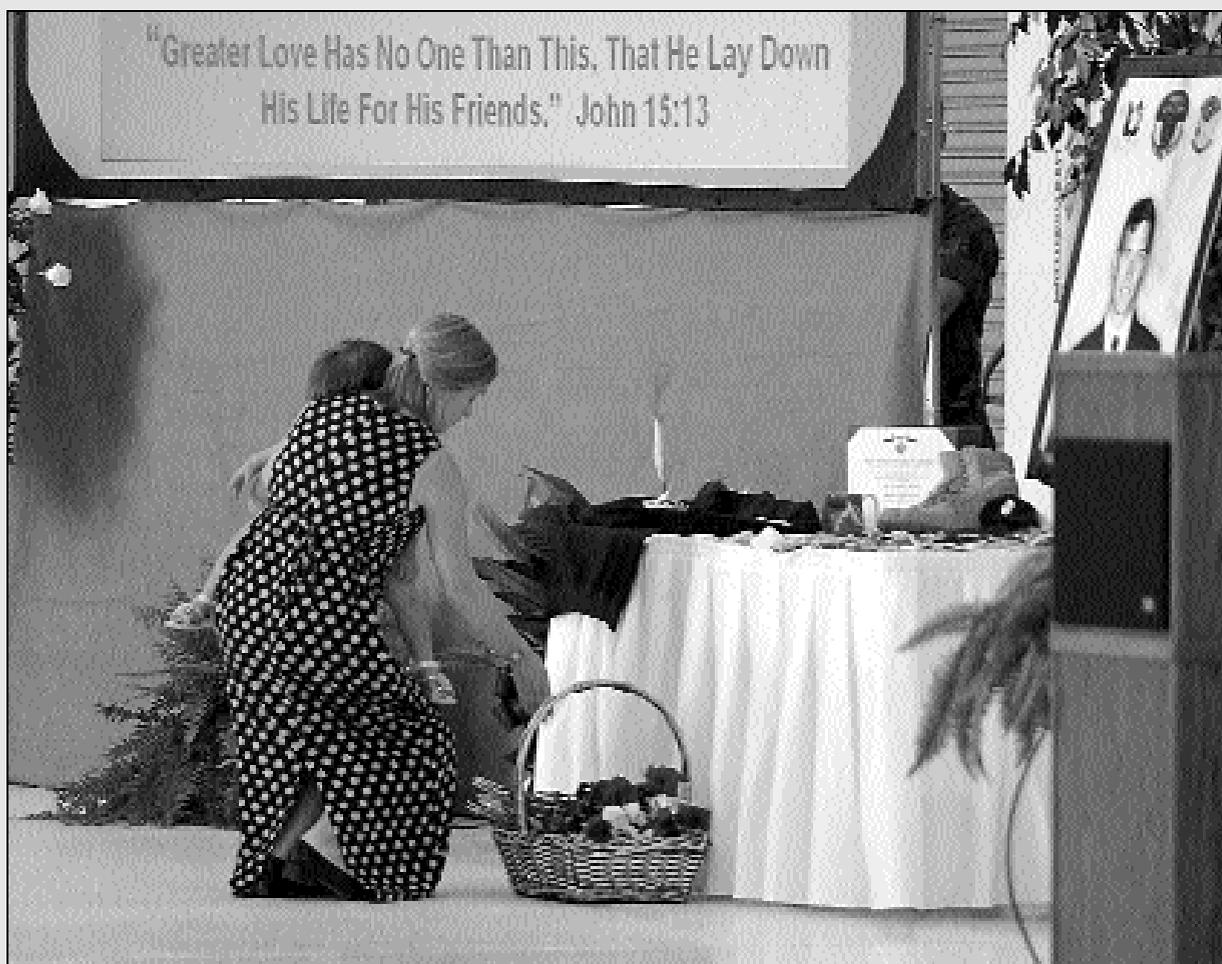


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Smith

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — The wife of a 38th Rescue Squadron pararescueman here places flowers in front of Senior Airman Jason Cunningham's memorial table March 7. Cunningham died March 4 while on a rescue mission in eastern Afghanistan during Operation Anaconda.

## BRIEFS

### New fire dept. numbers

The new fire department (Bldg. J-01) phone numbers are as follows:

Fire Alarm Communication Center:

6050 / 6051 / 6052 / 6053

Fire Chief: 6054

Deputy Fire Chief: 6050

Asst. Chief of Fire Prevention: 6051

Asst. Chief of Training: 6051

Asst. Chief of "A" Shift: 6052

Asst. Chief of "B" Shift: 6052

Fire Department Supply: 6053

Fax (non-secure): 6055

Fire Emergency: 911

### Safety hotline

The Safety Hotline at Extension 4840 has been activated and is operational 24 hours a day. All JTF-Bravo personnel are encouraged to report any condition that is considered unsafe or unhealthful to their supervisor. Reports can be made verbally or in writing on DA Form 4755. Reports can also be made to anyone in the chain of command or submitted anonymously to the JTB-B Command Safety Office located in building A-80. All reports will be investigated and the individual advised of the action taken.

### Fire drills

Fire alarm drills will take place over the next two weeks in housing areas in the evening. When personnel hear the alarms, they should evacuate their living quarters and proceed to the designated rally point. When at the rally point, they should locate the senior area resident to ensure they are accounted for. Senior area representatives and designated rally points are available on the JTF-Bravo webserver.

### New pass policy

The new base pass policy is signed and in effect. Anyone who may bring people onto the base need to visit <http://jtfb-webserver/PAO/Linked%20Files/Base%20Pass%20Policy.doc>. This link can be reached through the JTF-Bravo webserver. The document establishes procedures, limitations and other important information for anyone attempting to bring a guest on base.

### Mandatory G6PD testing

MEDEL has resumed G6PD testing for all Army and Marine personnel. This testing will be done twice a month on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Testing is required before troops finish their tour of duty at Soto Cano because people who are deficient in the G6PD enzyme should not take the malaria medication. Air Force personnel do not need to take this test. For questions call MEDEL at ext 4183.

## OPD

(Continued from Page 1)

like a military academy and students work long days and have strict codes of conduct to follow during its four-year program. The JTF-Bravo commander and the group of captains were given a tour of school which highlighted dairy production, meat processing and fish farming facilities where Zamorano students learn first hand how to produce quality food products. The JTF-Bravo members also had the chance to sample ice cream produced at the school and to shop at the school's market where its food products are sold. Many members left Zamorano with items ranging from yogurt to fresh marmalade and locally grown coffee.

"I thought the OPD was very useful and enjoyable," said Air Force Capt. Brandon Ambruso, director of the Resource Management Office. "It was an excellent opportunity to learn more about Honduras and have a greater appreciation for its history and culture."

The OPD activities ended with a visit to Ambassador Almaguer's residence where the diplomat spoke to the officers about the history and importance of U.S. military involvement in Honduras and about the different aspects and services of various departments at the embassy. The captains listened intently as the ambassador discussed Soto Cano's importance dur-

ing the Cold War years when Central America was stricken with revolution and civil war. Almaguer credited U.S. government and military efforts for the democracy that flourishes in the region today and thanked the JTF-Bravo members for serving their country and making a difference to the people of Honduras and Central America.

"My pride in the U.S. military knows no bounds," said Almaguer. The ambassador, who has served with the U.S. State Department for more than 20 years, also noted there is a special reward that comes from public service that money can't buy in the private sector. "Service to country is something that nobody can take away from you ... it's worth every penny," he said.

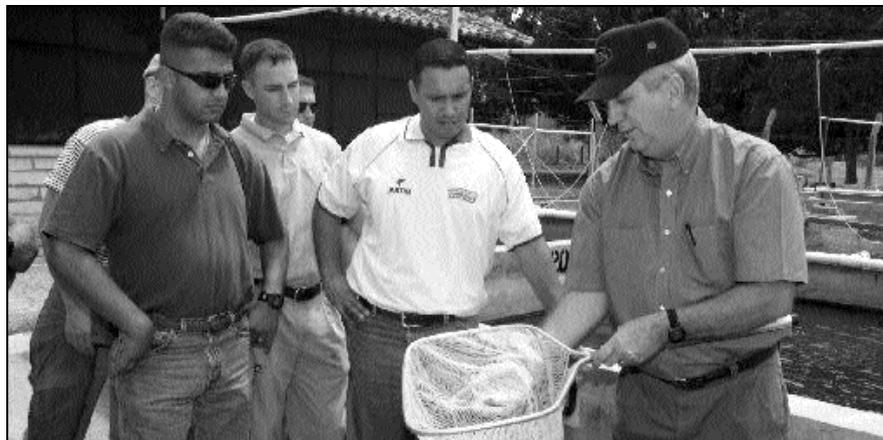


Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Komurek

**A Zamorano instructor explains the benefits of fish farming to Soto Cano captains during the Officer Professional Development Seminar. The raising of fish and shrimp at commercial farms is a growing industry in Central America that produces large amounts of seafood for export to the United States.**

## FLAG FOOTBALL

JTF-B PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PLAY FLAG FOOTBALL IN TEGUCIGALPA, SUNDAY, 7 APRIL AT 1000 HRS. INTERESTED COACHES AND PLAYERS SIGN UP AT REC CTR. DEADLINE IS 22 MARCH.

NO COST INVOLVED

MWR WILL PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION

FOR MORE INFO SEE ROBIN OR CARMEN, II-401 x4268/4458




## FOOTBALL

## Lempira ATM

The Lempira ATM machine is now operational in the ATM kiosk outside the Finance Office. It will accept all cards associated with Visa and/or the Plus Network. Funds are dispersed in increments of 50 Lps. Pay close attention to the diagram indicating the card insertion direction.

## ASK

(Continued from Page 6)

over a non-volunteer," Garcia said.

The idea behind SAM came from Garcia, but the system was designed by a sergeant first class with years of personnel management experience.

"I've used databases to manage personnel at my units. I would find out who was leaving, what grade and MOS, then get replacements," said Sgt. 1st Class Vince Marroquin, the Ordnance Branch force integrator.

Before a soldier can log onto ASK, they have to have an Army Knowledge Online account. ASK will require soldiers to select three stateside locations and three other preferences outside of the continental United States.

Preference locations mean that if a soldier has to rotate or do a special duty like drill sergeant or recruiter, this is the place or the duty he would prefer, Garcia said. The first two preference choices will be from the Army's 10 divisions, because that's where soldiers are needed most, he said. The other choice will be from an expanded listing which includes the divisional installations plus other CONUS installations.

Soldiers may also select three CONUS and three OCONUS volunteer locations. Garcia said volunteer locations mean that if a soldier were to move now, this is where he would want to go.

# Medical training gives needed care

By Tech. Sgt. G. A. Volb  
Joint Task Force Bravo Public Affairs

The look etched on the faces of men, women and children from the town of Plan de Leones, Honduras said it all March 12.

Having waited five hours in 80-plus degree heat, their smiles told members of Joint Task Force Bravo's visiting medical readiness team their mission would be a success.

JTF-Bravo's medical element took the lead by making a trip into the Honduran countryside to offer medical help to those who might normally go without.

Arriving at the small village wedged between the mountains of Comayagua, 90-minutes north of the base, it was apparent that word of their scheduled visit had traveled quite a distance. Some, it turned out, had walked hours in the heat just to be on hand for the visit — more than 400 in all, considerably more than the population of Plan de Leones.

Several lines wrapped around the schoolyard fence, back toward the town church and down the hill. Many were young mothers with infants and elderly seeking help for ailments long in need of medical assistance.

"We learn a little more each trip," said mission commander Army Capt. Brett Buehner, a nurse originally from Cleveland, Ohio, on temporary assignment from Fort Lewis, Wash. "They were really excited. For many it's the only time they'll be able to see a real doctor."



Local Honduran children wait in 80-degree heat to see members of Joint Task Force Bravo's medical readiness team March 12.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. G. A. Volb

Army Capt. Lyn Riat (right) and Spc. Yara Hernandez (center), from MEDEL, look at one of the many youngsters who came to Joint Task Force Bravo's medical readiness mission to Plan de Leones. Members of the JTF-B medical team, along with Hon-

duran counterparts, regularly make trips into the countryside to provide care for locals who would normally go without. In Plan de Leones, some 400 villagers, plus many more from miles around, waited for the medical team.

He said word of mouth is what keeps them in business, since there is no advertising scheme to speak of. "All we do is tell the local town or village when we'll be there and they do the rest," he said. And 'the rest' seems to be enough to keep the entire team working for four or five hours, using classrooms for healthcare briefings, family practice medicine, dental and gynecological exams.

The team, comprised of three general practitioners, three nurses, a dental surgeon, and support personnel (translators) worked a quick pace to get through everyone. It was just day two in a seven-day series of trips to remote sites in the area, but a must if the 53 percent of the population below the poverty line was to get professional medical treatment.

As the lines snaked through the village, the team set up stations to process "patients" according to need. An initial stop just inside the schoolyard fence determined, based on symptoms, where they needed to go next: family practice, dental, gynecology, or pharmacy. All, however, had to receive the mandatory healthcare briefing.

"The major issue we're dealing with here is the lack of education," said Dr. Carlos Duron, a local physician with JTF-Bravo's medical element. "It's important that we educate the population on sanitation, proper waste disposal,

proper care of the environment and proper nutrition for their children if we're to break the cycle of malnutrition and disease."

Duron said it's that cycle of ignorance that they're fighting. "It's worse than the infant mortality rate. If we can educate them on preventative medicine and proper nutrition following birth, those numbers would improve dramatically. The problem is they just don't know any better."

One example he cited was a young mother with a 6-month old child already drinking whole milk. "Locally, women prefer to use whole milk or formula in lieu of breast milk. But it's very important that mothers breastfeed their children for at least the first six months," he said. "Infants aren't prepared for whole milk and formula, leading to diarrhea, gastrointestinal problems, dehydration and then malnutrition because they're not getting enough vitamins and minerals in their system."

The benefits of attending an educational program like this for some mothers are immediate.

"This was good for my family," said Median Ventura, 20, with her 7-month-old son Arnold. "This is the first time since January we were able to see a doctor." Her son had a cough and diarrhea, exactly the nutritional problems Duron described. Following a short seminar,

the young Ventura was better prepared to take care of her son Arnold and left with noticeable confidence.

"If we can teach them how to take care of themselves," said Army Capt. Lyn Riat, a physician's assistant on the team from Fort Sill, Okla. "Then they'll be much better off."

"Providing them antacids, anti-fungals, cough syrup and such on visits like this helps in the short term, but education is the real answer," the San Diego, Calif., native said.

As day-two drew to a close and the lines disappeared, members of the medical team looked back on a good day. They had seen everything from circulatory problems to earaches. Some they could treat on the spot, while others were referred to larger medical facilities.

"It's tough sometimes getting up for trips through mountain roads," said Buehner. The morning ride to the village was beset with two breakdowns, a flat tire and minor accident accounting for a two-and-a-half hour ride. "But it's the type of work we like to do. I think we're doing a lot of good and they really seem to appreciate anything we can do for them."

Brushing off a thick layer of dirt his battle dress uniform collected on the day, he said, he couldn't wait to get back out for the next one.