



The Iguana



1-228 escorts commander in chief

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

Distinguished visitor support took on a new meaning for 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment recently as President Bush visited El Salvador to meet with Central American leaders March 24.

As the world focused its attention on the JTF-Bravo area of operations for the president's visit, UH-60 Black Hawks, CH-47 Chinooks and personnel from 1-228 were there alongside the president providing aviation support for the commander in chief's staff and members of the international news media.

In all 29 soldiers and seven helicopters were involved in the presidential support mission, which provided 1-228 soldiers an opportunity to be part of the intricate workings of a presidential visit. From Air Force One to the presidential helicopter Marine One and a vast array of Secret Service and White House personnel, a presidential visit is definitely no small affair. It is the type of operation where every detail is significant, every action has a purpose and nothing is left to chance.

Leaving nothing to chance is where the 1-228 fit into the complex presidential plan. Besides transporting various White House staff and news media, the unit's aircraft also served as the ultimate backup in case one or both of the presidential helicopters had any mechanical troubles. For most of the aviation soldiers, it was their first experience working a presidential mission and it proved to be an experience they wouldn't soon forget.

"It was a unique mission ... the ultimate VIP mission," said Capt. Dominic Scola, Chinook pilot and commander, B Company, 1-228 "It was a great op-



Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Komurek

President George W. Bush reviews Salvadoran troops during his visit to El Salvador last week. Behind the commander in chief is one of the 1st Bn., 228th CH-47 Chinook helicopters that assisted in escorting White House staff and members of the international news media as the president traveled within El Salvador.

portunity to be part of a mission that few people get to take part in."

In addition to flying high-profile individuals such as U.S. Press Secretary Ari Fleischer, the mission also posed a challenge in requiring special times on target in relation to the president's location, said Scola. Though the presidential helicopter always leaves first

due to presidential protocol, the 1-228 helicopters carrying the press and White House staff must arrive before the president with sufficient time to prepare for the president's arrival. This proved to be a challenge with the short flight times that were involved in

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New Horizons: Troops improve lives through training

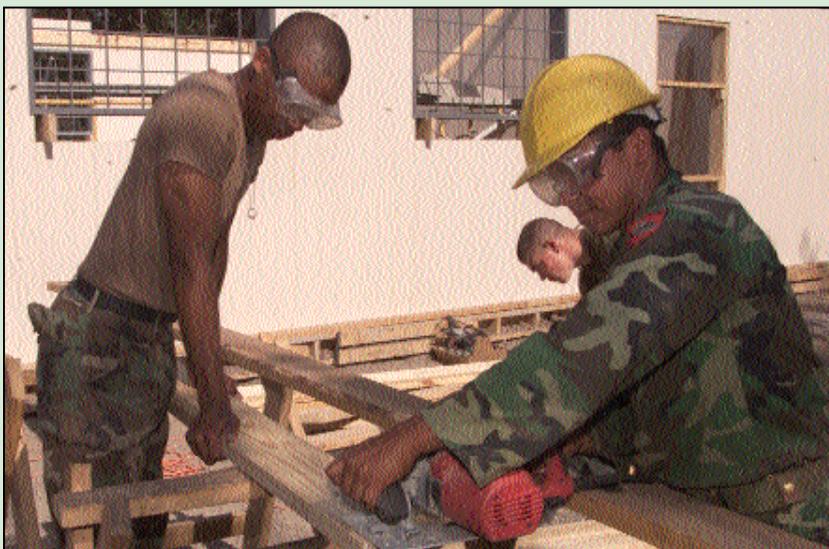


Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Komurek

U.S. and Salvadoran military members work together to build a school as part of the New Horizons 2002 military training exercise.

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

Two weeks ago as President Bush attended a United Nations conference in Mexico, vowing to fight poverty in order to make the world a safer and better place for all, U.S. military engineers and medical personnel were already hard at work.

The 2002 New Horizons military training exercises in Central America are fighting the battle against poverty one village at a time in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

The four-month project will provide 11 schools, eight medical clinics, eight water wells and medical care to thousands of people through seven Medical Readiness Training Exercises. The humanitarian exercises are being conducted by more than 5,500 Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine engi-

neers, medical and support personnel. The joint force represents 58 active duty and reserve units from 25 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Joint Task Force-Bravo plays a major role in the exercises, assisting with planning, site inspections and general support for task forces deployed in the JTF-B area of responsibility. Troops involved in New Horizons fall under the operational control of JTF-Bravo once on the ground in Central America. JTF-Bravo engineers and a wide range of staff support functions from medical personnel to security forces, safety and military intelligence all make regular visits to the task forces in theater to ensure compliance with military rules and regulations and to offer a helping hand when needed.

In El Salvador, a country struck by a 7.6-magnitude earthquake in January 2001,

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Commanders Corner

Lockheed Martin maintenance contractors: the unsung heroes of Soto Cano

By Maj. Jim Walton

S-3, 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment

They come through the gate every morning around PT time. They come wearing blue jeans, hiking boots or tennis shoes, many still in shock from their morning commute across the ill-conceived roads of Honduras. Most wear a blue or black t-shirt that subtly bears their company name, and what they do: "Lockheed Martin... Maintenance Team."

This group of highly professional aircraft maintainers is responsible for unscheduled (translation: "It broke today... I need it fixed yesterday") maintenance; scheduled maintenance ("Next Tuesday, we need to pull off the rotor blades, look under the swash plate, to see if there is any dirt."); and phase maintenance. Every 200 flight hours for a CH-47, and 500 flight hours for a UH-60, they tear apart the entire helicopter and look for any minute or major problems that may cause the helicopter to fall out of the sky.

They have many of the same frustrations that we all do in Honduras. Yet they seem to keep a good sense of humor and have an ability to adapt to the ever-changing circumstances and challenges inherent in maintaining an aviation battalion that owns and operates some of the oldest aircraft in the active duty Army. These highly motivated maintainers bear the

hardship of living in an underdeveloped country. Forced to live off base, many have fallen victim to household robberies. Some Lockheed Martin contractors have been burglarized four or five times and many have the same story of criminals gassing their houses with sleeping gas and robbing them while they were unconscious.

Add to that, the frustrations felt every time maintenance parts fail to arrive, or when the C-130 can't transport the required parts, due to the sheer volume of supplies required to maintain Soto Cano. Often those parts that do come in must be immediately transported to Nicaragua, Belize, Trinidad-Tobago, Venezuela or other countries in the USARSO/SOUTHCOM area of responsibility. This often requires Lockheed Martin personnel to deploy just like JTF-Bravo's active duty members.

The Lockheed Martin folks take all of this in stride and show up for work every day in order to fix, rebuild and care for the aircraft that are so critical to our military's operations in this theater.

We could not do it without them and are fortunate to have them as part of our team. So the next time you see the "Blue Horde" descend on the BX/PX early Friday afternoon, instead of being upset that they are buying milk, eggs, Jack Daniels and cigarettes, be thankful that they are here. Our Lockheed Martin contractors do an extremely important job and are truly the unsung heroes of Soto Cano.

The Iguana

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Chaplain's Corner

Divine Appointments

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary A. Pendrak

JTF-Bravo Chaplain

I read an interesting story the other day. It was written by Patsy Clairmont and appeared in Dr. James Dobson's magazine: "Focus on the Family".

In her story, Patsy tells of a trip she made by plane once. She arrived at the airport late, just barely getting to the plane on time. When she got to her seat, it was a middle seat, not an aisle seat or window seat. She hated middle seats, but, looking around, she saw that there were no other seats available.

So, she sat down and wondered how to make the best of the situation. She decided to pretend that she was Oprah Winfrey and her seat partners were her guests on the show. She started talking to the lady on her right who made it quite obvious that she didn't want to talk to anyone.

So, she starts talking to the young man on her left. It turns out that he is a Marine on his way home after 18 months involved with Operation Desert Storm. His name is Michael and he tells her of home, and family, and friends. He had never thought of himself as a religious person, but while involved in Desert Storm, he had learned to pray. And his life had been changed.

He told her how they had been out and not seen a woman or child for four months. When they drove into Kuwait it was very emotional for all of them. Women had waved from doorways, but he was more moved by the sight of the children. He kept thinking about his nephews. He couldn't wait to hear them

call him "uncle." The title would mean more to him than being called sergeant in the Corps.

As they left the plane and walked down the jetway, she could see his family waiting and calling his name and cheering for him. She could identify his mother as she covered her mouth to hide her sobbing. The tears poured down her arms and dripped off her elbows.

Patsy felt awkward standing there so she went on to the baggage claim area. But, for the first time in her life, she prayed that her baggage would be delayed so she could see the young Marine again.

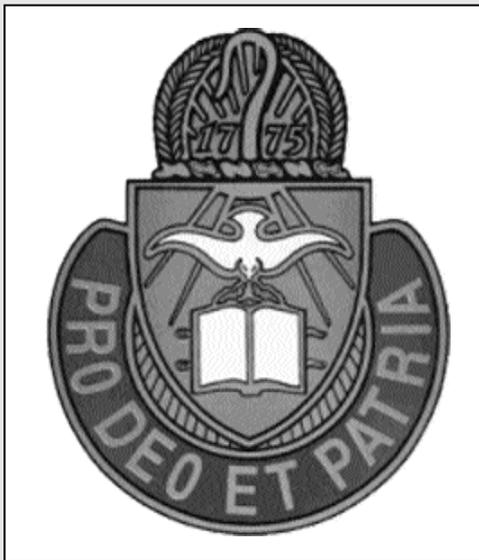
Sure enough, the entire family group got to the baggage area to help him carry his duffel bag. Then a youngster toddled over and pulled on his pants leg. Patsy realized that this must be one of his nephews that he was so eager to see. When she noticed how young the boy was, she remembered that the Marine had been gone for a year and a half.

How would the boy react to his uncle? Michael's face lit up as he reached down and picked up the young boy. His nephew wrapped his chubby legs around the sergeant's waist, and his arms encircled his neck. Then the toddler's mother came over and asked, "Honey, who's got you?"

The boy looked up, his eyes reflecting his hero, and said, "It's Uncle Michael."

Patsy Clairmont reflected that she had almost missed being a part of this tender event because she had not wanted to sit in the middle seat.

How many divine appointments have we all missed because we found our circumstances not to be what we expected? And our defiance has robbed us of His even greater plan.



Civil Affairs:

Pumping new life into a thirsty Honduran village

**Story and Photos By
Tech. Sgt. G. A. Volb
JTF-Bravo Public Affairs**

Nearly three years ago the cleanest water supply in the tiny Honduran village of Repasto went belly up.

The local population - all 100 of them - hadn't the money or technical expertise to fix the mechanical failure of the water pump in the center of town. Since then, the 25 families it affected have made daily treks to the nearest river, or through a rugged gorge and field to another pump, for their water supply. Neither option made for a cozy lifestyle, even given their basic existence in adobe structures.

On March 26, however, their prayers were answered when members of Joint Task Force Bravo's Civil Affairs team put the finishing touches on a new water pump. It's a project that began last year.

"We initially decided on the project back in December following an assessment trip into the local countryside," said Maj. Tom Conerly, Community and Rural Development Team leader for JTF-Bravo's Civil Affairs Office. "What we found was that every part of the pump was seriously deteriorated, some parts missing altogether. There was water some 40 feet down in the well, but the villagers couldn't get to it. After talking to the mayor, we felt that the new pump was the most immediate need for the local population to improve their water system - meaning possible irrigation and such in the future."

Conerly said the entire area of Humuya, where Repasto is located, had been identified as a pilot district for their Community and Rural Development Program back in August. And since his area of expertise was in drinking water it was a natural fit.

Given that members of the civil affairs team rotate in and out of Honduras on a semi-regular schedule, it took several visits to extract the old pump, find replacement material and install it. The final cost came to just over \$360, all money donated by members of the 350th Civil Affairs Command at Pensacola, Fla., — a United States Army Reserve Center. Villagers, according to Conerly, also had a stake in the project besides the eventual water supply.

"They had to pull all the old parts and ready them for pick up," said Conerly. "Plus chip away the old base plate made out of concrete - no easy task the way they do it. Then they had to rebuild the forms and help set the new base plate and pump stand." The final product was well worth the effort judging by their reaction.

As the team drove off following the



A villager from Repasto begins chipping away at the old concrete base to their water pump. Once finished, they replaced the cement and water pump.

first draws of water from the new pump, the villagers emptied into the square and began to enjoy the fruits of their labor. A much better option than river water fed with farming runoff and used for washing and waste disposal.

"The well," emphasized Conerly, "at least offers water naturally filtered."

More importantly, it's the only "true water source we have," said Leonardo Mejia, a 54-year-old village elder. "We're secluded here, so it's better than having to walk a quarter mile to a second pump and carrying heavy buckets back up hills. It's a necessity families use here for everything from cooking and cleaning to the obvious — drinking."

Sgt. 1st Class Buddy Leckie, Civil Affairs noncommissioned officer in charge and translator during the project, said after three months "it was great to see it completed and satisfying to know the families have better water now."

He said that not being a native speaker of Spanish made it hard but interesting work. "Water pumps and wells aren't part of my everyday conversation, so it was a real stretch for me to translate accurately."

In the end, the villagers have a new pump and Civil Affairs teams involved in the project received real-world experience and cultural awareness in their areas of expertise.



Above: Children from the Honduran village of Repasto play in the water, courtesy of the new pump installed by members of Joint Task Force Bravo's Civil Affairs team. Top: Maj. Tom Conerly, right, and Sgt. 1st Class Buddy Leckie take a water sample from the new pump.

April 5, 2002

JTF-Bravo



Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Komurek

The presidential party makes its way to Marine One as a 1-228 Black Hawk and crew stands by to escort the president back to the international airport.

Bush

(Continued from Page 1)

flying the president around the capital city of San Salvador, Scola said.

While the Chinooks were racing to be first to the the Salvadoran Military Academy where the president was to meet with other Central American leaders, one of the unit's Black Hawks trailed the presidential helicopter serving as its shadow for back-up transport if required. Though 1-228 regularly provides distin-

guished visitor support to military personnel, the presidential mission took the experience to a new level.

"It was interesting to see all the things that take place and the magnitude of support personnel involved in a presidential visit ... it's a huge responsibility," said Lt. Col. Willie Gaddis, battalion commander, 1-228. "It was good to see where our piece fit into the big puzzle."

Fitting into the big picture is exactly what 1-228 does every day when it comes to the JTF-Bravo area of operations. Being the sole military aviation asset based in Central America, the battalion takes great pride in stepping up to serve U.S. interests in the re-

gion, said Gaddis. Being the sole aviation unit in the region can also bring a lot of pressure because there's nobody else to rely on, he said.

The unit took the pressure in stride and performed the presidential mission flawlessly, gaining accolades for their professionalism from the Marines who routinely provide presidential helicopter support as well as members of the White House staff.

"It was a sense of pride for us and everybody wanted to do the best they could for the commander in chief," said Gaddis. "What we did in El Salvador made a big difference in the overall picture of supporting the president."



Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Komurek

A U.S. soldier works to build a school in the Chontales region of Nicaragua during the New Horizons exercise. The school is one of several in Nicaragua and El Salvador that U.S. military engineers are building using a new construction technique in which resin panel sections are assembled together and then filled with concrete.

Horizons

(Continued from Page 1)

children attend school in a dusty tin shed under the harsh Salvadoran sun. The one-room schoolhouse has nothing to offer the children other than broken, rusty desks, a single chalkboard and a worn, torn cardboard floor.

The new two-room schoolhouse, built of hi-tech resin panels filled with concrete, will feature electric ceiling fans and insulation to keep temperatures cool, two chalkboards per room as well as a 27-inch television and the capability to access the Internet.

In another village on the same day, a Medical Readiness Training Exercise is taking place providing much needed medical care to families. It is the last day of treatment during the 10-day medical exercise being conducted by 30 medical personnel from the U.S. Army Reserve's 330th Combat Support Hospital unit in Memphis, Tennessee. By the end of the 10 days they expect to have provided general medical and dental care to about 6,500 patients in a region that lacks basic medical services.

"Everyone benefits," said Lt. Col. Armanine Williams, Medrete commander. Troops receive valuable medical training in rigorous conditions not unlike a battlefield and people living in poverty get medical care they otherwise would not normally receive, she said. "The people here are in need of so much and we're trying to see as many people as we can with the medications that we have."

To the south in Nicaragua, U.S. and Nicaraguan troops work side by side during

New Horizons to build schools and medical clinics in the remote southern region of Chontales.

Though the region has not been stricken by natural disaster as in El Salvador, the sheer remoteness of the Chontales region has contributed to the isolation and poverty there.

To get to the location of the New Horizons projects from the capital city of Managua one must drive five hours on a road that looks like it has been shelled by mortar rounds. Upon arrival to this remote area at the beginning of the exercise, U.S. troops also battled against mother nature as unusually heavy rains fell in the area creating mud two to three feet deep in the task force base camp area.

While the benefits to our Central American neighbors are clear, what are the benefits to the U.S. military spending millions of dollars and deploying troops to the region? The benefit can be summed up in one word: training. The ability to train forces and do it in a way that benefits our friends and neighbors creates a win-win situation for everyone.

"It's a great mission," said Lt. Col. Patrick Gallagher, Commander of Joint Task Force Chontales.

Gallagher, from the 264th Engineer Group, Wisconsin National Guard, says training is the key to the success of the New Horizons exercises.

"First and foremost it is a training mission. All the levels that get exercised here are all the same things that have to be exercised when you deploy in times of war. That training is invaluable to the participants and for that reason alone these exercises are well worth the bang for the buck that is spent on them."

Fire Dawgs help keep holiday safe

By Spc. M. William Petersen
Editor

The massive celebration in Comayagua Easter weekend brought visitors from all over Central America and the world.

With such large numbers of people in the town and on the roads, the JTF-Bravo Fire Department lent a hand in providing for a safe holiday weekend.

"We provided advanced rescue equipment and emergency medical assistance during the event; [the Fire Department was] allowed to provide care for loss of life, limb or eyesight," said Air Force Master Sgt. Brad Truver, deputy fire chief. "We assigned three off-duty firefighters to each of the two staging points."

The staging points were located at En la Cuesta de la Virgen, 25 kilometers towards Siguatepeque, and at En el Rodeo, 15 kilometers towards Tegucigalpa.

The department provided support from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day of the holiday weekend. The local bomberos (firefighters) stayed throughout the weekend, performing 24-hour operations and sleeping in a general-purpose medium tent that was loaned out from ARFOR, along with drinking water tanks for the firefighters.

The department also worked hand in hand with the local bomberos washing the streets the night of the 28th to prepare the streets for the sawdust paintings. Crews got special permission to operate their large water tankers off base from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m. cleaning the route of the procession.

The Fire Dawgs were assisted in



Photo by Spc. M. William Petersen

A Honduran bombero and a U.S. Air Force firefighter work together to clean the streets for the following day's activities in Comayagua. The Fire Dawgs spent the holiday weekend helping maintain the safety of the celebration and its participants.

their efforts by the other units of JTF-Bravo, including ARFOR and Joint Security Forces. MEDEL also provided medical supplies in case they were needed. All coordination among JTF-B elements went through Civil Affairs, who developed the operations plan for the event. DynCorp also provided support to set up the tents.

All the preparation and support for the Fire Dawgs led to a successful operation, according to Truver.

"There were no emergencies during the event because of proper planning and safety precautions," he said. "Historically, large numbers of vehicle accidents occur with excessive loss of life and many serious injuries."

The joint operation was ready at all times, though. "We had a total of six personnel out there from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for four days. The local bomberos stayed 24-7 and slept in the tents," said Truver.

The JTF-Bravo firefighters have been supporting Comayagua's Easter celebration for the last 11 years with no injury to JTF-B personnel or loss or damage to equipment.

"The purpose is to foster a positive relationship between JTF-B and the local community by assisting the Comayagua Fire Department with the set-up and staffing of two emergency services staging points to assist trapped or injured motorists," said Truver.

What is MWR all about?

By Robin Gonzalez
MWR Manager

What is the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division, better known as MWR? It is sports tournaments, library, travel and tours, fitness center, wood, wicker and hammock crafts, marina, club, recreation center, equipment rentals, movies, swimming pool, special events and appearances by United Service Organizations celebrities and Armed Forces Entertainment bands. That is what MWR is.

The MWR program at Soto Cano is one of the best in the military and offers a wide variety of events for everyone regardless of how long they stay in Honduras. Best of all, 99 percent of the activities are free!

What is free? Well, how about bike and sports equipment rentals at the recreation center, CDs, books, videos, and computers at the library, and wood, wicker and hammock supplies for craft projects. Tours to areas such as Lake Yojoa and the waterfalls, Valley of Angels, and Siguatepeque are at no cost. There is no charge for visits to Danli to see how Honduran cigars are made, to view the "sawdust carpets" in Comayagua on Good Friday or golf trips to Tegucigalpa. MWR even provides the drivers and transportation at no expense to the customer. MWR also provides free transportation to the Mayan ruins at Copan, to La Ceiba for carnival, to San Pedro Sula to watch world-class soccer or see Miss Honduras Universe crowned, and to and from the airports or ferries for those trips to the Bay Islands.

Need engraving done on your tennis racquet restrung? MWR offers these services for free. There is no cover charge to see celebrity shows as USO comedians or Redskin cheerleaders, AFE sponsored bands, or local bands performing for special base-wide events such as the annual Halloween Bash or New Year's Eve party. Entertainment at the club, tournaments at the recreation center, or MWR sponsored special events are - you got it - free! Additionally, there are cost-free wood and boating safety classes, tennis, personal fitness instruction, karate, taekwondo classes and more.

For those programs where there are costs, MWR continually strives to offer the highest quality at the least cost to the military. MWR even pays a portion of the initial open water scuba, advance or rescue diving certification costs. Horseback riding trips, boating at Lake Yojoa, and hotels throughout the country are all at the most affordable rates possible.

Now you know what MWR stands for - lots of terrific programs at hard to beat prices and lots more that are free!

USO AFE
present
**Comedy
BREAK**
featuring

JULIE
BARR



MIKE J.
ESTIME



DEREK
RICHARDS



DATE: April
14 & 15
TIME: 8 p.m.
at The OASIS

MV-22 Osprey flight testing slated to resume

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Defense officials plan to resume flight-testing the MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft at the end of April, according to the department's acquisition chief.

But Peter Aldridge, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, qualified DoD's approach to reporters today at a Pentagon roundtable discussion: He won't approve the resumption of flight testing until he's satisfied the test plan meets all the necessary criteria and all the recommendations that study panels made after two Osprey crashes that killed 23 service members.

After the second crash, in April 2000, defense officials canceled the Osprey flight-testing program and limited production to "the minimum sustaining level," Aldridge said. Marine officials also relieved the commander of the Osprey squadron at New River Marine Corps Air Station, N.C., following allegations he ordered personnel to falsify maintenance records.

"The Navy secretary and I will have a final 'return-to-flight' review before it actually starts flight testing," Aldridge said. The test program will be "event-driven," not schedule-driven, he stressed — if some test points need to be repeated, they'll be repeated.

If we see some problems occurring early in the flight test program, we may



Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Jason A. Pylarinos

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jerry Lowe directs an MV-22 Osprey in for landing on the flight deck of the USS Essex off the coast of Southern California on Feb. 26, 2000. The Osprey, with its unique tilt rotor design, is once again going through operational testing after test flight crashes and

not continue it," he said. "We could stop and head off in another direction."

Aldridge said Marine Commandant Gen. Jim Jones insisted on having alternative aircraft in case the Osprey runs

into a problem. Defense officials are looking at several, including upgraded versions of the CH-53 and UH-60 helicopters.

The commandant is "serious about

resulting investigations red-lighted flight testing. The tests are designed to evaluate its operational effectiveness and stability for service with the Marine Corps and Air Force. The Osprey may eventually replace the CH-46 Sea Knight and CH-53D Sea Stallion.

reviewing alternatives," Aldridge stressed. "We all hope the V-22 is going to be successful, but in case it is not, he has to have something in place to replace their aging helicopters."

Testing the wind...

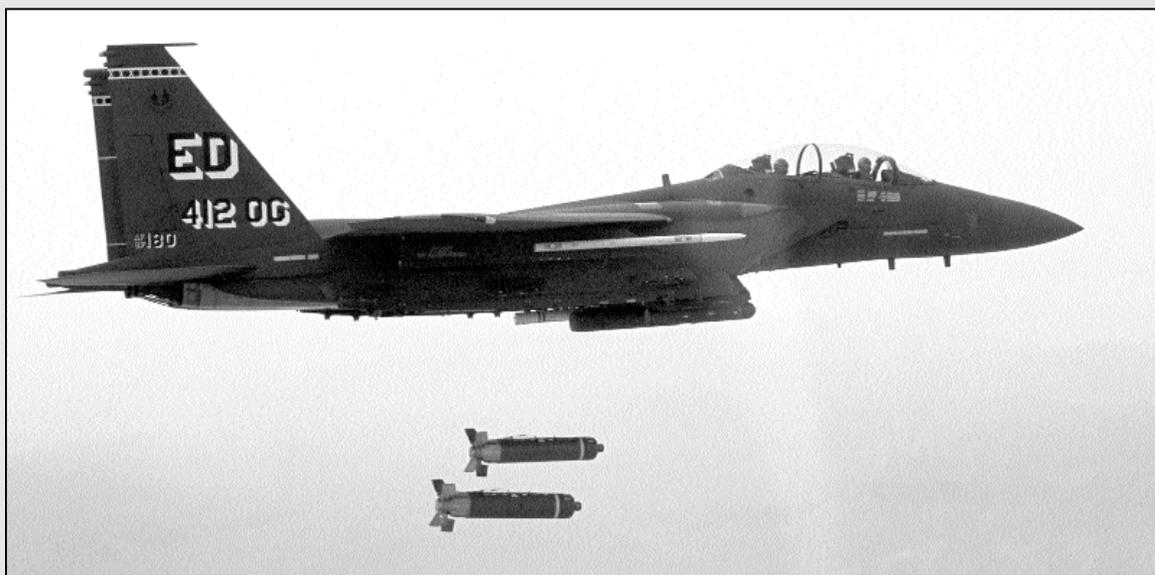


Photo by Jim Shryne

Test pilot Maj. Dan Daetz, and Lt. Col. Dan Morin, a weapons system officer, drop two Wind Corrected Munitions Dispensers over the Navy's China Lake test range near Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. This was the first WCMD drop from an F-15E Strike Eagle. The WCMD is a tail kit developed to replace the existing tails on cluster bomb dispensers. The new tail will enable these weapons to compensate for the effects of wind, launch transients, and ballistic errors, achieving greatly improved accuracy. WCMD-equipped weapons are planned for use on the B-1 Lancer, B-52 Stratofortress, F-15E, F-16 Fighting Falcon, and F-117 Nighthawk aircraft.

Rumsfeld: U.S. forces will aid Afghan army training

By Gerry Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Plans are under way for U.S. and coalition forces to help train and create an Afghan national army, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said today.

The establishment of an Afghan army is still in the early stages, the secretary told reporters at an afternoon Pentagon press conference. Rumsfeld said he expects "very small numbers" of U.S. troops would assist in the training.

"While training schedules are still being worked out, current plans call for training cycles of approximately 10 weeks each for a duration of something like 18 months for the first units," he said. He noted that Afghan recruits would be provided military training at the individual, squad, platoon, company and battalion levels.

A cadre of commissioned and noncommissioned Afghan officers will also be formed "to assume the responsibility of training future Afghan soldiers," Rumsfeld noted. He anticipated that the Afghans "might take charge" of the training program by the end of the year.

Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, noted that U.S. service members

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BRIEFS

Upcoming TAP seminar

Soto Cano's education center is holding a Transition Assistance Program seminar April 15-17. The seminar will help members separating from the military or retiring with resumes, federal applications, interview techniques and filling out DD Form 2648 (the pre-separation counseling checklist).

Call ext. 4101 to reserve a seat.

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.

New car sales

Exchange New Car Sales is currently available for soldiers wishing to purchase a privately owned vehicle, including motorcycles, while stationed at Soto Cano Air Base.

The sales office is located near the Base Exchange and Joint Security Forces building, and is open Mondays-Fridays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, call ext. 4886 or 4883.

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-web-server/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.

Army weight control regulation under review

By Joe Burlas
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — While the Army is currently reviewing its rules governing the weight control program in Army Regulation 600-9, don't expect to see any changes before fiscal year 2003.

That guidance and a message to stick to the current policy were sent to senior noncommissioned officers last week by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley in a "SMA sends" e-mail.

"Don't let your soldiers get caught up in the speculation about changes to the program," he stated. "Rest assured that any decisions we make will be driven by what's best for the health of our soldiers and the readiness of our Army."

Last updated in 1986, the latest review was partly prompted by a Government Accounting Office report and a Department of Defense directive for the armed services to get more standardized programs across each.

Currently, weight control and physical fitness standards are developed and implemented independently by each service.

Another reason for the review, said Lt. Col. Margaret Flott, chief of the Individual Readiness Policy Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, is the Army knows more about health issues and physical fitness based upon medical science than it did years ago.

"When I joined the Army, we did physical training in combat boots and fatigues," Flott said. "Soldiers no longer wear combat boots when doing PT because we now know that

practice is not healthy. Likewise, we now wear appropriate clothing for PT.

"The review of the weight control program is about using established medical science based upon the general (United States) population — information we didn't have 15 years ago when the current regulation was

"Rest assured that any decisions we make will be driven by what's best for the health of our soldiers and the readiness of our Army."

— SMA Jack L. Tilley

written — and testing it to see what is best for our soldiers and for the Army."

The Army is still in the information-gathering stage of the review, said Lt. Col. Linda Williams, a G-1 Health Promotion Policy staff officer. The next step will be to field test proposals and practices, she said.

Following the field test, recommendations for any changes will be staffed at both the Army headquarters and major military command levels — a process which could take up to a year — before any changes might be made, Williams continued.

"We are reviewing our current policy to determine whether changes should be made and what they should look like," Williams said. "Our ultimate objective is to improve the health and readiness of the force."

Air Force announces 2003 force structure changes

WASHINGTON - Air Force officials announced fiscal 2003 force structure changes March 22 that will result in a total increase of 470 positions, 299 military authorizations, 142 civilian authorizations, and 29 drill authorizations.

The announcement specifies the force structure changes experienced by the Total Force — active duty, Guard, and Reserve.

Prior to making any decisions concerning a major movement of forces, the Air Force will fully comply with the spirit and requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, officials at the Pentagon said.

In reference to manpower authorizations, "military" equates to full-time active duty, Reserve, or Guard authorizations. "Drill" indicates part-time AFRC or ANG authorizations. "Civilian" refers to federal civil service, AFRC technician, or ANG technician authorizations.

The force structure changes include adjustments at the more than 30 installations worldwide.

For a full listing of affected installations, visit:

Air Force News

http://www.af.mil/news/Mar2002/n20020322_0449.shtml.

(Editor's Note: This story appears courtesy of the Air Force News Service.)

Afghan

(Continued from Page 6)

involved in training Afghans could be "in the low hundreds, at most."

He said the training "is directly" part of the U.S. military's mission to ensure Afghanistan no longer is a safe haven for terrorists.

Myers said interim Afghan government leader Hamid Karzai emphatically doesn't want the United States to do the security job, but to provide the Afghans the wherewithal to do that job themselves.

Another issue, Rumsfeld noted, is finding the money to train, equip and pay an Afghan army. In fact, he added, the size of a national army would be proportionate to available funds.

He said the United States and coalition countries are trying to raise money for both the interim and follow-on international security assistance forces and for the training of the Afghan army.

Similar training arrangements are being discussed for

Yemen and the Republic of Georgia, Rumsfeld remarked. The intent is to train soldiers so they can better defend and fight against terrorism.

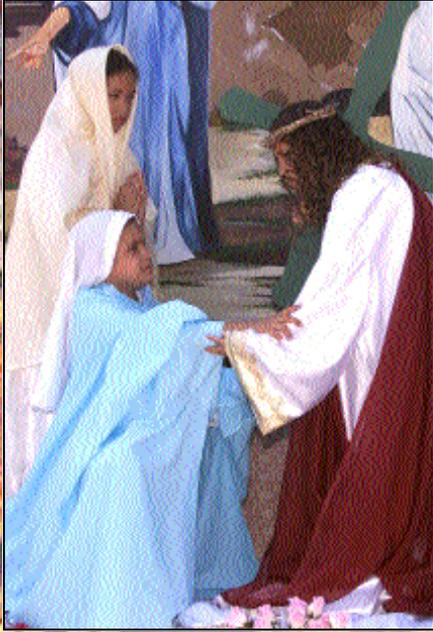
Myers noted for reporters that less than 600 U.S. troops in Joint Task Force 510 are now providing advisory and training support to the Philippines in its fight with Abu Sayyaf. That terrorist group has ties to the al Qaeda network.

U.S. and coalition troops in Afghanistan continue to search cave complexes within the country, Myers continued, finding small arms, rocket-propelled grenades, computers, manuals, passports, phone lists, maps and bomb-making notes.

Other searches, the general noted, revealed that al Qaeda terrorists might have been trying to develop anthrax at several locations in Afghanistan, including one near Kandahar.

"We did find some equipment that was indicative (of), perhaps, manufacturing anthrax," Myers said. He added, "Some of the swabs that we took have turned out positive for anthrax."

The amounts detected were so small, however, that the anthrax could be naturally occurring, Myers noted.



Easter in Comayagua

