



Fire dawgs tackle enemies at the gate

By Master Sgt. Jeff Bohn
Public Affairs Superintendent

Soto Cano firefighters helped save a local chemical factory from being damaged by a brush fire Jan. 31.

Twenty U.S. Air Force firefighters responded with five fire vehicles to a fire that was threatening the Oleo De Honduras chemical plant's external storage tanks and manufacturing facility structures. Summoned by a mutual-aid request from the Comayagua Fire Department, the Air Force firefighters, in conjunction with dozens of local Comayagua and plant firefighters, spent more than five hours battling the blaze on several levels.

"Our response for assistance was a huge factor in dealing with manpower issues and supply issues the local department was faced with because the fire completely overwhelmed their capabilities," said Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Terry Baker, Soto Cano Air Base fire chief.

More than 13,000 gallons of water was expended and fire crews worked diligently to scratch out fire lines in the hard soil and tinder-dry brush. Honduran and American crews often worked side by side to contain the inferno. American fire trucks were used to attack the leading edges of the rapidly moving fire and cool hot spots so foot crews could get close enough to finish the job. The combination of dry, straw-like



Photo by Master Sgt. Jeff Bohn

See **Fire**, Page 7

Firefighters from the Soto Cano Fire Department work to contain a brush fire that threatened the chemical plant across the highway from Soto Cano. The firefighters worked for more than five hours to control the flames.



Photo by Master Sgt. Jeff Bohn

Air Force Master Sgt. Noel Fernandez, right, moves new gym equipment with Sgt. Nelson Mendoza, left, and Capt. Philip Zuzolo.

Gym receives new fitness equipment

By Spc. Jon Christoffersen
Iguana Editor

The fitness center on Soto Cano recently received a load of new equipment to help troops here stay in good shape while stationed here.

According to Air Force Master Sgt. Noel Fernandez, morale welfare and recreation contract officer representative, 17 pieces of new equipment replaced 20 out-dated pieces.

"The equipment replaced the out-dated, worn out Nautilus equipment," Fernandez said. "Some of the old equipment used old technology which could actually cause injuries to people using the equipment."

Fernandez stressed the new equipment is better for the individuals using the equipment, even though some people have voiced some concerns about the new pieces.

"Some people have commented that they can't lift

See **Equipment**, Page 7

Decorations facts and fiction, Page 2

Variety of eye glasses available, Page 3

Where does water come from, Page 6

Proper wear of your new beret, Page 8

Commanders Corner

Decorations: Facts, fiction, the plain truth

By Lt. Col. William Lane
AFFOR Commander

Have you ever wondered why you got an Air Force Commendation Medal from your last assignment, when you thought you deserved a Meritorious Service Medal? Ever been told that decorations are awarded based on rank? Your experience tells you that's the case. Are you curious why some troops departing Soto Cano are submitted for joint decorations and some are submitted for service decorations? Want to know more about our decoration process, but you're sure you'll hear the same old answers? I've been approached with a number of decoration related questions since taking command here and feel there is considerable confusion about the whole process. Read on; I just might be able to shed some light on the whole process, debunk some of the myths and provide just the plain truth about our decoration program.

Let's start with the myth that the level of the recommended decoration is based on the recipient's rank. Remember, I did call this a myth. I'm sure many of you have heard that only senior noncommissioned officers and field grade officers are eligible for an MSM. You've also probably heard that you can't get an AFM if you're an airman. These seem to be facts that are supported by what you have experienced throughout your career. Some have even called these the "unwritten rules" governing decorations. But what about the infrequent and rare airman that you heard about that received

a commendation medal or the captain that got an MSM? They must have worked directly for the general or the base commander, right? That seems to be the only plausible explanation. Well, let's dispel this myth once and for all. The fact is that the Air Force instruction governing decorations specifically prohibits awarding a specific decoration based on rank. Let me quote for you, "Do not base award of a specific decoration upon an individual's grade, but on the level of responsibility and manner of performance."

But wait, what about your career long experience of witnessing higher ranks receiving higher awards? What about the "unwritten rule?" Upon closer examination, we can root out another explanation for this seemingly perplexing phenomenon. The quote above gives us the clue. The decoration is to be based on the "level of responsibility and manner of performance." What are they really telling us here? Decorations are based on manner of performance or accomplishments and the level of responsibility. In terms even an aviator like me can understand; they are based on what you have done and how broad of an impact you have made. Wait a minute, could this explain the phenomenon? Let's also consider our military rank structure and organization. Normally, those of higher rank have demonstrated the ability to handle greater responsibility and therefore are assigned to positions of greater responsibility. We just figured out that level of responsibility or scope of the impact is a factor in the level of award that is merited. Could this explain why only certain ranks appear to be awarded certain decorations and yet the decoration is

not based on rank? Yes, certainly it could and it does provide the explanation.

Let me give a couple of examples to illustrate. A tech sgt. working in a wing level position that controls programs that impact the entire wing or base could merit an MSM if his accomplishments were outstanding and of significant impact at that level. However, a master sgt. or senior master sgt. that merely did the minimum with no significant accomplishments, certainly would not merit award of an MSM. The bottom line is, what you have done and the level of impact are the driving factors for the level of the decoration awarded. Senior NCOs and more senior officers are usually given greater responsibility and therefore their accomplishments will have a greater impact across the force. This is the primary reason that you will typically see higher level decorations awarded for those more senior in rank. So the next time your supervisor tells you, "you didn't receive an MSM because you are a Tech Sgt.," remember he is distorting the true facts. The MSM wasn't awarded because it wasn't merited by the accomplishments, level of responsibility, or scope of the impact.

Okay, but what about a joint service award? How come you can't get one? There is a simple explanation for this as well. Joint Service decorations are awarded for duty that entails "specific day-to-day joint nature in the assignment." So, you're assigned to JTF-Bravo aren't you? Isn't everyone here? Well, no not really. Assignment to the task force isn't even actually the re-

See Awards, Page 7

Chaplain's Corner

Valentines day just around the corner

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

Screaming bombers roared over the peaceful Vietnamese town, blasting the little village below. When the smoke had settled, the local orphanage lay in ruins. A doctor and nurse who were sent to the scene by the U.S. Navy, quickly checked the wounded to determine who needed attention first. The most critically injured included an 8-year-old girl.

The nurse did a quick blood test and found that neither she nor the doctor could give blood to the child. Turning to the uninjured orphans, the nurse tried to explain that the little girl needed some blood. "If she doesn't get some soon, she will die. Would any of you be willing to share your blood with her?"

The children looked at each other. Finally a small boy slowly lifted his hand.

"Oh, thank you," said the nurse. "What is your name?"

"Heng."

After checking the boy's blood type, the doctor picked him up and laid him on a blanket. The nurse swabbed his arm with alcohol and carefully inserted the needle into his vein. Suddenly, the little boy let out a sob. The doctor rushed to his side. "Does it hurt, Heng?"

The boy shook his head no, and tried to cover his face with his free arm. The sobs grew into steady, silent crying. Again the doctor asked Heng if he was in pain. But the boy just shook his head and continued to cry. Soon, a Vietnamese nurse arrived. Seeing the little boy's distress, she spoke to him in Vietnamese and listened to his reply. As they talked, the boy slowly relaxed. The nurse patted his arm and turned to the Americans. "He thought he was going to die. He misunderstood. He thought you were going to take all of his blood and give it to the little girl."

"And he was willing to die for her? Why would he do that?" asked the Navy nurse.

The Vietnamese nurse turned to Heng and repeated the question. His answer was short and simple. "She's my friend." He hadn't really understood what was going on; but he was ready to give his life, to save the life of his friend.

In the Gospel of John it says, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

We are to love one another as our Lord loves us. And He loved us enough to give His life for us. We may not have to die for someone, but there are other ways we can demonstrate our depth of love for others: in listening, helping, encouraging, and giving.

Valentine's Day is almost here. Try to find a way, to truly show someone how much you love them.

The Iguana

EDITORIAL STAFF
JTF-Bravo Commander
Col. Michael Okita

Public Affairs Director
1st Lt. Richard Komurek

Superintendent
Master Sgt. Jeff Bohn

Editor
Spc. Jon Christoffersen

Photo technician
Martin Chahin

E-mail: pao@jtfb-emh1.army.mil
Website: <http://www.southcom.mil/home/jtfbravo>

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

Content is edited, prepared and provided by the Joint Task Force-Bravo Public Affairs Office, APO AA 34042, in Building D-06. Telephone numbers are 011-504-234-4634, ext. 4150 or 4676. Fax is ext. 4550. or DSN 449-4150/4676. Readers with story ideas should call the Public Affairs office. All photographs are property of JTF-Bravo unless otherwise noted.

PRINTED BY PUBLYNESA

Soto Cano personnel now have a variety of glasses



Photo by Master Sgt. Jeff Bohm

First Lt. Emily Dierhka, force protection officer, looks over the frames available through the Frame of Choice program to deployed personnel at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras.

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — 1st Lt. Emily Dierhka had an idea to improve life at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras. She told Lt. Gen. Tom Hobbins about it during his visit, and today airmen there can choose from a variety of eyeglass frames when they need new glasses.

Hobbins, commander of 12th Air Force here, spoke to Air Force people during his visit. He asked for issues he could help with and Dierhka eagerly shared her story.

A personnelist deployed as a force-protection officer for Joint Task Force Bravo, she had found her computer screen getting harder to read. The Soto Cano medical element referred her to an eye clinic in downtown Tegucigalpa, Honduras, for an exam.

When she returned to order her glasses, she found that the Frame of Choice program, a quality-of-life initiative begun Defense-wide two years earlier, was not available at her location. People who needed glasses were stuck with the old-style, military-issue frames. The lieutenant opted to pay for frames off-base.

Dierhka relayed her story to the general in hopes that he might be able to improve the situation, especially for those who don't want the old frames and can't afford to pay for their own.

Two days later she received a phone call telling her that Davis-Monthan's 355th Medical Support Squadron would establish a Frame of Choice program for Air Force people assigned to Soto Cano.

Within days, Lt. Col. Denise Burton, the squadron commander, provided a set of sample frames and training manuals to the Soto Cano medical element and helped establish procedures to complete measurements and fax orders to Davis-Monthan.

For those who need glasses, things definitely look better at Soto Cano.

"I'm really impressed with the manner in which this was handled," Dierhka said. "It far exceeded my expectations."

"Our people are making a difference in the lives of so many less fortunate," Hobbins said, "so caring for them in the form of major force-protection improvements or in individual quality-of-life factors like eyeglasses and book drives are what we at this headquarters enjoy most!"



A member of Soto Cano Medical Element watches as a member of the Honduran Military Hospital practices a procedure during a training seminar sponsored by MEDEL. Thirty personnel from Hospital Militar attended the seminar on principles of managing a critically injured patient.

MEDEL trains Honduran medical personnel during seminar

Recently medical personnel from Soto Cano Medical Element traveled to Hospital Militar in Tegucigalpa for a training seminar with local military medical personnel.

According to Lt. Col. Susz Clark, MEDEL deputy commander, approximately 30 Hospital Militar staff attended the seminar on the principles of managing a critically injured patient.

First the group was welcomed by Col. Villanueva, director of Hospital Militar. After the welcoming the medical director for clinical services and chief surgeon for Hospital Militar, Dr. Rivera, presented an overview on trauma epidemiology and the basics of trauma management.

After lunch, the participants were rotated through different stations which

provided hands on training to the personnel. The stations were; understanding basic resuscitation of a burn patient, understanding basic resuscitation of a trauma patient, understanding management of a patient chest tube drainage system, understanding management of a patient airway and demonstrate patient intubation, understanding the primary and secondary survey of a trauma patient, perform a FAST exam on a simulated patient using a portable ultrasound machine, and participating in a load, off-load a patient onto a MEDEVAC helicopter.

According to Clark, the training was highly successful. Participants liked being able to simulate intubating a patient using MEDEL's simulated patient intubation heads.

Beyond New Year's resolutions: Take responsibility

By Lt. Col. Robert Zapata
820th Security Forces Group

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — 'Tis the season so many of you are committed to the annual practice of fulfilling a New Year's resolution.

Other than tradition, why people wait until New Year's to embark on a much-needed or desired change dumfounds me.

Why not Independence or Veterans Day? Why not the beginning of a season or the end of a month, or just any given day, or from this point on?

Every year we see the invasion of folks in the gym after the New Year. They crowd the equipment, work-out areas, and locker rooms, frustrating the regulars and their daily workout routines.

As the days and weeks go by, the regulars start gaining back their territory as the New Year's resolution warriors show up less often. Back at the office, they succumb to the conventional rules of the game by resorting to face-saving measures — also known as excuses. There's always next year!

Don't be a cliché — take responsibility and stick with your plan. If you surrender, at least take responsibility for the outcome. If you become a regular, and more gym space is needed, then take responsibility in being part of that solution.

I propose each one of us choose to take responsibility as a habit and apply it routinely as self-discipline. Take responsibility for your conduct, actions — or lack of action — ambitions, and professional obligations.

Sounds like I'm stating the obvious, but people often take the easy way out and resign to making excuses, believing the matter is beyond their control. They complain with the hope that someone else will hear and take action, or echo "that's just the way it is," as if it's some law of nature instead of the result of mankind's influence.

Once you take responsibility, you assume control, and don't we all like being in control?

Expect and accept failures along the way. In taking responsibility for even the fail-

ures, your recovery will take you closer to your goal and the experience and lessons learned make you forever the wiser.

There are countless well-known personalities throughout history — some living role models — who chose to take responsibility and then persevered over countless failures before succeeding. Identify with these personalities and their road to success, and draw inspiration from them.

Here are some areas in our professional and personal lives each of us should take responsibility for — make the difference and be the difference.

- Career: No one is more interested than you are, so influence your career and assignments, then perform your best, and deal with interference along the way.

- Professional military education and promotions: You won't climb the ladder without PME. You can influence the rate of ascent with test scores. Study: Procrastination is costly.

- Family: Attend to the needs of people around you, and they'll likely reciprocate. This applies to those you lead, follow, associate with, or influence and applies on the job, at home, and in any community.

- Managing risk: Our profession is inherently dangerous. Minimize, limit and eliminate unnecessary risk to avoid mishaps. A general officer I worked for once barked to an overzealous team, "Don't let your enthusiasm get ahead of your capabilities." Improve capabilities to that level of "enthusiasm."

- Challenging the system: Influence change, for improvement's sake, with viable, convincing solutions. Become the system.

- Vices: We all have them. Smoking, irresponsible drinking, overeating, financial irresponsibility, phobias, prejudice — you fill in the blanks. Stop the insanity, excuses, and lawsuits. Control your conduct, get help if necessary, or accept the results if you choose to continue.

Take responsibility as your all-time resolution and apply it in all phases of your life and social consciousness. Should you choose otherwise, then accept responsibility for making that decision and quietly surrender to the consequences. Take responsibility and have a great year — always.

Scams: How to identify and protect yourself from predators

By Ralph Hatcher
7th Security Forces Squadron

DYESS AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The allure of the get-rich-quick schemes never die. Every year, tens of thousands of people invest in schemes and lose their money.

Many of these scams are easy to spot. Some of the more common ones include:

Crafts assembly. Too often, unsuspecting buyers are forced to purchase hundreds of dollars in materials or equipment, such as a sewing machine or sign-maker. People are stuck figuring out what to do with the items.

Envelope stuffing. Promoters say that for a small fee, you'll learn how to stuff envelopes at home. It's only much later one learns the promoter didn't have a job available after all. Instead, victims receive a letter instructing them to place the same envelope ad in a newspaper, or send it along to friends and relatives.

Pyramiding. Beware of organizations that offer commissions merely for recruiting new distributors. The tell-tale sign of this scam is no discernible product to sell and the lion's share of profits is made by recruiting others.

Use your home computer to make money. You may see advertisements touting business opportunities with computer hardware and software.

They promise you'll have substantial earnings at home with the computer. Actually, the vast majority of investors in these opportunities don't make the income promised; in fact, rarely do they even recoup their initial investment.

Avoiding Scams

It pays to do research and proceed cautiously when evaluating a potential business opportunity. Some things you can do to help keep from being a scam victim include:

- Be wary of any business opportunities like these.
- Beware of claims of fantastic earnings that promoters can't substantiate. If an opportunity sounds too good to be true, it usually is.
- Look out for decoy references that attest to a plan's success. That person is usually on the promoter's payroll.
- Watch out for high-pressure sales tactics. If you're being pressured to sign immediately because prices go up tomorrow or another buyer wants this deal, then you should probably slow down. A seller with a good offer does not use high-pressure tactics.
- Check out the company with the attorney general, a consumer protection agency, and the Better Business Bureau.
- Ask the company to substantiate in writing all earnings claimed.
- Get the seller's promises in writing. Oral promises from a salesperson should be written into a signed contract.

What to do if scammed

People who have fallen prey to a scam artist have some recourse. Although there is no guarantee money will be reimbursed; complaints can help others from being duped.

Steps that should be taken are:

- Using registered mail, contact the company. Make sure the letter is direct and to the point. Be firm and factual; avoid name-calling or anything else that could be viewed as antagonistic.
- Describe what has occurred, all relevant product or purchase information, and what action you want the company to take. Be sure to include copies of all relevant documents (do not send originals) including canceled checks, contracts and receipts. Note in the letter that you expect to be contacted soon — within two weeks should be reasonable.
- File complaints with the Better Business Bureau in

Scams: Don't be a victim

- Beware of organizations that offer commissions merely for recruiting new distributors. The tell-tale sign of this scam is no discernible product to sell and the lion's share of profits is made by recruiting others.

- Use your home computer to make money. You may see advertisements touting business opportunities with computer hardware and software. The vast majority of investors in these opportunities don't make the income promised; in fact, rarely do they even recoup their initial investment.

the city or state where the company is located, the district attorney's office in the city and the attorney general's office of the state.

- File the same complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (Correspondence Branch, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580). Although the FTC cannot resolve individual disputes, the information provided may indicate a pattern of possible law violations requiring action by the commission.

- Be on the lookout for people claiming to be from a government agency or company that will help retrieve lost investments for a fee. These companies are probably scam artists too!

By being cautious and knowing that something for nothing is usually just the opposite, you can avoid being scammed out of your money and time.

If you have any questions regarding crime prevention where you live, contact your base's crime prevention manager in the security forces squadron.

Important information for people planning to get married

U.S. citizens who have married, or are planning on marrying a Honduran national, will need to petition the Immigration and Naturalization Service to admit the foreign spouse into the U.S. on a permanent basis. Please note that you will not be able to take your spouse back with you immediately to the United States as he/she must first wait for the proper visa (K1 or immigrant visa) to be issued. The wait can take a number of months. Moreover, the fiancé(e) or spouse cannot enter the U.S. with a tourist visa if he/she intends on remaining in the U.S. The process for obtaining U.S. legal permanent residency for your fiancé(e) or spouse is described below.

If you plan to get married in the U.S., you may obtain a "fiancé(e) visa" (category K1 visa) for your future spouse by filing an I-129 petition with the INS in the U.S. Please note that although the U.S. citizen petitioner does not have to be physically present in the U.S., he/she must file the petition with the INS office in the U.S. closest to their state of residence. If the INS approves the petition, they will send the petitioner an approval notice and will forward the petition to the U.S. Embassy's Consular Section in Honduras. The Consular Section will then send a packet of information to the fiancé(e) or spouse listing the documents he/she will need to provide for the interview. After gathering all the documents, the spouse/fiancé(e) should call the Embassy to request the K1 visa interview. If your spouse meets all the requirements for the visa, it will be issued on the day of the appointment.

The K1 visa process can take up to six months depending on the time it takes INS to approve and forward the petition to the Embassy.

IMPORTANT:

The fiancé(e) must enter the U.S. within six months from the date the "K" visa is issued. The wedding must take place within 90 days of your fiancé(e)'s arrival in the United States and evidence of the plans that have been made for the wedding should be brought to the visa interview (invitations, receipts, etc.).

If you plan to get married in Honduras or are already legally married to a Honduran citizen, you may obtain an immigrant visa for your spouse by filing an I-130 petition with the INS in the United States. If you have been a legal resident of Honduras for two years, or if you have been in Honduras on official orders issued by the U.S. government (this includes Peace Corps volunteers and U.S. military personnel currently assigned to Honduras), it may be possible to file the I-130 petition with the INS office located in the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa. To prove you have been residing in Honduras for two years, you must present a valid residence card issued by the Government in Honduras; a "constancia" that says the residency is in process is not acceptable.

If you filed the petition with INS in the U.S., the INS will send you (the U.S. citizen petitioner) an approval notice once they approve the petition. INS then forwards the petition to the National Visa Center. The NVC does the data entry of the petition, forwards it to the Embassy, and, at the same time, sends a packet of information called "Packet 3" to you. If you filed the I-130 with the INS office at the Embassy in Tegucigalpa, they will send you an approval notice once the petition is approved. You should then come to the Immigrant Visa Section at the Embassy to request Packet 3 any Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday at 11:00 a.m. Packet 3 describes the documents you and your spouse need to gather for the immigrant visa. After gathering all documents, you or your spouse should call the Immigrant Visa Section to request an appointment. If your spouse meets all the requirements for the visa, the visa will be issued on the day of the appointment.

- If you file the I-130 petition in the United States, the waiting period may be as long as six months to a year.

- If you file the I-130 petition in Honduras, the waiting period may be as long as three to four months.

Do not go to Banco Atlantida to get an appointment for an interview for a K1 or for an immigrant visa. They do not give out the appointments for these types of visas.

If you are married or plan to marry a Honduran citizen and do not intend on living or working in the U.S., your spouse does not need legal permanent residency. Your spouse can apply for a tourist visa if you and your spouse plan to continue residing in Honduras or outside of the U.S. and make only short, temporary visits to the U.S. To qualify for the tourist visa, you will need to show proof of legal residency in Honduras and your spouse will need to show strong ties to Honduras that require him or her to return after only a short visit to the U.S. Special rules apply to those who are on active duty with the U.S. military; contact the Consular Section for more specific information. For more information, including fees, required documents and where to apply, check the:

- INS website at www.ins.doj.gov
- U.S. Embassy Tegucigalpa's website at www.usembassy.state.gov
- U.S. State Department's Consular affairs website at www.state.gov

You may also contact the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in the U.S. or contact the INS office at the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa, Honduras by phone: 236-9320 or 238-5114, extension 4500, or in person at Window 11.

(Editors note: Information compiled from U.S. Embassy, INS and State Department web sites.)

Water, water, water. Where does the stuff you drink come from?

By Peter Nebel
Environmental Engineer

Every day the people who live and work on Soto Cano use 225,000 gallons of water for everything from drinking and bathing to washing muddy vehicles.

In a region where we are constantly warned about not drinking the water off base, why is it that the water that comes out of the tap here does not carry this warning? Where does it come from? What is done to it to make it potable, and how do we assure its quality?

All the water used on the base comes from seven wells, five on the east side of the airfield and two in Camp Pickett.

These wells pump into storage tanks, which have a total storage volume large enough to supply the base for three days without additional input.

On the main base side of Soto Cano the water is chlorinated by the continuous injection of a concentrated slurry, while on the west side it is chlorinated manually. From the storage tanks the chlorinated water is pumped into the potable water distribution system.

This is all fine in theory, but how do we know the water coming out of the wells is of acceptable quality, that the water is being chlorinated effectively, and the chlorination actually works? The answer is Dyn-

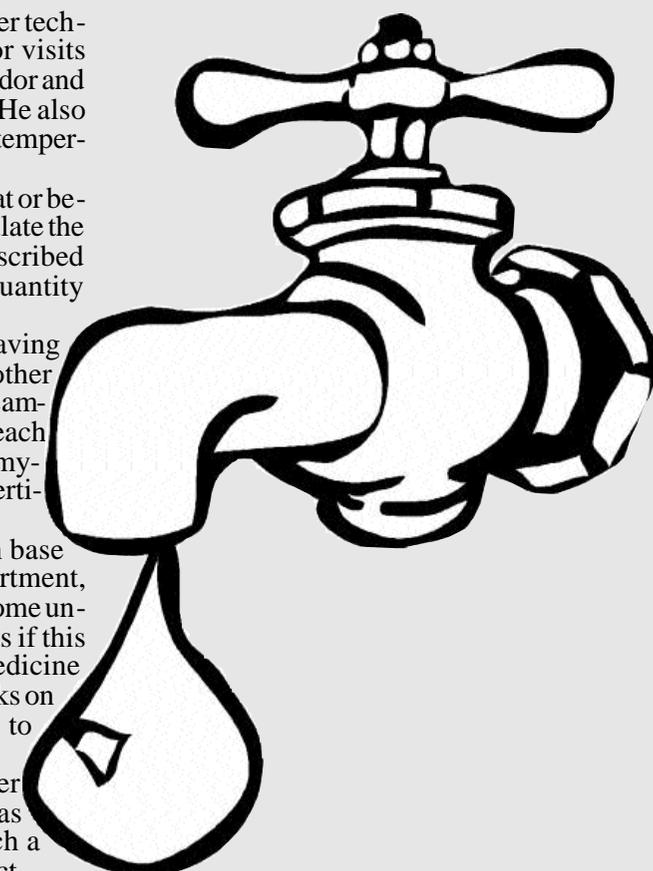
Corp's Water Quality Laboratory and its water technician, Hector Rodríguez. Every day Hector visits each well and examines the water for clarity, odor and taste and measures the pH and temperature. He also measures the chlorine concentration, pH and temperature of the water in all of the storage tanks.

If the chlorine concentration is found to be at or below 1 part per million (ppm) Hector will calculate the amount needed to bring it back into its prescribed range of 1-2ppm and add the appropriate quantity manually.

In order to be assured that the chlorine is having the desired effect of killing all bacteria and other disease producing organisms, Hector takes samples from a total of eight points in the system each month (two points per week) following an Army-certified protocol (The only such ISO-level certified procedure in the country).

The points are scattered around the main base (the DFAC, passenger terminal, fire department, among others), so that all parts of the system come under scrutiny at least once each month. And as if this were not enough, MEDEL's Preventive Medicine technical personnel run backup and spot checks on the water quality, working with DynCorp to guarantee the health of the community.

So when you take that next drink of water from the tap, you can feel confident that it has been pumped, treated and monitored in such a way as to provide you a pure, healthful product.



DOD, Air Force unveil fiscal 2003 budget proposals

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The president's fiscal 2003 budget proposal authorizes \$379 billion for the Department of Defense to win the war against terrorism, defend America, improve the quality of life for men and women in uniform and accelerate the transformation of the military to counter 21st century threats, senior defense officials announced Feb. 1.

The proposal includes \$3 billion for counterterrorism, force protection and homeland security, senior defense officials said. It also includes \$1.2 billion for continued air patrols over the United States and added funding for munitions, communications and other critical needs. The budget also addresses several quality-of-life improvements, including a 4.1-percent increase in military basic pay with possible additional targeted raises for midgrade officers and noncommissioned officers. It continues the campaign to eliminate out-of-pocket housing expenses, reducing overall costs from 11.3 percent to 7.5 percent this year. The budget also allocates \$4.2 billion for family housing accounts to eliminate inadequate housing by 2007.

The Air Force's portion of the budget, \$87.2 billion, continues the service's investment in its people, maintains its prior gains in readiness and accelerates its air and space transformation, a senior Air Force budget official said. The budget is divided into four categories: people, operations and readiness, physical plant, and modernization and transformation.

More than 34 percent, which is the largest portion of the Air Force budget, is geared toward Air Force people and improving their quality of life.

"These initiatives are important because the Air Force is a retention-based force," the senior budget official said. "We recruit airmen but we retain families."

The service has set aside \$27.7 billion for pay and compensation, almost \$1 billion for recruiting and retention initiatives and \$1.5 billion to modernize 8,400 Air Force family housing units.

The Air Force has dedicated 28 percent of its budget to its flying operations, combat training, space operations, base support and military training and education.

The service has funded \$10.9 billion for 2.1 million flying hours, overhauls for 369 airframes and 833 engines, and for spares, supplies, fuel and logistics support. The budget provides \$487 million for combat training on 26 ranges and more than 170 exercises. Space operations received \$1.6 billion to fund 50 space launches and the maintenance of two ranges and associated facilities.

Overall base support functions received \$6.1 billion for communications, operating support, child development and family support facilities, real property services and environmental projects.

Professional military education, accessions and technical training programs received \$905 million.

The Air Force is taking an investment strategy with regards to its physical plant, dedicating \$4.3 billion of its budget to sustaining its facilities, the senior budget official said. This enables the service to accommodate new missions, further improve quality of life, maintain

its lead in environmental stewardship and optimize its use of public and private resources.

As part of this strategy, the Air Force will be constructing 11 new dormitories and three fitness centers.

The Air Force is spending 32 percent of its budget, more than \$28 billion, on modernization and transformation of its forces to counter any future threats.

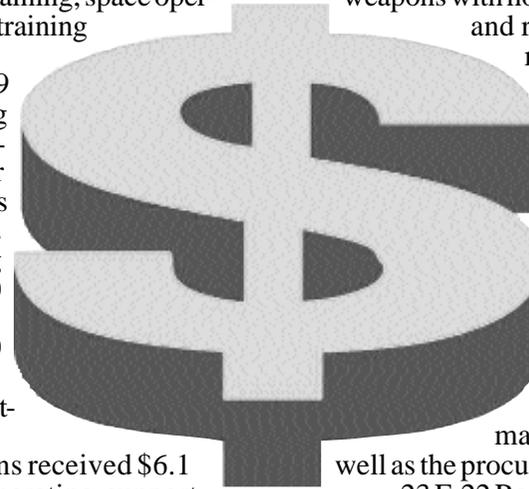
"This transformation combines stealth and advanced weapons with horizontally integrated surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities from manned and unmanned air and space assets," a senior budget official said.

"These capabilities will enable our war fighters to have the right information at the right place and right time," he said. "It will allow us to strike any adversary, any place, any time, any weather, day or night."

The Air Force budget also funds continued development of the Joint Strike Fighter and unmanned combat aerial vehicles as

well as the procurement of:

- 23 F-22 Raptor aircraft and advance procurement of 27 more in fiscal 2004;
- 12 C-17 Globemaster IIIs;
- 35 T-6A Texan IIs;
- One E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System aircraft;
- Three Global Hawks;
- 22 RQ-1 Predators;
- One wideband gapfiller satellite; and
- One evolved expendable launch vehicle.



Service members receive Islamic education

U. S. NAVAL BASE, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA — When Lt. Abuhen M. Saiful-Islam, Muslim chaplain, Joint Task Force-160, conducted the first 'call to prayer' at Camp X-Ray many service members were just as surprised as some of the detainees. If they were aware of the prayer call before hand, most didn't understand the meaning of it. Now no one is left in the dark as an Islamic education class is afforded to all incoming service members.

The first to receive the class were the 988th Military Police Company from Fort Benning, Ga., who will join soldiers and Marines already tasked with guarding detainees. According to Saiful-Islam, it is vital these personnel receive the class prior to assuming duties at Camp X-Ray.

"These are the service members who will be guarding and taking care of detainees' needs day after day, so it is critical they have an understanding of the Islamic religion," he said.

During the class Saiful-Islam discussed the Islamic belief system, basic terms used by Islamic followers, and the five pillars of faith, which are the declaration of faith, prayer, purification of wealth, fasting, and pilgrimage. He explained to the soldiers how each of these would fall in with the job they are doing and how they could best perform their job while not disrespecting detainees' rights under the Geneva Convention of 1949.

Saiful-Islam also discussed some concerns brought up since his arrival here during heightened controversy over detainees' rights. An issue that has since dwindled following positive reports from the International Committee of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

"Issues were brought to my attention by some of the detainees that prayer had been disturbed," said Saiful-Islam.

"The reason this occurs is because service members may not recognize when a detainee is praying, or some of the customs Islamic followers abide by. I think the class will clear these things up."

For guards at X-Ray, the class is a welcomed tool that will hopefully help them on the job.

"I think if we respect the detainees they will probably be more cooperative with our security measures, making our job much easier," said Spec. Melissa D. Manes, a MP from Salem, Mo.

Since the chaplain's arrival, prayer caps and a Koran, the Islamic holy book, have become part of the detainees' basic issue during initial processing at X-Ray.

He has also ensured that each of the three meals served daily is considered a Halal, or religiously appropriate for Muslims, and they have the opportunity to pray five times daily. Medical care provided to detainees is equal to that of U.S. service members.

Fielding of new ID card underway

By Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — A team of contractors will travel worldwide to install equipment and help kick off issuance of the Department of Defense's new identification cards.

About 25,110 soldiers and Army civilians already have received the credit-card size, multiple-functional Common Access Card with an embedded computer chip. By May 2003, about 1.4 million cards are scheduled to be issued to Army personnel, and 4 million cards to be issued throughout DoD.

The card is not being issued to family members and retirees yet, but there are plans to implement this in the future, said Col. Monique Hale, the chief of the Personnel Service Support Division at the Total Army Personnel Command.

In the month of February, the following stateside installations and organizations will be issuing the CAC: Carlisle Barracks, Pa.; Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pa.; Fort Gordon, Ga.; Fort Stewart, Ga., and Hunter Army Air Field, Ga.

The CAC has a magnetic stripe, two barcodes and an integrated circuit chip. The magnetic strip will be used to gain access to controlled areas. The bar codes and computer chip will be used to store identification, demographic and benefits information. The computer chip will also store the class 3 Public Key Infrastructure certificates that allow cardholders to digitally sign documents such as e-mail, encrypt information and establish secure Internet sessions.

BRIEFS

Organizational Day

Feb. 14 is JTF-Bravo organizational day. Everyone is encouraged to participate in one of the many events scheduled for the day. Personnel can sign up with their MSC to participate in activities.

Parasite Briefing

There will be a class on parasites contracted in Honduras Feb. 19, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. All commanders, senior non-commissioned officers and all MEDEL staff are encouraged to attend. The class presentation will explain the important points to know regarding parasites. This will also include the purpose of the current parasite study.

Off limits

Effective immediately, Jimmy's Nightclub and Discoteque in Comayagua is off limits to all JTF-Bravo personnel

Do you need help?

Do you have bugs in your rugs, lights out at 7 p.m. only you want to stay up past 9, or are raindrops falling on your head — inside your hooch? You need to give the DynCorp Help Desk a call to remedy these issues. DynCorp Help Desk at ext. 4584 is available 24-hours each day to report the ailments of issues concerning plumbing, electrical, pest, and a host of other issues dealing with your hooch or the structures on base. If you call in a job, record the job order number for following up on the work. Many items are responded to immediately if they are classed as an emergency work order. Many jobs are completed within 24 hours. If you are not satisfied with the service, contact the BCE at ext. 4143.

Clothing allowance

Military people should see an increase in the amount of money they receive for their military clothing allowances.

New rates, set by Defense Logistics Agency officials, are now in effect. Uniform allowances for fiscal 2002 are:

- Enlisted male, basic \$205.20 and standard \$291.60;
- Enlisted female, basic \$230.40 and standard \$331.20.

Vehicle pass policy

With the reduced Force Protection Condition, government vehicles no longer require a cantonment area pass that is signed by the unit commander or director. This policy extends to EZ Goes, mules and any other government vehicle. Privately owned vehicles still must have a valid pass. If there are any questions, contact the law enforcement desk at extension 4170.

Fire

(Continued from Page 1)

grasses and cane made for a rather hot fire.

Firefighters were hampered by difficult terrain and few roads that made access difficult. Additionally, a north-east wind continued to fan the flames making the intensity difficult for a direct attack. Spot fires were common and the body of the fire had several fingers.

"There was a potential for fire to destroy assets on their plant. Our main concern was that the fire didn't involve the chemical tanks and materials stored on the site," Baker emphasized.

The chemical plant creates liquid, powder and hand soaps according to plant officials. Some of the tanks contained sulfur and sulfuric acid. The site also had drums

Awards

(Continued from Page 2)

quired criteria, since you may be assigned or attached to be eligible for a joint decoration. "Great", you say, "what's the problem?" The catch is the requirement for "specific day-to-day joint nature in the assignment." There are some clues that might help you determine the joint nature of your job. Ask yourself these questions. Do you work in a workcenter with more than your own service? Is your supervisor or others in your chain of command from a different service? Are your duties truly of a joint nature working with another service or are they the same that you performed at your last base? Are you assigned to the joint staff? If you answered yes to these questions, then you would probably qualify for

award of a joint decoration.

Let me give an example or two here to illustrate what is and isn't joint duty. You work in the Air Force Forces POL section and you refuel all manner of aircraft including aircraft of other services. Wouldn't this qualify as joint duty? No, this is essentially a service responsibility to provide refueling support for aircraft including aircraft from other services. This duty is no different than working in a POL section at any Air Force Base worldwide. This would be similar to a C-130 pilot that drops Army paratroopers routinely as part of his duties. In both cases, the customers are from another service, but the duty is primarily a normal Air Force duty to provide support to another service. Okay, what is a joint duty? Let's say you work in the plans directorate of the task force and your primary duty is to work daily with other service representatives and formu-

placarded with flammable warning stickers on them.

About 10 p.m., the American fire crews returned to the base exhausted from the heat, smoke and exertion. The protection mission was accomplished as no structures or chemical-plant assets were lost in the firestorm that consumed approximately 550 acres.

The U.S. military firefighters have a long-standing tradition of supporting Honduran fire departments. Soto Cano responded to nine fires off of the installation at the Comayagua Fire Department's request last year. The firefighters are also committed to joint-training exercises with the Honduran firefighters. They have participated in two so far this year, one in Comayagua and one at the Tegucigalpa International Airport.

"We continue to improve the balance of powers on the firefighting field," Baker said. "Since my arrival, it has been my number one focus — our relationship with local fire departments. That definitely helped us with this event."

late joint operations plans that task all service components. This would be duty that entails "specific day-to-day joint nature in the assignment."

It looks like our decoration program isn't such a mystery after all. Please remember our military decoration programs are an important way we recognize outstanding performance and achievement. And it is also important that we understand the basis for award of decorations and when a specific decoration is merited. I hope this has answered some of your most pressing questions about our decoration programs.

If you still have questions or aren't clear on which decoration would apply in a specific case, please contact your chain of command. They have all the answers concerning your awards program.

Equipment

(Continued from Page 1)

as much weight on the new equipment," Fernandez said. "This new equipment uses redesigned cams which makes for more muscle isolation. If someone is using individual muscles instead of group of muscles (like they were on the old machines), they are not going to be able to lift as much."

Fernandez said that the new equipment arrived in boxes, with assembly required and the work of Eduardo Castillo, Miguel Angel Bonilla and Luis Alfredo Castillo helping him put it all together got the job done in much quicker time than he had expected. He originally estimated two weeks for the equipment to be put together, but the group ended up finishing the job in a total of 17 hours.

"Their overtime and volunteered time was a huge factor in us getting this task accomplished," Fernandez said. "Without those guys we'd still be putting (the new equipment) together."

"Pending approval of funding, we plan on replacing a lot of the equipment on the free weight side," Fernandez said. "Along with replacing only equipment, we want to add some new equipment including fitness balls and a few new cardio machines."

Fernandez added that upgrading the actual building is also in the works with plans to replace the floor. With all these upgrades in the works there have been rumors the gym would be closing down for a while. Fernandez stressed there are no plans to shut the gym down any time soon.

If your looking to improve your PT test score, lose some weight or just relieve some stress, visit the Soto Cano Fitness Center.

MEDEL conducts vaccination visit

The Yoro district villages of Tierra Santa, Mondragon, and Esparramada were treated to a stopover by Soto Cano Medical Element personnel Jan. 17 for a vaccination visit.

The one-day Medical Readiness Training Exercise to the north-central region of Honduras focused on immunizing children younger than 5 years of age and pregnant females.

A total of 110 patients received 217 doses of vaccines and Vitamin-A drops. Additionally, 168 patients received medical consults and 86 dogs were vaccinated against rabies.

Doctor Wilmer E. Amador, MEDEL liaison officer gave words of praise to some of the workers. "I would like to make special mention of the work done by 1st Lt. Julie McNett, Spc. Ricky Baxter and Staff Sgt. Bruce Wiley, all from MEDEL, whose performance and professionalism were vital for the success of this mission."

Amador also commended the aviators from 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment for their assistance.

Berets

Vital information every soldier should know before putting on their beret



Information compiled from Hot Topics magazine

Initial-entry trainees and cadets will not be authorized to wear the beret. This includes soldiers who are in basic or advanced initial training, Officers' Candidate School, Warrant Officer Candidate School, Officer's Basic Course, Warrant Officer's Basic Course, military academies such as West Point, and the Reserve Officer Training Corps. These soldiers will be issued the beret at their first duty assignments. Soldiers attending career-progression courses such as the Primary Leadership Development Course or advanced training within their military occupational specialty will be authorized to wear the beret. However, local commanders will determine authorized wear of the beret when courses include a mixture of initial-entry trainees and permanent-party soldiers who are reclassifying.

• **Insignias:**

Officers wear their rank centered on the flash. Enlisted soldiers wear their distinctive unit insignia, or unit crest, centered on the flash.

• **Preparing the beret:**

Dampening, shaping or shaving the beret prior to wearing it is not essential to wearing the beret properly. Army Regulation 670-1, cannot prescribe methods of preparation for the wearing the beret that are not approved by the manufacturer or which might damage the beret. The manufacturer recommends dry cleaning only. Soldiers should check with their chains of command for the information on preparation, just as they might inquire about alternative methods for shining boots or brass insignia.

• **Wearing the beret with service uniforms:**

Only military police and soldiers assigned to air assault-coded positions or rangers, airborne and Special Forces units may blouse their class A trousers with boots. Females will wear the beret with their class A and B uniform, including when wearing skirts. The beret will be worn with the utility uniforms (the BDU, maternity BDU, aviation BDU, desert BDU, hospital duty uniform, food service uniform, flight uniform, combat vehicle crewman uniform and cold weather uniform) and the service uniforms (class A and B uniform).

• **Hairstyles:**

Hairstyle standards outlined in AR 670-1 remain unchanged. Styles are judged appropriate based on how they meet the requirements of proper wear, regardless of headgear or the wearer's gender.

Soldiers whose hairstyles do not allow a correct fit will have to alter their hairstyles. They may not pack their hair into the beret.

• **When to wear:**

The beret will be the standard headgear in garrison. In the field, soldiers will wear the BDU cap if the commander authorized them to remove their helmets.

Commanders may also allow the wear of the BDU cap on patrols, work details or on occasions when the BDU cap is more appropriate than the beret, such as in motor pools or other areas where the beret could become too soiled.

The regulation, AR 670-1, is currently in revision and will include references to the beret. Publication is expected to coincide with implementation of the beret policy.



Photo by Spc. Jon Christoffersen

VIP ...

Col. Michael Okita introduces Lt. Col. Gustavo Lanza, director of the Honduran Military Aviation Academy, to Gale A. Norton, U.S. Secretary of the Interior during her recent visit to Soto Cano Air Base.



Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Komurek

Keeping watch ...

The U.S. flag flies over Camp X-Ray at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba while a U.S. Marine patrols the camp with his K-9 partner.