



The Iguana



Photo by Spc. Jon Christoffersen

MEDRETE ...

Air Force Lt. Col. Betty Haywood, nurse from Wilford Hall Medical Center, San Antonio, cares for a child after surgeons performed eye surgery on her during an eye surgery medical readiness training exercise in Choluteca Honduras Jan. 15. For the complete story, see pages four and five.

Bilateral agreement works in place of SOFA in Honduras

By Master Sgt. Jeff Bohn
Public Affairs Superintendent

January 1994 marked a point in the JTF-Bravo history as the stringent strings of lockdown were opened and a pass policy instituted. With that privilege, much like what we experience now, came a responsibility to know how the local community would react to you and specifically what rights you may have, and what happens when bad situations occur.

Soto Cano has an uncommon arrangement by which we operate without a formal Status of Forces Agreement, or SOFA as many career military have come to know. We do operate under the 1954 Bilateral Military Assistance Agreement. Essentially, the BMAA was created to establish peace and to further protect the free-world by combining various aspects of U.S. and Honduran military personnel, operations and assets in the Republic of Honduras. What result-

ed was a general agreement focusing on joint cooperation from which additional protocols of operation could be agreed upon.

Currently protocols I and II further outline the original bilateral agreement.

Protocol I of the 1954 Bilateral Military Assistance Agreement was drafted in May 1985 and was finalized April 9, 1987. This protocol defined three elements: criminal charging procedures, custody rights, and guaranteed U.S. representation.

Criminal charging procedures essentially gave Honduras the primary right to prosecute within Honduras. There are a few exceptions where the military would have exclusive right to prosecute. These situations would be: offenses strictly against the United States, offenses committed while on official duty, and in instances where Honduras declines the right to prosecute. In all other cases United States personnel will process

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History Month observed in February

In recognition of February being Black History Month and in the wake of his birthday, the Iguana presents the following speech. In August 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial and gave the following speech. The following courtesy of www.thekingcenter.com.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity. But one hundred years later, we must face the tragic fact that the Negro is still not free.

One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years

later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land.

So we have come here today to dramatize an appalling condition. In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.

This note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there

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Commanders Corner

Accidents happen any time, be prepared

By Lt. Col. Mike Ryckley
AFFOR Director of Operations

The individual had just picked up a "loaner" car to use at college while his car was being fixed in the shop. It would be at least a week for repairs to be completed and he needed a vehicle to get back and forth to class. He was in a good mood because he was a senior with only a quarter and a half of school to complete before he went to Air Force pilot training school. When he had stopped for gas an hour ago, the seat belt automatic retrieval system failed to retract, leaving him with three feet of unusable seat belt. Granted, it was uncomfortable driving without a seat belt as he was accustomed to, but he was almost home. Heck, he'd never had a ticket or warning since he started driving. Being such a careful driver, he doubted he would need it before he could get it repaired next week.

The sun had just set as he pulled off the highway after a two-hour return trip home during the weekend. He knew this section of road like the back of his hand. The speed limit was fifty-five and the first five miles were straight as an arrow, with only one traffic light adjacent to the county hospital. After a right

turn at the light, the road was straight and level for three miles before entering a gentle, half-mile left-hand curve that would eventually straighten out, ending at a stop sign. After the stop sign, it was only another mile to his house. He was only nine miles away. He was almost home.

As he reached the hospital traffic light, he realized how quickly the sun had set. Turning on the car headlights, he mused to himself that it was almost time to turn the clocks back for daylight savings time. He hesitated at the light, yielding to a paramedics ambulance returning from some sort of emergency call. After the ambulance had passed, he completed the right turn, reminiscing how he enjoyed this peaceful stretch of road. Having a level gentle turn, there were no streetlights to break up the tree line against the clear night sky. The roadside trees, combined with the level turn and the lack of lights, sometimes made the black asphalt edges difficult to see, not to mention oncoming cars. Not to worry, he was a careful driver. He was almost home.

What happened next was like seeing a movie in slow motion, frame by frame. Suddenly the headlights of an oncoming car ap-

peared to be immediately in front of him. After a few seconds of disbelief, he slammed on the brakes and stood on the horn. (Unbeknownst to him was the fact the driver of the other car was drunk). With no response from the oncoming car, he cut the wheel sharply to the right - better the ditch and trees than a head on collision! It was too late. His car had only turned 30 degrees to the right when the other car impacted.

As the left front of his car caved in, he braced with his right hand on the steering wheel. Four knuckles of his right hand were immediately dislocated. His head slammed forward towards the steering wheel and was stopped by his chin impacting it, opening a large laceration. His unrestrained torso careened helplessly towards the steering wheel and column. As he impacted both, four ribs were broken and his spleen ruptured. The massive internal bleeding from his injuries would kill him if not treated soon.

Amazingly, he remained conscious as his car was hammered backwards with counter-clockwise rotation, which caused his left arm to be thrown out the open driver's window. After a 180-degree back-

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The Iguana

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Chaplain's Corner

When walking the tightrope of life, trust in the Lord

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

On June 30, 1859, Jean Gravelet, better known as Blondin, conquered Niagara Falls. Stretching a tightrope 160 feet above the deadly current, he crossed from one side to the other in only five minutes.

Blondin didn't stop there. He continued to cross the falls in different ways. Once he carried a chair across and then sat on it when he reached the middle. Another time, he stood on his head. During one night crossing, the only light Blondin had was from train headlights. When he reached halfway across on the rope, he had the lights turned off. He finished his trip in complete darkness. At other times, he walked the tightrope blindfolded or on stilts.

One of his most daring journeys across the falls involved a man named Henry Colcord. Blondin announced to the world that Henry would ride on his back and the two of them would cross Niagara together.

On the day of the crossing, nearly a million people

showed up to watch the daredevil and his passenger. Henry jumped on Blondin's back and put his feet into the special stirrups that Blondin had built for the occasion. Across the tightrope they went.

After they had traveled about 100 feet, Blondin decided he needed a rest, he told Henry to get down. Of course, Henry wasn't too crazy about the idea and he refused. Blondin explained that if he didn't get down, they both might fall into the water to their deaths. So, Henry dismounted.

After a few minutes, Blondin told Henry to climb back up. They then continued as the crowd watched in silence. Halfway across the wire, Blondin started to run and he didn't stop until he had reached the other side.

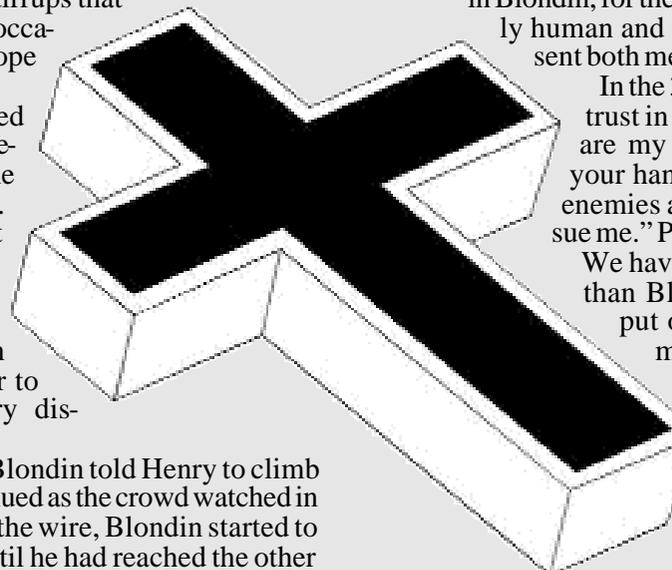
Blondin was declared the world's most daring

man, but poor Henry, he was never the same again. It took a lot of courage for Henry Colcord to put his trust in Blondin, for the tightrope walker was only human and one mistake could have sent both men to their deaths.

In the 31st Psalm it says, "But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me." Psalm 31:14,15.

We have someone much greater than Blondin in whom we can put our trust, and he cannot make a mistake. The Lord asks us to put our lives in his hands. He promises that if we trust in him in every area of our lives, he will make sure that we reach our destination - heaven.

I hope to see you there. Trust in him.



Sofa

(Continued from Page 1)

through the Honduran judicial system.

It is important to note that the offense does not have to occur off of the base. On-base offenses are still punishable by Honduran law and follow the guidelines of Protocol I.

The second element of Protocol I gives custody rights to the United States during investigation or judicial proceedings. So military members would be incarcerated on base during any investigations or judicial proceedings.

The third element permits U.S. representatives to be present during the investigation and trial to ensure rights are guaranteed. The U.S. representative is not trial counsel for the defense, but rather a representative to ensure the members rights are not abused.

If found guilty and detention is part of the punishment, U.S. authorities must hand over the offender. The offender will serve their time in a Honduran prison with much the same benefits of appeal, visitation, and material assistance as customary in jail.

Protocol I doesn't apply to some Americans that are here for reasons other than the 1954 Bilateral Agreement. United States Defense Attache office personnel, Marines at the embassy, and Military Group personnel as authorized by the Honduran government.

Protocol II of the 1954 Bilateral Military Assistance Agreement was signed in November 1988. This protocol defined the technical aspects of joint military operations with Honduran forces. The protocol is approved annually by the U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Honduran Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. It is designed to:

- develop the capability to conduct combined operations;
- enhance defensive capability;
- maintain and strengthen military relations between the two nations;

- exercise in a tropical environment;
 - permit the execution of civic action plans to improve civil-military relations
- A major premise of the operations is that they are in each countries security interests and all joint exercises are mutually planned, coordinated and agreed upon for the benefit of both forces.

To further facilitate these operations, Protocol II establishes entry and exit procedures for U.S. personnel in Honduras.

It lists requirements for personnel to bring their identification cards to Honduras, as well as travel orders and other documents in Spanish that indicates their purpose for coming into the country.

Protocol II also establishes no-fee entry/exit, and military aircraft are permitted to over fly and land in Honduras by merely presenting crew manifest documentation and travel orders.

It is the 1954 Bilateral Agreement and Protocols I and II that establish the governing authority for our presence in Honduras. With the lack of a detailed SOFA, one can see that there is much good will between the two nations to settle issues not specifically addressed in the binding agreements.

In retrospect, it is also clear that Americans share a great part in keeping relations strong by not straining the friendship of our allied nation and exhibiting acts of good will and nation building.

Understanding the rights and limitations of our occupation of the base is very important. Most servicemembers would believe that the reality of being incarcerated in a Honduran prison is a fantasy. In reality, it could happen.

The next time someone asks why they can't drive POVs off base or why restrictions are set that appear to be too stringent for other overseas areas and the states — remember the protocols.

Often it is the direction of the protocols that helps guide us to other risk management factors — so we don't lose someone to a Honduran prison.

(Editor's note: Facts compiled from a January 1994 article in The Iguana)

The 1954 Bilateral Agreement and Protocols I and II that establish the government authority for our presence in Honduras.

Protocol I defined three elements: criminal charging procedures, custody rights, and guaranteed U.S. representation.

Protocol II was signed in 1988, it defined the technical aspects of joint military operations with Honduran forces.

Hard work and dedication leaves Staff Sgt. 30 pounds lighter

By Robin Gonzalez
Morale Welfare and Recreation Manager

Staff Sgt. Penny Hargraves from MEDEL, is 30 pounds lighter today than when she arrived here in June.

How did she do it? According to Penny it was a combination of a balanced diet, regular exercise program, off-duty activities, to keep her spirits up, and the encouragement of her coworkers and friends.

Penny had back surgery in January 2001, which necessitated her taking steroids and avoiding any type of exercise. Unfortunately, this is a combination that can add unwanted pounds. She said when she got orders for Soto Cano she made up her mind that she would use this opportunity to get back in shape. When asked exactly what exactly she did to lose the weight; she replied that it was a combination of things.

She started out by having MEDEL's nutritionist teach her what are proper portion sizes, what "fad" foods to avoid and to recommend a diet that she could stick with. (Penny said it

was a great plan as she can basically eat whatever she wants.) Then Penny began a regular fitness exercise routine at the Fitness Center developed by 1st. Lt Morgan and Staff Sgt. Richter, both from MEDEL. She pointed out that doing it with friends made the exercise routine a lot more enjoyable in addition to keeping her "motivated."

And finally, to keep her spirits up when the weight did not come off as fast as she wanted, she went on numerous MWR trips and created several projects at the wood shop.

STAFF SGT. Hartgraves told me that she was determined that the weight would come off and she would pass the weight and fitness tests before she left Soto Cano. And she did. Not only has she lost 30 pounds, but Penny passed the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) this September and completed a six-mile road march in October, both for the first time since the January surgery.

Penny credits her success to the wonderful support she received at Soto Cano from MEDEL, MWR, her friends, and coworkers. As for MWR, we want to say, "Way to go, Penny!"



Photo by Martin Chahin

Capt. Gustavo Perez, Headquarters and Support Company commander, left, receives an award from Col. Michael Okita for his contribution to the Combined Federal Campaign. The other top contributors were Sgt. Haddrick Linder, Medical Element, Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Warnock, Army Forces, Lt. Col. Barrington Nash, Air Force Forces and Spc. Jon Christoffersen, J-Staff. The MSC top contributor was ARFOR and the section top contributor was the Public Affairs Office.

Eye team provides gift of sight to people of Choluteca

Photos and story by Spc. Jon Christoffersen
Iguana Editor

In the uncharacteristic too-cold room, in the public hospital on the sultry Pacific Coast of Honduras, the team of surgeons wielded their trade tools with precise moves.

Under the small spot lights attached to microscopes, the surgeons' hands worked steadily while their patients lied still on the beds in the other wise dimly-lit room.

Providing the gift of sight was the purpose for the surgeons, nurses and anesthesiologist from Wilford Hall Medical Center, San Antonio who spent almost two weeks in Choluteca on the Pacific Coast of Honduras.

According to 1st Lt. Kevin Glancy, Soto Cano Medical Element and MEDRETE officer in charge, the team screened 887 Honduran individuals, performed

88 surgeries with follow ups, and performed 405 optometry check ups. During the time the team was in Honduras, they saw a total 1,468 patients.

The team from Wilford Hall, which was the first team of two teams to come down for this MEDRETE, consisted of 14 medical personnel, seven Air force officers, three Air Force enlisted, three Army officers, one Army enlisted and two medical liaison officers from MEDEL, Dr. Carlos Duron and Dr. Ricardo Aviles.

The team provided valuable medical care to the local citizens of Choluteca with a variety of procedures.

"We performed a lot of cataract surgeries," Maj. Paul Casey, surgeon from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., said. "It's a great opportunity to come down here and participate in this exercise."

Along with providing care to the Honduran citizens, the exercise also provides important experience to the medical personnel.

According to Glancy, the exercise also provides op-

tometric and ophthalmologic training to military personnel in a field environment.

According to Glancy, MEDRETEs are a big part of MEDEL's mission in Honduras. He said that MEDRETEs of different types, including immunization and dental types, occur frequently in Honduras.

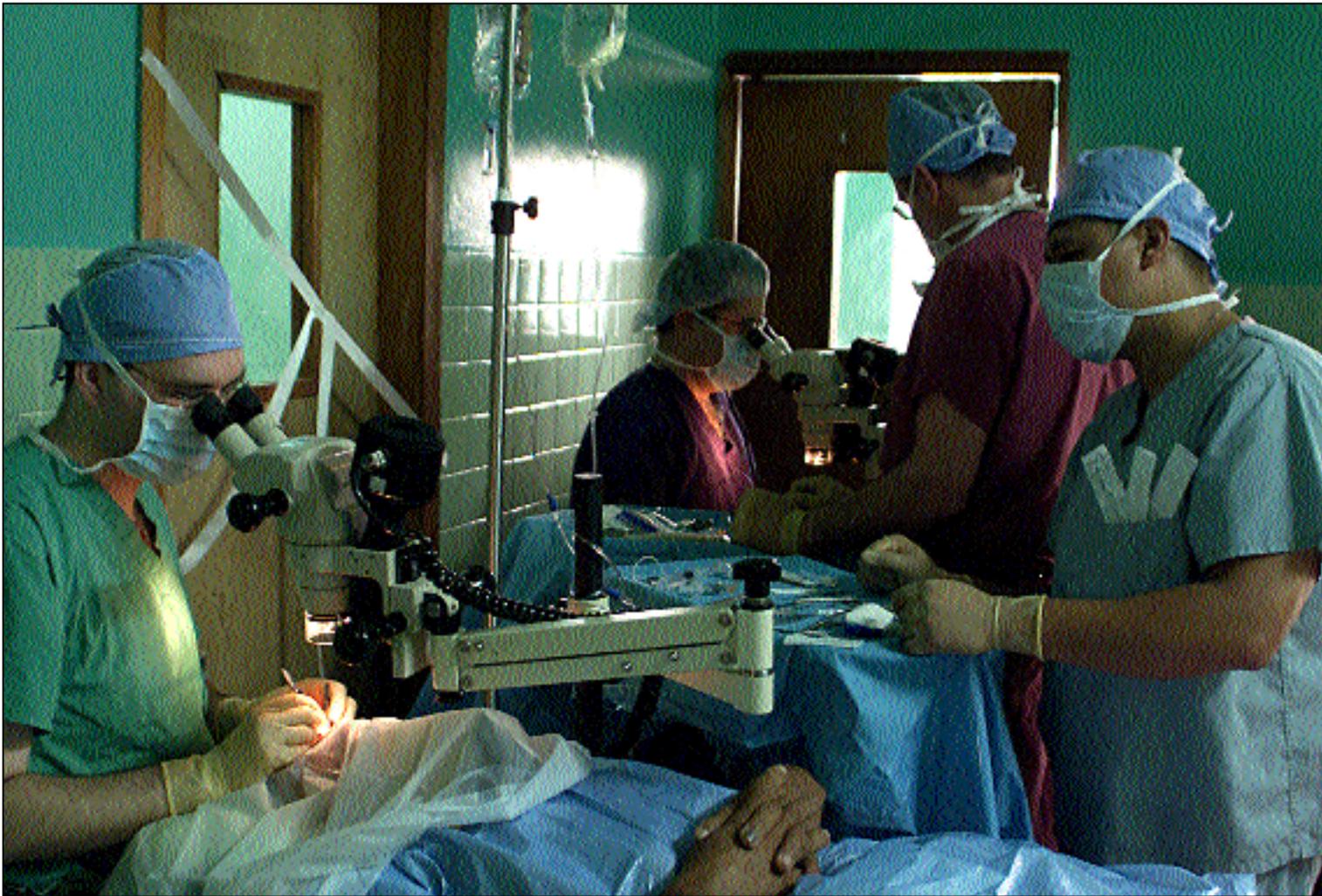
The second team making up this eye MEDRETE is scheduled to pack up and head home during the first week in February, ending more than three weeks of work for the two teams.

The operating room in which the surgeries were conducted was different than what is used in the United States, Casey said. In the hospital in Choluteca, three beds were set up in the room and all the surgeons worked side by side performing their various procedures on the patients.

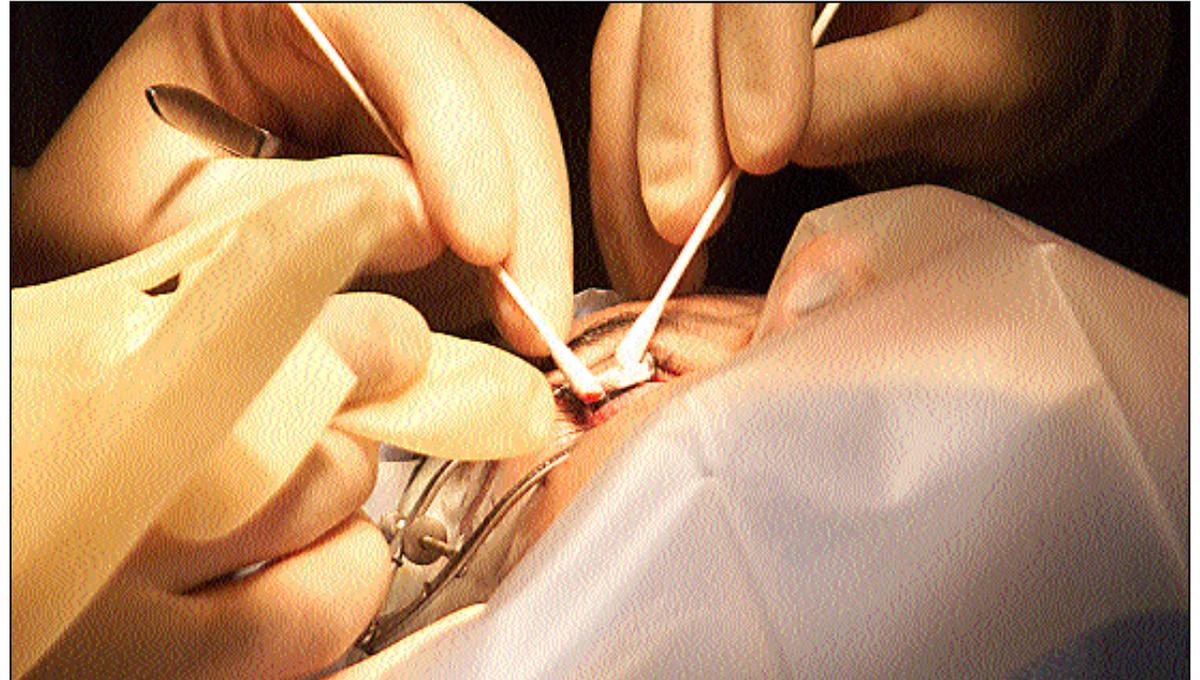
As the medical personnel continued their work, the air conditioner hummed loudly on the far wall, causing the operating room to be a cold contrast to the muggy air on the other side of the door.



Air Force Capt. Randall Goodman and Frank Valentin prepare a patient for eye surgery in a hospital in Choluteca. The surgeons from Wilford Hall Medical Center, San Antonio performed many different procedures as part of a medical readiness training exercise.



While their patients lied still, surgeons lined up next to each other, in the operating room performing cataract surgery on two patients. Cataract surgery was one of many different procedures performed during the MEDRETE.



Air Force Capt. Frank Valentin, left, prepares the patients eye for a procedure to help raise her eye lid. Above, surgeons work to clean the eye prior to starting surgery on it.

Government travelers can keep perks for own use

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — People who travel at government expense can now keep the perks they earn for personal use.

A change to Section 1116 of the Fiscal 2002 National Defense Authorization Act allows travelers to keep benefits, said S. W. Westbrook, director of the Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee. The benefits include points or miles, upgrades, access to carrier clubs or facilities, or other promotional items.

The act was signed into law by President Bush on Dec. 28, and the change went into effect Dec. 31.

The policy applies to promotional items received before, on or after Dec. 31, Westbrook said. The material must be obtained under the same terms as those offered to the general public and must be at no additional government cost.

One example is the voluntary relinquishing of a seat on an airliner. Under the policy change, a traveler may keep payments from a carrier for vacating a seat; however, no additional expenses, such as per diem, may be paid as a result of the traveler's delay.

"Additional travel expenses incurred as a result of voluntarily giving up a seat are the traveler's financial responsibility," Westbrook said.

When a traveler is involuntarily denied a seat, the traveler enters "awaiting transportation" travel status for per diem and miscellaneous expense reimbursement. In that case, any monetary compensation, including meal and lodging vouchers, belongs to the government.

(Editor's note: Story courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)

Detainees continue to arrive in Cuba



Photo by Petty Officer 1st class Shane T. McCoy, U.S. Navy

Pvt. 1st Class Jodi Smith watches from the outer perimeter as detainees in jumpsuits sit in a holding area in Camp X-Ray at Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during in-processing to the temporary detention facility on Jan. 14, 2002. The detainees will be given a basic physical exam by a doctor, including a chest x-ray, to assess their health.

GUANTANAMOBAY, Cuba — Thirty additional Al-Qaeda and Taliban detainees arrived here Jan. 15 under tight security, bringing the total number of detainees to 50. The prisoners of war arrived via military aircraft and were transported to Camp X-Ray for in-processing and detention.

"This group of detainees is just as dangerous as the first group that arrived last week," said Army Lt. Col. Bill Costello, spokesman for the joint task force at Camp X-Ray.

"The transfer of custody from Afghanistan to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is all part of the global war on terrorism," Costello said, explaining that removing the "high risk" POWs from Afghanistan allows U.S. military forces there to concentrate on other vital missions.

Detainees have been and will continue to be treated humanely, officials said at Camp X-Ray. They said humane treatment includes adequate food, water, shelter, clothing and medical treatment.

One of the detainees who arrived from Afghanistan Jan. 11 underwent surgery for an old gunshot wound Jan. 13 at the Naval Hospital, Guantanamo Bay.

The detainee, whose name was not released, was treated for a gunshot wound to the upper right arm sustained prior to arrival at Guantanamo Bay. Navy doctors who performed the surgery determined that the wound was approximately one month old.

The detainee was alert and stable at the time of surgery, doctors said, adding that they explained the nature of the procedure to the POW before performing surgery.

The procedure, called incision and drainage, took approximately two hours for two Navy orthopedic surgeons to complete. The detainee remained under tight security throughout the procedure, officials said.

Medical personnel said they expect that the patient will regain full range of motion in his shoulder and elbow; however, he may have limited mobility in his wrist due to nerve damage resulting from the wound.

The patient was discharged from the hospital Jan. 14 and returned to Camp X-Ray.

All detainees will continue to receive on-site medical treatment as needed, officials said, with additional medical support from the Navy hospital.

Guantanamo Bay is preparing to receive up to 2,000 Al-Qaeda and Taliban detainees, officials said.

More than 850 military personnel, from each of the five branches of the armed forces, are currently assigned to Joint Task Force 160 to support security operations at Camp X-Ray.

(Editor's note: Information provided by the Joint Information Bureau, Joint Task Force 160.)

Son follows father's foot steps in to Marine Corps

By Marine Staff Sgt. Bryce R. Piper
6th MCD

RECRUITING STATION MONTGOMERY, ALA. — Finding quality prospects to enlist is a difficult job at some recruiting stations. Not so for Recruiting Station Montgomery, whose Marines look even into their own families for potential recruits.

Recruiting Station Montgomery Sergeant Major, Sgt. Maj Jesus Jimenez, witnessed the ceremony of his son, Joshua, swearing into the Marine Reserves here today. This follows the enlistment of Commanding Officer Maj Mark Costello's only son, Daniel, twenty days ago.

"I see a future and I'm trying to better myself," said Joshua, 18, of Millbrook, AL. "I see what it's done for

my Dad. I see where he's at and where I'll be," he said.

Growing up as the son of a Marine Sergeant Major definitely had an influence in his decision, Joshua said. In the Jimenez household, Joshua said he learned to see the importance of leadership and recognized how leading and following builds character. Joshua said that enlisting in the Marines will help him develop his ability to lead.

"The main thing I'm looking for," said Joshua, "is leadership skills and how to become a successful leader and better myself."

Sergeant Major Jimenez said he knows development of leadership skills was a major factor in his son's decision. He said that after Joshua was promoted at his civilian job, he often came to his father with leadership questions. Another factor, according to Sgt. Maj Jimenez, was physical fitness.

"He's always been one that's athletically inclined. So he knew the Marine Corps was the one branch that would keep him in that discipline of physical fitness," Sgt. Maj Jimenez said of Joshua, who shed nearly 80 lbs before enlisting.

"One of the things I think he'll glean from Parris Island is being a team player," said Sgt. Maj Jimenez. "Even as a leader, you have to be a team player. If you're not a team player, then I don't think you can really lead people. That's one of the biggest things recruit training is all about, becoming a team player," Sgt. Maj Jimenez said.

The Jimenez family is both shocked and excited, according to Joshua and the Sergeant Major.

"It was a shocker to us when he came and told us that

See Footsteps, Page 8

BRIEFS

Keeping the base clean

The base has lost some of its glimmer lately. All servicemembers are asked to keep an eye out in their areas and along their travel routes for trash and items in disrepair. If you notice a cigarette butt or a bottle cap -- pick it up and put it in the trash. If you see an item broke, either notify the building's occupants or call it in to DynCorp yourself. We all need to be a team to make it come together.

Mandatory testing

MEDEL has resumed G6PD testing for all Army and Marine personnel. This testing will be done twice a month on the 2nd and last Thursdays of each month from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. This testing is required by MEDEL before troops finish their tour of duty at Soto Cano and return to CONUS. The test is required because people who are deficient in the G6PD enzyme should not take the malaria medication Primaquine, which is given to all upon returning to CONUS, due to the risk of developing anemia. Air Force personnel do not need to take this test because it is automatically given upon entry into active duty. For questions call MEDEL at ext. 4183.

Airport shuttle

There are some changes and clarifications regarding the airport shuttle to and from Tegucigalpa. This shuttle is for PCS, TDY, and leave status personnel only. All other requests to utilize the shuttle must be authorized through the transportation officer in charge. To sign up for the shuttle you will go to the airport-shuttle folder on the H-Drive and sign up one week prior to leaving country. Also, for all personnel departing on leave that are signed for vehicles, you need to ensure the vehicle gets re-dispatched at the TMP each Monday while you are away. PMCS and dispatching takes place every Monday from 8 to 11 a.m. No exceptions without prior coordination. The drivers training class will be conducted every Friday at 9 a.m. The class will take place on an alternate day during weeks with Payday Activities. Should you have any questions about this or any other transportation issues, please contact the transportation NCOIC at ext. 4623/4336.

Kick the habit

Do you want to try to kick the habit? If so, and only if you are really ready and committed to quitting, come to the DFAC Annex every Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. and see what it is all about. For more information about tobacco cessation programs, call Maj. Saddler, preventive medicine at ext. 4500.

Command

(Continued from Page 2)

wards turn, the car's crushed left front wheel dug into the pavement, causing the car to roll. When it did, the driver's arm was trapped between the car and the road, breaking the shoulder in four places, and almost amputating the arm at the elbow. Haplessly, his car continued to roll, coming to rest upright on the shoulder of the road.

The impact had also flipped the drunk driver's car upside down and back into its proper lane. It traveled nearly one hundred feet before coming to rest.

The driver, a sixty-year-old chronic alcoholic, also suffered internal injuries. He had just been released from jail for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI). Even though he was released after the maximum sentence of six months, his driver's license was still revoked. Laboratory tests concluded that the individual was nearly three times the legal limit.

I am the individual the drunk driver struck. A passing

motorist witnessing the accident went immediately to the nearby hospital, bringing back the paramedics. The doctors said the quick actions of the passing motorist saved my life—I would have soon bled to death because of the internal injuries. The police said the seatbelt, if operational and worn correctly, would have prevented my most serious injuries.

Although my accident happened 20 years ago, the lesson I learned is still applicable today, even for Soto Cano Air Base. The scars on my body remind me every day that, even though you're almost home, there could be danger around the next curve.

If you have a seatbelt, wear it. If you don't have an operational seatbelt to wear in the vehicle (local kamikaze taxi's), seriously consider using another method of transportation (the undesirable "chicken bus").

As Senior Leader for numerous MWR tours, I've had to remind service members to wear their seatbelts—the risk is too great not to wear one.

Before you choose not to, ask yourself the question, do you believe it can happen to you, even when you're almost home?

DOD tells service members 'don't worry' about IRS mistake

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, — As many as 60,000 service members who served in combat zones over the past several years recently got letters from the IRS saying they may lose their tax exclusion for that combat-zone duty. But DoD is telling the troops not to worry about it.

The IRS letters set response deadlines on service members -- as soon as Jan. 25 in some cases — or their combat zone tax exemption will be denied.

By the deadline, the letters say, service members must provide the IRS with the dates they entered and left the designated combat zone and exactly in which zone they served.

AFRTS Radio Report: 50,000-60,000 Service members receive threatening letter from the IRS

DoD officials were concerned because the letters stated, "If you don't answer this letter, we will update your account to show no combat zone service."

Army Lt. Col. Tom Emswiler, executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council, said the IRS never intended to take away anyone's eligibility for tax exemption. Apparently an IRS service center sent the letters without coordinating with IRS headquarters, DoD officials said.

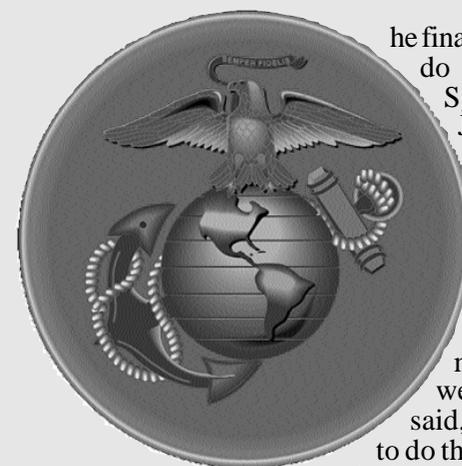
Emswiler said the IRS is trying to update their records, but made a mistake in wording the letters so strongly. He said there's no problem if service members have already replied to the faulty letters, but those who haven't can disregard them.

He said the IRS plans to mail a second letter explaining the error and telling service members to ignore the first letter.

Emswiler said DoD has a good working relationship with the IRS and had no problem getting this matter resolved. "The IRS doesn't want to take adverse action against any service member," he said. "The letter was unfortunate all around, but they're doing everything they can to correct it."

Foot steps

(Continued from Page 6)



he finally wanted to do this," said Sgt. Maj. Jimenez.

"Even though he'd been talking about it for the last six or seven months. Two weeks ago he said, 'Dad, I want to do this and I want to do it now.' And now

here he is, he enlisted and shipped on the same day just because that's how badly he wanted to do it," he said.

"I've never pushed him," Sgt. Maj. Jimenez said. "We've talked about it a few times. I've always allowed my kids to make their own decisions because I think that a person is more successful when he makes his own decisions vice someone telling him 'you will do this and this is the way you will do it.'"

"I've told my kids," Sgt. Maj. Jimenez said, "and I've always preached to them, any branch of the service gives you the independency that you learn just by getting away from the family. I think Josh's been around Marines his whole life, and I think he's seen the examples Marines have set, the physical fitness that Marines do, and the basic leadership that Marines utilize. I think he saw that he could utilize those skills," he said. Timing couldn't be more poignant, according to the Sergeant Major, who plans to retire after April, 2002. "The Marine Corps' always been a traditional thing. It's a unique tradition because as I'm rolling out, one's rolling in to carry on that tradition. I think that's what makes me a proud father because the way it's taking place now. It almost makes me want to stick it out another five years longer, not necessarily to take care of him, but so he can say, 'my Dad's a Sergeant Major in the Marine Corps.' Probably not at recruit training, just in the future."

Dream

(Continued from Page 1)

are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation.

So we have come to cash this check — a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice. We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's children. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of the Negro. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights.

The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges. But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to distrust of all

white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny and their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom.

We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" we can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream to-

day.

I have a dream that one day the state of Alabama, whose governor's lips are presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. This is our hope. This is the faith with which I return to the South. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day. This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring." And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania! Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado! Let freedom ring from the curvaceous peaks of California! But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia! Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee! Let freedom ring from every hill and every molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! free at last! thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

History of the task force's organizational colors

The Joint Task Force-Bravo organization colors, with the motto, "Progress Through Unity," were approved April 22, 1996.

The crest is set on a purple flag with yellow-colored fringe. Purple symbolizes the intermingling of all the whites, blues, greens, tans, reds, gold and silver found in service uniforms and insignia.

The color also represents the task force's joint and combined operational focus and embodies our servicemembers' involvement in operations disassociated from inherent service biases or parochial concerns, working in cooperation with our regional partners for the common good.

The eagle, with its red, white and blue shield, symbolizes our nation and its national colors. The six brown arrows together represent the land masses, territorial waters and airspace of Central America and our joint operation area.

The yellow wheat stalk, which refers to the staff of life, denotes, the growth and support of democratic development in the region.

The seven connecting chain links, representing the United States and the six nations of Central America, symbolize the strong support and collective links in forging regional cooperative security through joint, combined and interagency operations.

Finally, the two gold stars are symbolic of achievement and represent guidance and leadership.



Photo by Master Sgt. Jeff Bohn

Two fire fighters from the Soto Cano Fire Department drag a dummy victim to safety during a fire drill in the Alpha area Jan. 16.