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**Celebrating  
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History Month**



# Fuerzas Unidas

*JTF-Bravo participates in disaster relief exercise*



The  
**Command**  **Run**

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## **Command Run**

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## **Marine Forces South dedicates headquarters**

**By: SSgt Chuck Albrecht**  
U.S. Marine Corps Forces,  
South

Jerry C. McAbee, USSOUTHCOM chief of staff, cut the ceremonial ribbon dedicating the new

MIAMI – U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South officially opened the doors to its new headquarters facility, located approximately two miles from the U.S. Southern Command, during a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 21.



**Lt. Gen. Pete Pace**

Lt. Gen. Peter Pace, MARFOR SOUTH commander, and Brig. Gen.

10,500 square foot, fully staffed and operational Marine component headquarters.

MARFOR SOUTH, which serves as the USSOUTHCOM commander in chief’s “one-stop shop” for Marine support, was temporarily

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Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

**Marine Lt. Gen. Peter Pace, U.S. Marine Corps Forces South commander, gives the keynote address to the audience gathered at the Marine Forces South Headquarters dedication ceremony in Miami March 21.**

## **Dedication**

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located in a small office facility prior to the construction of the new headquarters.

During the dedication, Pace remarked that the new headquarters would not only provide an improved quality of life for the MARFORSOUTH staff but most importantly, provide a base to focus solely on supporting the goals and objectives of USSOUTHCOM.

MARFORSOUTH traces its roots to the MARFORSOUTH Liaison Element, established in 1995 at Rodman Naval Station, Panama.

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## Dedication

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Acting as an extension of the MARFORSOUTH staff headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia, the role of the Liaison Element was to act on behalf of Commander, MARFORSOUTH.

Following the closure of Marine Barracks Panama that same year, the commander of USSOUTHCOM requested a rotational Marine security force reinforced by a small craft detachment to provide support to the defense of the Panama Canal. Soon thereafter, the Liaison Element stepped up to



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

**Lt. Gen. Peter Pace (Left), Marine Forces South commander, and Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, U.S. Southern Command chief of staff, cut the ceremonial ribbon March 21 dedicating the new 10,500 square foot, fully staffed and operational Marine component headquarters in Miami.**

provide administrative and operational support to the Marine companies,

rotating every three to four months.

While deployed to

Panama, Marines provided security to Combined Joint Task Force

Panama, participated in jungle warfare training at Ft. Sherman, conducted maritime security for transiting nuclear vessels, and participated in numerous engagements within the theater.

With the relocation of USSOUTHCOM's Headquarters to Miami, as necessitated by the Panama Treaty Implementation Plan of 1977, the Liaison Element followed suit and developed into today's MARFOR SOUTH staff of nearly 50 Marines. Since headquartered in Miami, MARFOR SOUTH has planned and supported more than 100 exercises and operations.

# Joint Chiefs chairman visits headquarters

Gen. Charles E. Wilhelm (Second from right), U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, and wife Valerie (Second from left) welcome Gen. Henry H. Shelton (Far right), chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his wife Carolyn to Miami. The chairman visited and toured the command headquarters March 2. The nation's highest-ranking military officer also received a command update during his one-day visit.

(Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)



# JTF-Bravo trains side by side with neighbors

**M**ore than 100 participants from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Joint Task Force-Bravo participated in Operations Fuerzas Unidas 2000 March 12 to 16.

The five-day operation consisted of specialty training, two airborne operations, and a disaster relief exercise. The mission of the operation was for participants to conduct non-tactical, combined airborne operations and disaster relief training.

Operations for the week began with an Esprit de Corps run involving members from all three countries as well as members of JTF-Bravo. Then by mid morning the soldiers from the delegations were trained on using equipment like the “jaws of



Members of the visiting delegations practice using the “Jaws of life” as part of the Multi-National jump disaster relief exercise at Tamara drop zones March 15. (Photo by Martin Chahin)

life,” loading sling loads, controlling fires with hoses and other fire equipment as well as

conducting airborne operations. The delegates had a full day March 14 in which they con-

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## UNIDAS

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ducted airborne operations and jumped from a CH-47 and C-130, as well as begin the disaster relief exercise. The exercise consisted of a Search and rescue mission, a sling load operation, a controlled brush fire and a Medical Readiness exercise conducted by the Medical element. The purpose of the exercise was to show the participating countries how to deal with a disaster once it occurs and have a plan of execution for combined disaster relief efforts.

“The experience of using new equipment and being able to jump from different aircrafts was great,” said Capt. Edmundo Guatemala, El Salvador Fuerzas Especiales.

The week ended with an awards ceremony in which all jumpers received foreign jump wings from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

“The most important things is that the exercise unites all of our forces,” said Guatemala. “For the entire group it was a great experience.”



Photo by Martin Chahin

**Two Multi-National delegates try to put out a fire as Senior Airman Thomas Jenkins, Soto Cano Fire Department, looks on during the disaster relief exercise March 15.**

Only smiles could be seen throughout the morning during the general Medical Readiness exercise conducted in the village of Querbrada Honda by the Joint Task Force-Bravo Medical Element March 14.

The medical readiness training exercise was part of the Multi-National jump/ disaster relief exercise. Physician's Assistant 1st Lt. Radcliffe Antoine, MEDEL, and Honduran Army physicians evaluated 115 patients throughout the morning hours. Simultaneously, 60 children were seen by the MEDRETE dentist Guillermo Saenz and

## Medical personnel change the lives of their patients



**Army Staff Sgt. James Shaffer gives a 2 year old a drink of Kool-Aid to quench her thirst during the Medical Readiness Exercise March 14. (Photo by Spc. Socorro A. Spooner)**

were given a fluoride treatment and new toothbrushes.

The MEDRETE staff of 10 JTF-Bravo personnel and seven Honduran

Army personnel gave classes on Oral hygiene, Intestinal Parasites and

basic sanitation, said Saenz. After these classes concluded, the patients were then seen by a physician to be evaluated.

“The most common ailments found in children were diarrhea, upper respiratory infection, and skin diseases such as scabies, impetigo and skin rashes. For adults the most common ailments ranged from the common cold to gastroesophageal reflux disease to strep-throat,” said Antoine. The medications given to the patients were oral antibiotics for non-severe infections, analgesics, fun-



Photo by Spc. Socorro A. Spooner

**1st Lt. Todd Pease (Right) reads a prescription label before giving it to Staff Sgt. Robert Regueiro to disperse the medicine to the patient.**

## **MEDRETE**

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gal creams, anti-inflammatory tablets and antihistamines, said Saenz. The people were happy to see everyone who came to help them, said Staff Sgt. James Shaffer, MEDEL.

“It was a good feeling knowing that so little can make a difference in there lives,” added Shaffer.

One reason why this MEDRETE was conducted in this village, located in the Amarateca Valley just north of the Tamara drop zone, was because of it’s priority on the Honduran ministry of healths list, said Saenz. This list helps JTF-Bravo determine the locations of MEDRETEs to patients who may never see a physician or have limited access to them.

“It was very rewarding to know that we can make a difference,” said Capt. Karen Hutchins, MEDRETE officer in charge.

# ROTC cadets prepare for life in military

**By Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts,  
USAF**

Command Run Editor

MIAMI – Many ROTC cadets aren't sure what career field to pursue in the military or even the leadership role they will fill as second lieutenants. They struggle to balance personal goals with anticipated officer responsibilities.

It's no different at the University of Miami. That's why Air Force ROTC Det. 155 recently invited U.S. Southern Command officers and enlisted members of every service to give valuable advice to the cadets, so they could make better career choices.

More than 15



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

**U.S. Southern Command members introduce themselves to University of Miami ROTC cadets during Career Day activities March 9 at Whitten University Center.**

SOUTHCOM members accepted the invitation, shared their military experiences and answered questions March 9 at

Whitten University Center to assist the cadets with the transition.

“The cadets were very inter-

ested in various careers represented by SOUTHCOM people here,” said Air Force Col. Barry Chisholm, deputy director of the J-5 Counterdrug Division and Career Day participant. “The interest level was especially high in how they would fit into their new roles as lieutenants, what bases and assignments are available, and how to excel as they begin a new job. We were able to help them and have a good time,” he added.

At the event, each officer and NCO was able to talk to cadets one on one. This allowed the cadets to talk with personnel from various career fields

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and at different career stages.

Cadet Crystal Sewell, a freshman at the

University of Miami, spent the majority of her time speaking with Air Force Maj. (Dr.) Dan Hoyumpa about medical career opportunities.

“I would like to be a doctor and specialize in

either obstetrics or pediatrics,” Sewell said. “He was telling me these are not needed as much as careers in family health, HMOs, things of that sort. I’m still debating my career choices because the Air Force does have good benefits and they do pay for medical school.”

Sewell said that Career Day helped her because she could talk with someone who has been through the process of becoming a doctor... so she could better weigh her options.

“So hearing what he has already experienced is a great value to me. I can look at it and say this is how many years I’m



Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts  
**Air Force Master Sgt. Roger Hylton (Center), J-4 Logistics Directorate, gives the enlisted perspective to two Air Force ROTC cadets on Career Day at the University of Miami.**



**Air Force Col. Barry Chisholm (Left), deputy director of the J-5 Counterdrug Division and Career Day participant, talks with several ROTC cadets about what they can expect when they become second lieutenants.**

going to do. I know specifically what is going to happen. Now I have to talk to my parents, write out the pros and cons, and make a decision. He’s opened up a world of de-

cision making,” Sewell said.

Cadet Col. Johana Quintero, the Det. 155

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## Career day

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Cadet Wing commander, said each cadet gains a great perspective by just talking to officers and enlisted people... getting an opportunity to learn what they wouldn't in a traditional educational setting. "So we have Career Day for the cadets to make sure they can experience this before they are on active duty," she said.

Approximately 20 to 30 junior ROTC cadets were also present for Career Day, Quintero said. It's important for them to have the same opportunity to ask questions, and hopefully continue with ROTC in college.

Cadet Maj. Kimberly Defour, an Army junior ROTC member and junior at North Miami Senior High School, said she



wants to go to West Point Military Academy and pursue a career as a surgeon. She learned

at Career Day that her dream to become a doctor would take 12 years of school and residency,

**Air Force Maj. (Dr.) Dan Hoyumpa, U.S. Southern Command Health Clinic, gives advice to ROTC cadets on how to take advantage of medical career opportunities in the military. Hoyumpa was one of 20 command volunteers who participated as adviser at Air Force ROTC Det. 155's Career Day at the University of Miami March 9. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)**

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and she would have to repay 12 years back in service to her nation.

She also talked with Dr. Hoyumpa, and said she has decided to continue to strive for her goals. "It makes my decision easier because of the fact that you gain more information on what you want to do and what you can and cannot do as far as your career goals are concerned," she explained. "These officers can guide you and give you guidelines to help you get there quicker if possible. Their knowledge is very valuable."

Air Force Master Sgt. Roger Hylton, J-4 Logistics Operations Division, said he fielded many questions ranging from travel opportunities and NCO-officer relationships, to pay and benefits. He said it was a rewarding experience for everyone from SOUTHCOM to advise and help them with their budding careers.

"It was nice to see young people like this who are getting their degrees and who are interested in a military career," Hylton said. "It makes you feel like what you have done for your service has been really good. It is very gratifying."



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

**Army Maj. Greg Cusimano, J-4 Logistics Directorate, tells the cadets about his job and career. Command volunteers from the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines were able to give University of Miami cadets and a number of junior ROTC cadets helpful career advice from a joint-service angle.**

# USS Estocin brings good will to Colombia

By NAVSOUTH Public Affairs

Cartagena, Colombia – The guided missile frigate USS Estocin (FFG 15) played a role in fostering good will in South America by delivering five pallets of Project Handclasp materials on behalf of the citizens of the United States to the Acion Social Naval in Cartagena, Colombia during UNITAS 41, Caribbean Phase on March 20, 2000.

Commander Robert Oldani, commanding officer, USS Estocin, presented the materials to Tulia Cubillos in a ceremony



**Cmdr. Robert Oldani, USS Estocin (FFG 15) commander, formally delivers five pallets of Project Handclasp materials including textbooks, mixed medical supplies and hygienic items to Tulia Cubillos of Action Social Naval inport Cartagena, Colombia during UNITAS exercises March 20.**

at Cartagena Naval Base's Fleet Landing. Cubillos, who heads Colombia's Atlantic Fleet Navy Relief Society, was enthused

with the donation which included school books, mixed medical supplies and hygienic items.

"The materials will go to

great use and we appreciate the kindness of the U.S. Navy," she said.

Three pallets of textbooks, which are in English, will be donated to a local elementary school and a high school where a bilingual curriculum is taught.

"It will be helpful for students to use these books in their studies, it is a pleasure for us to accept them on their behalf," said Cubillos.

USS Estocin sailors were pleased to take part in the event as well. Chief Petty Officer Dave Armstrong, of Dallas, North Carolina, Estocin's coordinator for the donation, remarked "It's great to be associated with a project that enriches lives."

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## Good will

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While anchored in Cartagena Bay, Estocin sailors ferried the contents of the pallets a few at a time from the ship to Fleet Landing throughout the morning of the scheduled donation. “It is our duty as Armed Forces members to be involved,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Ray of Ann Arbor, Michigan. “The small steps we are taking now can grow into big ones a make a notable difference,” he concluded.

USS Estocin, based in Norfolk, Virginia, is part of a nine-ship U.S. Task Group conducting the first-ever consolidated Caribbean Phase of UNITAS with five different nations including Colombia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. The exercise concludes on April 10.

# Airshow gets underway



**FIDAE, the leading aerospace event in Latin America, got underway Monday at Los Cerrillos Airport in Santiago, Chile. The event, which is organized by the Chilean Air Force, runs through Sunday. The United States sent 12 different Department of Defense aircraft and the U.S. Army's Golden Knights to the airshow.**

# USS Doyle seizes six tons of cocaine

EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN -- The guided missile frigate USS Doyle (FFG 39) and embarked U.S. coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) intercepted a vessel named "Rebelde" off the coast of Ecuador carrying six tons of cocaine while conducting routine counter drug operations Feb. 16.

After detaining and searching the suspicious vessel, the LEDET discovered a vast amount of narcotics stowed aboard. "Rebelde" was taken under tow and delivered to St. Petersburg, Fla., in a joint Navy and Coast Guard Operation, when it was determined the incident was related to an ongoing investigation in the Middle District of Florida



by the Interagency Drug Enforcement Task Force.

U.S. District Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, Donna A. Bucella, together with various officials from the Fed-

**The guided missile frigate USS Doyle (FFG 39).**

eral Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency, U.S. Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Marshals and U.S. Coast Guard announced the unsealing of an

indictment in Tampa against the seven members of "Rebelde's" crew.

USS Doyle, based in Mayport, Fla., departed homeport Jan. 19 enroute to a multi-purpose deployment to the Eastern Pacific and Caribbean.

In addition to counter drug operations, USS Doyle is actively engaged in U.S. forward presence missions, humanitarian assistance operations, and a variety of other roles.

Just two weeks prior to intercepting "Rebelde," USS Doyle rescued the crew of a Panamanian fishing vessel adrift at sea. Crewmembers made engine repairs and provided food and water.

## News briefs

### Miami area tour

The Family Support Center is sponsoring its monthly Miami area tour 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 28. The tour is free to military personnel and their families.

The tour begins and ends at the ITT Building, Suite 425. For more information or to sign up for the tour, call **(305) 437-2665**.

### Newcomers brief

The Family Support Center is sponsoring a newcomers briefing 8 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Tuesday at PBA Hall located at 10680 NW 25th Street. The briefing is the first Tuesday of every month.

The briefing includes presentations from TRICARE;

SOUTHCOM Health Clinic; Housing Office; Traffic Management Office; Education Office; Legal Office; Quality of Life Office; Morale, Welfare, and Recreation; DoD Police; and the chaplain. For more information or to reserve your seat at the briefing, call **(305) 437-2667 or 2665**, or toll free at **(888) 547-4025**.

### Finance education

The Family Support Center is sponsoring a Financial Planning Workshop April 25 at the U.S. Southern Command Headquarters Conference Room 1403. The workshop is open to

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### Attend SOUTHCOM's free job fair

The U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Coast Guard are sponsoring a free job fair 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 25 at Metro Dade Fire Fighters Memorial Building located at 8000 NW 21st Street in Miami. Some of the employers that will be present include: American Airlines, Carnival Cruise Lines, Wackenhut Security, Federal Express, BellSouth Mobility, State of Florida Children & Family Services, Sun Trust Bank, Miami Dade Police Department, Bank Atlantic, Pembroke Pines Police Department, U.S. Border Patrol, American Express, Dunbar Armored Security, Doathan Security Inc., Mantech, Bradley-Morris Military Placements, South Florida Water Management District, City of Miami, Florida Jobs and Benefits, Primerica, ITT Technical Institute, Argenbright Security, and NOVA University.

To register or for more information, call **Marva Creary**, USSOUTHCOM, at **(305) 437-2671 or 2726** or E-mail at **[crearym@hq.southcom.mil](mailto:crearym@hq.southcom.mil)**; or call **Sarah Jones-Pereira**, Coast Guard, at **(305) 536-5133**, or E-mail at **[sjones-pereira@iscmiami.uscg.mil](mailto:sjones-pereira@iscmiami.uscg.mil)**.

## Briefs

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service members, DoD civilians, family members and retirees.

For more information, call Marta Acevedo, Financial Readiness Program manager, at (305) 437-2645 or 2665.

## Smooth move

The Family Support Center is sponsoring a Smooth Move briefing 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 18 at the U.S. Southern Command Headquarters Conference Room 1401. The briefing is the third Tuesday of every month.

The briefing offers a smooth move out-processing briefing for all service and fam-

ily members. Presenters will provide useful information needed before a permanent change of station move.

For more information or to sign up for the next briefing, call (305) 437-2667 or 2665.

## Preseparation

There is a preseparation briefing 2:30 to 4 p.m. Monday and April 10 at the ITT Building, Suite 425. This is mandatory prior to attending the TAP briefing. Call (305) 437-2665 to sign up or for more information.

## TAP briefing

Transition Assistance Program briefings are sched-

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# 1999 Tax Assistance

The U.S. Southern Command has IRS trained volunteer income tax

advisors

available to

provide

free assistance to

people with

their 1999 tax returns.



These volunteers help with most routine federal tax returns every Tuesday and Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the J-8 Conference Room (Room 1218). Call (305) 437-1307 to make an appointment.

Tax forms are available at the Legal Office from

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Forms are also available on the Internet at [www.irs.ustreas.gov/plain/forms\\_pubs/forms.html](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/plain/forms_pubs/forms.html).

Electronic filing is also available. Drop off completed returns at the Legal Office during duty hours. No returns will be transmitted until two IRS Forms 8453 are signed by the taxpayer and spouse if applicable.

Complex tax assistance will be available when reserve tax attorneys are on duty. Military members are given priority for these appointments.

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uled 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 17, 18, 19 and 20 at the Police Benevolent Association located at 10680 NW 25th Street. Call (305) 437-2665 or 2675 for more information.

## Busch Gardens

There is a day trip to Busch Gardens Saturday. Transportation is free. You pay for your ticket. Call Suzette Rubet at (305) 437-2639 for more information or to sign up.

## Spring Fling

The U.S. Southern Command spring picnic, "Spring Fling," is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 15 at the Metrozoo. Tickets will

be passed out through normal channels in each directorate.

## Art contest

Deadline for the Millennium 2000 Art Contest is June 30, 2000. This is open to all military children who are in elementary school, kindergarten through sixth grade. The theme will be the Millennium 2000 Military Family Week poster for Military Family Week Nov. 19-26, 2000. For more information, call Suzette Rubet at (305) 437-2639.

## J-2 golf tourney

The J-2 Intelligence Directorate is sponsoring a golf tournament Thursday at the National Country Club in Kendall, Fla.

For more information or to sign up, call Staff Sgt. Jerry

Vaughn at (305) 437-2194.

## Legal Assistance

Call Army Staff Sgt.

Brigitte Romain at (305) 437-1303 or Suzanne Estes at (305) 437-1304 to schedule legal assistance appointments.

# Religious Affairs

## Service schedule

**Tuesdays:** Weekly Protestant services are noon to 12:30 p.m. in the Main Conference Room, Room 1414.

**Wednesdays:** Weekly Inter-denominational Bible study and fellowship is from noon to 1 p.m. in Room 1401 or 1403.

**Thursdays:** Weekly Catholic services are from noon to 12:30 p.m. in the Main Conference Room, Room 1414.

# Air Force undersecretary imagines future of women

**By Staff Sgt. Kristine Bacharach**  
 Command Run Assistant Editor

A woman who is ‘making history’ as the Undersecretary of the U.S. Air Force visited U.S. Southern Command for the Women’s History Month celebration March 3.

The Honorable Carol A. DiBattiste, who is responsible for the recruiting, training, and equipping of more than 710,000 people of the Air Force, spoke to an audience full of men and women from SOUTHCOM about the history of women in the



Photo by Tom Pattison

**Maj. Gen. Alfred Valenzuela, U.S. Southern Command deputy commander in chief, presents a token of appreciation to the Honorable Carol A. DiBattiste, the guest speaker for the command’s Women History Month celebration March 3.**

armed services.

The ceremony began with a slide show depict-

ing women and events that have shaped the history of women. The slide show

served as a pictorial journey through the generations of women who have

made a significant impact on history.

After the slide show, Air Force Brig. Gen. James N. Soligan, Director of Strategy, Policy and Plans, introduced the guest speaker.

First, DiBattiste pointed out several women in the audience for their contributions and successes. “I’d like to recognize some of the great women you have at SOUTHCOM because I think you have a great group here,” she said. She started with Diane Torres, a Gulf War vet-

## Women from Page 20

eran and bronze star recipient, who also narrated the ceremony. She recognized Theresa Fitzpatrick for her achievement as the Miami Federal Employee of the Year for Equal Opportunity and Diversity and finally, Staff Sgt. Bridget Plifka, SOUTHCOM's senior non-commissioned officer of the year.

DiBattiste focussed her speech on this year's theme, "An Extraordinary Century for Women – Now, Imagine the Future." She talked about women from the past, and her own past as an Air Force recruiter.

"I went through basic training in 1971 – when it wasn't gender integrated training – and I can say from my own personal experience that we've come a long way, baby."

The journey for women has been long, but the accomplishments speak for themselves.

"In the Air Force today, we have eleven women general officers and two more ready to pin on," DiBattiste said.

"We have female officers running organizations. They are leading and commanding at the wing or base level in thirty-seven different positions."

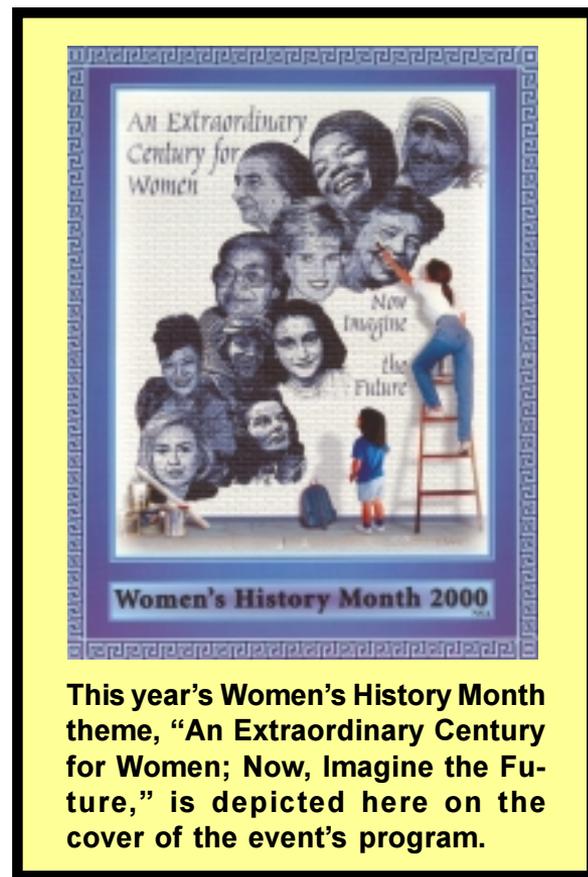
DiBattiste spoke in Air Force terms, but noted that the numbers of female leadership are rising across the board, across all services and civilian employees.

And finally, just as this year's Women History Month theme states, "Imagine the Future" states, she challenged the audience to do just that.

"I see a future where gender is not going to have a bearing. I see a future where

*"I see a future where we won't have to have Women's History Month to recognize women because women will be recognized everyday of the year and not just one month of the year."*

**Carol A. DiBattiste**  
*Undersecretary of the Air Force*



**This year's Women's History Month theme, "An Extraordinary Century for Women; Now, Imagine the Future," is depicted here on the cover of the event's program.**

we won't have to have Women's History Month to recognize women because women will be recognized everyday of the year and not just one month of the year."

## Center offers service members ‘home away from home’



**Edna S. Sardella (Right), volunteer director of the Armed Forces Service Center, and volunteer Florence Gatlin work the center’s welcome desk at Miami International Airport.**

**Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts, USAF**  
Command Run Editor

**M**IAMI – During a recent layover a young serviceman found a

quiet corner at Miami International Airport to relax and catch a few winks of shuteye. Minutes later he awoke... shocked to discover his leather briefcase containing \$1,000 was stolen.

Situations like this are common, said Edna S. Sardella, but they could easily be avoided if military personnel and their families knew there was a “home away from home” here at the airport.

Sardella, volunteer director of the Armed Forces Service Center, said every month volunteers on duty provide approximately 300 military members a safe place to rest, a snack and drink, a magazine to read and movies to watch while they wait for their next flight – all free of charge.

The center, which is open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Concourse B, is a safehaven, a room where people can shut the door and fall asleep without fear of

having their bags and personal possessions stolen, she explained.

“If I could tell you the stories of how many guys were downstairs and who had their wallets stolen... that’s why the room is necessary,” Sardella said. “I do this for them. My heart is in it. I love every minute of it and go to sleep at night feeling good – as do all of the volunteers.”

Florence Gatlin, a volunteer at the center, said “most guys just want a place to stay. Most of them want something to drink and some little cookies or something. Most are grateful to have a place to

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come and sit down and just watch TV between flights.”

The center, which operates strictly on donations, opened in February 1999, a year after the USO closed its doors at Miami International Airport. Sardella, who worked at the USO for 10 years, lobbied for another room, and even spent \$5,000 of her own money to reopen as the Armed Forces Service Center.

Sardella said she works hard to encourage people and organizations in the community to donate money and

snacks to keep the center operating. And she has had little success. The center has recently begun receiving small donations from the United Way, and plans are underway to add the center to the Combined Federal Campaign listing. Meanwhile, She continues to donate a lot of her own time and money helping service men and women needing a safe place to stay during their layover.

“My two daughters are furious at me for spending my time and money here,” Sardella said. “They said, ‘mom, these are supposed to be your golden years. You



**The Armed Forces Service Center gives military members and their families a comfortable place to safely rest before and between flights at the Miami International Airport.**

are retired and look at what you are doing.’ I tell them I’m proud of my room and the love behind it. When an officer or enlisted

person hugs me for what I’ve done... I get my reward.”

**(Editor’s note: If interested in making a monetary or snack**

**donation, or in volunteer opportunities at the Armed Forces Service Center, call Edna Sardella at 305-876-7585)**

# Commissary offers service, convenience

By Staff Sgt. Kathleen T. Rhem,  
USA

American Forces Press Service

**F**ORT LEE, Va. — Say, for instance, your family has just moved to a new base and you need to know how late the local commissary is open. You could try calling and dealing with the endless choices offered by the mechanical voice on the base switchboard. But wouldn't it be much easier to punch up info about your local store on the Internet without having to go through an elaborate search?

Well, now you can. The relatively new (launched in Fall 1999) **Commissaries.com** offers just about any informa-



tion you could be looking for about your local commissary in one central site. Individual links will take you to any

commissary store in the system.

Individual store sites are a wealth of information about

what's available in your local store. They give basic information such as store hours, directions to the store, which credit cards the store accepts, and the store manager's e-mail

The sites also have space for the local managers to personalize and bring attention to any special features their stores offer.

For instance, the Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, store offers a full-service deli and bakery, featuring made-to-order deli sandwiches, party trays and special-occasion decorated cakes. The commissary at Fort Belvoir,

See **Commissary**

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## Commissary from Page 24

Va., features a full-service seafood department, an in-store bank and rotisserie chicken.

The Belvoir store's site also boasts that their commissary was the winner of the best meat department in a northern commissary in 1999. This type of information might be particularly helpful to someone trying to decide which commissary to patronize in the crowded Washington, D.C., area. And these are just two examples chosen at random.

The great thing about these individual sites is that the individual store managers edit them — not someone in the Defense Commissary Agency

headquarters in Fort Lee, Va. This allows the stores to put up more personalized information about their features and allows them to make changes instantly. If the info about an individual store is wrong, the store managers have no one but themselves to blame.

Besides information on individual stores, the site has a number of helpful features. Perhaps the most useful is a listing of sale items for the current week. Commissaries are prohibited by law from advertising their prices outside the stores, but this site lists sales by the percentage off the regular price. The site lists nearly 200 sale items, which might be a valuable resource to use in planning a shopping list or menus for the week. The sale items are broken down



into convenient categories, making navigating the long list fairly easy.

Other useful pages on the site explain the history of the commissary system, how much commissary users can expect to save over civilian grocery stores, and what the 5 percent

surcharge is used for.

As a service to customers, the commissary folks have also included links to nearly 30 free recipe sites, 40 other government sites, and several grocery, food safety and small business sites.

**(AFPS)**

# Baby Flight

**Nov. 8, 1999: Ramon Schapley III**, son of Navy Lt. Ramon Schapley, J-3 Operations Directorate, and wife Patricia. The baby weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces.

**Nov. 9, 1999: Sean Chandler**, son of Navy Chief Petty Officer Connie Saunders, J-3 Operations Directorate, and husband Richard. The baby weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces.

*(Baby announcements can be E-mailed to the Command Run editor. Please include the full name of parents and baby, and date of birth. Please include rank and work location of the parent(s) in the military, or if civil service.)*

## Command Run feedback

The following comments have recently been E-mailed to the *Command Run* by our readers.

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**(Editor's note: This section is where the editorial staff will print various comments about this publication sent via E-mail or snail mail by our readers.)**

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**“Great job! As we can get personnel and families to regularly read/review, it will make a big difference.”**

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**“Hey, just took a look at your paper. I thought it very well done.”**

---

**Comment here**  
**Comment here**  
**Comment here**



**Command Run**  
Comments about the  
*Command Run* can be E-mailed  
to [robertsl@hq.southcom.mil](mailto:robertsl@hq.southcom.mil)



## Cheri L. Hunter



**Organization:**  
**Army Signal  
Activity**  
**Duty title:**  
**Information  
Technology  
Acquisitions &  
System Integra-**

**tion specialist**

**Time in service: 20 years (Army  
sergeant first class retired)**

**Hometown: Schofield, Wisc.**

**Hobbies: Swimming, sewing and  
traveling**

**Favorite duty station: Fort Shafter,  
Hawaii**

**Career Highlights: Meeting inter-  
esting people while traveling  
worldwide; achieving retirement  
from the Army; learning a skill to  
provide me with a good fortune**

## Army Staff Sgt. Brigitte Romain



**Organization:**  
**Legal Office**  
**Duty title:**  
**Legal NCO**  
**Time in service:**  
**19 years**  
**Hometown:**  
**Pompano Beach,  
Fla.**

**Hobbies: Jogging, skating and  
basketball**

**Favorite duty station: 2nd Infantry  
Division, Korea**

**Career Highlights: Traveling while  
in Europe -- Austria, Paris,  
Amsterdam and Switzerland... and  
seeing the different countries with  
my mother**

## Navy Capt. Jorge Hartung



**Organization:**  
**Chilean Navy**  
**Duty title: Partici-  
pating nation  
adviser**  
**Time in service:**  
**28 years**  
**Hometown: Vina  
Der Mar, Chile**

**Hobbies: Tennis and reading**

**Favorite duty station: Serving as  
MOMEPA observer in Ecuador in  
1997**

**Career Highlights: When I gradu-  
ated as a staff officer at the Navy  
Academy of Chile; commanding  
Detachment 3 Aldea; and recently  
being promoted to the rank of  
captain in the Chilean Navy**

## Warrant officer selection

Congratulations to **Army Staff Sgt. Stanley L. Watson**, J-2 Intelligency Directorate, who was selected as a warrant officer candidate by the January 2000 Accession Board. He is an imagery collection manager NCO in the J-2 Imagery Collection Management Branch.

## Employee of year awards

Congratulations to the following U.S. Southern Command personnel who were nominated in various categories for the 1999 Federal Employee of the Year Awards sponsored by the Miami Federal Executive Board:

### Administrative/technical

- Sandra Swynenberg, J-1
- Karen Castleton, J-3
- James Dunderf, J-5
- Master Sgt. Rodney Stone, RA
- John Plifka, SPACINC
- Art Merkel, PA
- Suzanne Estes, SJA

### Clerical/administrative support

- Patti Stanforth, J-3
- Sharon Shelton, BASEOPS
- Jorge Rivera, BASEOPS

### Equal employment diversity

- Julia Ramos, ASA

### Management

- Anita Groves, J-2
- Harry Turner, J-4
- Carlos Andrade, J-6

### Military uniformed

- Lt. Col. Joanne McGovern

### Professional

- Sandra Goodman

### Scientific

- Col. Glenn Mitchell

### Technical

- John Lombardi, J-2

- Mimi Azcarraga, J-3
- Tech. Sgt. Mark Cozine, J-6
- Edwin Maldonado, ASA
- Team Andean Ridge, J-2, which consists of:
  - 2nd Lt. Raquel Alvarez
  - John Lombardi
  - Master Sgt. John Burgess
  - Petty Officer 1st Class Pierre Peterson
  - Staff Sgt. Christopher Amrhein
  - Petty Officer 2nd Class Baptiste Dixon
  - Petty Officer 2nd Class Kevin Sherrell

## New lieutenant colonels

Congratulations to the following Air Force majors who were recently selected for promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel:

- James Altman, J-1
- Lewis Graeff, J-3
- Timothy Green, J-3
- Ronald Kosobucki, J-5
- Daniel Rocha, J-3
- Jeffrey Vandine, JIATF-East
- Charles Midthun, Venezuela

## J-3 Operations Directorate

### New arrivals

#### U.S. Army

Lt. Col. Robert Knotts  
Maj. Michael Mumford  
Capt. John Morlock  
Capt. Robert Schmidt

#### U.S. Air Force

Col. Daniel Vician  
Lt. Col. David Mayer  
Maj. Rafael Benitez

#### U.S. Navy

Lt. Cmdr. Clark Sanders  
Lt. Bobby Ozley  
Seaman Carl Williams

#### U.S. Marine Corps

Maj. Harold Johnson

#### Civilians

Tammi Barreras  
Maria Arjona

#### Contractors

Todd Koch  
Richard Silva  
Carlos Cabrera  
Kenneth Torres  
Pennington Smith

### Departures

#### Army

1st Lt. Paul Watkins

#### Air Force

Master Sgt. Randel Carr

### Promotions

Congratulations to the following J-3 members who were recently promoted to the ranks indicated:

#### U.S. Army

Lt. Col. Ross Holley

Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Paz  
Sgt. 1st Class Michael Svedjan

#### U.S. Air Force

Lt. Col. Carl Carlson

### Army selection

Congratulations to Lt. Col. William Bradshaw, J-3, who was recently selected for promotion to the rank of colonel.

### Air Force selections

Congratulations to the following Air Force majors who were recently selected for promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel:

Lewis Graeff  
Timothy Green  
Daniel Rocha

### Achievement

Congratulations to the following J-3 members who were recently awarded the Joint Service Achievement Medal for outstanding support while on duty in the JOIC:

Army Maj. Darryl Long  
Navy Chief Petty Officer William Endres  
Navy Chief Petty Officer Connie Saunders

### Appreciation

Congratulations to Mimi Azcarraga, J-3, who recently received a certificate of appreciation for her outstanding participation in the Central America Disaster Preparedness Regional Seminar at San Pedro Sula, Honduras from Dec. 7 through 10, 1999.



## Tricky landing

An S-3B Viking from Squadron VS-30 gets ready to land on the USS George Washington (CVN 73) during a Composite Training Unit Exercise in the Gulf of Mexico March 16. A group of Miami community leaders toured the aircraft carrier and watched the afternoon's flight operations while participating in the U.S. Atlantic Fleet commander's Distinguished Visitor Embark Program. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)