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## The **Command** **Run**

Vol. 2 No. 1 ■ Miami ■ Jan. 26, 2001

Photo by Air Force  
Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

# Gunsmoke



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# U.S. Cavalry shoots to impress

# Command Run

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# Task force spearheads El Salvadoran relief

By SPC Jeremy Heckler  
Joint Task Force-Bravo  
Public Affairs

ILOPANGO AIR BASE, El Salvador – Sgt. Wilfredo Dulces Ramirez and Cpl. Aludes Ramirez Dulces spent three days wondering whether their loved ones in Comasagua were still living. It was difficult to concentrate on their duties at this air base when life hung in the balance.

into the village were covered by a landslide. Relief efforts from Joint Task Force-Bravo led the way in helping those soldiers find their way home when they entered Comasagua on a supply mission. The Task Force responded to relief and assessment requests made after an earthquake —registering 7.6 on the Richter scale —rumbled off the west

Roads leading

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## Relief

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coast of El Salvador, some 65 miles southwest of San Miguel. Forty-six members of the Task Force arrived at midday Jan. 15 in two CH-47 Chinooks and three UH-60 Blackhawks from Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras.

“Our initial focus was to bring immediate assistance to the citizens and provide a country team to assess the damage,” said Col. Michael Wood, JTF-Bravo commander, who likened the situation to a paramedic unit stabilizing the patient before receiving long-term care. That support came in the form of the



**An Earthquake, which registered 7.6 on the Richter scale, rumbled off the west coast of El Salvador destroying buildings and property in the country. Joint Task Force Bravo at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, sent 46 people, two CH-47 Chinooks and three UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters to assist with relief operations in El Salvador.**

1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment's aircraft and crews.

“Our two Chinooks and three Blackhawks bring a heavy-lift capability that

no one else can,” Wood said.

Pilots used all of their skills to airlift supplies. In the Comasagua landing zone, CH-47 Chinook pilots had only a dusty soccer field available to them. As they closed in on the field, the sky around them turned into a dark shade of brown as the dust whirled around the aircraft.

“In a lot of these fields, you have a dust landing and once you hit 20-feet you lose all reference and have to depend on the people in the back to keep it level until you find some rock on the ground to tell you how close you are to landing,” said Chief Warrant Officer

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John Hager, a pilot with Company B, 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment.

He added that unlike other brownout landings, where the pilot can move ahead of the dust, the pilots landing at Comasagua had to come to a dead stop and flare up the nose of the aircraft in order to avoid obstacles around the LZ (landing zone). The flight crews had to deal with power lines surrounding the landing zone as well as steep hills and a soccer goalpost.

The efforts of the Chinook and Blackhawk crews threw a life preserver to the people of El Salvador, delivering 157.8 tons of food, ferrying 560 relief workers and soldiers, and reuniting citizens with their families in the towns of Comasagua,



**A U.S. military member loads relief supplies onto a helicopter providing relief to Salvadorans.**

Talinque, San Vincente, Chiltiuapa, Tacuba and Tamanque.

“It was very comforting to see

that we were helping these people out in their time of need,” said Sgt. Robert Harper, flight engineer, Company B, 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment. He said locals had no hospitals to go to or any way to get help. “They were really in a critical state, and they needed to get aid quickly in the first days following the earthquake.”

Beyond the Band-Aid of initial relief efforts, assessment teams from JTF-Bravo arrived to determine the long-term needs of El Salvador. Engineering teams working with the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance to analyze the structural integrity of buildings throughout the country.

“Our engineering teams covered key parts of the country and provided technical assistance, saving a lot of time and effort,” Wood said.

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“Our job was to identify the hardest hit areas,” said Capt. Jennifer Newhouse, JTF-Bravo’s engineering team chief. “We found areas of the Pan American Highway and the cities of Usulután and Santa Tecla destroyed by landslides.”

Newhouse saw firsthand many of the effects of the earthquake on the people of El Salvador.

“Santa Tecla was the most unsettling to me; the town was



**More than 157.8 tons of food were delivered throughout the region, 560 relief workers and soldiers were ferried to stricken areas, and countless others were reunited with loved ones through the efforts of the Chinook and Blackhawk crews.**

completely devastated by a landslide, the ground,” Newhouse said.

and as I walked through I saw people digging bodies out of the ground,” In one area that the engineering team assessed, they in-

spected damage to buildings constructed by a New Horizons mission to the country.

“In Chilaquera, we landed to inspect New Horizons projects and found they had survived the earthquake rather well,” said Newhouse. “As we walked through the town, villagers came up to us and expressed their gratitude.”

She added that in another area, groups of El Salvadorans met them at the landing site and walked with them to the city and back —

a four-mile journey.

Another crew conducted an equally important task, ferrying a crew of U. S. and Salvadoran geologists and scientists to the Santa Ana volcano. The team evaluated the effects of the earthquake on the simmering volcano in order to avert an even greater tragedy. The aircrew came down to about 2,000 feet above the rim of the volcano, giving the geologists a bird’s eye view.

After the flight, they determined that

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although the volcano was venting, it didn't pose an immediate danger as initially thought.

"I wasn't too worried about the volcano erupting, but I did worry about those living around the volcano," said Chief Warrant Officer Dat Nguyen, Company A, 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation pilot.

A three-person medical team from the Task Force's Medical Element arrived at Ilopango to assess the conditions

**Crew Chief Sgt. Robert Harper (Right) from Joint Task Force Bravo, Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, speaks to an El Salvadoran soldier at a earthquake relief landing zone on a dusty soccer field in Comasagua. The flight crews had to deal with power lines surrounding the landing zone as well as steep hills and a soccer goalpost.**



of El Salvador's hospitals.

A UH-60 Blackhawk belonging to Soto Cano's U.S. Army Air Ambulance Detachment evacuated a Salvadoran in Talinque after a supply drop. The crew was informed of a patient at a local clinic. A member of the crew examined her,

and diagnosed that she suffered from appendicitis. The team evacuated her to Hospital Militar in San Salvador.

"I'm glad that we

could be there, because right now most of those people in the mountains don't have a way to let people know they are hurt. If we hadn't been there, she could have died because the facility lacked the equipment and the specialist required to treat her," said Sgt. John Collins, flight medic.

The members of Joint Task Force-Bravo returned to Soto Cano with smiles on their faces, knowing they reunited families and helped the citizens of El Salvador get back on their feet.



## ***Colombian officer receives medal***

Gen. Peter Pace (Left), U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, presents the U.S. Army Meritorious Service Medal to Colombian Col. Gustavo Porras, participating nation advisor, during an end-of-tour award ceremony Jan. 5 at the Thurman Building's Main Conference Room. Porras' wife Rosalucia; daughters Diana and Maria; and son Daniel attended the event. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)

# Evacuation exercise gets personnel 'fired up'

By Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts,  
USAF

Command Run Editor

MIAMI – When Miami-Dade Police and Fire Rescue units showed up at the Codina Building Dec. 27 there were no flames or fumes detected. It was clear – but U.S. Southern Command personnel were “fired up” over the fire evacuation exercise.

The military and civilian employees assigned to Base Operations responded as if it were a real-world emergency, said Deputy Provost Marshal Michael



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

Juan J. Chiari, a photographer at the Pass and ID section in the Codina Building, is rescued by Miami-Dade Fire Rescue paramedics during an exercise Dec. 27.

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## Fired Up

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W. Mitchell, from the Base Operations Force Protection Office. When the fire alarm blared... the men and women in the Codina Building leaped into action, secured their work areas and then evacuated to a safe assembly area away from the building, he said.

Once assembled, supervisors accounted for their employees, and they reported four people missing. As the fire rescue team arrived, they assessed the situation and then



**A Miami-Dade paramedic rescues Army Sgt. Larry Garland, Base Operations, from the Codina Building. (Inset photo) Personnel assemble outside the Codina Building after the fire alarm sounded.**

began searching for the absent staff members. Paramedics quickly located and rescued the four individuals suffering from simulated injuries like burns and asphyxiation.

Outside the Codina Building, emergency response officials set up a triage area where the simulated casualties were located and assessed. Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Capt. Allen Brown, a paramedic in charge at the scene, said the victims received first aid, were stabilized and prepared for transport to a local hospital.

Several command personnel were also tasked to help the paramedics with the movement

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and lifting of the casualties from the triage area into several ambulances on scene.

Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Peter Flanagan, U.S. Southern Command equal opportunity advisor, worked with the first sergeant to clear the building and account for personnel. He also assisted the paramedics and said this evacuation exercise was not a routine fire drill. “We didn’t just walk out the building and wait for the ‘all clear’ sound. This exercise went further... it gave us a chance to integrate our people with the EMS units, which gave



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts  
**Army Sgt. 1st Class Peter Flanagan (Right) and Ana Barbosa-Zeinieh (Second from right), from Base Operations, assist a Miami-Dade paramedic with triage of Juan J. Chiari during an evacuation exercise at the Codina Building Dec. 27.**

us a better understanding of our responsibilities with the triage teams during an evacuation,” Flanagan said.  
 For Juan J. Chiari, a

photographer working at the Pass and ID section, being a simulated victim helped him understand how exercises like this help people get ready for a real disaster or accident. “I acted like I had smoke inhalation. I was distraught, disoriented and coughing,” he said. “The paramedics that rescued me were very professional and I witnessed how taking these exercises seriously is so critical to saving lives during an actual situation. People tend to panic or don’t really know what they are doing... and this type of exercise prepares everyone.”

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Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts  
**Ana Barbosa-Zeinieh, an education technician at the Codina Building, assists fire rescue personnel with transport of a victim.**

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At the completion of the exercise command and Miami-Dade emergency response officials met to assess the ef-

fectiveness of the exercise. They discussed the realism of the scenario and issues such as accountability of personnel, the capability of the fire suppression system, crowd control,

and location of the command post.

During the after-action discussion, Brown said that if it had been a real fire the paramedics would have monitored the health of all evacuees, not just the obvious victims. "We like to survey them anyway because they could feel the delayed effects of unforeseen radiological, explosive or toxic hazards."

Officials also touched on how the exercise was a valuable impromptu learning experience given the controlled exercise situation.

They also considered how the situation might be different if it were a real fire response.

"We talked about what we did right and what we did wrong, and what we can do to improve our effectiveness in fu-

ture exercises. It also gave us a chance to measure the effectiveness of our Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection plan and evacuation guide," Mitchell said. "All in all, the exercise was a success. I'm very pleased."



**Provost Marshal Michael W. Mitchell (Right), holds an after-action meeting immediately following the evacuation exercise.**



## **A new captain**

Marine Brig. Gen. Jerry McAbee (Right), U.S. Southern Command chief of staff, promotes Navy Cmdr. Joyce King, Legal Office, to the rank of captain Jan. 5 at the Thurman Building's Main Conference Room. Retired Navy Adm. Thomas R. Richards assists the general with the promotion. King's sister Jan Bradley and nephew Paul Bradley from North Carolina attended the event. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)

# Command remembers civil rights leader's legacy

By **Lisa Luse**  
Army Signal Activity

MIAMI – The U.S. Southern Command gathered here Jan. 17 in the Main Conference Room to celebrate the birthday and life of one of America's most prominent civil rights leaders – the late Martin Luther King Jr.

Commemorating what would have been King's 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday the command held a solemn ceremony, which included a reading of King's letter from Birmingham jail. Recreating the jailhouse bunk scene, where King penned his reply to a group of white clergymen who blamed him for



Photo/JO1 Gabe Puello

**Florida Sen. Daryl Jones speaks at the Martin Luther King Jr., Birthday Celebration Jan. 17.**

precipitating the violence, Navy Cmdr. Damon Singleton portrayed King as he wrote a subdued but pas-

sionate letter of reply to his colleagues. The letter had to be smuggled out of prison on toilet tissue, the margins of newspapers, indeed any scrap of paper available to him. King's response is still considered a testament to his heartfelt determination to continue the fight for civil rights, despite prejudices and numerous other setbacks.

Following the skit, Florida Sen. Daryl Jones addressed the audience about his experiences during King's quest for equality between all people.

Hailing from Jackson, Miss., Jones was a 10-year-old black child in the midst of the turbulent '60's civil

rights movement. He recalled his stark upbringing when his parents received a low income and were living a life of frustration. The senator said he vividly remembered how the struggle for equal opportunity intensified as King crusaded to improve the quality of life for families like his.

"Many suffered lynchings, court battles and multiple protests to gain quality education, adequate housing and business and employment opportunities," Jones said. "While many believed that not all

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Americans were totally free, the path of freedom appeared to be under construction," he added.

Jones continued and said King became a symbol of freedom that thrives beyond his assassination in 1968. "His dream had taken root and even though the tree was destroyed, it had already yielded the seeds of faith and of belief that it is possible to form a society in which all of us can join hands and work together toward a



**Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello**  
**Navy Cmdr. Damon Singleton, J-5, reads a letter written by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to his colleagues during the 1960s when the civil rights leader was in a Birmingham, Ala., jail.**

common goal," Jones stressed.

After the senator's moving

help the command remember the many important contributions made by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

On behalf of all the men and women of U.S. Southern Command, Brig. Gen. Jerry McAbee, chief of staff, presented Jones with King's portrait superimposed over the reflecting pool in Washington D.C.

After the ceremony many of the attendees had a chance to meet the senator and comment about how King touched the lives of all Americans.

Lt. Col. Ricky K. Spann, J-3 Operations Directorate, said he was touched by the ceremony and the positive impact King made with respect to civil rights.

"A lot of the people in the struggle during his time were not just black people, but they were white, Mexican, Jewish, people of all sorts," Spann said. "So often we are overshadowed by the fact that King was black, but he was a man for civil rights, not just black rights. A lot of times we don't realize this," he added.



## A new chief

Maj. Gen. James N. Soligan (Left), J-5 Strategy, Policy, and Plans Directorate director, promotes Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Dennis J. Weaver, J-1 Personnel Directorate, to the rank of chief master sergeant during a ceremony at the Thurman Building Dec. 29. Weaver's wife Suzanne assists the general with the promotion. His children Stephanie, Jason, Kelly and Joshua were present for the event. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)

# Advisors gain valuable insight at Marine training sites

MIAMI – The U.S. Southern Command’s Participating Nation Advisors recently traveled to the Carolinas for a unique glance at how the Marine Corps trains its recruits.

Through SOUTHCOM’s military-to-military engagement initiative, five foreign liaison officers gained valuable insight of training operations while visiting training sites

at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., Dec. 5-8.

The orientation trip introduced Argentine Col. Hernán Garay, Chilean Capt. Jorge Hartung, Ecuadoran Capt. Antonio Ruales, Peruvian Col. Hugo Lama, and Uruguayan Col. Julio Darío Tabarez to the various techniques and high standards used to “Make Ma-



**The U.S. Southern Command’s Participating Nation Advisors wear protective equipment while touring the weapons qualification training grounds at Camp Lejeune, N.C. The group visited Marine training sites at Camp Lejeune and at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., Dec. 5-8.**

rines and win battles.”

The group’s visit began at Camp Lejeune with a tour of

the Military Operations in Urban Terrain Center, which is a village setting containing buildings

with a reinforced roof for helicopter landings. This state-of-the-art facility provides Marines an opportunity for training in a simulated urban warfare environment.

The group then toured the II Marine Expeditionary Force’s Special Operations Training Group where they received a comprehensive mission briefing from the commanding officer and staff. There they learned how the group provides train-

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ing in amphibious operations, select maritime special operations, and military operations other than war. In addition, they learned how the Marines train to support operations in harsh environments, such as arctic and riverine, tasked to support the combatant commanders. The advisors commented that their countries could benefit from sending officers and NCOs to participate in the courses taught at the



**Participating nation advisors ride on a riverine craft on the waters surrounding Camp Lejeune, N.C., while visiting the Riverine Training Center and Maintenance Facility and the Small Craft Company.**

Urban Sniper and the Basic Course, Close Quarters Battle Course. The visit included tours of the Riverine Training Center and Maintenance

Facility and the Small Craft Company brief and tour. At each location the Marines worked, gave briefings, and answered questions posed by the group. Ruales, the Ecuadoran advisor, commented how valuable it was to see the training facilities and training process since Ecuador and the United States conduct several joint riverine exercises each year.

Another highlight was a visit to the Close Combat Train-

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## Visit

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ing Center. The center's training building has moveable walls to change the interior arrangement and natural distractions that can be activated to create a more challenging training situation. Tabarez, the advisor from Uruguay, noted that the high quality of the training reflects well on the Marines.

The group's visit to Reconnaissance Battalion resulted in more ex-

pressions from the group about the need for their militaries to take advantage of the training opportunities offered by the Marine Corps. Hartung, the Chilean advisor, was very enthusiastic about the prospect of Chile sending company grade officers and NCOs to participate in courses.

After an intensive trip to Camp Lejeune, the advisors traveled to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island. Upon arrival, they toured the Weapons & Field Training Battalion where they

received briefings on the mission, organization, objectives and methods of training recruits.

They also witnessed graduation day at Parris Island. Garay later said, "Parris Island graduates 500 recruits 48 weeks a year, the Argentina Army graduates 1000 recruits a year."

An observation of weapons qualification and a visit to the Drill Instructor School followed the graduation festivities. At the Drill Instructor School the advisors learned how the curriculum in-

cludes an intensive eleven weeks of drill, Corp values, physical training, leadership, general military subjects, weapons training and the training of recruits.

Each advisor expressed interest in having senior NCOs from their countries attend the Drill Instructor School, and to participate in the marksman ship course, obstacles course, and basic swimming instruction. Garay said that the standards are high and the techniques used to train Marine recruits are remarkably consis-

tent throughout the training.

The Advisors were extremely pleased with the itinerary and the information they received at every stop. The visit is paying dividends. Hartung, the only Advisor who is a Marine, has arranged a trip for the commandant of the Chilean Marine Corps to visit Camp Lejeune and strengthen United States Marine Corps – Chilean Marine Corps understanding, contact and engagement.

## Zip Code Coffee Groups

The ZIP Code Coffee Groups allow spouses to meet with others living close by to socialize and discuss various topics and issues concerning each other and their families. The groups are divided by geographic areas. For more information about the groups, contact the following group leaders:

### Weston

**Harriot Johnson (954) 385-2296**

### Kendall/Hammocks/Dade

**Missy Whiddon (305) 971-3131**

### Doral/North Dade

**Linda McClain (305) 406-2203**

### Pembroke Pines/Weston

**Melissa Badami (954) 443-7732**

### Cooper City

**Looking for a group leader; call (305) 437-2723 if interested.**

## News briefs

### Army gets new slogan, logo

by **Joe Burlas**

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Jan. 10, 2001) — To “Be all you can be” in the Army now means being “An Army of one.”

Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera announced the new Army slogan that underscores the importance of individuals in a unified effort and unveiled a new Army logo — a white star superimposed over a yellow star —

during a Department of Defense press briefing at the Pentagon Jan. 10.

“I am tremendously inspired by this new campaign and feel as if we are conveying a more accurate view of the men and women who comprise our Army,” Caldera said. “It speaks to the individual strengths of each soldier and their part within the overall Army force.”

The new slogan and logo will be featured in future Army advertising and re-

cruiting efforts.

Leo Burnett USA, selected last June as the Army’s lead advertising partner, has already developed a campaign featuring real soldiers rather than actors in a series of television, radio, print and web commercials. The first television ad, titled “Dogtags,” aired during NBC’s “Friends” sitcom Jan. 11. It will also air later on “The Simpsons,” “Buffy

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## Army

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the Vampire Slayer,” and MTV.

“Leo Burnett took the time to learn about the Army and the people who are making significant contributions each and every day,” Caldera said. “They understood that over time the Army had strayed from the true story of the American soldier — one of strength, intelligence and opportunity. And, they have showed a strong commitment to presenting a clear, unified picture of the Army.”

“I am the Army” is the literal translation of the new message going out to

# AN ARMY OF ONE



the Hispanic target audience of 17-to 24-year-olds. The message is bilingual with Army being in English and the rest in Spanish. The reason for Army being English is to differentiate it from armies in Latin American countries, according to Victoria Hudson,

executive vice president of Leo Burnett’s Hispanic advertising partner Cartel Creativo.

The reason for a different message is because it says close to the same as “An Army of one” but accounts for Hispanic cultural differences such as the need to fit in and be embraced, said Hudson.

One of the key reasons why the Army needed to change its message was the fact that the Army has missed its recruiting goals three out of the past five years — Be all you can be just wasn’t working, Caldera said. Another rea-

son is that advertising messages get old and tired with time no matter how recognizable they are, he continued.

The first slogan for the all-volunteer Army was “Today’s Army wants to join you.” This was followed in 1973 by “Join the people who’ve joined the Army” which evolved into a short-lived “This is the Army.” “Be all you can be” first appeared in 1981.

Streaming video vignettes telling about the past, present and future plans of each of the advertising campaign soldiers can be viewed at [www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com). New Army radio, television and print commercials will direct viewers to the web site.

## Personnel issues

Air Force Brig. Gen. Robert L. Smolen (Second from left), director of manpower and personnel, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, meets with Air Force Col. Charles Bowker (Third from left), J-1 Manpower and Personnel Directorate director, and his staff at the Thurman Building Jan. 18. The J-1 director and his staff briefed the general on command manpower and readiness issues. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)



## ***Heralded U.S. Cavalry unit shows off heritage in Miami***



By Navy Petty Officer 1st Class  
**Gabe Puello**  
Command Run Assistant Editor

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**M**IAMI -- One of the U.S. Army's most heralded cavalry units recently highlighted its rich heritage in the streets of Miami.

Sponsored by the Orange Bowl Committee and the U.S. Southern Command, Troop B, 4th U.S., Cavalry (Memorial), marched in this year's Jr. Orange Bowl (Dec. 29) and Orange Bowl (New Years Eve) parades per-

Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello  
**Army Maj. Stuart J. Gubler leads B Troop, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., into the Orange Bowl Parade in Miami Dec. 31.**

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## Troop B

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forming and demonstrating their early 1800's old west skills in front of thousands of onlookers. The troop also performed a demonstration Jan. 3 at U.S. Southern Command Headquarters' West field adjacent to the Thurman bldg.

The 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment is one of the most famous and most decorated regiments in the United States Army. In its 144 years of service to



**The troopers perform at the Orange Bowl Parade Dec. 31.**

the United States, the 4th Cavalry has fought in the Indian

**(Above) Several women members of B Troop ride wearing traditional 1880s dresses during the Orange Bowl Parade. (Above/left photos by Jo1 Gabe Puello)**

Wars, the Philippine Insurrection, World War II, Vietnam and



Photos/TSgt. Lee Roberts

**Members of B Troop perform for U.S. Southern Command personnel Jan. 3.**



**Brig. Gen. Jerry McAbee looks at one of the cavalry horses.**

the Gulf War. Its regimental standard is adorned

with 58 campaign streamers, three Presidential Unit Citations, three Valorous Unit Awards and the French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star.

Active duty soldiers and Department of the Army civilians wear authentic 1886 cavalry uniforms and are armed with the cavalry weapons of that era. Also, the horses are saddled and bridled with equally authentic equipment.

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## Troop B

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Currently the U.S. Army sponsors and maintains Troop B, 4th U.S. Cavalry (Memorial) at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. Organized in 1973 Troop B appears at military and civilian ceremonies and functions throughout the southwest to promote the heritage and traditions of the U.S. Army during the Indian Wars. The memorial troop is equipped and mounted identically to Troop B, 4th Cavalry in 1886 when it participated in the Geronimo Campaign under the command of Captain Henry W. Lawton.



Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

**B Troop, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, gallops past onlookers (inset photo) during a performance at the U.S. Southern Command Headquarters in Miami Jan. 3. The troopers also performed at the Jr. Orange Bowl and Orange Bowl parades.**

# Vanpooling \$aves lots more than gas

**By Larry Berger**  
J-4 Logistics Directorate

In the early 1970's when the "energy crisis" reared its ugly head and gasoline was hard to find – vanpools first emerged. Merging the concept of a carpool with a commuter bus motivated groups of people to ride together to and from work, thus saving gas, commuting and insurance costs,

and wear and tear on personal vehicles.

The U.S. Southern Command's first vanpool was formed more than a year ago for the very same reasons – to help defray the high cost of commuting. A total of four vans now transport 60 personnel daily from Miami-Dade and Broward Counties to the headquarters building.

As of January 2001, the appeal of vanpooling is incom-



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello

## A vanpool departs the U.S. Southern Command headquarters.

parable since the command has implemented the Department of Defense Mass Transportation Benefit Program.

Simply put, this is a government-wide program that authorizes the reimbursement of travel expenses, up to \$65 per

month, for government employees who utilize mass transit

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## Vanpool benefits

The average 15 passenger vanpool:

- Saves Gas – The van may be big but it gets a respectable 180 passenger miles per gallon.
- Takes 14 vehicles off the roads – and out of the workplace parking lots.
- Eliminates the vehicle emissions of 14 cars
- Eliminates the strain of the daily commute
- SAVES PASSENGERS COSTS...

- Reduces commuting costs
- Reduces Automobile insurance costs
- Reduces personal mileage (average of 12,000 miles per year) – extending vehicle life.

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in their daily commute. This includes commuter buses and trains, subway and light rail and of course, vanpooling. After registering for the program, participants pay their monthly costs and, at the end of each quarter, submit a claim for reimbursement.

### How does the South Florida Vanpool Program work?

Vanpools are privately owned by Vanpool Services Inc., a privately owned company sponsored through the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Florida Department of Transportation. The vans are leased to individual vanpool groups, but a monthly subsidy of \$400 per group is provided by Miami-Dade County. The monthly cost of the lease includes all maintenance (with back-

up vans available), insurance, and mileage allowance. The only additional costs are gasoline and tolls. There are three different vanpool configurations:

- Minivan (Dodge Caravan) which accommodate small groups (five to seven riders)
- Short wheelbase Vans to accommodate groups up to 12 riders
- Full-size, 15-passenger vans

There is no long-term commitment to the leases; the vans can be surrendered with 30 days advance notice. Vans are replaced every two years.

To make the vanpooling even more attractive, the program includes an Emergency Ride Home Program administered by South Florida Commuter Services, and the Florida Dept. of Transportation Re-

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## Vanpool

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gional Commuter Assistance Program.

### How does the Emergency Ride Home Program Work?

In the event of a personal or family emergency, or if required to work unscheduled overtime, program participants can use an ERH trip payment voucher to cover the cost (minus tip) of a taxi trip home or wherever the “emergency” dictates. Participants simply call



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello

### A van fills up with vanpool participants for the ride home from work.

**1-800-234-ride** to be connected to the appropriate Taxi Company and then present the voucher

at the end of the trip. The program is available to participants of the South Florida Vanpool Pro-

gram is limited to six times a year per individual and only for specified unexpected emergencies.

This program really does work – and now, with the Mass Transportation Benefit Program – Southern Command members can commute to and from work **AT LITTLE OR NO COST**. It doesn’t get much cheaper than that.

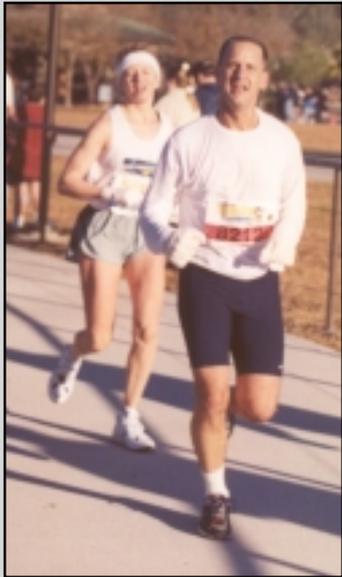
(Editor’s note: If anyone is interested in more information about vanpooling, call **Larry Berger at 305-437-1424**.)

gram who experience an “emergency” which meets program requirements. Use of the ERH Pro-

## Runners compete in Disney race

MIAMI -- Several U.S. Southern Command runners recently traveled to Walt Disney World Jan. 7 -- not for the entertainment -- but for a gruelling 26.2 mile run.

The road race wound its way through the Epcot Center, the Magic Kingdom, Animal Kingdom, Disney's Wide World of Sports, MGM Studios, Disney's BoardWalk Resort, and back to Epcot for the finish.

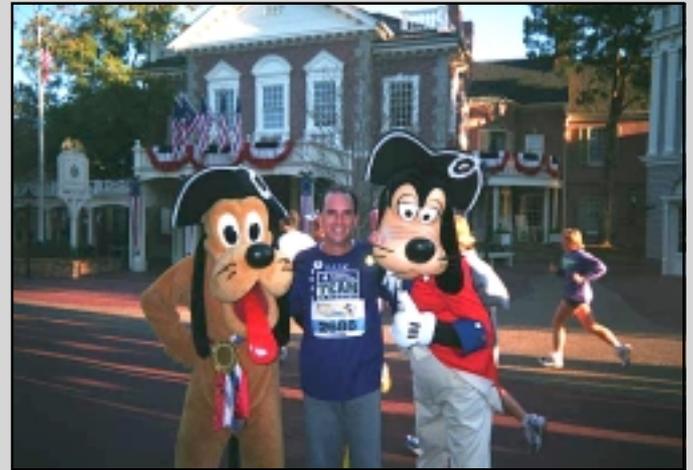


**Master Sgt. Mark Cozine runs the Walt Disney Marathon.**

Master Sgt. Mark Cozine, J-6, finished in 3 hours, 56

minutes. Maj. Patrick Dunnells, J-6, completed the race in 3:44:44.

Several command runners also ran on behalf of the Leukemia Society and raised nearly \$4,000 for the charity. These participants were Rachele Alvarez, J-5, who finished at 4:38:54, and Maj. Mark Salas, J-5, who clocked in at 4:20:00. Alvarez and Salas both said it was a hard race but worth a few sore muscles to help the Leukemia



**Maj. Mark Salas, J-5, poses with famous Disney characters Goofy and Pluto during the 2001 Walt Disney Marathon Jan. 7.**

Society and people less fortunate. ing every stage of the race.

The runners all commented how they enjoyed running the course, seeing the Disney characters and the scenery during every stage of the race. A total of 8,935 people participated in the marathon. Another 4,495 people ran in the half-marathon.

## New Army colonels

Congratulations to the following U.S. Southern Command lieutenant colonels on their selection for promotion to the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army:

- **Raymond J. Duncan, J-3**
- **Charles H. King, SCEN**
- **Wayne P. Richardson, Belize**
- **Sergio de la Pena, Chile**
- **James N. Martin, SCWFO**

## New Air Force majors

Congratulations to the following U.S. Southern Command captains on their selection for promotion to the rank of major in the U.S. Air Force:

- **Michael E. Calta**
- **William M. Jones**

## Quarterly board winners

Congratulations to the following enlisted members who recently won

their respective categories in the U.S. Southern Command's Enlisted Person of the Quarter competition for the fourth quarter of 2000:

Senior Category

- **Army Sgt. Joel Overson**

Junior Category

- **Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Carina Gharthey**

## Promotion selections

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

- **Brennan Byrne, J-3**
- **Harold Johnson, J-3**

## Decorations presented

Congratulations to the following who received "The Presidents Council on Year 2000 Conversion Decorations" from Lt. Gen. Joseph K. Kellogg Jr., Joint Chiefs of Staff J-6

Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Systems Directorate director, during the U.S. Southern Command Awards Ceremony at the Thurman Building Jan. 9:

- **Col. Kevin D. Johnson, J-3**
- **Lt. Col. John A. DelColliano, J-6**
- **Lt. Cmdr. Robert T. Kay, J-3**
- **Capt. Dawn Wallace, J-6**
- **Steve Digiulio, J-2**
- **Mimi A. Azcarraga, J-3**

## Did you know?

The U.S.  
Southern  
Command's  
Community  
Hotline  
Number is  
**1-888-547-4025.**



## Lt. Col. Robert G. Zebrowski



**Service:**  
**U.S. Army**  
**Organization:**  
**Office of the Chief of Staff**  
**Duty title:**  
**U.S. Army South liaison officer**  
**Time in service:**  
**18 years**  
**Hometown:**  
**Allentown, Pa.**

**Hobbies:** Working out with my dog  
**Favorite duty station:** National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., as a light infantry battalion S3 trainer  
**Career Highlights:** Company commander in 193rd Infantry Brigade in Panama during Operation Just Cause

## Karen Castleton



**Service:** Civilian (GS-12)  
**Organization:**  
**J-3 Operations Directorate**  
**Duty title:**  
**Exercise plans specialist**  
**Time in service:**  
**6 years**  
**Hometown:**  
**Panama Canal Zone**

**Hobbies:** Spending time with my husband and three boys, and exploring new sites in Miami and surrounding areas  
**Favorite duty station:** My favorite so far is the U.S. Southern Command. It's been great thus far  
**Career Highlights:** Receiving the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, and Superior Service Award



## **Military's new chief**

*President-elect George W. Bush is sworn in as the 43rd President of the United States by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William Renquist in Washington D.C., Jan. 20, 2001. President Bush is now the military's commander in chief. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lou Briscese)*