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The
Command  **Run**

Vol. 2 No. 8 ■ Miami ■ Aug. 31, 2001

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Photo by Air Force
Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

Bush nominates Pace for vice chairmanship

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24, 2001 — President Bush announced today his nomination of Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, 59, to become the 15th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Speaking to reporters at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, Bush added that Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, 55, would succeed Myers as vice chairman.

The current JCS chairman, Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton, is slated to retire Sept. 30.

Choosing a new JCS chairman is “one of the most important appoint-



President George Bush nominated Gen. Peter Pace, U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, Aug. 24 to become the next vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

ments a president can nominations.
make,” Bush said. The Sen- “Secretary (of Defense
ate must confirm both Donald) Rumsfeld and I

thought long and hard about this important choice, and we enthusiastically agree that the right man to preserve the best traditions of our armed forces, while challenging them to innovate to meet the threats of the future, is Gen. Richard B. Myers,” Bush said.

Bush called Myers, who has served as vice chairman since March 2000, an officer “of steady resolve and determined leadership” who “understands that the strengths of America’s armed forces are our people and our

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technological superiority.

“And, we must invest in both,” he added.

Pace “represents a new generation of leadership and military thinking,” Bush said, adding that he has spent “a substantial amount of time” working with both men and “is convinced they are the right people to lead our military into the future.”

Currently the commander of U.S. Southern Command in Miami, Pace is the first Marine to serve as vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

In making his announcements, Bush was accompanied by Rumsfeld, in Texas for force review and defense budget consultations, nominees Myers and Pace, and their wives.

The president has tasked DoD to transform the armed forces into “a



Gen. Peter Pace’s jet was diverted from its original return trip to Miami to Texas for President George

Bush’s announcement of Pace’s nomination to serve as vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Speaking at Bush’s ranch in Crawford, Pace thanked the president and secretary of defense for their “trust and confidence” and pledged to take great care of the wonderful men and women who serve this country in uniform.”

21st-century military that can deter aggression and help us extend peace” well into the new century, Rumsfeld

said. That kind of change is difficult and “not undertaken lightly. It takes clarity of vision, and unity of purpose, and it takes leadership. Gen. Dick Myers is such a leader.”

Myers was a fighter pilot in Vietnam, a former commander of U.S. Space Command, and was the assistant to former JCS Chairman Army Gen. John Shalikashvili. Rumsfeld characterized Myers’ military career as “the embodiment of the transformation with which he will be charged as chairman as the Joint Chiefs of Staff.”

Pace, a former deputy commander of U.S. Forces Japan, has extensive experience, having served “from the jungles of southeast Asia to the streets of Mogadishu,” Rumsfeld said. “General Pace has

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fought the country's fights, small and large, and demonstrated an extraordinary capacity for leadership along the way," he added, noting that Pace's "background, expertise and insight" would complement Myers'.

Under the leadership of Myers and Pace "the men and women of the U.S. armed forces are in fine hands," Rumsfeld said.

The secretary also used the occasion to thank Shelton, the outgoing chairman, for "his outstanding and his courageous service" and professionalism.

Shelton himself noted

in a Aug. 24 statement that he was pleased with Myers' and Pace's nominations, describing Myers as "a crucial and indispensable part of the national security team for the past two years," and praising Pace's "wide-ranging operational and joint experience."

Both nominees said being chosen humbled them. Myers noted that he had learned a great deal under Shelton's tutelage, adding he has "figuratively and literally enormous shoes to fill."

Pace said he and Myers "would work to take great care of the wonderful young men and women who serve this country in uniform." (AFPS)



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

Gen. Peter Pace, U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, reviews paperwork in his office. The general, 55, will succeed Air Force Gen. Richard Myers (nominated to be the next chairman) as the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Command Run

is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the *Command Run* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or DoD. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the U.S. Southern Command Public Affairs Office. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. Friday, a week before publication (the last Friday of each month). The public affairs staff reserves the right to edit all submissions to journalistic standards. All photos are official photos unless otherwise noted. Acceptance of input by the public affairs staff does not guarantee publication.

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Army's top NCO urges supervisors to 'take care of soldiers'

By Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts, USAF
U.S. Southern Command
Public Affairs

mand headquarters
Aug. 15.

Tilley, the Army's top NCO, linked many of the problems facing soldiers today to breakdowns in the chain of command, and he strongly urged leaders and supervisors at every level to refocus, get it right, and accept responsibility for the welfare of their troops. In other

MIAMI – He didn't pretend to have every answer for every question, nor did he attempt to "sugar coat" his responses. But Sergeant Major of the Army Jack L. Tilley did speak frankly about many of the problems facing soldiers while addressing troops here at the U.S. Southern Com-

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Jack L. Tilley

was sworn in as the 12th sergeant major of the Army June 23, 2000. A career soldier, Tilley has held many leadership positions within the Department of the Army and unified commands. Tilley was born in Vancouver, Wash., on Dec. 3, 1948, and entered the Army in November 1966. He's been a tank commander, section leader, drill sergeant, platoon sergeant, senior instructor, operations sergeant and first sergeant during his career.

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words, "take care of your soldiers," he said.

The 12th Sergeant Major of the Army also addressed what he calls the five top issues people raise when he visits with soldiers, which are pay, housing, health, retirement benefits and retention.

Military pay

"Pay is the number-one issue," Tilley said. The good news is the president has pledged \$1 billion for military pay in fiscal year 2002, he explained, although there are Congressmen who would like to see that figure go as high as \$1.3 billion.

As of now, the sergeant major said he believes it will be an across-the-board raise, but targeted to provide specific pay gaps between pay grades, as opposed to this year's raise that was targeted to the mid-level pay grades. For example, Tilley said he wants to see a \$500 difference between an E-9 and E-8; a \$300 difference between E-6 and E-7; and \$150 difference between E-4 and E-5. "Let's give everybody a raise at the same time, but let's make sure there is a reason to be promoted at every level," he said.

Housing

The number-two issue is housing. The Army has contracted the private sec-

tor to build adequate housing for soldiers on bases like Fort Carson, Colo., Fort Meade, Md., Fort Lewis, Wash., Fort Hood, Texas and others, Tilley said. In addition, the president has increased spending to base infrastructure from the 68 percent to 90-plus percent level. "It's a good news story for us," Tilley said, because improvements will be made to housing, fitness, dining, and numerous other facilities.

Another related housing issue is the basic allowance for housing, also known as "BAH." Congress wants to eliminate out-of-pocket expenses for hous-

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Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

Sergeant Major of the Army Jack L. Tilley meets with U.S. Southern Command soldiers at the headquarters in Miami Aug. 15. Tilley stressed the importance of supervisors taking care of soldiers.

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ing by the year 2005; however, Tilley said it would be a difficult goal to achieve so long as communities around installations continue to raise the rent every time a raise in “BAH” is given.

Health

The number-three issue is health, in particular... TRICARE, the Department of Defense’s managed health care plan. Tilley said he was recently asked to speak to a few TRICARE

administrative people. When he got there and entered the auditorium the group was more like about 3,000 people. He talked to them and stressed three things – pay the medical bills on time, allow payment for service in other regions, and make the appointment system more user friendly.

Two months ago, TRICARE had more than 7,000 bills that were 30 days late. This month there were only 17, another success story, Tilley

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said. In addition, TRICARE is now in the process of allowing national coverage, so people covered in one region won't have to pay unexpectedly out of pocket when receiving care in another region. And finally, Tilley added, TRICARE is working on improving their appointment system, which takes a long time, especially when using the telephone push-button system.

Retirement benefits

The number-four issue is retirement benefits. The perception many people have in the Army is that they are losing their retire-



Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts
(Left) Sergeant Major of the Army Jack L. Tilley makes a point during the question and answer session. He often stopped during the session to interact with soldiers. (Right) Army Pfc. Timothy Council and Spc. Debbie Watson from Army Signal Activity stand to address the Army's top NCO during his visit to the U.S. Southern Command Aug. 15. Tilley also took time after speaking about Army issues to have his picture taken with many of the command's soldiers.

ment benefits, Tilley said. Ironically, he added, few people I ask even know

what their retirement benefits really are.

"We're going to fix

that," Tilley said. "What we're going to do is put retirement benefits in BNCOC (Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course) and ANCO (Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course). That's a big deal. We're going to have a system in place that starts educating you a lot earlier. That is what we need to do because most of us don't know anything about our benefits until we get up to the time that we have to retire."

Retention

The number-five issue is related to retention. According to Tilley, many people are lured into the

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Army with money bonuses and educational benefits, but then get out after one enlistment because they feel they aren't being paid enough. First of all, anyone who came in the Army to get rich is in the wrong profession, he said. Secondly, getting higher pay is commensurate to getting promoted to a higher grade.

"But, having said that, there are some things we can do to make it better for you," Tilley said. In the near future, financial and investment planning will be added to the residence (for active

duty) and distance learning (Guard and Reservists) Professional Leadership Development Course (PLDC). The sergeant major of the Army hopes this will help young soldiers be smart with their finances and help them when they decide whether or not to reenlist.

Tilley also fielded questions on education, Guard and Reserve benefits, housing priorities, utilization of soldiers, security clearance backlogs, cost of lodging allowances, retirement and financial planning, professional military education and proficiency pay.

A lot of soldiers were particularly interested in Tilley's take on serving in a

joint-duty assignment and how that can affect a person's career and promotion opportunities.

A former sergeant major at the U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Fla., Tilley said he knew firsthand the value of serving with members of the Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. "What I found was as long as your performance was very good coming into a joint assignment, a joint assignment would not hurt you," he said. "In fact, I think a lot of people look at it very favorably now when you have a joint assignment."

Tilley did say he believed a three-year tour was about right, then a sol-

dier should return to the Army. "An extended period of time like six or seven years I don't think is good for you. You kind of feel isolated and you may not get all the important information from your service. The Army moves very fast. Things occur very quickly. So I think it's a good idea to go back to the Army after three years."

Following the question and answer session, Tilley thanked everyone for their honesty and straight forwardness, and he promised to address issues discussed when he returns to the Army Staff and during Congressional testimony.



Issues forum

Gen. Peter Pace, U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, welcomes participants of the Caribbean Chiefs of Mission Conference Aug. 9 to the headquarters in Miami. The two-day conference gave Department of State and DoD officials a forum to discuss theater strategy, counterdrug operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster preparedness issues in the Caribbean.

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

Cabañas 2001 kicks off in Argentina

By Lt. j.g. Frank Kostenko, USN
U.S. Southern Command Public
Affairs

SALTA, ARGENTINA – “Practice makes perfect,” as the old saying goes... is just what officials at Cabañas 2001 hope will be the end result of the multinational peacekeeping exercise that kicked off with an opening ceremony here Aug. 22.

More than 1,300 participants from the United States, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay stood on the parade field together as flags were raised and anthems were



Photo by Navy Lt. j.g. Frank Kostenko
Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division march in formation during the Cabañas 2001 opening ceremony.

played. They honored each other, but the events also symbolized how, under the umbrella of the United

Nations, these nations can mutually promote world peace.

Brig. Gen. Jorge

Alberto Olivera, commanding general of the host nation's Argentine 5th Mechanized Brigade Command, spoke at the opening ceremony and said, “Today we find ourselves uniting our forces to cope with the new and many challenging changes in which we all must live in. And without a doubt one of those changes and possibly the most altruistic and difficult achievement, is that of contributing to the maintenance of peace worldwide.”

The honorable Walter Raul Wayer, vice governor

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of the province of Salta, and Brig. Gen. Remo Butler, commander of U.S. Special Operations Command South, echoed Olivera at the ceremony on the importance of working together side by side as partner nations during Cabañas 2001 to carry out peaceful missions.

Cabañas 2001, sponsored by the U.S. Southern Command headquarters in Miami, involves approximately 400 U.S. airmen, sailors and



Photo by Navy Lt. j.g. Frank Kostenko
Argentinian soldiers march in review during the opening ceremonies of Cabañas 2001 at Salta, Argentina Aug. 22. Argentina is hosting the multinational peacekeeping exercise involving more than 1,300 people.

soldiers and 900 military personnel from the other regional participants. In addition, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela have sent observers to the 20-day ex-

ercise that will teach numerous tactics in the field and classroom environments, and then put the soldiers in real-world scenarios.

The purpose of the exercise will be to teach and promote U.N. worldwide peacekeeping, but will also focus on setting up a coalition headquarters, becoming familiar with national and nongovernmental organizations, and increasing regional cooperation by teaching the participants multinational force skills.

During the exercise, instructors will

cover topics such as civil military operations, civil unrest, convoy and checkpoint tactics, landing-zone operations, and dealing with media. Other training aspects emphasized will include tactical troop movements, food distribution, identification and marking of mines, and security operations.

The multinational forces will train together in the largest joint and combined service exercise held in the region until Cabañas 2001 culminates Sept. 11.

A new colonel

Maj. Gen. Alfred A. Valenzuela (Left), commander of U.S. Army South in Puerto Rico, promotes Army Lt. Col. Frederick Maxwell, J-6 Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Systems Directorate, to the rank of colonel during a ceremony Aug. 2 at the U.S. Southern Command Headquarters in Miami. Maxwell's wife Lila assists the general. Maxwell's daughters Michelle and Melanie were also present. (Photo by Army Sgt. Lucy J. Pabon)



Americas' Marine, Naval leaders meet... set stage for achievements

By Staff Sgt. Chuck Albrecht, USMC

U.S. Marine Corps Forces South

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador – Marine Corps history was made recently, when the 16 Marine and Naval Infantry leaders representing the Americas, met for the first time ever at the Americas' Conference of Marine Leaders.

The Commandant of the Ecuadorian Marine Corps, Capt. Valdemar

Sanchez and the Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, Gen. James L. Jones hosted the forum July 16 – 18, which was intended to promote the professional exchange of information and to develop personal relations among the Marine and Naval Infantry leaders of the Americas.

The Senior Marine Corps and Naval Infantry leaders from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela were present.

“It feels like we are

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Photo by Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Chuck Albrecht
Capt. Valdemar Sanchez (Far left), Ecuadorian Marine Corps, escorts Gen. James L. Jones, U.S. Marine Corps commandant, while he receives military honors at Base Naval de San Eduardo, Ecuador July 17.

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passing through a historic moment that will be engraved in our histories for a long, long time,” said Capt. Valdemar Sanchez, Commandant of the Ecuadorian Marine Corps. “We needed to get together to understand that as Marine leaders we have a lot in common. By developing cooperation with each other, we have a tremendous advantage in improv-

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Photo by Marine Staff Sgt. Chuck Albrecht

(Left to right) Capt. Raphael Alphonso Reneau Franco, Guatemala; Capt. Alberto Lombardi, Uruguay; Capt. Miguel Caballero De La Loggia, Paraguay; Capt. Valdemar Sanchez, Ecuador; Capt. Rolando Gonzales Flores, Honduras; Capt. Juan Estrada Garcia, Nicaragua; Capt. Jose Misael Vanegas Fonseca, El Salvador. (Front row from left to right) Adm. Tito Salazar Yanez, Mexico; Rear Adm. Gaston Arriagada Rodriguez, Chile; Rear Adm. Julio Cesar Caceres Carvajal, Colombia; Gen. James L. Jones, United States; Adm. Carlos Augusto Costa, Brazil; Rear Adm. Luis Gerardo Castillo Omana, Venezuela; Vice Adm. Mario Gutierrez Rea, Bolivia; Rear Adm. Oscar Alfredo Monnereau, Argentina; Rear Adm. Jorge Campana Binasco, Peru, pose during the Americas' Conference of Marine Leaders July 18 at Guayaquil, Ecuador.

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ing relationships throughout the Americas.”

The three-day conference featured an array of Ecuadorian hospitality to include a reception at the Colon Hilton, Guayaquil’s finest five-star hotel. The second and third days of the conference featured formal overview briefings from each of the Marine Corps and Naval Infantry leaders. During the briefing, Gen. Jones’ main points included the United States’ and the Marine Corps’ global strategy of less reliance on fixed bases and the growing emphasis on expeditionary forces.

An Ecuadorian Marine demonstrates the proper technique used to negotiate the “slide for life” at Base Naval de San Eduardo, Ecuador July 17. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Chuck Albrecht, USMC)



General Jones also discussed the “light footprint” concept of conducting exercises and operations abroad and not placing too great a load on our hosts. Afterwards, professional discussions between each of the leaders ranged from the development of new bi-lateral training opportunities to the hosting of a worldwide Commandants’ conference in 2002.

The Marine leaders

also visited the Ecuadorian Marine Corps base, Base Naval de San Eduardo which featured several live-fire demonstrations, a capabilities exhibit from the Ecuadorian Underwater Demolition Team and a ceremony featuring the pageantry of the Ecuadorian *Infanteria de Marina*. After-hours social events included a dinner party hosted by Michael Glover, the U.S. Consul General in

Guayaquil and an evening social at Club La Union, Guayaquil’s most elite club, hosted by retired Adm. Hugo Unda Aguirre, Ecuador’s Defense Minister.

According to Sanchez, by conference end, new friendships and personal relations formed and information was exchanged, making the historic event a success.

“This conference has been extremely productive... beyond what we expected,” Sanchez explained. “It’s the first step for greater achievements in the future. As Marines we all share a common bond and it’s great to know that we all have friends throughout the Americas.”



Eagle time

Army Brig. Gen. Galen Jackman (Left), J-3 Operations Directorate director, promotes Army Lt. Col. Gary W. Whitehead to the rank of colonel during a ceremony Aug. 1 at the Commander in Chief's Briefing Room. Whitehead's wife Kathy assists. Whitehead's son James, 16, was also present at the event. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)

Airmen begin pedaling to gauge fitness levels

By Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Sherwood
U.S. Southern Command Public Affairs

MIAMI – It's full speed ahead on a stationary bike for Air Force members here at U.S. Southern Command, a high-ranking command official recently announced.

Brig. Gen. Robert Bishop, the Air Force Element commander and director of the J-5 Strategy, Policy, and Plans Directorate, said during a commanders call Aug. 6 that airmen assigned to the command will begin taking the annual ergometry fitness test beginning in Oc-

Senior Master Sgt. Jesse Streets, J-6 Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Systems Directorate, takes a spin Aug. 23 on the command's new ergometry bike, which Air Force members will use to take their physical fitness test beginning in October. Tech. Sgt. Lisa Grapes administers the practice test.



tober. In addition, the general said the fitness test would include sit-ups and pushups, although the tally

would not be officially counted until January 2002.

Officials recently ob-

tained the necessary cycling and computer equipment to administer the test and were able to set up permanently in the Thurman Building's Room 1501C. Although the Air Force's Ergometry Test has been mandatory since 1992, the necessary equipment and room have been unavailable since the commands arrival in Miami in 1997.

The new physical fitness test, which includes pushups and sit-ups, is a turning point for the United States Air Force. Previous tests measured endurance with one tool,

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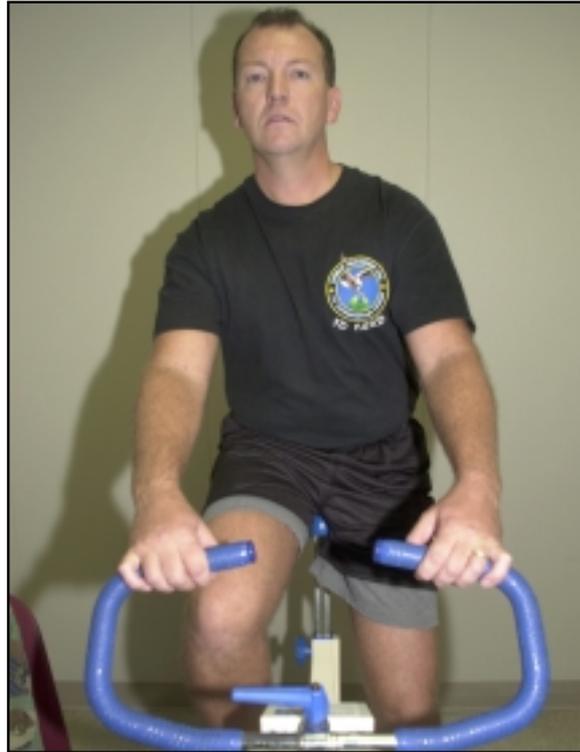
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the cycle ergometry test. In 1995, the Defense Department directed each of the services to test for strength, endurance and body fat. The Air Force's four-star commanders approved overall guidelines for the strength test in early 2000, and announced the new standards in May of the same year.

The command's Air Force members are encouraged to take part in a voluntary test through Sept. 30, which includes all elements of the mandatory test: cycle, pushups and sit-ups.

According to Master Sgt. Karen Thompson, J-1 Manpower and Personnel Directorate, preparation for the new test will be key to passing. Cardiovascular exercises are ideal for personnel preparing for the



The ergometry portion of the fitness test takes approximately 4 to 12 minutes to complete.

ergometry test, she recommends. And of course a regiment of pushups and sit-ups are a must.

In recent months, test coordinators within the command received special training at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., in order to operate and conduct the fitness test. The classes are mandatory to ensure coordinators can operate the computer, run the software, and monitor the health of each person taking the test.

Before taking the test, airmen have a limited amount of paperwork to complete. "They will go through a briefing, and will have to give a brief medical history and medications being taken," Thompson explained.

The physical portion of the test takes approximately 20 to 25 minutes. The first four to 12 minutes are for the bike test, two minutes each for pushups and sit-ups, and brief rest periods between. Before ergometry testing begins, airmen

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attach a heart monitor to their chest area so the coordinator can monitor their heart rate. Because it is a relatively easy task for people to attach the heart monitor to themselves, it is not necessary to have a coordinator of the same gender.

(Editor's note: airmen who wish to practice taking the ergometry test before the Oct. 1 startup date can call Tech. Sgt. Lisa Grapes at Ext. 1716 or Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Greenburg at Ext. 1721 to make an appointment.)



Tech. Sgt. Lisa Grapes, U.S. Army Garrison Miami, facilitates a practice ergometry fitness test to Senior Master Sgt. Streets Aug. 23. Grapes and several other airmen had to take a special course at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., to administer the test.



Fox promoted

Maj. Gen. Gary D. Speer (Left), U.S. Southern Command deputy commander in chief, promotes Army Lt. Col. Michael E. Fox, J-2 Intelligence Directorate, to the rank of colonel during a ceremony Aug. 1 at the Commander in Chief's Briefing Room. Fox's wife Joan assists the general with the promotion. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)

Military Thrift Savings Plan enrollments begin Oct. 9

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20, 2001 — Service members starting Oct. 9 can choose to contribute a percentage of their pay to the military's thrift savings and investment program as part of building a nest egg for retirement.

The TSP, administered by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, previously has been available only to federal civilian

employees. The fiscal 2001 Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act extended TSP participation to active duty and reserve component members of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard, and uniformed members of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

TSP is separate from and in addition to the military retirement system, which is based on years of service and rank.

The first enrollment window for persons who entered military service on or before Dec. 8, 2001, is from Oct. 9, 2001, to Jan. 31, 2002. Persons who enroll during this period will see

TSP contributions deducted each month from their pay starting in January 2002. Persons who join the uniformed services after Dec. 8, 2001, will have 60 days after entering service to enroll in the TSP.

After the special first enrollment period, service members may use two "open seasons" each year to join, quit or change the amount of their contributions. Currently, these periods are May 15 through July 31 and Nov. 15 through Jan. 31.

Military members enroll in TSP by completing a TSP election form and submitting it through their local service branch finance office.

Enrollment forms are

available for download on the TSP Web site, <http://www.tsp.gov>, or can be obtained at local military finance offices.

Participants can invest any whole percentage of up to 7 percent of their base pay in any or all of five TSP funds:

■ The conservative G Fund consists exclusively of investments in short-term, nonmarketable U.S. Treasury securities specially issued to TSP. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 6.74 percent.

■ The F Fund is TSP's bond market index fund. Since 1991, the fund has earned

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an annual average of 7.87 percent — and 12.78 percent in the past 12 months ending July 31.

■ The C Fund is TSP's large-company U.S. stock index fund. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 17.43 percent, but it has reported a 14.3 percent loss in the past 12 months ending July 31.

■ The S Fund is TSP's medium and small company stock index fund.

The I Fund is its international stock index fund. Both funds opened in May, so neither has a long-term track record.

Only G Fund investments and earnings are backed by the U.S. government against loss. TSP participants risk losing some or all their investments and earnings in the F, C, S and I funds — but the funds' earning potential is unlimited.

Service members can contribute as little as 1 percent of their base pay per pay period, up to the 7 percent limit in

2002. The limit increases by 1 percent per year until 2005, after which contributions will be limited by Internal Revenue Code guidelines.

Members may also elect to contribute any amount of incentive pay or special pay, to include bonus pay.

Like civilian workers covered by the old Civil Service Retirement System, service members generally will not receive TSP matching funds from the government. One exception is troops in specialties designated critical by their service

secretaries; those receiving matching funds will be obligated to serve a six-year active duty commitment.

Strict rules apply to service members' withdrawal of funds from TSP accounts before they retire. Federal and state income taxes on investments and earnings are deferred so long as the money stays in the TSP account.

Withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income, and early withdrawals are penalized under some circumstances.

Military members who already

have a civilian TSP account, such as past and present federal civilian employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve, can open an entirely separate, second TSP account.

The 47-page booklet "Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for the Uniformed Services" and other information on military participation in TSP can be found on the Web at www.tsp.gov. The booklet requires the free Adobe Acrobat reader to view.

News briefs

Separating?

If you are within 180 days of separation or within one year of retirement, there is a mandatory pre-separation briefing 2:30 to 4 p.m. Sept. 7, 14 and 28 at the Education Center at the Codina Building located at 8300 NW 33rd Street in Miami.

These briefings are a prerequisite for the four-day Transition Assistance Program workshops that are held quarterly (The next one is July

16-19). For more information, call Michela Barrow at **(305) 437-2665** or **2632**.

BX shuttle

The U.S. Southern Command runs a shuttle from the Thurman Building north entrance to the Homestead Air Reserve Station BX Mart every Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. and returns when all patrons are done shopping or conducting business, which is no later than 2:30 p.m. The shuttle is for all

military and civil service personnel. Family members can also utilize the shuttle to Homestead.

Universal trip

The U.S. Southern Command's director of Community Activities is sponsoring a trip Sept. 22 to Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla. Cost for the trip is \$46.50 for adults and \$37 for children age 3 to 9. Departure is at 6 a.m. from the headquarters building. Deadline to sign up is Sept. 19. Call **(305) 437-**

2639 to sign up or for more information.

TAP workshop

The next transition assistance program workshop is Oct. 22-25 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the La Quinta Hotel, 8730 NW 27th Street. For more information or to sign up call **(305) 437-2671** or **2726**.

Newcomer's

The Family Support Center is sponsoring a newcomers briefing 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 14 at

the Base Operations Education Center located at the Codina Building, Suite 110, 8300 NW 33rd Street.

The briefing includes presentations from the TRICARE representative; SOUTHCOM Health Clinic; Housing Office; Traffic Management Office; Education Office; Legal Office; Quality of Life Office; Morale, Welfare, and Recreation; DoD Police; and

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chaplain. For more information or to reserve your seat at the briefing, call **(305) 437-2667**.

Miami area tour

The Family Support Center is sponsoring its monthly Miami area tour 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Sept. 28.

The tour is free to military personnel and their families. The tour begins and ends at the Codina Building, Suite 110, at 8300 NW 33 Street. For more information or to sign up for the tour, call **(305) 437-2665**.

Resume class

The Family Support

Center is sponsoring a resume writing workshop and cover letter workshop 3 to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 12 at the Base Operations Education Center located at the Codina Building, Suite 110, 8300 NW 33rd Street.

Interviewing class

The Family Support Center is sponsoring an interviewing skills workshop 3 to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 26 at the Base Operations Education Center located at the Codina Building, Suite 110, 8300 NW 33rd Street.

Finance class

The Family Support

see **Briefs**

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Photo by Air Force Capt. Thomas Crosson

Groovin' up the Grove

Army Staff Sgt. Carol Tillman (Right), J-2 Intelligence Directorate, passes a patch of grass sod to another volunteer involved in "Groovin up the Grove," a United Way effort to revive Elizabeth Virrick Park in Coconut Grove with plants, shrubs, painted and mosaic murals, and a hip new playground. Ten U.S. Southern Command personnel volunteered to work on this local community service project.

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Center is sponsoring a basic personal finance class 2 to 4 p.m. Sept. 28 at the Base Operations Education Center located at the Codina Building, Suite 110, 8300 NW 33rd Street.

The class covers subjects such as banking, budgeting, credit, debt reduction, mutual funds and insurance. This is an introductory class designed for junior personnel and family members.

Dinner cruise

The U.S. Southern Command's director of Community Activities is sponsoring a trip 5 p.m.

Sept. 8 onboard the Jungle Queen. Dinner includes barbecue ribs and shrimp. Cost for the trip is \$26.50 per person.

Deadline to sign up is Sept. 6. Call (305) 437-2639 to sign up or for more information.

Space center trip

The U.S. Southern Command's director of Community Activities is sponsoring a trip Oct. 6 to the Kennedy Space Center near Orlando, Fla.

Cost for the trip is \$21.50 for adults and \$7.95 for children age 3 to 10. Call (305) 437-2639 to sign up or for more information.

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Honor Roll

Senior Service College selections

Congratulations to the following U.S. Southern Command Army officers on their recent selection/revalidation for the Senior Service College Selection Board List Aug. 7:

- Lt. Col. Paul Flynn, J-5
- Lt. Col. Thomas W. Kula, SCEN
- Col. Joseph Contarino III, Ecuador
- Lt. Col. Hector E. Pagan, SOCSO
- Lt. Col. Joseph F. Napoli, SCCC

Quarterly winners

Congratulations to the following U.S. Southern Command Enlisted Members of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2001:

Senior Category

- Army Sgt. Moises N. Robles, J-6

Junior Category

- Army Spc. Richard Ward, J-2

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Spouse Expo

The U.S. Southern Command's first-ever Spouse Expo is 9:45 a.m. to noon Oct. 19 at the Radisson Mart Plaza Hotel and Convention Center located at 711 NW 72nd Avenue in Miami. The event gives spouses information about TRICARE, schools, libraries, local area safety, ZIP-Code coffee groups, parks and recreation programs, hurricane safety, transportation, financial counseling and budget analysis, childcare informa-

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Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

Top dog winners

Brig. Richard Gen. Richard Huck (Left), U.S. Southern Command chief of staff, recognizes the recipients of the "Top Dog Certificate," given for superb staff work in support of the commander in chief, during a ceremony at the Commanders in Chief Briefing Room Aug. 2. Left to right are Huck, Angel Rodriguez, Staff Sgt. Jorge Lopez, Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey Johnston, and Lt. Col. Chris Higgins.

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tion, spouse employment assistance, education, housing, local area attractions and more. Call Jennifer Harms at (305) 437-2667 to RSVP, sign up for child care or for more information.

Brown bag it

A brown bag lunch is planned 11:30 a.m. Sept. 21 in Room 2404 at the Thurman Building where the participants will be able to discuss health and fitness issues. Call (305) 437-1152 to sign up.

Legal education

The Office of the Judge

Advocate General is accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education Program. The Army projects sending up to 15 active duty commissioned officers in the ranks of lieutenant through captain to law school at government expense if funding permits. Selected officers will attend law school beginning in the fall of 2002 and will remain on active duty while attending law school. Interested officers should call Lt. Col. Mark Gingras at the U.S. Southern Command Legal Office at (305) 437-1306 for more information on eligibility and how to apply.

Scholarship

The Public Employees

Roundtable Scholarship Program awards money to full time college students pursuing careers in public service. Applicants must have a minimum 3.5 grade point average and preference is given for community service, volunteer or previous public service. For more information, call Ana Barbosa-Zeinieh at (305) 437-1141.

Zip Code meetings

The Zip Code Coffee Groups meetings allow spouses to meet other spouses and exchange ideas, babysitters, places to go, best bargains, best doctors, and more.

Call the following coordinators to get involved:

In Kendall, Ham-

mocks, Central Dade and South Dade, call Missy Whiddon at (305) 971-3131 or Linda Payne at (786) 242-9249.

In Weston, Davie, Plantation, Fort Lauderdale, Coral Springs and North, call Harriot Johnston at (954) 385-2296.

In Pembroke Pines, Cooper City, Hollywood, Miramar, call Melissa Badami at (954) 443-7732.

In Doral and North Dade, call Valerie Peralta at (305) 436-8340 or Gabriela Scott at (305) 468-8947.

Next Tent Sale

The next Defense Commissary Agency Tent Sale is planned Nov. 15 through 18 at the headquarters.

Don't like the local schools... be a part of the solution

Have you had any difficulties with your children and their schools in Florida? Now you can contribute to the solution by participating in a **Military Family Transition Schools Working Group**. Did you relocate to Florida? Did your child have problems with course accreditation, grade point average definitions or participation in sports teams/clubs/honor societies? What happens when a student enters a Florida High School as a junior? Or maybe

your school age youth has experienced problems with any of the following:

- Missing the FCAT or other testing
- Graduation requirements
- Reciprocity/transfer of credits from another state into Florida or duplicating courses because Florida is unwilling to accept course definitions
- Home schooling standards
- School calendar differences
- Guidance Counselor support for the student to prepare

for College

- Guidance Counselor support for social, emotional and academic issues
- lessen impact of entering new social setting of the Florida school
- Participation in school clubs, honor societies, sport teams
- did the movement into the Florida school in mid year or into a high school in the sophomore or junior year exclude participation
- Special education, talented and gifted program issues
- Parent, teacher

partnerships/collaboration on curriculum etc.

Studies indicate that children connected to the armed forces are three times more likely to change schools than other students. Many move 10 times or more before college, as many as two or three times in high school alone. Additionally, the fact that 11 percent of members are in joint-service marriages creates more difficulties than society at large.

The U.S. Southern Command would

like to identify issues and challenges that youth face when transferring into Florida schools. The objective is to establish a local and statewide military community consensus for improvements. These recommendations will eventually be presented to Florida State officials and Gov. Jeb Bush.

The **Military Family Transition Schools Working Group** has been established to identify

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Solution

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school transition issues for school age youth entering the state of Florida. Each base/installation, in all of the services within the state of Florida, has a representative on the working group. Michael L. Rhodes, advisor to the commander in chief for sustaining base quality of life affairs, chairs the working group.

People can identify issues by participating in a focus group meeting (First one will be in late September or early October). Focus groups will include parents, youths and educators. The focus groups are modeled on the Army Family

Army announces E-7 promotions

The Army released the results of the 2001 Army Sergeant First Class Promotion List Aug. 23.



Congratulations to the following U.S. Southern Command soldiers who received notification of their promotions:

■ **Antonio Carter, SCDC**

- **Ralph Dubois, J-2**
- **Carol Guitierrez, J-2**
- **Brian Hankinson, J-2**
- **Gerald Tillman, J-6**
- **Jeremy Schroeder, JIATF-East**

New Army majors

Congratulations to the following Army captains who were selected this week for promotion to the rank of major:

- **David C. Drescher, J-2**
- **Steven T. Gill, J-2**
- **Larry L. Roberts, J-2**

- **Brian S. England, J-1**
- **Roderick J. Hammond, SCDC**
- **Darren D. Lynn, J-5**

Announcements

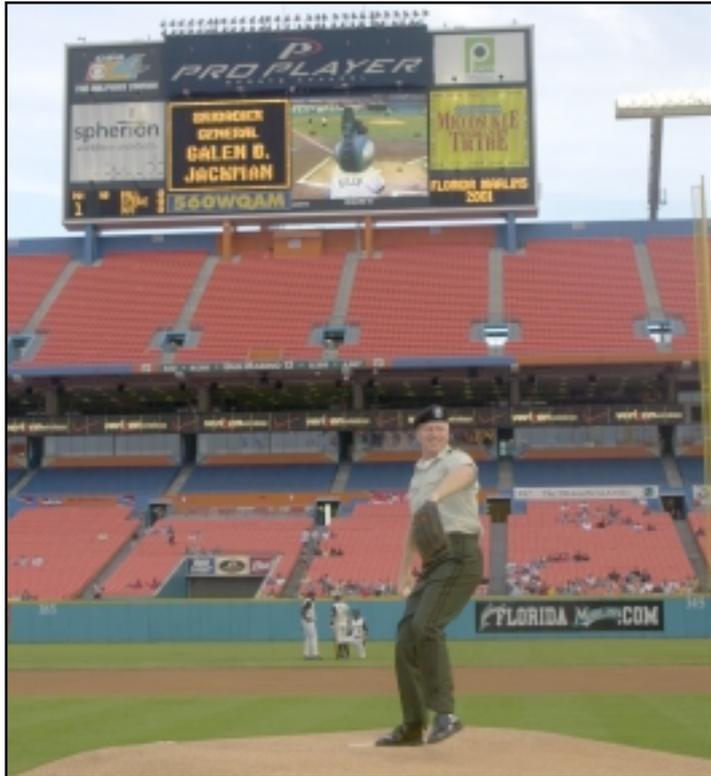
If someone has received an award, gotten promoted, or received some other form of recognition, submit that person's name and information to Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts, at the Public Affairs Office, Room 1240, for publication.

Action Planning Process. To get involved E-mail tricarim@hq.southcom.mil or call Maurice Tricarico (305) 437-1019 by Sept. 14.

After the issues and recommendations have been identified, they will be presented to the officials of the state of Florida. The state and Governor Bush

have established an excellent track record for accepting issues and alleviating problems for the military community within Florida.

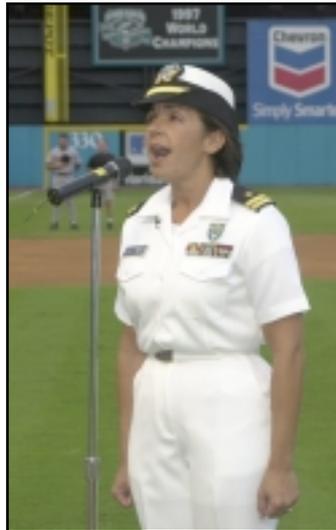
Command a 'hit' at Florida Marlins game



Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts
Brig. Gen. Galen Jackman, J-3 Operations Directorate director, throws out the first pitch at the Florida Marlins game Aug. 10.



Brig. Gen. Galen Jackman poses with "Billie the Marlin."



The U.S. Southern Command's Honor Guard posts the colors at the Florida Marlins game versus the Houston Astros Aug. 10 at Pro Player Stadium in Miami, which the Astros won 7-2. (Left) Navy Lt. Cmdr. Amelia Reguera, J-2 Intelligence Directorate, sings the National Anthem just prior to the game.

J-2 claims victory at command's annual field day

Official Results

Volleyball

J-6, ASA

Closest to the pin (golf)

J-1/J-8

Punt, pass and kick (football)

J-2

Tug of war

Command Group

Water balloon toss

Command Group

Four person relay race

J-2

Human foosball

J-2

3-on-3 basketball

USAG-Miami

Overall team winner

J-2 Intelligence Directorate



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Martha Ruiz

Gen. Peter Pace, U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Laye present the Commander in Chief's Trophy Aug. 17 to team members of the J-2 Intelligence Directorate's Field Day championship team. The J-2 took the prize by accumulating the most points from the 3-on-3 basketball, volleyball, closest to the pin (golf), punt pass and kick (football), tug of war, human foosball, and balloon toss competitions. **(See more photos on page 33)**



Photo/Sgt. Lucy J. Pabon

(Left) The children participated this year in a number of fun events, including the potato sack race. (Right) Staff Sgt. Samuel Taylor, Army Signal Activity, serves it up during the volleyball competition.



Photo/Sgt. Lucy J. Pabon



Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Martha Ruiz



Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Martha Ruiz
The 3-on-3 basketball games attracted a lot of fierce competitors. U.S. Army Garrison-Miami walked away with bragging rights.



Photo/Sgt. Lucy J. Pabon

(Above) The J-6 gives their all in a tug of war match. (Left) Michael Ruiz and his dog "Baron" enjoy being in the shade during the Field Day. Michael is the son of Master Sgt. Adalberto Ruiz, J-2 Intelligence Squadron, and his wife Vicky.

Lt. Cmdr. Mary Lou Downing



Service: U.S. Navy
Organization:
J-4 Logistics Directorate
Duty title:
Logistics officer
Time in service: 21 years
Hometown: Lake Worth, Fla.
Hobbies: Computers, reading,
and always trying to prepare
for the physical fitness test

Favorite duty station: U.S. Southern Command as a reservist

Career highlights: Getting promoted to lieutenant commander

Raquel Ayuso



Service: Contractor
Organization: Army Signal
Activity Help Desk
Duty title: Staff systems
analyst
Time in service: 8 months
Hometown: Bethesda, Md.
Hobbies: Getting Microsoft
certification
Favorite duty station:
Augsburg, Germany and

Vicenza Italy

Career highlights: Acquiring position at the U.S. Southern Command

Keeping in touch

Brig. Gen. Robert D. Bishop, J-5 Strategy, Policy, and Plans Directorate director, and U.S. Southern Command's Air Force Element commander, talks to the command's airmen during a commander's call Aug. 6 at the Main Conference Room. The general, who recently joined the command, introduced himself, discussed a number of service-related issues, and then answered questions. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)

