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In the world's spotlight

U.S. moves detainees to Guantanamo Bay



The
Command  **Run**

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Photo by Navy Chief
Petty Officer Gabe Puello

Command Run

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Joint Task Force set up in Cuba to oversee al-Qa'ida detainees

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - More than 1,300 U.S. service members are at U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to provide security for the al Qa'ida detainees under U.S. control.

The base is serving as a temporary holding facility for al Qaeda, Taliban and other detainees that

come under U.S. control during the war on terrorism, DoD officials said. The U.S. Southern Command is in charge of the operation.

Southern Command has activated Joint Task Force-160 to head the detainee operations. The task force is under the command of Marine Brig. Gen. Michael

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Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Steve Faulisi

An Air Force C-141 Starlifter touches down at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba Jan. 11 with the first group of detainees.

Lehnert from Camp Lejeune, N.C. The task force includes active duty service members from Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Roosevelt

Roads, P.R.; Camp Lejeune; Norfolk, Va.; Dover Air Force Base, Del., and Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. Reserve component personnel are also deployed

on this mission. Most personnel are military police.

The service members are staffing the maximum-security installation housing the detainees, provid-

ing for the detainees' security, and performing support functions, Southern

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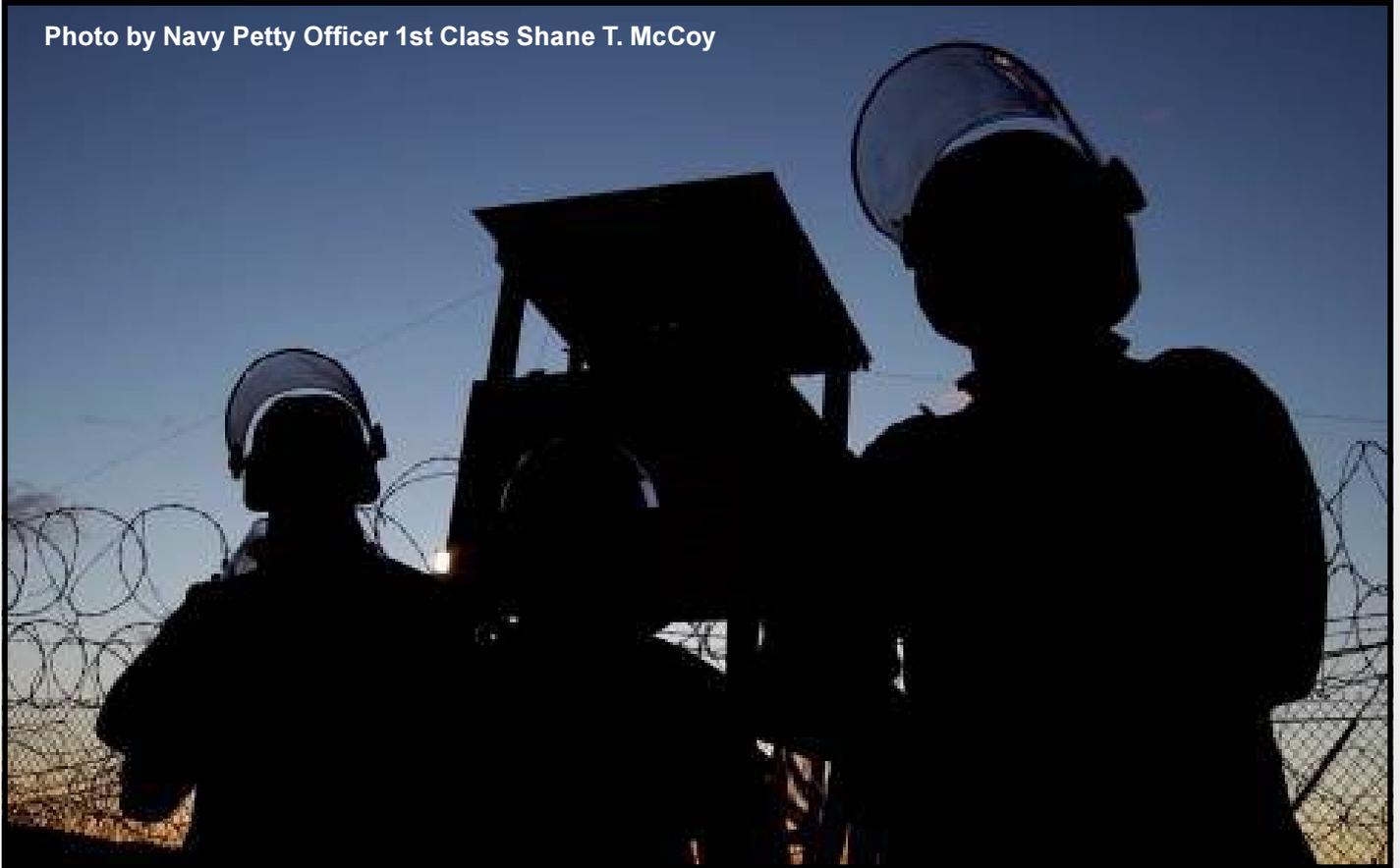
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Command officials said.

Up to 2,000 detainees could be housed at the facility, officials said. There are currently 158 al Qaeda and Taliban detainees at the Cuban base in Guantanamo Bay.

DoD officials stress that the holding conditions at Guantanamo are humane and in accordance with the Geneva Convention.

Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Shane T. McCoy



The sun sets on Camp X-Ray's first day as an active compound Jan. 11. Camp X-Ray is the holding facility for detainees held at Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

By **Jim Garamone**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 2002 — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld today said charges that U.S. military personnel are mistreating al Qa'ida and Taliban detainees at the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, "are just plain false."

Rumsfeld, speaking to reporters at the Pentagon, said the troops are handling a tough assignment "in a professional and truly outstanding way."

He said the military guarding the detainees are doing a difficult and dangerous job. Professional, smart military officers and NCOs lead the effort.

Mistreatment Allegations 'Just Plain False'



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said Jan. 22 that the treatment of detainees at Guantanamo is proper, humane, appropriate and consistent with international law.

(Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Shane T. McCoy)

"Let there be no doubt the treatment of the detainees in Guantanamo Bay is proper, it's humane, it's appropriate and it is fully consistent with inter-

national conventions," Rumsfeld said. He said no detainee has been harmed or mistreated.

"The numerous articles, statements, questions, allegations and breathless reports on television are undoubtedly by people who are uninformed, misinformed or poorly informed," Rumsfeld said.

The secretary said the detention center at the base is temporary. There was no facility a month ago. The temporary facility will do until a permanent structure is finished in the months ahead. The permanent facility will be prefab-

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ricated in the United States and shipped to Guantanamo.

The detainees are in 8-by-8-by-7.5-foot holding units, he said. They have warm showers, access to toilets, water, clean clothes, blankets, regular and culturally appropriate meals, prayer mats and the right to practice their religion, modern medical attention, exercise, writing materials and visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Rumsfeld said



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Shane T. McCoy

The detainees are in 8-by-8-by-7.5-foot holding units, have warm showers, toilets, water, clean clothes, blankets, regular and culturally appropriate meals, prayer mats and the right to practice their religion, modern medical attention, exercise, writing materials and visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

the detainees are dangerous. He said at least one continues to make threats against Americans and another has bitten a guard. Military personnel take special precautions

when moving the detainees. The military guards use the same precautions that guards the world over take when moving dangerous individuals. Rumsfeld pointed to the al Qaeda and Taliban prison riot at Mazar-e Sharif and the terrorists killing Pakistani guards as examples of what happens when guards do not take the proper precautions.

Rumsfeld said the detainees are "unlawful combatants" but that they

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are entitled to humane treatment under the Geneva Conventions. “Therefore, whatever one may conclude as to how the Geneva Convention may or may not apply, the United States is treating them — all detainees — consistently with the principles of the Geneva Convention,” he said.

Rumsfeld said DoD would work with lawyers in the Justice Department and the White House to hammer out the status of the detainees. He said the detainees are not being labeled as prisoners of war because they did not engage in warfare according to the precepts of the Geneva Convention — they hide weapons, do not wear uniforms and try to blur the line between combatant and noncombatant.



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class
Michael W. Pendergrass

Al Qaeda and Taliban Detainees arrive at “Camp X-Ray,” Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Jan. 11, 2002. Rumsfeld said professional, smart military officers and NCOs are leading the effort of guarding the detainees.

A further complication is the status of the al Qaeda. He said people

may debate the idea of what is a country and what isn’t in regards to the Taliban, “But I think most people would agree that the al Qaeda is a terrorist organization — it’s not a country,” he said. “To give standing under the Geneva Convention to a terrorist organization; is something that the lawyers; worry about as a precedent. That’s not an unreasonable concern on their part.”

Rumsfeld seemed amazed at the “hyperbole” that has been associated with this issue. He said “that if someone looked down from Mars on the United States for the last three days, they would conclude that America is what’s wrong with the world. America is not what’s wrong with the world. And what’s taking place (in Guantanamo) is responsible, it’s humane, it’s legal, it’s proper, it’s consistent with the Geneva Conventions, and after a period (of time) that will sink in.”

(Right)
Navy Lt.
Abuhena M.
Saiful is a
Muslim
chaplain at
Guantanamo
Bay, Cuba.



Muslim chaplain at Guantanamo Bay

U.S. NAVAL BASE GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA—A Muslim military chaplain joined the ranks of Joint Task Force 160 Wednesday to advise the commanding general and minister to the spiritual and religious needs of the detainees and US military personnel here.

Navy Lt. Abuhena M. Saiful-Islam visited Camp X-Ray today and prayed the Dawn (Fajr) Prayer with the detainees after meeting with Marine Brig. Gen. Michael Lehnert, JTF-160 commander.

After he prayed with the detainees early this morning, Lt. Saiful-Islam briefly spoke with many of them.

He said the detainees were “very appreciative of the efforts we are taking.”

The purpose of an “Imam,” a Muslim chaplain, on the JTF staff serves two purposes. The primary purpose is to advise the commanding general of issues pertinent to the spiritual and religious needs of the detainees. The second purpose is to provide religious services to the detainees, while assisting chaplains currently stationed at Guantanamo Bay to provide multi-denominational services to US military personnel assigned to JTF-160.

Lt. Saiful-Islam is currently one of three Navy Muslim chaplains and one of 14 in the U.S. military. He is the second Muslim chaplain to join the Navy and the first to serve in the Marine Corps.



Navy Lt. Abuhena M. Saiful-Islam, prays with detainees.

Medical facilities built for detainees

U.S. NAVAL people in conjunction with Navy Fleet Hospital 20 from Camp Lejeune, N.C. Initially, it took 17 Navy builders from Construction Battalion 423, Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base, Va., commonly known as the "Seabees," to clear and prepare the land. This took over three days of intense 24-hour operations beginning Jan. 18. Tents went up in one day and the International Standards Organization (ISO) containers were unpacked, expanded and organized into rooms and storage areas fit for labs, washrooms and examination rooms.

The construction of the hospital required over 180

people in conjunction with Navy Fleet Hospital 20 from Camp Lejeune, N.C. Initially, it took 17 Navy builders from Construction Battalion 423, Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base, Va., commonly known as the "Seabees," to clear and prepare the land. This took over three days of intense 24-hour operations beginning Jan. 18. Tents went up in one day and the International Standards Or-



Photos by Army Spc. Travis Burnham

The medical facility will provide medical attention to the detainees.

ganization (ISO) containers were unpacked, expanded and organized into rooms and storage areas fit for labs, washrooms and examination rooms.

According to the fleet hospital executive officer, Navy Commander Kevin L. Gallagher, no detain-

ees will receive medical care outside of Cuba. If a specialist is required, one will be brought into the hospital.

"There is a regular plan set to screen for diseases as the detainees arrive. Any test that's indicated, we have the capability to do, or we can

send off for it," said Gallagher. "This is a complete hospital, so we have top of the line lab equipment, respirators, ICU (intensive care unit) equipment, OR (operating room) equipment, anesthesia

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Pharmacist Lt. Mike Cleveland works with other sailors to construct the fleet hospital.

the fleet hospital support office. His office designs and packs the hospital into the ISO containers and sends a technical represen-

tative during construction. If there is a problem with the construction or utilities, they try to resolve the problem. He has been in the design department of the fleet hospital for eight years.

“In this particular hospital, it will have three wings: It will have a pharmacy, a lab, an x-ray, and mobile utility modules, (which is like a head facility),” said Moore. “The second wing is a medical suite which has the casualty receiving and operating room. The third wing is an intensive care unit wing.”

This hospital will give the detainees the same care that we would give our own troops, he said.

Water is provided

through one 1,500-gallon portable tank and four 2,000-gallon water bladders. Wastewater is stored in two other specialized ISO containers. Power is currently provided through generators, but there is a plan to hook up shore power and use the generators as backups. In addition, laundry facilities for hospital linens will be on site according to Clarke.

The 24-hour facility will have security measures in place, with two military police accompanying each detainee to the hospital and remaining there with him.

The majority of the hos-

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machines... this is fully capable.”

The hospital is also large enough to take on the task ahead.

“It takes up approximately one-and one-half acres. It has a 36-bed capacity. Due to security we are redesigning the hospital as we go. This hospital has never been designed to work with detainees, so it’s one of the things you have to adjust to as we go along,” said Navy Chief Petty Officer Will Clarke, Construction Battalion 423.

Joel Moore, with the Fleet Hospital Assistance Team (FHAT) represents

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pital staff is from the Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune. Other staff members participating are from all over the nation.

“It’s always neat to see something that you’ve put on paper for two or three years actually go up and go operational,” Moore said.

The workload of the staff will depend on the health condition of the detainees and their health needs, which will not be known until they



Photos by Navy Chief Petty Officer Gabe Puello
Above: Commanding officer Navy Capt. Pat Alford (Left) assists Petty Officer 3rd Class Clifford Haynes with setting up the hospital. Right: Lt. Cmdr. Angela Boone, a nurse coordinator from Camp Lejeune, N.C., secures canvas along the roof.

arrive at the hospital.

The hospital is scheduled to be here as long as needed.

“The commander in chief requested

that we treat these detainees and give them top of the line medical care and we’re proud to do that,” Gallagher said.





New colonel

Air Force Brig. Gen. Robert D. Bishop (Left), J-5 Strategy, Policy and Plans Directorate director, promotes Lt. Col. Kelley W. Crooks, J-6 Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems Directorate deputy director, to the rank of colonel during a ceremony Nov. 30 at the Thurman Building. Crooks' wife Marla assists the general with the promotion. Also, the colonel's children Kiyra, 8, and Karly, 6, helped pin on his epaulets. His father, retired Col. Kenneth Crooks, mother Kathy, and other family members attended.

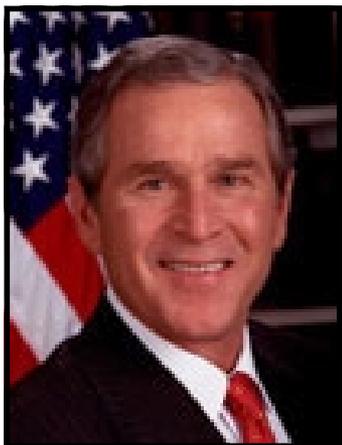
Photo by Army Sgt. Lucy J. Pabon

Bush signs defense bill into law at Pentagon

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press
Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10, 2002 -- In signing the fiscal 2002 Defense Appropriations Act, President George W. Bush said the United States owes military personnel the full measure of respect for their service and sacrifice.

Bush signed the legislation into law at a Pentagon ceremony Jan. 10. He said the act demonstrates the bipartisan support the mili-



President Bush signed the 2002 Defense Appropriations Act Jan. 10.

tary has. "We can never pay our men and women in uniform on a scale that matches their sacrifices," Bush said. "But this bill reflects

our respect for your selfless service."

"We owe you decent pay and a decent quality of life," Bush told the packed auditorium. "We owe you the best leadership and training. We owe you the best equipment and weaponry. We owe our servicemen and women our best, because we owe you our freedom."

With today's signing, Bush approved both the \$317 billion Defense Appropriations Act and the \$20 billion emergency supplemental Congress passed in

response to the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

At the signing Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said that the terrorists aimed at the symbols of U.S. freedom, strength and prosperity. "The enemy expected panic, confusion, (and) despair followed by hollow threats and feeble responses," Rumsfeld said. "They hoped we would retreat from the dangerous world that they helped create. Behind a barricade of icy mountains they felt secure. (The ter-

rorists believed) that their landlocked fortress some 600 miles from the sea seemed far from the reach of United States forces.

"They were wrong," he continued. "They underestimated the president of the United States, they underestimated the American people, they underestimated the men and women of the armed forces, and they underestimated the men and women of our coalition forces."

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Bush said that in the campaign against global terror, the U.S. military must have every resource, tool, weapon and advantage necessary to accomplish the missions to come. He said the appropriations act is a “down payment” on this commitment.

Bush said the legislation funds an average pay increase of 6.9 percent for military personnel. It cuts the out-of-pocket housing expenses from 15 to 11 percent with elimination of this expense by fiscal 2005. “This fully funds the healthcare of active duty members and their fami-

lies and provides over \$3.9 billion for healthcare benefits for military retirees over 65 and their families,” he said.

The act contains \$61 billion for new weapons and \$50 billion in research and development, including \$8 billion for missile defense. “My administration is committed to transforming our forces with innovative doctrine and strategy and weaponry,” Bush said. “This will allow us to revolutionize the battlefield of the future and to keep the peace by defining war on our terms.”

Bush thanked the members of Congress for their bipartisan support and said he expects the same atmosphere will pre-

20-year-high military pay raise averages 6.9 percent

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

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7, 2001 — Service members will see an average increase of 6.9 percent in their January pay.

“It’s the largest pay increase in 20 years,” Navy Capt. Chris Kopang, DoD director of compensation, said in a recent American Forces Information Service interview. In general, officers will see their pay in-

crease 5 percent, he said, and enlisted service members get a 6 percent boost in their pay beginning Jan. 1.

Several pay grades will see significantly larger increases.

“We have chosen to target the pay raise to certain pay grades that we feel need an extra boost because of retention needs,” Kopang said. For instance, officers

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Budget Request to Congress on Feb. 4.

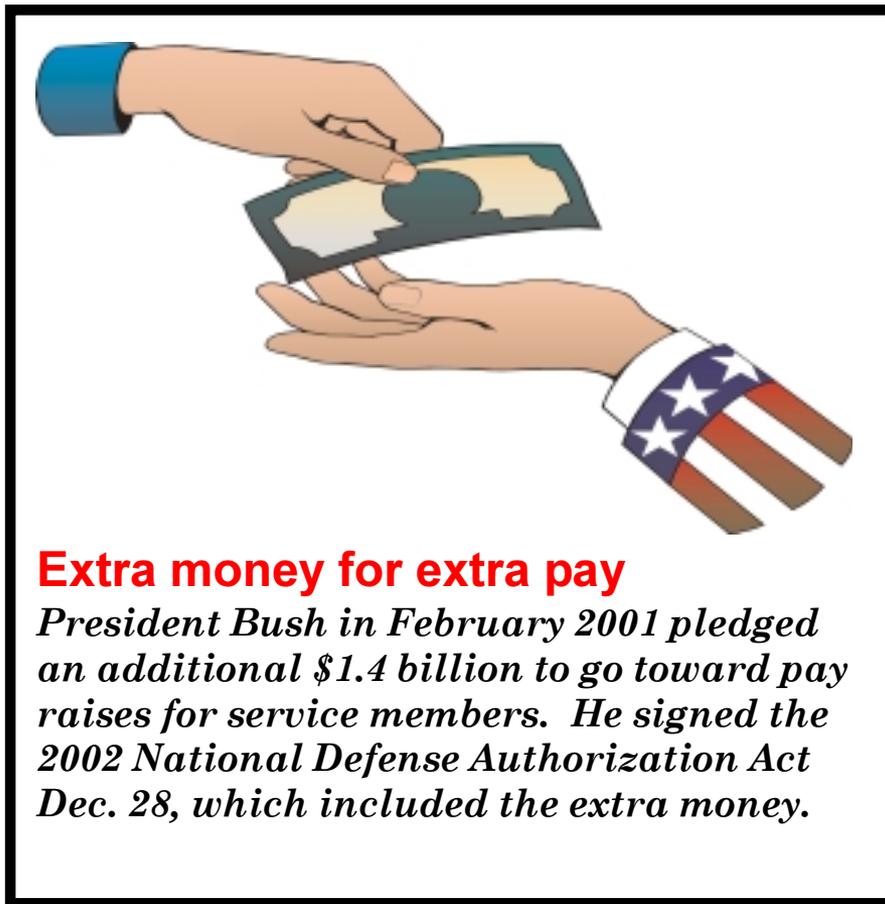
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in grades O-3 and O-4 will receive 6 and 6.5 percent increases respectively.

Non-commissioned officers are also receiving larger raises, Kopang said, with the highest increases — up to 10 percent — going to the highest enlisted grades. Enlisted members in grades E-5 and E-6 will see an average 7.5 percent increase, E-7s an average increase of 8.5 percent, and up to 10 percent for E-9s.

Certain lower-ranking grades also will see increases that have nothing to do with percentages or retention, but to fix inequities in the pay table, he



Extra money for extra pay

President Bush in February 2001 pledged an additional \$1.4 billion to go toward pay raises for service members. He signed the 2002 National Defense Authorization Act Dec. 28, which included the extra money.

said.

For instance, on the 2001 pay table an E-3 with

under two years of service would make more money by going over two years in

service as an E-3 than by getting promoted to E-4.

“We thought that sent the wrong signal,” Kopang said. “We wanted to send the signal that people should strive for promotion quicker.”

President Bush in February 2001 pledged an additional \$1.4 billion to go toward pay raises for service members. He signed the 2002 National Defense Authorization Act, which included the extra money, Dec. 28. Without this money, Kopang said, members would have gotten a 4.6 percent across-the-board increase at the New Year.

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Pay

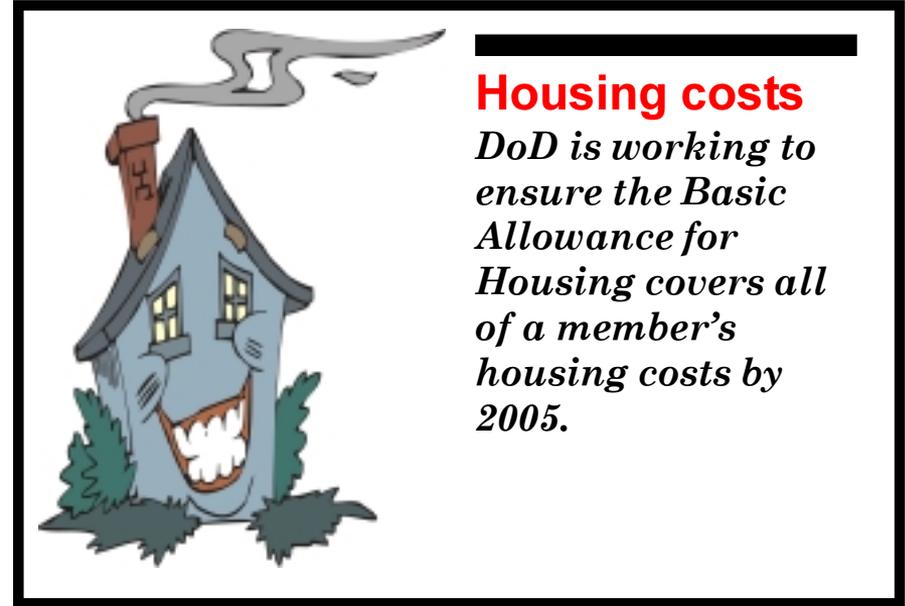
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Higher raises for NCOs reflect the changing demographics of a more-educated force. Kopang explained the military pay tables are based on the premise that enlisted members are high school graduates. Most of today's enlisted members have some college under their belts. The services strongly encourage members to further their education. Kopang estimated that up to 40 percent of senior NCOs are college graduates. "We can't pay them as much as a college degree holder right now," he said of the senior enlisted

grades. The idea, he said, was to bring their earnings closer to civilian counterparts who are high school graduates with some college.

Housing allowance rates have increased as well. In 2001, military members not living in government-provided quarters paid an average 15 percent of their housing costs out of their own pockets. DoD is working to ensure the Basic Allowance for Housing covers all of a member's housing costs by 2005.

In 2002, for instance, members will pay 11.3 percent of their housing costs out of pocket on average. Housing allowances are tied to actual housing costs



Housing costs
DoD is working to ensure the Basic Allowance for Housing covers all of a member's housing costs by 2005.

in a given geographic area, so some areas are getting larger rate increases than others.

No rates are going down, though. Kopang said DoD has implemented individual and geographic rate protection. Even if housing costs decrease in an

area, the rates won't go down. Members will not get a lower rate in 2002 than they did in 2001 as long as they stay at the same duty station, and members moving into an area won't get a lower rate than individuals who live there already, he said.

Patriotism on display at Dolphins game



Above: U.S. Southern Command military members help unfurl a huge U.S. Flag as the crowd erupts with applause. Right: Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Jesse Streets helps to hold up the U.S. flag on the Miami Dolphins field at Pro Player Stadium. (Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)

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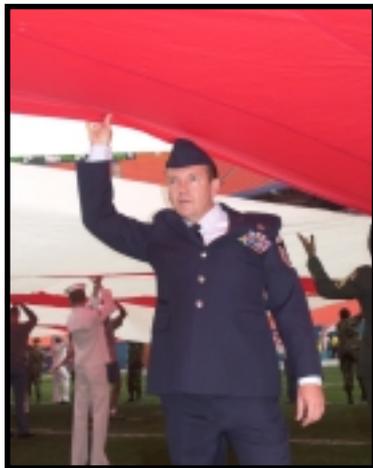


Photo by Andrea Crosson

Approximately 50 military volunteers from U.S. Southern Command, along with personnel from other local military organizations, wave a huge U.S. Flag during pre-game festivities at the Miami Dolphins wild card playoff game versus the Baltimore Ravens at Pro Player Stadium Jan. 13.



Above: Army Lt. Col. Jorge Silveira (Left) and Air Force Lt. Col. Johnnie Seward Jr., hold up the U.S. Flag during practice prior to the Dolphins game. Left: Air Force Master Sgt. Amos Rolle gets a better grip on one edge of the U.S. flag.



Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

The U.S. Southern Command presents the colors during pregame festivities at the Miami Dolphins' wild card playoff game versus the Baltimore Ravens at Pro Player Stadium in Miami Jan. 13, 2000. Patriotism was on full display at the game.

Bishop visits military units in San Antonio



Above: Brig. Gen. Robert D. Bishop, J-5 Strategy, Policy and Plans Directorate director, tours facilities at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas Dec. 14. In addition, the general conducted meetings with 5th Army, Air Force Personnel Center, 59th Medical Wing, Defense Language Institute English Language Center, and IAAFA Dec. 13-14.



Above: Bishop reviews the troops at a parade for the Basic Military Training Graduation at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Dec. 14.



Above/below: Bishop is the guest speaker at the IAAFA Academy graduation banquet.



Taking issue

The Honorable Thomas E. White, 18th secretary of the Army, visits Tuesday with U.S. Southern Command soldiers at the Thurman Building. White, a retired Army brigadier general, challenged the command's Army personnel to help him with three issues as the Army transforms.

One, he asked soldiers to do their part to enhance security to prevent terrorism and to be prepared for future wars. Secondly, he asked soldiers to do whatever possible to keep the Army strategically mobile. Finally, he asked soldiers to find resources... money, people and facilities, to make the first two points a reality. (Photo by Army Sgt. Lucy J. Pabon)



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 4:30 p.m. Feb. 8 at the Education Center at the Codina Building located at 8300 NW 33rd Street in Miami.

This briefing is a prerequisite for the four-day Transition Assistance Program workshops that are held quarterly (The next one is Monday-

Thursday). 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.

TAP workshop

The next transition assistance program workshop is Monday through Thursday 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**.

Newcomers

The Family Support Center is spon-

soring a newcomers briefing 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Feb. 1 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

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

Miami tour

The Family Support Center is sponsoring its monthly Miami area tour 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 8.

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

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Street. For more information or to sign up for the tour, call **(305) 437-2665**.

Finance class

The Family Support Center is sponsoring a first-termer's finance class 3 to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Base Operations Education Center located at the Codina Building, Suite 110, 8300 NW 33rd Street.

For more information or to sign up for the class, call **(305) 437-2665**.

Tax information

The 1099-R forms for tax year 2001 will be mailed to the home address on file with the Defense Fi-

nance and Accounting Service by Jan. 15, 2002 to all Department of Defense military retirees and annuitants.

Retirees or annuitants that do not get their 1099-Rs by Jan. 31, 2002, have questions about their 1099-R forms, or need to update mailing addresses should contact DFAS at **(800) 321-1080**, Monday through Friday, between 7 and 7:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

Be prepared to provide social security number, date of retirement, and current mailing address.

Market yourself

The next Market Yourself for a Second Career Seminar is 9 to 11:30 a.m. Feb. 22 at the Metro Dade

Religious Affairs

Weekly U.S. Southern Command service schedule

Tuesdays: Weekly Protestant Bible study is 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.

Monthly meeting: The Officer's Christian Fellowship monthly meeting is today from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 1401 or 1403.

Fire Fighters Memorial Building located at 8000 NW 21st Street. This free professional lecture is designed for officers and senior NCOs leaving the service within one to five years. Enlisted military personnel, spouses, civil-

ians and family members are also invited to attend. Topics covered include job searches, networking, successful interviews and salary negotiations and benefit packages. Call the Family Support Center at **(305) 437-2665** to sign up.

Honor Roll

'Top Dog' winners

Brig. Gen. Richard Huck (Left), U.S. Southern Command chief of staff, presents John Samson, J-8 Programs and Resources Directorate Collection Management Division, 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 Jan. 10. (Photo by Army Sgt. Lucy J. Pabon)



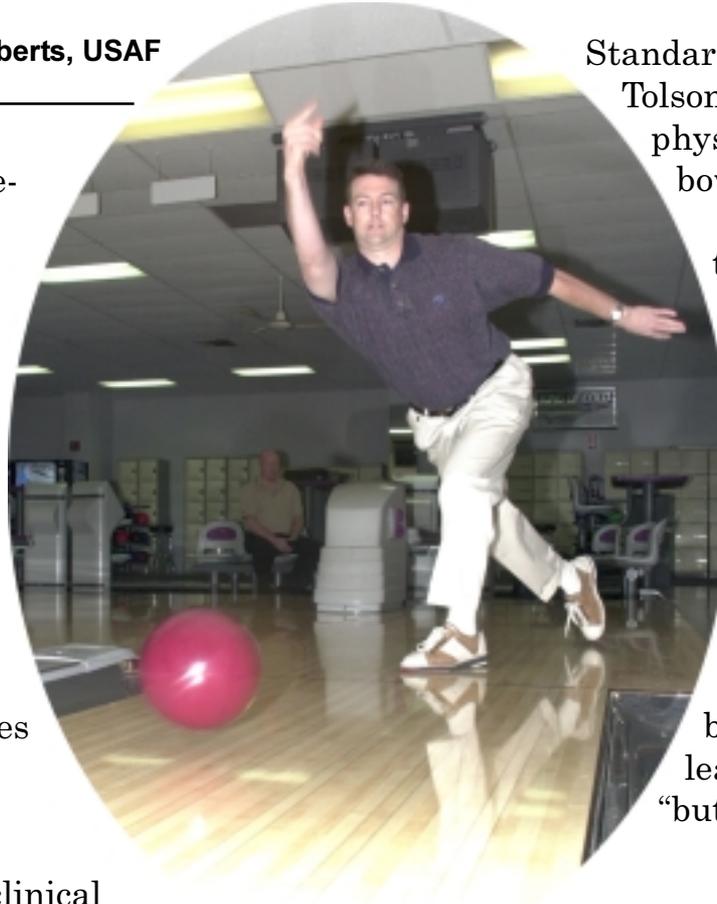
Medic makes his mark on Pro Bowlers circuit

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

Slightly crouched, poised, determined, he skillfully advances up to the foul line. With a quick yet fluid motion, he uncorks a perfect delivery. Moments later, the entire bowling alley reverberates the clatter of “ten pins” tumbling over.

More often than not, this is the result for Air Force Staff Sgt. David Tolson, a medic assigned to the U.S. Southern Command’s Army Health Clinic. As a professional bowler, he strives to make his mark in several local leagues and on the pro circuit in Florida.

So when he is not providing clinical support for the Medical Examination and



Standards Section here at the command, Tolson is very busy honing both the physical and emotional aspects of his bowling.

Tolson, who routinely scores in the 200s and has five “300” perfect games on his resume, explains that as a Pro Bowlers Association sanctioned player, getting prepared obviously involves much more than just going to league night, playing three games, eating chicken wings and throwing down several beers with the guys.

“Of course I do practice my bowling by participating in two leagues during the week,” he said, “but more importantly I make time

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for more formal practice sessions on the weekends.”

In fact, he is currently working on the finer points of his game with Mike Nytray out of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and Richard Shockley from Sebring, Fla., both USA gold certified coaches.

“They have been very helpful in my maturation as a bowler, Tolson said.

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Air Force Staff Sgt. David Tolson, a professional bowler, routinely scores in the 200s and has five “300” perfect games to his credit.

Tolson

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Tolson constantly works on the finer points of his game to be a more versatile player. He competes professionally in several local leagues and on the pro circuit in Florida.

Miami Bowling Association Scratch Tournament at Bird Bowl. In addition,

“With them I practice something specific versus simply working on attaining a high score. For instance, I may want to work on my tempo, release, footwork, using different lines, ball speed, or swing planes to help facilitate being more versatile. I combine this with regular league participation, practice, and experience gained from bowling in local tournaments.”

Recently, his extensive work ethic has paid off. He’s won several four-game sweepers and finished third in the Greater

he finished second and third in the King of the Hill Tournament held at Don Carter’s Bowling Center in Kendall, Fla., last year. And Jan. 17, he was a key figure on a scratch trios league team that won the first-half championship.

These accomplishments are what he described as another step towards the “big picture” of competing in the PBA regionals on a more routine basis.

However, bowling at a high level is not new for the Louisiana native.

Tolson first began bowling in bantam leagues for kids when he was five. He continued to bowl while growing up,

and by the time he finished high school his talents were drawing attention. He then attended college at Southwestern Louisiana and was voted bowler of the year for the USL team his junior year. That earned him a place at the collegiate nationals in Las Vegas, Nev., where he finished third in singles competition.

Then in 1989 he turned pro and toured on the national circuit. But after a short time in the big leagues of bowling, an injury cost him his spot on the tour.

“I had an injury to my

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wrist that kept me out for a while, and shortly after that, I lost my sponsorship,” he said.

Tolson eventually joined the Air Force in 1990 and became an aerospace medicine craftsman. He said he wanted to serve his country, and now finds his job rewarding because he contributes to the overall Air Force mission by promoting healthy lifestyles.

But he still loves to bowl, and



Army Capt. (Dr.) Ana Peralta (Left) discusses a patient’s chart with Staff Sgt. David Tolson. An 11-year Air Force veteran, Tolson said he feels rewarded by promoting a healthy lifestyle for service members. When he completes his military career, he plans to resume professional bowling on the national circuit.

still has a desire to compete at the national level, although he admits

competing at that level may have to wait until he culminates his Air Force

career. By then, he said, his experience and maturity will be his strengths that will help him to succeed.

For now, he will continue to bowl in the regional professional tournaments. But to compete on a more routine basis, he hopes to get sponsorship. He said practice, coaching, keeping up with current equipment, and normal day-to-day bills usually require a lot of creative budgeting.

Throughout his years of service, the medical technician has won several

base bowling championships. He also won the Louisiana State Championship in 1990 and Virginia State Championship in 1997.

For now, his immediate goal on the hardwood is to win the “Bowler of the Year” Award at the regional level. Performance and tournament participation are the leading factors in winning this award. “If I can do this, then I am positive I can make a name for myself and possibly contend for the ‘BOY’ award,” Tolson said.

Army Declares "Black Hawk Down" 'Authentic'

By **Linda D. Kozaryn**
American Forces Press
Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16, 2001 — When Jerry Bruckheimer met with Gen. John M. Keane at the Pentagon, the Hollywood film producer told the Army vice chief of staff he planned to make a movie

about the Army's 1993 battle in Mogadishu, Somalia.

At the Jan. 15 premiere here of "Black Hawk Down," Keane recalled: "He came into my office and said, 'General, I'm going to make a movie that you and your Army will be proud of.' He did that, so we thank him for it."

Bruckheimer's film, released Jan. 18, is based on Philadelphia Inquirer reporter Mark Bowden's book, "Black Hawk Down: A Story of



Photo by Linda D. Kozaryn

Actor Josh Hartnett, who plays Staff Sgt. Matt Eversmann in the new film "Black Hawk Down," signs autographs for fans at the film's Washington premiere Jan. 15.

Modern War." Both tell what happened when Army Rangers and Special Forces soldiers conducted a raid in Mogadishu

on Oct. 3, 1993. The 18-hour battle against Somali militia loyal to warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid killed

19 American soldiers and more than 1,000 Somalis.

Keane, whose military career includes command of the XVIII Airborne Corps, the Army's largest warfighting organization, said "Black Hawk Down" is an "authentic" and "graphic" portrayal of war.

"I don't think it's a movie you necessarily enjoy," he noted. "It's a movie — particularly for those who have fought in a war

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— that you experience.”

The film accurately captures what it’s like for soldiers in “the crucible,” the general said. Whether in Somalia or Afghanistan, he explained, that’s where soldiers on the ground “need one another to survive and to defeat an enemy.” It’s where “you have to call on your inner strength and overcome your natural fears.”

Keane, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki and Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were among the top brass at the debut. Vice



Photo by Linda D. Kozaryn

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley (Left) talks with Army Sgt. 1st Class Matt Eversmann at the Washington premiere. In the film actor Josh Hartnet plays Eversmann.

President Dick Cheney, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and other civil-

ian defense leaders also viewed the screening.

Army Secretary Thomas White gave the film a “thumbs up” and praised

its “tag line,” “Leave no man behind.” This pledge, he noted, is appropriate both for the movie and the soldiers who serve today across the world and particularly in Afghanistan.

“It’s been appropriate for the entire 226 years of the United States Army’s history,” White said. “We have certainly seen that spirit of heroism many times in the past few months.”

The movie is based on actual events, but some liberties had to be taken, such as compositing characters. Nevertheless, White told the audience,

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“the values portrayed here are absolutely authentic. They represent the core Army ethic of courage and selfless service.

“I’m proud to say that same courage and selfless service can be seen today in Afghanistan and wherever American soldiers serve around the world in some 100 different countries.”

Along with Bruckheimer, the Hollywood contingent included director Ridley Scott and



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Todd Enlund

The movie “Black Hawk Down” tells the story of what happened when Army Rangers and Special Forces soldiers conducted a raid in Mogadishu on Oct. 3, 1993.

actor Josh Hartnett, who plays Army Staff Sgt. Matt Eversmann.

Bruckheimer, whose credits also

include “Pearl Harbor” and “Top Gun,” said he chose to make “Black Hawk Down” to “set the record straight” and

to change an impression created by the press.

“This was a very heroic mission for these young men,”

he said. “They don’t set policy, they enforce it. They went in there and did an amazing job.

“I read Mark’s book before it was published back in 1997 and thought it was an extraordinary tale of courage and bravery and heroism about these young men who fought so valiantly,” he said. “The press labeled it a debacle. We wanted to set the record straight.”

The producer introduced Eversmann, now a

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sergeant first class, and several other soldiers in the audience who participated in the Mogadishu raid.

Eversmann, whose platoon was the first to reach the first of two downed Black Hawks, said he believed the producer had accomplished his mission.

“It’s not a biography and it’s not a documentary,” he said. “It depicts the actions of soldiers very authentically, probably as realistically as we could expect without a real combat photographer on the ground during the battle.”

But it’s also a product of Hollywood,” Eversmann noted. “There are some things that were done for the sake of filmmaking, and I understand that.

So barring some of those little idiosyncracies, you look at the scenery, that’s very authentic. You look at the way soldiers behaved, how they’re outfitted, that’s very authentic. The actions they take are very authentic. You put it all together — I tell you, they did an unbelievable job.”

Chief Warrant Officer Rodney ‘Sam’ Shamp of the Army’s 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, piloted Black Hawk ‘Supersix Seven’ during the raid. He also lauded the film.

“From a human standpoint, it was absolutely fantastic,” he said. “I believe they did an excellent job of capturing the emotions, the feelings and the camaraderie that comes from combat and the professionalism that existed.

“From a military standpoint,” he added, “you never want to show absolutely everything the military

does and how they do it, but the portrayal of what we did was quite excellent from a tactical standpoint.”

Army Sgt. 1st Class Jeff McLaughlin, another soldier who was in Mogadishu that day, agreed that Bruckheimer told it like it was. McLaughlin, a member of the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Ga., verified the film’s accuracy and said he’s glad the film was made.

“It was pretty realistic,” said the noncommissioned officer, who’s just returned from Afghanistan. “There was a timing sequence that wasn’t exactly right, but other than that and a few small, what I call ‘Hollywoodisms,’ it was really accurate. They did a good job.

“A lot of courageous things went on that day,” McLaughlin concluded. “It’s good that the public gets to see what some of those things were.”

Petty Officer 3rd Class Nichole Solberg



Service: U.S. Navy

Organization:

J-2 Intelligence Directorate

Duty title: Link analyst

Time in service: 2 years

Hometown: Vermillion, S.D.

Hobbies: Spending time with friends and family, boating, biking and shopping

Favorite duty station: U.S.

Southern Command, the only place I've been

Career highlights: Being recognized a few times for community service. "It makes me feel good that other people realize how important helping others is."

Andy Armoogam



Service: Civilian, GS-5

Organization: Army Signal Activity Mail Room

Duty title: Mail clerk

Time in service: More than 12 years in the Air Force. More than 6

years in civil service.

Hometown: Trinidad & Tobago

Hobbies: Raquetball, walking, shopping, and driving long distances

Favorite duty station: Howard Air Force Base, Panama

Career highlights: Coming to work here at U.S. Southern Command

Humvee duty

A Marine mans a 50-calibur gun Jan. 10 on a humvee at Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The Marine unit was on a rehearsal run from the airport to Camp X-Ray in preparation for the pending arrival of detainees to the base from Afghanistan. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Michael W. Pendergrass)

