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Southern Star

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Baccus takes command of Joint Task Force 160

By Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Sherwood, USN
JTF-160 Public Affairs

U.S. NAVAL BASE GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba – (March 28, 2002) U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Rick Baccus took command here today of Joint Task Force 160 from outgoing commander Marine Brig. Gen. Michael R. Lehnert.

The change of command ceremony began promptly at 9 a.m., in front of the

task force headquarters. With clear skies, a light wind and palm trees as a backdrop, Lehnert and Baccus arrived, each being ceremoniously announced.

The Marine general's one-star flag was lowered; then the Army general's one-star flag was raised. Each general saluted each other and exchanged positions on the headquarters steps. This

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simple tradition marks a turning point, as Baccus takes over the command of JTF-160.

“He is arriving with a ‘full up round’ attitude,” said Lehnert of Baccus.

Baccus, a member of the Rhode Island Army National Guard, arrives from his last tour as the commander of the 43rd Military Police Brigade. He assumed that duty on March 7, 2001. As the commander, he was responsible for the readiness of six units and more than 800 soldiers.

Baccus received a regular Army commission in

Outgoing Joint Task Force 160 Commander Marine Brig. Gen. Michael Lenhardt (Left) welcomes the new commander, Army Brig. Gen. Rick Baccus, during a change of command ceremony Thursday at U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



1974 as an infantry officer through the Reserve Of-

ficer Training Corps program and immediately en-

tered active duty.

When asked why he was chosen, he replied, “I was selected probably because I’m the commander of a military police brigade. It is an honor to be selected,” he added.

The new commander spoke about the outgoing general and staff members.

“Credit must be given to General Lehnert and to the sailors, Marines, soldiers, Airmen and Coast Guard for doing an outstanding job in the last 90 days. My approach will be the same... to do everything in accordance to the president’s directives.”

Lehnert will return to Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he commands the 2nd Force Service Support Group.

U.S. has every right to hold detainees, says Rumsfeld

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

WASHINGTON, March 28, 2002 — The United States “has every right” to hold detainees captured in the global war against terrorism, even if military commissions acquit them of specific crimes, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said today.

The secretary told Pentagon reporters that some detainees captured in the war — including those who might be charged and acquitted of crimes — could be held for the duration of the conflict. The detainees are enemy combatants,



Photo by R.D. Ward

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld (Right) and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Richard B. Myers address the media during a press conference Thursday.

Rumsfeld said, and people to be kept from going right back to the battlefield and killing more Americans.

If “an enemy combatant might be acquitted,” he

continued, “the United States would be irresponsible not to continue to detain them until the conflict is over.” Detaining enemy combatants for the dura-

tion of a conflict, Rumsfeld noted, is universally recognized as responsible and lawful.

“This is fully consistent with the Geneva Conventions and other law-of-war authorities,” he added, noting that the matter is one of “common sense.”

“The detainees include dangerous terrorists who’ve committed brutal acts and are sworn to go back and do it again,” Rumsfeld remarked. That being the case, he said, the United States “has every right to hold enemy combatants for the duration.”

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“Today, the conflict is still going on, our troops are still fighting in Afghanistan and we do not, as yet, see an end,” Rumsfeld said.

He noted, “The United States will continue to treat detainees humanely; consistent with the principles of the Geneva Convention.

“We will proceed with trials; in some cases we will proceed with (detainee) transfers to another country, their country of nationality, in some

cases,” Rumsfeld continued.

The secretary noted that some detainees could be released if additional information proves there’s no risk they’d conduct additional terrorist acts or go back to the battlefield.

“I can assure you, the United States does not want to keep any of them any longer than we have to,” Rumsfeld noted.

Some detainees “may be transferred to other countries, some may be released, some may be held for the duration, some may be tried in

one or more of the various mechanisms that are available: the United States criminal justice system, military commissions, or the Uniform Code of Military Justice,” he said.

No one has been assigned for trial by military commission, so no locations for such commissions have been set, the secretary noted.

Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, noted that U.S. forces continued the search for al Qaeda and Taliban troops in Afghanistan. Myers said U.S.

helicopters have delivered rice, wheat and cold-weather gear to victims of the March 25 earthquake in Afghanistan that caused widespread damage about 100 miles north of Kabul. No U.S. service members were hurt.

Rumsfeld and Myers offered condolences to the family and friends of Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Matthew J. Bourgeois, 35, of Tallahassee, Fla.

Bourgeois was killed by a land mine March 27 as he conducted training near Kandahar, Afghanistan. No one knows if

the land mine was newly laid or was an old one buried years ago, they said.

Addressing questions of potential enlargement of the war and of meeting additional national security challenges as the war continues, the secretary said the U.S. military stands ready.

“You can be absolutely certain that, to the extent that the United States of America decides to undertake an activity, that we would be capable of doing it successfully,” he emphasized.

England visits with sailors, addresses Navy topics

Story/Photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Ray Sarracino, USN
Southern Star Staff Writer

If it looked like all of the sailors in your directorate disappeared on Feb. 20, they did, and they had a good reason, too. The Secretary of the Navy, Hon. Gordon R. England, stopped by U.S. Southern Command to say hello to sailors. His visit was part of a larger tour of military installations.

The Main Conference Room was filled to capac-



Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England speaks to U.S. Southern Command sailors during a visit to the headquarters in Miami Feb. 20. England thanked everyone in attendance foremost for serving in the military.

ity for the SECNAV's brief visit. Although he touched on a number of subjects re-

lating to the sea services, he summed up the reason for his visit by saying: "I just wanted to come by and thank you for serving in the military."

During the visit he fielded several questions relating to current and future plans for Navy hardware as well as a few policy and manpower issues. He also reminded the attendees that events in Afghanistan represented the beginning of a larger—and longer—war on terrorism. Some of the issues discussed included:

Military's future role

England said, "We are trying to build capacity instead of just meeting numbers. The real key is the president. He has decided

we need to have a robust military."

England also explained that when he took office, the desire was to fill existing needs before tackling other issues. The goal was to ensure that capability for meeting current taskings was met before moving on to other issues.

Ships in the fleet

England said, "There's a lot of studies going on. I think you're going to see different kinds of platforms (for specific needs) being built."

Reserve call-ups

England explained, "We've called up a lot of reservists. We've tried con-

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sciously to not call up every reservist we could get our hands on. We've been selective about who we call up."

The secretary also touched on intelligence issues and the role of the Navy in future conflicts.

Following the discussion, many sailors said they appreciated the Secretary's casual discussion format.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Peter Barcelo from Reserve Affairs said, "I found him to be very sincere. He tried to be honest in answering everybody's question. He was very considerate and looked like he really enjoyed talking to us. I appreciated him taking the time to meet with us."

The secretary of the Navy said he often uses visits like this to connect with the issues concerning sailors at every level and to communicate with them news concerning them from his post in Washington.



Marine Brig. Gen. Richard Huck, U.S. Southern Command chief of staff, thanks the Honorable Gordon R. England for his leadership and for taking time to visit with the command's sailors.

Navy nurses save lives of those who have sworn 'death to all Americans'

By Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Sherwood, USN
JTF-160 Public Affairs

U. S. NAVAL BASE, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA — Navy Fleet Hospital nurses have taken an oath to provide the best health care possible for their pa-



Navy Lt. j.g. Douglas Stiles, a nurse at Fleet Hospital 20, provides medical attention to a detainee at U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

tients. Here, their patients are the suspected “terrorists in training” captured in Afghanistan.

At Navy Fleet Hospital 20, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the mission is simple -- to provide a primary care facility for the al-Qa’ida and Taliban terrorist detainees.

However, for the staff, the care they’ve been asked to provide has been anything but routine.

As of March 12, the hospital staff has performed 43 surgeries, most of which are orthopedic in nature, mended broken bones and treated gunshot wounds -- the types of injuries commonly sustained in war. In addition, the hospital staff has had to amputate two legs, a finger, and also remove an eye of a detainee who came to the camp with sight damage.

In another case, officials flew in a specialist from the Portsmouth, Va., Naval Medical Center to per-

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form a delicate neurological procedure. The detainee needed a lesion cut away from his spine; this was said to be tuberculosis related.

“He would have been paralyzed in four months and a very good chance he would be dead if he didn’t get this treatment,” said Lt. j.g. Douglas Stiles, a Navy nurse.

The Fleet Hospital is a mobile facility designed by the Navy to treat American troops. This is the first time the hospital has been used specifically to treat a U.S. foe.

Given the threats that

come with providing this unique care, special precautions have been put in place.

For example, there are fewer beds to allow for guards to stand watch over

the detainees. Also, there is a poster that reminds staff to keep track of their pens, pencils and other items that can be used as weapons. “Never turn your back on a detainee,” it warns.

“No one was trained for this situation. We trained to take care of Marines and other friendly service members. Taking care of terrorists was not part of any of our training,” Stiles said. “Col. Terry L. Carico gave us a briefing on how to conduct ourselves and what precautions to take, that anything is a potential weapon. We no longer carry comfort items: stethoscope, scissors, tongue depressors



Navy Lt. Damon Johns, also a Navy nurse, says he treats each detainee the same, but does not push them, so they will allow him to provide them the medical treatment they require.

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things like that,” Stiles added.

The Army Military Police provide the security for the Hospital. For added security, detainees remain shackled at the hospital and are hand cuffed to their beds so they have no way of reaching for needles, scissors and scalpels, anything that could be used as a weapon.

The mission of the nurses and

staff is care giving, to heal their patients physically and psychologically. Nurses are taught that the healing process is both physical and psychological.

Because this is a first-of-its-kind operation, sometimes patient care and security are in conflict.

For example, one of the detainees wasn't eating. Someone found out he enjoyed coloring. He was given a couple of crayons and something to scribble on and soon after that he began eating. This sounds like good

medicine, but for the Military Police this is getting a little too friendly. Getting too familiar (friendly) with a detainee is a security violation.

It is a balancing act the staff must do everyday, separating their feelings and emotions from their patients. “I'm trained to give care, I don't let my feelings control what I do,” Stiles said.

“All people are basically the same,” added Lt. Damon Johns, also a Navy nurse. “I use humor and I don't push them, that way they

will do what you want,” he said.

For identification purposes each of the detainees are referred to by number rather than by name. Navy nurses and staff know what medication number 80 is to receive or the last time number 125 has eaten. This was designed to be a more efficient way of caring for the patients.

However, it has unintentionally taken out the human element (their name) of caring for the detainees.

Cmdr. Jaime

Carrol, director of nursing, explained that the nursing staff stands watch 12-hour shifts, two days on, two days off, and three on. It is a demanding job both physically and mentally for her staff.

“It is hard to explain what we do here. We run the gamut of emotions, wanting to be buddies and not MP's,” Carrol said. “We don't want to be jailers. We have received no resistance and many have thanked us.”



Command bids farewell to Sosa

Army Col. James M. Willey (Right), U.S. Army Garrison-Miami commander, presents the Defense Meritorious Service Medal to 1st Sgt. Ernest A. Sosa during a retirement ceremony Thursday at the Thurman Building. Sosa's wife Glenda, daughter Theresa, 20, son Adrian, 16, and other family members attended the event. Sosa served the nation for more than 21 years. (Photo by Tom Pattison)

General welcomes nation's influential leaders

Story/Photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Ray Sarracino, USN
Southern Star Staff Writer

Army Maj. Gen. Gary Speer, U.S. Southern Command acting commander in chief, welcomed members of the Defense Orientation Conference Association to the headquarters Feb. 22.

The group received a briefing and overview of the command's mission, area of responsibility as well as a brief, and then participated in a question and answer session.

DOCA members reflect a wide diversity of expertise and experiences. They are selected by a nomination process that usually includes first having served on the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC).

This conference provides these influential community leaders from across the country with a one-week DoD program that acquaints each with the programs and policies of

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Army Maj. Gen. Gary Speer, U.S. Southern Command acting commander in chief, welcomes the nation's influential leaders in business and industry, members of the Defense Orientation Conference Association, to the headquarters in Miami Feb. 22.



Army Maj. Gen. Gary Speer briefs the DOCA members.

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the Department of Defense. The other way members are selected is by nomination by another DOCA member. Although JCOC is an official DoD program, it is an independent, non-political, non-profit association that provides a means of continuing the education of its members in matters pertaining to national security.

The DOCA experience includes visits to numerous bases and installations throughout the nation. The goal of DOCA is to familiarize influential leaders in business and industry with the military's goals and achievements, and to give them a broader understanding of how the nation's defense department works.

Military, civilian feds eligible for new long-term care insurance

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

WASHINGTON, March 6, 2002 — A new program starting later this month will offer long-term care insurance to military and civilian federal employees and their families.

The federal Office of Personnel Management has contracted with John Hancock and MetLife insurance companies

to provide this additional benefit for all federal employees and retirees.

The insurance program is designed to cover expenses associated with long-term medical care in a nursing home or in the patient's home. Federal employees will be able to purchase the insurance for themselves or their families, including parents. Federal retirees are entitled to enroll only them-



selves and their spouses in the program, according to information on the program's Internet home page, www.opm.gov/insure/ltc.

An early enrollment period is scheduled from March 25 to May 15, followed by an open-enroll-

ment season beginning July 1. Applicants may be required to answer health-related questions, provide medical records or be interviewed personally to be eligible for the insurance.

Program managers haven't an-

nounced premiums yet, but rates will vary based on amount of coverage, type of inflation protection chosen and current age of the person being covered. Officials plan to include a rate calculator on the Web site by the time the early enrollment period starts.

Service members and federal civilian workers initially might think they needn't worry about long-term care insurance, but perhaps they should, officials

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said. Medicare, TRICARE and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program are not designed to cover long-term care, they noted.

The usual practice in similar civilian programs is the younger and healthier the beneficiary at enrollment, the lower the premiums. That should also be true in the federal version, said Frank Titus, OPM assistant director for long-term care.

Federal officials emphasized the government pays no part of the premiums or benefits.



Those officials recommended individuals who want more information on issues surrounding long-term care and on the federal program to sign up for an e-mail newsletter, "Get Smart About Your Future," at https://ltcfeds.com/pre_reg.html, or to visit www.ltcfeds.com.

BABY CRIB

Congratulations to the parents of the newest addition to the U.S. Southern Command family. The following baby was born recently:

Dec. 21, 2001:
Taylor Nicole Perry, daughter of Army Spc. Michael Perry, J-2 Intelligence Directorate, and wife Yiomara, was born at South Miami Hospital. The baby weighed 5 pounds, 13 ounces, and measured 17 inches.



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. April 5 and 17 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 April 22 through 25 from 8 a.m. to 4 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 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Thursday 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. April 5.

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 financial planning seminar 2:30 to 4 p.m. April 18 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**.

CINC's Cup

The 2002 Commander in Chiefs Cup Field Day is scheduled at the headquarters 8 a.m. to noon April 19.

Spring picnic

The U.S. Southern Command Spring Picnic is 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 6 at C.B. Smith Park in Pembroke Pines, Fla., located at 900 North Flamingo Road.

Thrift Savings

Military members should be aware that if they are participating in the Thrift Savings Plan that DFAS does not control the TSP PIN number. These letters are issued by the Federal Thrift Investment Board upon receipt of the military member's first contribution, and are mailed to the address of the contributor when the deduction has started. Once the PIN is received the

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.

military member can access the TSP website at www.tsp.gov or by calling the Thriftline at **(504) 255-8777** to make a contribution allocation.

Address changes

To make an address

change for a Thrift Savings Plan account, a military member should submit a new TSP-U-1 to update the mailing information on the TSP account.

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PIN number errors

The Thrift Savings Board has informed DFAS that a very small number of military members may have received incorrect PIN numbers. This has been corrected and the TSB will be sending those affected a new PIN number and letter explaining the error.

Suspended credit cards

In order to reduce the number of active-duty, travel-charge-card accounts, Bank of America has suspended accounts that haven't been used within the last year. In addition, the bank has cancelled accounts that have never been used. If a military member is in doubt about the status of their charge card, contact the Agency Program Coordinator.

Trips & Tours

Morale, Welfare and Recreation, U.S. Army Garrison Miami, is sponsoring the following trips and tours:

April 13

A trip is planned to Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla., departing at 6 a.m. and returning at 11 p.m. Cost is \$46.50 for adults and \$37 for children age 3 to 9. Call **(305) 437-2639** to sign up. Registration deadline is April 10.

April 20

A deep sea fishing trip is planned, departing at 6 a.m. and returning at 11 p.m. Cost is \$25 per angler. Equipment and bait is

included. Call **(305) 437-2639** to sign up. Registration deadline is April 17.

Disney Discounts

The Disney Corporation has extended their Armed Forces Salute to active duty personnel and their families. Active duty members can receive a seven-day consecutive pass to enter any of Disney's theme parks free of charge. Family members receive the same ticket at 50 percent off the current rate when entering a park. For more information, call Lothar Einsfield at **(305) 437-2639**.

Upcoming career fair

U.S. Southern Command's Job/Career Fair is 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. May 21 at the Metro Dade Fighters Memorial located at 8000 NW 21st Street in Miami.

Numerous governmental and commercial employers will be on hand to discuss employment opportunities with military members, veterans, civilians and their family members. To register for the event or to obtain more information, call Peggy Corpman at (305) 437-2632 or Marva Creary at (305) 437-2671.

(Photo by Navy Chief Petty Officer Gabe Puello)



Get involved for computer security's sake

The J-6 Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Systems Directorate's Information Assurance Division invites U.S. Southern Command personnel to attend the 5th Annual Computer Security Day 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 17 at the Thurman Building's Main Conference Room. Three computer security training sessions are also planned at 9 and 11 a.m., and 1 p.m.

Computer Security Day is a popular event that raises awareness to the growing computer security threat within the command and throughout the world. Presentations by National Security Agency and De-



fense Information Systems Agency officials along with and other select agencies will highlight the consequences of computer security breaches from a variety of threats.

The three Computer

Security Day training sessions is a “reinforcement activity” that helps everyone to be aware of his or her responsibilities in protecting computer systems and the vital information contained within. In today’s fast-

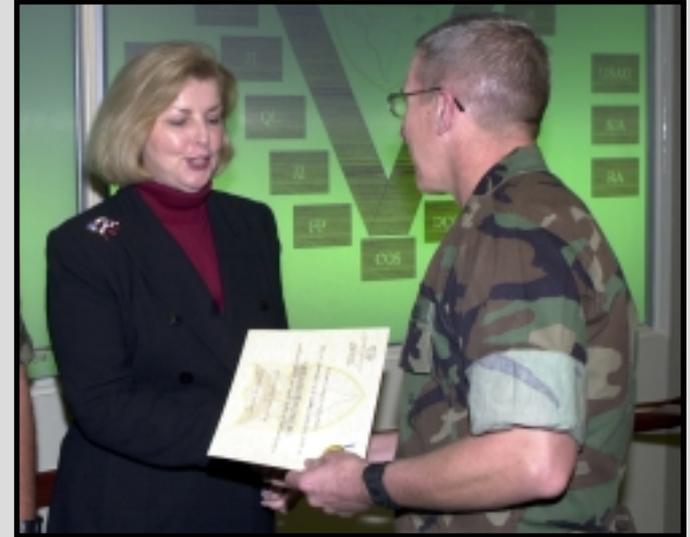
paced, technological world, no one can afford to become complacent with computer security practices. Threats and vulnerabilities are real, and the risks to national security are high.

Promotional items will be handed out to attendees whom complete computer security surveys. Other activities planned include a chance to win a prize for completing the command's Information Security training on this day. Drawing for the prizes is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Additionally computer security awareness messages will be sent via email throughout the day to promote the event.

Honor Roll

Command selection

Congratulations to **Col. Otis G. Mannon, SOCSO**, who was recently selected to command the 352 Special Operations Group, Mildenhall Royal Air Force Base, United Kingdom.



'Top Dog' winners

Brig. Gen. Richard Huck, U.S. Southern Command chief of staff, presents Army Maj. Robert R. Schmidt (Left photo), a desk officer with the J-5 Strategy, Policy, and Plans Directorate, and Sandra Reinhardt, a legislative assistant with the Congressional Affairs Office, 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 March 14. (Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Lee Roberts)

Black history event marks time when 'Battle' stood for equality

"In 1940, the U.S. didn't want black people to fly. By 1944, the Nazis didn't want black people to fly!"

— Mr. Leroy A. Battle, Sr.

By Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Ray Sarracino, USN

Southern Star Staff Writer

A brief history

While bullets flew, bombs dropped, and shells exploded in the skies over Europe in World War II, a different kind of battle raged here in the United States – the battle for equality and opportunity for African-American soldiers, sailors, Marines and airman to be able to serve on an equal footing with their white counterparts.



Tuskegee Airman, Leroy A. Battle Sr.

What would be unthinkable today, was the norm during WWII — African-American service members

were segregated and divided into positions and units that severely limited them from entering combat. These decisions were partly based on a 1925 study that labeled African-Americans unfit for combat and leadership positions.

However, due to the efforts of several government leaders, the civil aviation authority, and influential African-American leaders — including the press — a test program was begun at several traditionally black schools. One of these was the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, where a select group of students was given the opportunity to attend pilot training. This program was successful despite the efforts of others to derail it.

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Of the approximately 992 Tuskegee graduates, known as “Tuskegee Airmen,” 450 went on to serve as fighter pilots in the European Theater. They served in the 99th, 100th, 301st and 302nd fighter groups. They eventually merged into what became the 332nd Fighter Wing. They flew P-40s, P-39s, P-47s and P-51s. They flew more than 15,553 sorties and achieved an outstanding record of success in combat,



Brig. Gen. Richard Huck (Left), U.S. Southern Command chief of staff, welcomes Tuskagee Airman Leroy A. Battle Sr., to the command’s Black History Month celebration Feb. 14.

earning their reputation by having never lost an escorted bomber to enemy aircraft. Sixty-six of them were killed in action, and another 32 were shot down and became prison-

ers of war. Between them they earned more than 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses.

They cemented their reputation by painting the tails of their aircraft bright red. This distinctive symbol became a sign of welcome relief to allied bomber crews, as well as a symbol of fear for enemy fighter pilots, who knew they were facing among the best of America’s pilots.

It should also be noted that more than 10,000 African-

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American men and women served in support roles for the Tuskegee Airmen. They ranged from flight instructors to air traffic controllers, bombardiers, navigators, radio operators and technicians to mechanics, as well as many other support positions. One of them, Mr. Leroy A. Battle, Sr., brought that history to life for the command's personnel Feb. 14.

Leroy A. Battle, Sr.

His visit was the highlight of SOUTHCOM's Black History Month Celebration. After opening remarks by Master Sgt.

Garrett Edmond, assistant executive officer, chief of staff, and Lt. Col. Stanley Brown, J-1 deputy director, a brief introduction by Brig.Gen. Richard Huck, chief of staff, Battle regaled the audience with tales of his adventures as a Tuskegee Airman.

Battle related how he entered the service in 1943; received basic training at Keesler Field, Miss.; and continued through several training programs, including the Tuskegee Army Air Field, Ala.

The mutiny at Freeman Field

During Battle's training, one of his stops was Freeman Field in Seymour,

Ind. It was during his time there that he participated in what became known as the "Mutiny at Freeman Field." He was part of a group of 19 African-American officers that disobeyed a direct order to "not enter the officer's club," which was reserved for white officers only. On April 5, 1945, he and his fellow officers entered the club, were arrested and threatened with punishments ranging from courts-martial to hanging.

Although the charges were subsequently dropped, the fallout from the arrests had an impact on the careers of everyone involved, as well as the military. According to Battle, the base com-

mander who brought the charges initially, was replaced by Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, a member of the Tuskegee Airmen.

After the incident, Battle continued his training with the Air Corps until he received his honorable discharge in Oct., 1945.

Moving on with music, education

After his service, Battle pursued his music career, attending the Julliard School of Music and participating in Columbia University's Marching Band. He graduated from Morgan College in

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1950 and received a master's degree from the University of Maryland. He played for the Washington Redskins marching band, taught music, was a guidance counselor and a vice-principal in various schools, and is currently the manager of a swing band called The Altones, a group he has been affiliated with since 1950.

After giving a moving speech (that including a rousing rendition of the Tuskegee Airmen theme song) to the audience, he was treated to a reception and luncheon that included a Black History Month dis-



play as well as a diverse offering of ethnic foods. Battle graciously answered questions, posed for photos and signed autographs throughout the reception.

For more information about the Tuskegee Airmen, go to www.tuskegeeairmen.org.



Courtesy photos

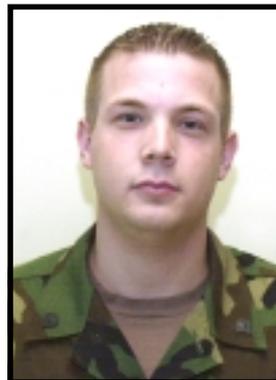
Leroy A. Battle Sr., shown above with other Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, stood up and fought for equality when he entered, with other African American officers, into an all-white Officers Club. (Above left) Battle eventually left the military and pursued a professional career in music. He also taught and mentored young high-school students in Maryland.

Sgt. 1st Class Eric B. Turner



Service: U.S. Army
Organization:
J-2 Intelligence Directorate
Duty title: NCO in charge of South America Branch
Time in service: 17 years
Hometown: Oklahoma City, Okla.
Hobbies: Reading about history, religion, extremist groups, current events, military subjects; writing, and spending time with my wife and kids
Favorite duty station: Fort Campbell, Ky.
Career highlights: Meeting great people while assigned as U.S. Southern Command Joint Color Guard NCO in charge, being in Germany when the Berlin Wall came down, and traveling to Prague right after that.

Spc. Michael T. Perry



Service: U.S. Army
Organization: J-2 Intelligence Directorate
Duty title: Administration specialist
Time in service: 3 years.
Hometown: Garner, N.C.
Hobbies: Basketball, going to the beach, watching sports
Favorite duty station: Only been to one -- U.S. Southern Command
Career highlights: Being able to travel to Quarry Heights in Panama.

Price is right

Army Spc. DeCarlos Garner (Right), J-4 Logistics Directorate, shops for bargains at the Defense Commissary Agency's case lot sale March 1 with his wife Jessica and their baby Dorilyn. The next sale is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 1, 2 and 3. The sale is open to valid military ID holders -- active duty, retirees, Reservists and their family members. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Ray Sarracino)

