

# Inside out

Page 2  
ACINC's  
Independence  
Day Message

Pages 16-17  
Sailor saves  
shipmate in  
Panama

Pages 23-26  
Air Force  
doctors share  
expertise in  
Chile

# SOUTHERN STAR



★ *The newspaper of United States Southern Command* ★

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See pages 3-6

*Image courtesy of the National  
Hurricane Center*



# *Hurricane Season*

*Preparing for South Florida's tropical threat*

# Reflecting on our independence



**Freedom**

By Army Maj. Gen. Gary D. Speer  
U.S. Southern Command Acting Com-  
mander in Chief

**T**his Independence Day, our Nation's 226th birthday, is an occasion for reflection as well as for celebration.

Throughout our proud history, U.S. military forces have played a key role in safeguarding the democracy and liberty that we, as Americans, hold so dear.

Today, our Nation recognizes a new threat, one that in coming years will test the courage, strength, and determination of the U.S. Armed Forces, perhaps more than any other

challenge in our history.

In the War on Terrorism, we fight as we have always fought, for a just peace that guarantees human rights and freedom from oppression. We wish for others what we have always wished for ourselves — safety from violence as well as liberty and opportunity for our children.

Your exemplary efforts and personal sacrifices help to ensure our Nation's independence, now and in the coming years. We honor you as well as the United States on this special day.

Best wishes for a safe and happy Independence Day.

## ***Southern Star***

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\* \* \* \* \*

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Army Sgt. Lucy J. Pabon.....*CINC photographer*

# Early preparation key to hurricane season readiness

By Tech. Sgt. Jose Ruiz,  
USAF  
Southern Star Editor

Mention the names Arthur, Dolly or Hanna to South Florida residents today and you're not likely to get much of a reaction, but mention names like Andrew or Irene and you'll probably raise a few eyebrows.

That's because Andrew and Irene were the names of two hurricanes that struck South Florida

in the '90s, significantly impacting area residents with high winds and flooding.

This year, Arthur, Dolly and Hanna are but three of the 21 names the National Hurricane Center has chosen to identify tropical cyclones generated over the Atlantic region during this year's hurricane sea-

*See* **Hurricanes**

## Hurricanes

*from Page 3*

son, which began June 1 and runs through Nov. 30.

The center's 2002 forecast calls for a hurricane season with average activity over the Atlantic.

According to Capt. Deeann Emery, U.S. Southern Command staff meteorologist, an average hurricane season usually produces nine named storms, including five hurricanes — two of them major.

She said South Florida is more susceptible to hurricanes than other regions in the country because of its proximity to three major bodies of water. "We can get hit with storms generated over the Atlantic Ocean,

Gulf of Mexico or the Caribbean Sea, so we can get hit from all sides, where as other areas of the country would generally be hit from one side," she explained.

She said the biggest mistake area residents can make is assuming they'll have plenty of time to prepare before a hurricane strikes their area.

"You don't always get five days warning on a hurricane," Emery warned. "You could have as little as 24 hours notice. You should really prepare beforehand so that you're not left high and dry when hurricane conditions are imminent."

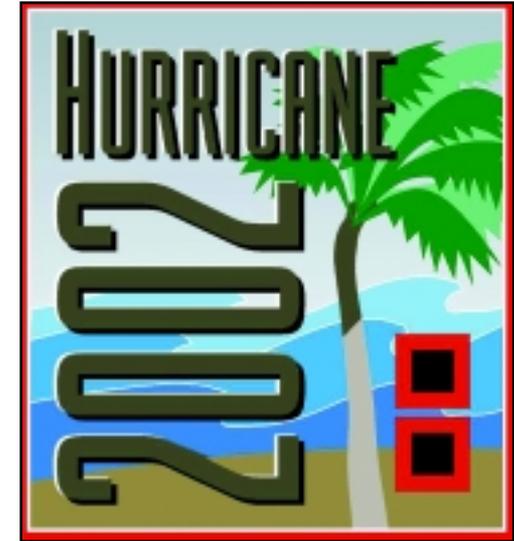
She added that vital

*See* **Hurricanes**

*Page 5*

### Things to do before a watch or warning

- Know if you are in a flood or evacuation zone
- Know the location of official shelters
- Make sure emergency equipment such as flashlights and battery-powered radios work
- Ensure enough non-perishable food and water supplies are on hand
- Obtain materials necessary to properly secure your home.
- Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts
- If you own a boat, determine where to move it
- Review insurance policies



## Hurricanes

*from Page 4*

supplies, such as plywood, bottled water, fuel and even cash, are usually in short stock by the time hurricane warnings are issued and encouraged USSOUTHCOM members to review the command's hurricane preparation Web site at <http://www.southcom.mil/hurricaneprep/index.htm> and prepare for storms before they're forecasted to arrive.

Emery pointed out the site includes a map of evacuation zones by hurricane category in Miami-Dade and Broward counties to assist members in determining whether to evacuate, adding that evacuation decisions should be made as early as possible.

"If you wait too long you may not be able to evacuate, because all of the people from the Keys will be traveling through Miami-Dade County trying to get out of harm's way, so the roads will be clogged," she said.

*See* **Hurricanes**

*Page 6*

### Things to do before a hurricane hits landfall

- Bring lightweight outdoor objects indoors
- Fuel and service family vehicles. Inspect and secure mobile home tie-downs. Evacuate mobile homes. Have a supply of extra cash on hand.
- Notify neighbors and family members outside of the warned area of your evacuation plans. Put food and water out for pets if you cannot take them with you. Shelters will not allow pets and many hotels/motels will not either.
- Turn refrigerator to maximum cold and only open if necessary. Turn off propane tanks. Unplug small appliances.
- Turn off utilities if recommended by local authorities
- Take refuge in small interior room, closet or hallway when winds become strong.
- After storms, check gas, water and electrical lines for damage. Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until sure it is not contaminated. Use the telephone sparingly.

### Items to bring with you to shelters

- First aid kit, medicine, baby food, diapers and toiletries
- Battery operated radios, including weather radio
- Flashlight for each person, extra batteries
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Picture ID and valuable papers

## Hurricanes

*from Page 5*

To sustain communications with all personnel during such evacuations, the command is asking all personnel to update their personal information on the SOUTHCOM Theater Enterprise Management System.

“It’s a very important part of USSOUTHCOM’s hurricane preparations,” Emery said. “If you live in an evacuation zone, you have to list the address you would evacuate to, as well as a phone number

where you can be contacted. That way, if a storm is coming, the command can automatically download this data from STEMS and know how many people live in evacuation zones, who they are and how to locate them.”

Emery said everyone should know the difference between a hurricane watch and a hurricane warning.

“In a watch, storm conditions are expected within 36 hours, where as in a warning, they’re expected within 24 hours, so it’s really a matter of time,” she

explained.

“When a watch is issued, people should start gathering their hurricane supplies and monitoring the weather updates,” she added. “With a warning, you don’t have much time.

You should already be prepared for the storm because it’s coming.”

She stressed that the potential for a hurricane strike in South Florida should not be underestimated.

“We should take the hurricane threat to

our area very seriously,” she said. “It’s easy to get lulled into a false sense of security after hearing that it’s an El Nino or below average year, but Andrew happened during a below

average year.

“It just takes one hurricane to ruin your whole day,” she concluded, “so we need to pay attention to the storm systems that are happening around us.”

## Hurricane Categories

- Category I: Winds of 74-95 mph, 4-5 foot storm surge, minimal damage
- Category II: Winds of 96-110 mph, 6-8 foot storm surge, moderate damage
- Category III: Winds of 111-130 mph, 9-12 foot storm surge, extensive damage
- Category IV: Winds of 131-155 mph, 13-18 foot storm surge, extreme damage
- Category V: Winds of greater than 155 mph, greater than 18 foot storm surge, catastrophic damage

# Army celebrates 227th anniversary

By Jonathan Williamson  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Seven-year-old Handley Boyd was made an honorary private in the Army at its 227th birthday celebration June 14.

Handley, a first-grader at Blanchard Elementary in Columbus, Ga., is responsible for the creation of the 39-by-241/2-foot patchwork American flag that flew above the ceremony at the Pentagon.

Handley inspired his mother, Michele Boyd, to pursue the creation of the flag with his reaction to the events of Sept. 11.

“I was looking on TV and I saw them drop the flag on the Pentagon,” Handley said. “I got big crocodile tears and I said, ‘I want to do that some day.’”

The flag is composed of 12-by-14-

inch squares, designed by the students with their memories, messages of support, and pictures of Sept. 11.

About 270 faculty, students and family members of Blanchard attended the ceremony, as well as Congressman Michael Collins of Georgia.

The ceremony included remarks from Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki. Both remarked not only on the birthday celebration, but also thanked the Blanchard students for their contribution.

“They are here to share with us this wonderful gift and symbol of their patriotism. The magnificent flag hanging behind me — its great proportions exceeded only by the care

*See **Birthday**  
Page 8*



Photo by Army Sgt. Lucy Pabon  
Sgt. 1st Class Richard Cannon, USSOUTHCOM Personal Security Detachment NCOIC, cuts the Army birthday cake with a bayonet at a ceremony in the Thurman Building main conference room June 14.

## Birthday

*from Page 5*

and love that went into making it," Shinseki said. "Thank you for this demonstration of sympathy for the suffering we all experienced on 11 Sept. and for this symbol of strength and resolve to help overcome our pain."

Handley, Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White and 20-year-old Pfc. Rafael Lozano, the youngest soldier in attendance, then joined Tilley and Shinseki in cutting the cake with a cavalry-style saber.

"It was an honor to be up there. I never imagined myself being up there with secretary of the Army, the sergeant major of the

Army, and the chief of Staff," Lozano said.

The cake cutting was not the first celebration in honor of the birthday. Ceremonies kicked off in Washington, D.C., at an Army Birthday Commemoration ceremony, in the Rayburn House Office Building June 11. The Army also hosted a ceremony with the Senate on June 12. The ceremony, which was held in the Russell Senate Office Building Caucus Room, included remarks from White and Shinseki.

The Twilight Tattoo, a military parade, which takes place Wednesdays April 17 until July 31, 2002 on the Ellipse, honored the Army Birthday on June 12.

The hour-long cer-

emony traces the history of the Army from the American Revolution to today's peacekeeping missions.

Specialty units from the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) and the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" performed at the ceremony.

An Army staff run at Fort Meyer, Va. was held in honor of both the Army's birthday, and those who had given their lives in defense of freedom on the morning of June 13.

The U.S. Army Birthday Ball will end celebrations in the nation's Capitol late June 14. D.C. was not the only place where celebrations took place.

At USSOUTHCOM, soldiers hosted a cake-cut-

ting ceremony at the Thurman Building's main conference room June 14 with veteran soldiers from World War II, as well as the Korean and Vietnam wars.

People across the country, from New York City to Orange, Va. also took part in Army birthday ceremonies and festivities.

In Orange, Va., the Army's "Golden Knights" participated in tandem jumps with Miss. Virginia USA, and soldiers from the Army Personnel Command.

New York City had a variety of events, including The Today Show on NBC featuring The U.S. Army Brass Quintet and the 3rd US Infantry "Old Guard" Continental Color.

# USSOUTHCOM tests evacuation procedures

By Petty Officer 1st Class Ray Sarracino, USNR  
U.S. Southern Command Public Affairs

Miami — A gentle chime, a flurry of activity, covers grabbed, spaces secured — all in an effort to make a speedy exit from the headquarters building.

Planning and organization were the keys to ensuring a quick evacuation and an accounting of personnel during a USSOUTHCOM practice fire drill June 6.

The drill was led by USSOUTHCOM Provost Marshal, Army Lt. Col. Richard Georgi to ensure that headquarters folks know how to make it out safely in the event of a real emergency.

According to Georgi, the drill went smoothly. “We observed what we expected to see,” he said. “In a real emergency I would encourage everyone to forego personal items and evacuate the build-



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Ray Sarracino

ing immediately.”

Georgi pointed out that as far as future drills are concerned, USSOUTHCOM personnel should expect the unexpected.

“Future drills may be unannounced and involve more complex scenarios, such as mass casualties,” he said.



## Family pin-on

Newly promoted Colonel Craig Tate, executive officer for the Deputy Commander in Chief for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs, gets his new rank insignia pinned on by his daughter, Hanna Tate, left, and father, Eugene Tate, right, during a promotion ceremony at the Thurman Building main conference room June 17. (Photo by Army Sgt. Lucy Pabon)

# GTMO general rates force protection high

## *JTF 160 commander discusses security, detainee treatment*

By Rudi Williams  
American Forces Press Service

NAVAL STATION GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba, — Joint Task Force 160's primary mission is taking care of captured enemy combatants from the war on terrorism, but the outfit's commander emphasizes that the safety and security of his people is as important — or more so.

"We have to make sure our security posture for the entire area is taken care of. We must also observe operations security issues," said Rhode Island Army

National Guard Brig. Gen. Rick Baccus, who succeeded Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Michael R. Lehnert as task force commander on March 28. He formerly commanded the 43rd Military Police Brigade in Warwick, R.I.

"We have to be about the protection of our own service men and women assigned here," said Baccus, who wears the Army Ranger and Special Forces tabs and the master parachutist and pathfinder badges.

Joint Task Force 160,

composed of more than 1,700 U.S. service members and civilians, is responsible for receiving and securing detainees in support of the global war on terrorism.

"We also support Joint Task Force 170 and have a mission for migrant operations," Baccus noted. "For instance, if there's a surge of Haitians or Cubans looking for asylum, we have to be prepared to react to that."

JTF 170 handles interrogation operations for the Department of Defense and ensures coordination among government agencies involved in the inter-

rogation of the suspected terrorists.

As to the detainees, Baccus said the task force must ensure they're treated humanely within the spirit of the Geneva Convention.

"Humane treatment means we have to provide them clothing, food, shelter and allow them to practice their religious beliefs," the general said. "However, what we don't allow them to do are things like live in groups, use the canteen or work on work details."

The Geneva Conven-

See **GTMO**

Page 12

## GTMO

*from Page 11*

tion states that those who are guarding and caring for the detainees should live under similar conditions as those incarcerated, he noted. "You wouldn't want detainees living in substandard conditions, which is something we in the United States wouldn't want to happen," he said. "Obviously our soldiers — the guard force — who deal with them every day are living in the same area as the detainees at Camp Delta."

There are 564 captured enemy combatants in the 612-unit detention facility at Camp Delta. If they keep arriving as they have this month — 180 so far — the facility will soon run out of space.

If that happens, solving the problem depends on what Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld decides to do, Baccus said.

The task force moved 300 detainees from Camp X-Ray to Delta on April 28 and 29.

At X-Ray, they lived in 8 feet by 8 feet units with open-air, chain-link walls, a concrete floor and a combination wood and metal roof. At Camp Delta, their units measure 8 feet by 6 feet, 8 inches.

"We've a much more secure facility to house them in Camp Delta," Baccus said. "There is indoor plumbing, exercise areas are better controlled, and detainees are out of the sun more."

Caring for detainees is much easier at Camp Delta, he noted. "For instance, the guards don't have to escort them to the bathroom all the time and those types of things," he said. "That's a great improvement in terms of how the guards have to deal with them on a daily basis."

Each of Camp Delta's 612 units has a flush toilet, metal bed frame

and a sink with running water. None of that was available at Camp X-Ray, where guards had to escort detainees to portable toilets.

"All the service members here recognize the fact that they need to treat the detainees humanely," he pointed out. "Any time anyone lays down their arms, our culture has been to treat them as noncombatant and humanely.

"The detainees are accepting their incarceration as a matter of course," he said.

Baccus said Joint Task Force 160's accomplishments since the first detainees arrived in January show "a tremendous effort on the part of all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen involved.

"We've gone from zero in January to 564 to date," he said. "That certainly says something about the quality of the service men and women who are serving here."



Photo by Lance Cpl. Damian McGee

Marines from the 4th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company take time from their operation to paint a hospice in downtown Port of Spain, Trinidad.

# Marines mend building, open hearts in Trinidad

By Lance Cpl. Damian McGee  
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South

TRINIDAD — In a recent State of the Union Address, President Bush asked Americans to spend at least two years in support of their neighbors, helping in whatever ways possible.

Joining in this effort, a group of Marines and sailors here as part of “Operation Weedeater” spent a day of service making repairs at St. Clare’s senior center and hospice.

“We may not be able to do everything, but we’re going to do the best we can with what we have,” said Navy Lt. William

Cantrell, chaplain, Medium Marine Helicopter Squadron 764, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

Although the Marines were limited in time, their best was more than anyone could have expected, or more than anyone had done for the hospice in the past.

“We are extremely grateful,” said Dr. Alan Patrick, who coordinated the effort on behalf of the hospice. “No one has ever taken the time to do something like this for us. People around here may not know that it was the Marines who did this, but

See **Trinidad**

Page 14

## Trinidad

*from Page 13*

they'll definitely see a 'new' building every time they walk by."

The Marines removed mold from portions of the building, painted the walls surrounding the hospice, and began sanding and repainting the building itself.

The work the Marines completed in one day would have cost thousands of dollars.

"We know it's not much," said Cpl. Halain Suarez-Alvarez, 4th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (4th

ANGLICO), West Palm Beach, Fla. "However, if the little that we're doing here will make the people who reside here a little happier, or remove an eyesore from this community, then we've done our job."

During the day of work, the employees of the hospice provided a local meal for the Marines.

"If you feed Marines they'll pretty much do whatever you ask them," Cantrell said. "It was good for the Marines to be able to experience a little of the culture while

here."

At the end of a long day of work, the Marines, led by Cantrell, took time to provide a religious service for the residents of the home, many of whom are not physically able to attend church or even receive communion without assistance from an employee of the hospice.

For many of the Marines, the religious service was the most rewarding part of the event.

"We knew that the work we did would be appreciated," Suarez-Alvarez said. "How-

ever, being able to sit in a room with the 'Trinis' and share in worship was a wonderful experience.

"Hearing them sing so beautifully, despite their age or condition, just reaffirmed to us, during this time of conflict throughout the world, that love of man and God is universal," he added. "That is definitely the feeling we experienced here today."

The feeling was definitely a mutual one, and only the beginning of the difference the Marines made for the residents of the hospice

and the community.

"I don't know if the Marines understand how effective their efforts will be," Patrick said. "Not only are these Marines making the home of these people a little more comfortable to live in, but the residents here understand that they are from the U.S. and in the military. So, in addition to the residents here having a positive outlook on the military, hopefully the community will take more notice of the hospice and continue to maintain its newly reinvigorated beauty."

# USSOUTHCOM troops attend E/MSS training

By Petty Officer 1st Class Ray Sarracino,  
USNR  
U.S. Southern Command Public Affairs

When it comes to priorities, most USSOUTHCOM personnel place their pay at the top of the list. This explains the high level of interest generated by two Employee/Member Self Service training sessions held in the USSOUTHCOM main conference room June 24.

U.S. Army Garrison-Miami Consumer Services Representative, Briseida Herrera, coordinated the training and facilitated both sessions.

Attendees had the opportunity to explore Defense Finance and Accounting Service's web-based system

and learn how it can help them better manage their finances.

E/MSS allows personnel to view their leave and earning statements, sign up or make changes to their Thrift Savings Plan accounts, retirement accounts, and view recent travel vouchers — all from the convenience of their own desk, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

According to DFAS Deputy Director of E-Commerce, Jim Pitt, the training introduced members to the system and gave them the opportunity for hands-on training.

"We've had very positive feedback," Pitt said of attendee reaction to the training. He noted that easy access to pay information via E/MSS for users is just a personal identification number away.

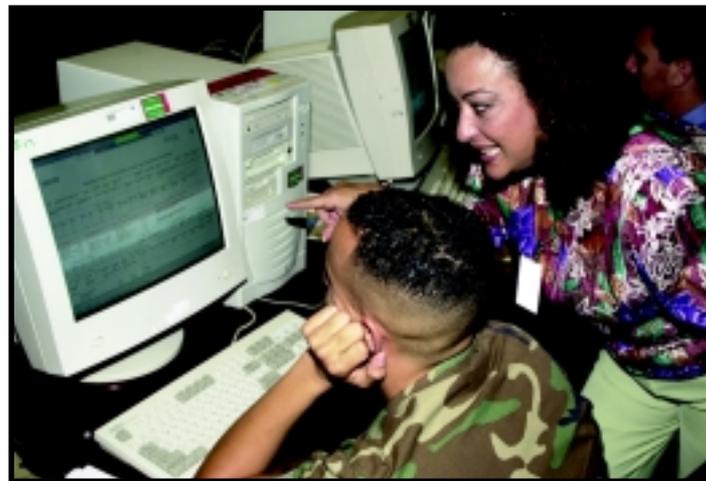


Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Ray Sarracino Herrera assists Marine Sgt. Ciazaris Rodriguez with the web-based Employee Member Self-Service (E/MSS) system.

"The biggest thing is getting people to customize their PINs," Pitt said of the system's security measure. "The PIN is the key to accessing the system. It's a simple procedure that requires just a few moments to process. Once the PIN is recorded, access can be granted from any internet-capable computer."

# USS FIFE sailor saves shipmate from drowning

By Navy Lt. Corey Barker  
U.S. Naval Forces Southern  
Command Public Affairs

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PANAMA — The day seemed peaceful enough as sailors from the Destroyer USS FIFE (DD-991) swam in a river while on a canoe trip to a remote Indian village in the thick jungles of Panama on June 16, 2002.

Firecontrolman 3rd Class Michael Griggs, from Hartsville, South Carolina struck his knee on a submerged rock while swimming in a river near the Indian village.

“My knee hit the rock and my leg went numb, I

*See **Shipmate**  
Page 17*

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Photo by Navy Lt. Corey Barker

Petty Officer Third Class Jonathan Ruth (left) pulled his shipmate Petty Officer Third Class Michael Griggs from a jungle river after Griggs injured his knee on a submerged rock.

## Shipmate

from Page 16

couldn't swim," Griggs recalled.

The lazy river looked safe, meandering slowly through the lush green trees but the current was faster than what appeared.

"I turned on my back to float but the current was too strong," he added, describing his ordeal. "I was swimming as hard as I could, but I was still going under."

Electronics Technician 3rd Class Jonathan Ruth from Gainesville, GA saw his shipmate in trouble and swam over to him to help.

"The current was strong and I could tell he was having trouble," Ruth

“  
*It was instinct, I saw my friend  
 in trouble and I went to help.*”

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jonathan Ruth

said. "It was instinct, I saw my friend in trouble and I went to help."

Ruth dragged his struggling friend to some rocks where they could rest and get out of the strong current.

"Once I got him on the rocks, that is when I realized how much trouble he was having," Ruth said.

After the exhausting swim, the two rested on the rocks for about half an hour until others from the tour

swam over a life vest to give to the injured sailor to bring him back to shore.

He was taken back to the ship for a check-up. Griggs received minor lacerations and bruises and was released for duty.

Griggs said, "I have a renewed feeling of friendship and respect for Jonathan. We were good friends before and now we are closer than ever since he saved my life. All I remember is Jonathan pull-

ing me onto some rocks."

USS FIFE's Commanding Officer, Cmdr. F.L. Ponds, has recommended Petty Officer Ruth for a Navy Achievement Medal for his heroism.

The Everett, Washington based Destroyer was visiting Panama during preparations for the annual UNITAS exercise in South America.

USS FIFE, along with ships and aircraft from Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Peru and Chile will conduct a series of multinational naval exercises in the Eastern Pacific beginning on June 28th focused on building regional cooperation, interoperability of armed forces and coalition in the Americas.



## Surgeon earns DSSM

Brig. Gen. Richard Huck, Left, USSOUTHCOM chief of staff, presents Col. Stephen Jones, USSOUTHCOM command surgeon with the Defense Superior Service Medal June 19 during an end-of-tour award presentation here. (Photo by Army Sgt. Lucy Pabon)

## J-3 vice-director decorated

Brig. Gen. Galen Jackman, Left, J-3 Operations Directorate director, presents the Defense Superior Service Medal to Col. James Cooney, J-3 vice director of operations, May 31 during an end-of-tour award presentation here. (Photo by Army Sgt. Lucy Pabon)



# Navy personnel magazines merge

By Chief Petty Officer Steve Hendrickson  
Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — Navy Personnel Command's two internal magazines will merge with the next issue published in mid-Summer.

LINK, the oldest of the two, and dedicated to providing information on personnel issues for enlisted sailors, and Perspective, which covers personnel issues for officers, will become one.

The most important reason being cited for the merger is the desire to encourage stronger relationships between the officer and enlisted ranks, by providing better access to information about each within a single medium.

Officers will have better access to information about the ratings of the enlisted sailors who work for them, and enlisted sail-

ors will have an increased awareness of officer career opportunities.

"It's a super idea," said one petty officer. "Combining the two magazines will provide a type of one-stop information source for all sailors. Since joining the Navy, my goal has been to get a commission. The information I anticipate being able to find in LINK-Perspective will enable me to find a relevant commissioning source and information for the pro-

fessional area I am interested in. The convenience alone will make it worthwhile."

Editors of LINK and Perspective are studying the distribution of their respective magazines and adjusting the numbers to ensure an adequate number of copies of the new magazine are distributed to each command.

Commanders are encouraged to make certain that the new magazine is equitably distributed between their officer and enlisted sailors.

For continuity the new magazine will be titled "LINK-Perspective" for the first few issues, and then will assume the new title of "PersLink." For more information, go to [www.bupers.navy.mil/periodicals](http://www.bupers.navy.mil/periodicals).

For more news from the Chief of Naval Personnel, go to their Navy NewsStand Web page at [www.news.navy.mil/local/cnp](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/cnp).



## 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. July 10 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 to be held July 22-25 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the

La Quinta Hotel, 8730 NW 27th Street. 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.

### Newcomers

The Family Support Center is sponsoring a newcomers briefing 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. July 12 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. July 19.

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**.

### Credit fraud

Credit fraud is becoming increasingly more common

*See* **Briefs**

*Page 21*

## Briefs

from Page 20

in the United States.

A credit thief can use your social security number to acquire goods and services in your name without your knowledge.

A way to protect yourself from these activities is to contact the three national credit reporting organizations and a place a fraud alert on your name and social security number.

Initiate a fraud alert telephonically. Equifax and Experian use telephone numeric prompts. Trans Union requires information verbally (recorded). An added benefit of the fraud alert process is the companies will provide you

a free copy of your credit report.

The national credit reporting organizations are Equifax: **(800) 525-6285**; Experian (formerly TRW): **(888) 397-3742**; and Trans Union: **(800) 680-7289**.

If you are a victim of fraud, you should also contact the Social Security Administration fraud line at **(800) 269-0271**.

## DECA case sale

The Defense Commissary Agency will hold a case lot sale from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. August 1 to 3 at the headquarters' east end parking lot.

For more information, call Bruce Evenson at **(305) 437-2658**.



## All Navy call

There will be an all Navy call at 3 p.m. Tuesday in the Thurman Building main conference room.

This event will include a Captain's Call for E-6 and below.

For more information call Senior Chief Petty Officer Billy Whitley at **(305) 437-2009**.

See Briefs

Page 22

## Briefs

from Page 21

### Free admission

The Parrot Jungle is offering free admission to veterans and active-duty service personnel and \$3 off admission to accompanying family members from July 4-7. For more information, call **(305) 666-7834**.

### Important numbers

**Family Counseling Center**

(305) 437-3086

**Housing Referral**

(305) 437-2656

**Education Services**

(305) 437-1141

**Carlson Wagonlit**

(305) 436-1746

**Opa-Locka USCG Veterinary Services (POC SK2 Young)**

(305) 953-2195

## Trips & Tours

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

### July 6

A trip to Disney World in Orlando, Fla., departing at 6 a.m. from the headquarters and returning at 11 p.m.

Cost is \$46.50 for adults, and \$35 for children age 3-9. Call **(305) 437-2639** to sign up. The deadline to sign up is noon today.

### July 20

A trip to the Kennedy Space Center departing at 7 a.m. from the headquarters and returning at 11

p.m. Cost is \$21.50 for adults, and \$13.20 for children age 3-9. Call **(305) 437-2639** to sign up. The deadline to sign up is July 17.

**MWR Phone Number**



**(305) 437-2639**

# Military professionals share expertise in Chile

*Doctors pave way for future military medical exchanges*

By Tech. Sgt. Rian Clawson, USAF  
12th Air Force Public Affairs

For one member of the Twelfth Air Force, April's *Feria Internacional del Aire y Espacio 2002* was just a break from his normal work schedule – in Santiago, Chile.

Lt. Col. Warren Dorlac participates in the Personnel Exchange Program as a trauma and general surgeon in the *Fuerza Aerea de Chile* (FACH) hospital.

And, although his experience – a U.S. Air Force doctor working alongside friendly foreign military doctors



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Rian Clawson

Lt. Col. Warren Dorlac, left, assists Fuerza Aerea de Chile surgeon Dr. Francisco Allemmand with a coronary artery bypass graft in the FACH hospital in Santiago, Chile. Dorlac and his wife, Lt. Col. (Dr.) Gina Dorloc, are U.S. Air Force doctors participating in an exchange program.

See **Exchange**

Page 24

## Exchange

*from Page 23*

– is extraordinary, it’s not entirely unique. His wife, Lt. Col. Gina Dorlac, is a critical care physician and pulmonologist in the same program, making the PEP experience a “family affair” for the Dorlacs.

“Participating in this program is an incredible experience,” Warren said. “Working with and for the Chilean air force is a win-win situation for everyone involved. Obviously, I get to enhance my Spanish language

skills, but I also get the chance to integrate and practice surgery internationally, something that would not otherwise have been possible. We are not just visiting doctors; we’re actually working in their hospital.

“As for the Chileans,” he added, “this is an exchange program and they will rotate physicians at our U. S. Air Force hospitals. We have some excellent programs for international training and getting so many of

*See* **Exchange**  
*Page 25*



Lt. Col. (Dr.) Gina Dorlac, enjoys a quiet moment on Easter Sunday with one of her sons, Elliott, in the home the Dorlacs have made in Santiago, Chile.



**Lt. Col. (Dr.) Warren Dorlac hikes with his son, Elliott, on Mount Manquehe, in Chile. Dorlac spent much of his own youth in Chile and Peru with his father and is now sharing a similar experience with his family while participating in the Air Force personnel exchange program.**

## Exchange

*from Page 24*

our South American colleagues involved is a primary goal.”

“The Chileans are also teaching us – we exchange ideas in medical disaster response and critical care air transport,” Gina added. “The FACH treats patients from all over Chile, including severe traumas from some very remote locations. As a result, they do emergency medical transport all the time and we’ve been able to learn a great deal from them.”

Including surgeons in the PEP was the vision of U.S. Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Paul K. Carlton, Jr., “and he brought it up to me while doing a site visit in King Salmon, Alaska,” Warren said. “I was assisting in the winter field testing of the U.S. Air Force Small Portable Expedition-

ary Aeromedical Rapid Response team concept. We were running realistic critical care scenarios using a complex computer simulation model for the exercises.

“Gen. Carlton was visiting to check out the trials personally,” Warren said, “and it was there that he approached me and asked if I’d be interested in the Chile-U.S. exchange.”

“In today’s world, developing medical partnerships with other countries is critical to ensure healthcare for our citizens and anyone in need,” Carlton explained.

Saving lives during natural or man-made disasters requires immediate delivery of world-wide medical care, “yet no country can be everywhere,” he noted. “Only

*See* **Exchange**

*Page 36*

## Exchange

*from Page 25*

through partnerships of shared concepts, training, equipment and communication can we respond to medical crises anywhere in the world, and this exchange program is essential to developing these partnerships.

“Warren’s and Gina’s specialties and background experiences made them ideal candidates for this program,” the general added. “As a matter of fact, they were my first choices for this inaugural ex-

change. If they declined, ... I would have found someone else, but I was fairly certain they wouldn’t say no.”

The general knew Warren had lived in Chile and Peru as a youth and had a strong background in Spanish.

He said that he wanted participants who knew the SPEARR concept as well as Critical Care Aeromedical Transport and Training platforms, and “I guess he thought we’d fit right in with the areas he wanted to help expand with our South American

partners,” Gina explained.

“At first I was a little apprehensive about raising our kids in a foreign country,” she added, “but Warren was so excited about the chance to do this that he convinced me it would be an incredible opportunity and we couldn’t pass it up.”

With that decision made, Gen. Carlton went forward with arrangements to “make it so” as soon as possible. As with any new initiative, however, there were some legal challenges in working through the approval

process, so he enlisted the support of 12th Air Force commander Lt. Gen. Tom Hobbins. Together, the two generals lobbied for the program and convinced others to “take a chance on something new”.

The Dorlacs said they see their participation as a precursor of things to come – as part of the future.

“Taking part in this program has been such a positive experience for everyone involved,” Warren said, “I can’t imagine we won’t extend the program

further into the future, especially with Gen. Carlton’s support.”

“Actually, I’m positive none of this would have happened without him. He got us through the challenges,” he added. “Now, it’s very easy for us to do joint operations with the Chileans or the South Africans or any of the other groups that we have worked with. People around the world have an enormous amount of respect for Gen. Carlton and this has opened many doors for our medical teams.”

## Spc. Adalberto Fuentes



Service: U.S. Army, Puerto Rico  
National Guard

Organization:

65th Infantry, 1st Battalion

Duty title: Infantry, currently  
supporting DOD police

Time in service: 10 years

Hometown: Old San Juan,  
Puerto Rico

Hobbies: Diving, Reading and

Cooking

Favorite duty station: U.S. Southern Command,  
Miami, FL.

Career highlights: Being able to return to the guard  
after the deactivation of the 2nd Battalion, where I  
served for eight years and serving here with the  
Southern Command. After 9-11, I feel proud to  
serve my country and people - to keep America  
safe.

## Petty Officer 2nd Class Nicole R. Prince



Service: U.S. Navy

Organization: J-6, Plans and  
Operations Division

Duty title: Database Adminis-  
trator

Time in service: 3 years

Hometown: Brooklyn, N.Y.

Hobbies: Boxing, skating and  
going to the movies

Favorite duty station: This is

my first assignment

Career highlights: Making Petty Officer 2nd  
Class in three years.

## *A glimpse of USSOUTHCOM*

U.S. Military Academy cadets listen to a briefing during a visit to the U.S. Southern Command June 17. The

West Point juniors participated in a 21-day Individual Advancement Development Program that immerses cadets in the cultural, political and educational aspects of the Miami community. Also

present were Lt. Col. Jorge Silveira, USSOUTHCOM chief of protocol, rear, and Maj. Debra Gravelle, U.S. Military Academy Spanish instructor, front. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jose Ruiz)

