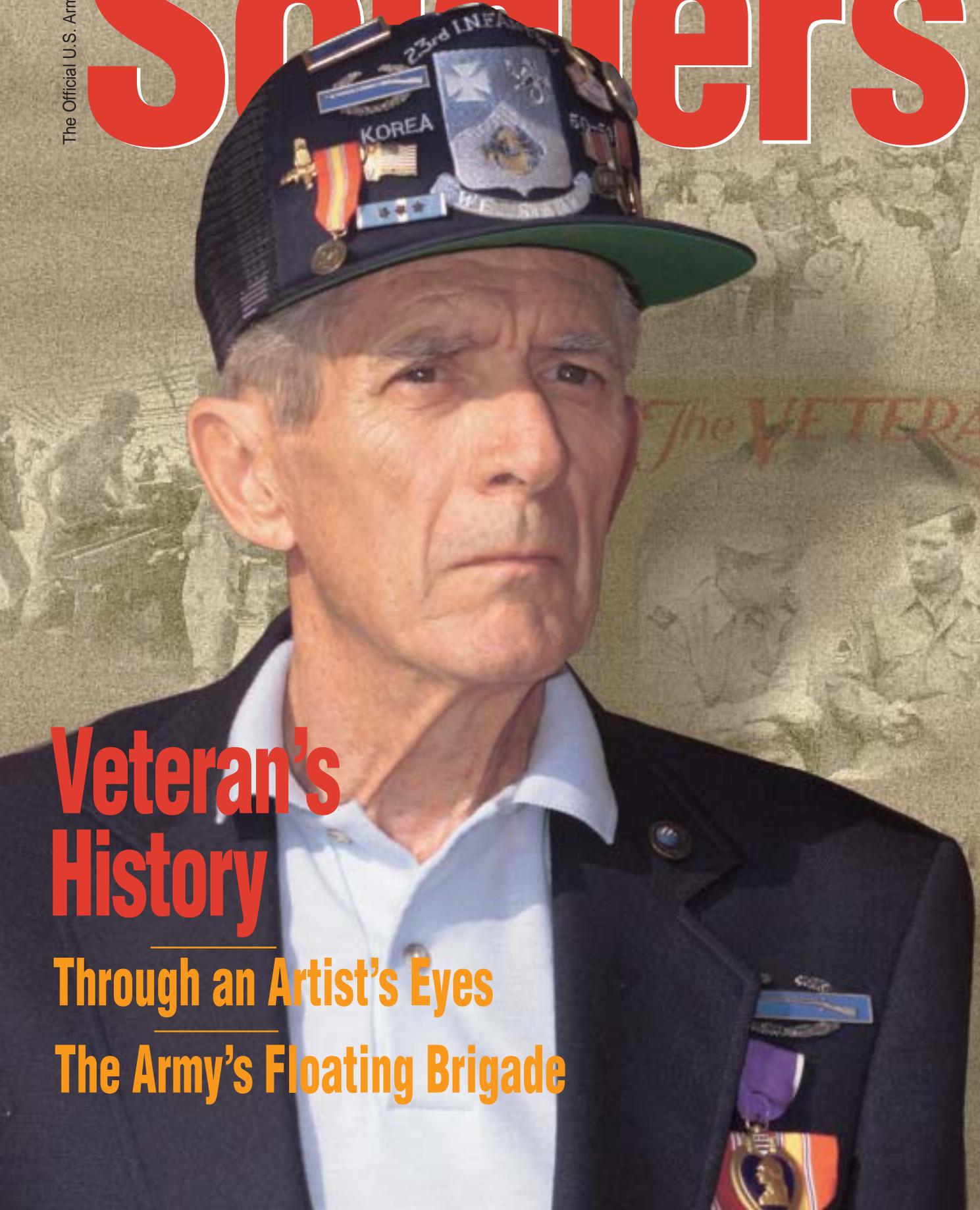


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November 2002
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Soldiers



Veteran's History

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Soldiers

November 2002 Volume 57, No. 11

RECOVERY



The Official U.S. Army Magazine

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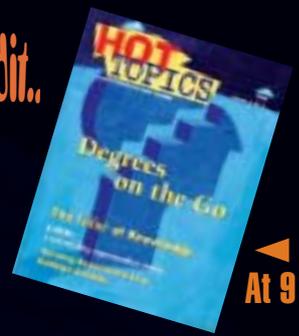


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Front cover:

This month's cover features Korean War vet John A. Connolly.

A member of the 2nd Infantry Division's 23rd Inf. Regt., Connolly was hit by enemy artillery

fire on Nov. 28, 1950, and ultimately lost his left arm.

This Veterans Day we salute all those who have served the nation in peace and war, and especially those who have given their lives in that service. — *Photo by SSG Alberto Betancourt*

From the Editor

FOR many of us, our earliest childhood memories include standing on a corner watching a Veterans Day parade. There would be the town mayor in a convertible from the local dealership (complete with motorcycle escort), the high school marching band and a color guard from the junior ROTC detachment. And then there were the veterans.

They were the people who had done their nation's deeds, and it was their day. They were the people who were there — at the Somme, on Corregidor, at Inch'on, at LZ X-ray.

They would march, wearing medals, uniforms and campaign hats, and when the parade was over they would tell stories to the children — the fascinating stories you never read about in history books. And, tragically, when the storytellers passed away, they took their stories with them.

Fortunately, this no longer has to be the case. Join Heike Hasenauer for a tour of the Veterans History Project to see how the Library of Congress is trying to preserve these veterans' stories for posterity.

Veterans made history, so they should be history.

John C. Suttle

Great Issue

I JUST looked through the September issue of "Soldiers." You should all go ahead and retire now, because you can't possibly top that issue!

Wonderful, gorgeous, eye-grabbing art design and layout.

*Stuart Henderson
Via e-mail*

Soldier Show Flag

THANK you for your wonderful August article on the U.S. Army Soldier Show. It was a very accurate representation of the tour. I really like the sidebars about the technical part of the show and the soldiers' involvement. That is an aspect that is often overlooked by the media.

I know your readers have eagle eyes and find even the smallest error when it comes to displaying the American flag properly. One of the photos used in the article shows the cast in the finale with the American flag in the background. The flag is shown with the stars upside down.

We were unaware of the error when the flag was produced for us. It was not until we got more than halfway through the tour that someone in the audience pointed out this error. We have since fixed the flag and it is now being displayed properly.

Thank you for producing such a wonderful magazine.

*Brian D. Essad
Army Entertainment Division
via e-mail*

Wrong Unit

YOUR July article "The Other Afghan Campaign" provided great coverage of the efforts of the Coalition Joint Civil-Military

Perfect Poster

I JUST want to tell you how much I like the "Army of One" poster in the September issue.

I'm sure there will be some out there who will complain because some of the soldiers in the photo don't have their Kevlar on, but they'll get over it.

The poster makes those soldiers look larger than life — confident, fearless and ready. It looks like a poster for a movie, and is just the kind of "marketing" we need.

Thanks for the great job you all are doing!

*MAJ Scott D. Ross, U.S. Transportation Command
via e-mail*

I'D like to request two boxes of your excellent poster. In fact, we'd be glad to get three boxes, if you can spare them.

We here at the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion — Los Angeles would like to put at least one poster in each of our recruiting stations, as well as presenting the posters to dignitaries.

Please know that your poster is an effective recruiting tool, one that our battalion appreciates. And thanks for a great job.

*Mark G. Wonders
via e-mail*

Thanks for the kind words about the "Army of One" poster. The photo was coordinated by Photo Editor SSG Alberto Betancourt and shot in Afghanistan by SFC William A. Jones, and the poster was designed by Associate Art Director Paul Crank.

Service Flag

AFTER reading "The Return of the Service Flag" in the July issue, I began wondering why in-laws are left out of the list of people eligible to fly the flag.

In today's military, spouses and members of extended families are just as important as the service members themselves. Why not allow in-laws and others to also display this flag with pride?

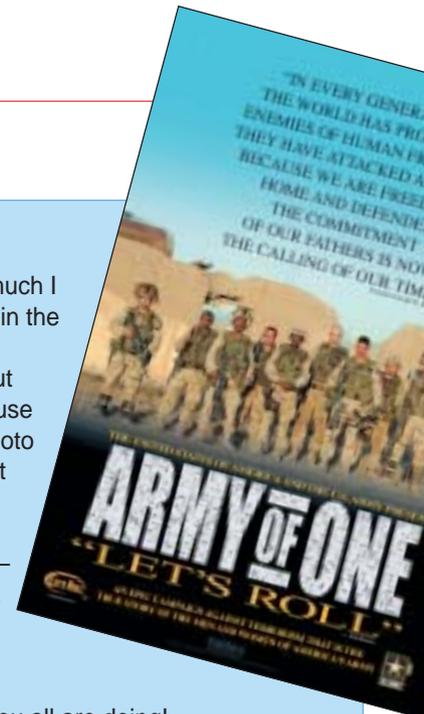
Operations Task Force in Afghanistan. There was one little problem, however.

In the large photograph on page 14 a soldier is identified as a member of the 101st Airborne Division, when his shoulder patch — of the 377th Theater Support Command — clearly indicates otherwise.

And I should know, because I'm the soldier in the picture.

*LTC James J. Gordon
via e-mail*

*SFC Richard Everett
via e-mail*



Our two sons followed their father's example and chose military careers — one in the Army, and the other in the Air Force.

We proudly display a Service Flag with two blue stars to show support of their re-enlistments, dedication and patriotism.

I urge all Americans who are eligible to purchase and display a Service Flag during this difficult time of war and hostilities.

*Joan M. Stehn
Highland Falls, N.Y.*

I WAS reading your July issue and ran across the article "The Return of the Service Flag."

I didn't even know about the flag until I was at a Legion meeting and the people were talking about it. I asked a few questions. Then in June I received the flag.

I'm very proud to display it in my window. Thanks for the article.

*Ssg Kim Banes
Marshalltown, Iowa*

I WAS pleasantly surprised to find my company (or at least its Web site) mentioned in the July article on the Service Flag.

One interesting point concerning full-sized Service Flags: Regulations call for an aspect ratio of 10:19, which is the same as the ratio for the U.S. flag. However, few commercially available U.S. flags are made according to regulation — the most popular size is the 3 foot by 5 foot flag.

Since etiquette prohibits concurrently flying a flag larger than the US flag, but to satisfy both the letter and spirit of the Army regulations concerning the service flag, our outdoor Service Flags are made 32

inches by 60 inches, thus allowing them to be flown, if desired, beneath the U.S. flag on the same pole.

*Richard R. Gideon
via e-mail*

New Medals

IN reading Soldiers over the last few months I have noticed the continuing, back-and-forth discussions about awarding new medals in honor of all the people who lost their lives on Sep. 11, 2001, and in Operation Enduring Freedom.

It certainly makes sense to award the National Defense Service Medal, since it seems to fit exactly what we are doing for the defense of the American people, but what about the

other medals that symbolize equally important things — the Armed Forces Service Medal, The Humanitarian Service Medal, and the Army occupation medals?

U.S. military personnel are putting their lives on the line every single day to protect and ensure freedom at home and around the world. And at the same time we are providing humanitarian aid by helping move food, supplies and equipment into stricken areas around the globe.

Why, then, shouldn't we be recognized for our military and humanitarian efforts on behalf of our own nation and the world?

*Name Withheld by Request
via e-mail*

Soldiers is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your name if you desire and may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: **Feedback, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581**, or e-mail: soldiers@belvoir.army.mil.



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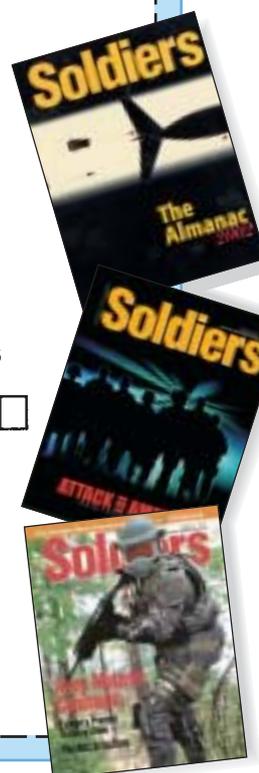
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SPC Eric Hughes (both)



The *First Steps* to **Recovery**

Story by SGT Robb Huhn

PHYSICAL damage resulting from the Taliban's reign can be seen from almost every street corner in and around Kabul, Afghanistan — almost every building shows years of neglect and the consequences of war.

The Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force in Kabul is repairing some of the damage by reconstructing roads, hospitals and research facilities throughout Afghanistan.

SGT Robb Huhn is assigned to the 300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment in Afghanistan.

The CJCMOTF identifies quick-fix humanitarian projects throughout the country that are not being accomplished by the greater humanitarian-assistance community. It then coordinates its efforts with Afghan agencies and international and nongovernmental organizations in the country.

“We seek out the projects that will have the greatest impact on the Afghan people,” said MAJ Jeff Coggin, chief of the task force’s public-health department. These are referred to as National Impact Projects.

Once a NIP is identified, the CJCMOTF ensures that the project meets certain criteria. First, it must comply with Overseas Humanitarian Disaster Civic Aid guidelines. And the project must support the Afghan Transitional Authority, the recently elected government. Lastly, the CJCMOTF coordinates its efforts with various ministries to ensure that the project is “good for them and Afghanistan,” Coggin said. One of the

most important of the task force’s missions is to support the transitional government and the choices it makes for the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

After the approval process is complete, the Army solicits contractor bids for the project. Immediately after a contract has been awarded, laborers begin working to complete it. To support the local economy, contractors employ Afghans and purchase materials locally.

“The Afghan workers take a great deal of pride in their work. They realize that what they’re doing is for everyone,” said Coggin.

During the construction phase, coalition engineers, public-health professionals and local contractors periodically meet to ensure that the projects are being completed according to U.S. government standards, and that any unresolved questions can be answered.

“Everyone involved has a vital role,” Coggin said.

“If one link in the chain fails, then

the project fails,” added ILT Timmy King, a CJCMOTF engineer from the 37th Engineer Battalion at Fort Bragg, N.C.

All of the NIPS are located in Kabul. They range from a power and water complex that was destroyed during decades of war to pharmaceutical companies that provide medication to hundreds of sick and injured local citizens.

Because Kabul is the hub of Afghanistan, Coggin said, “whatever we do here will affect the rest of the country. A good example of that is the soon-to-be-restored Teachers Training College. If fixing a school for children helps one community, then fixing a school that trains teachers will help an entire nation.”

Ten NIPS are currently underway throughout Kabul, including the Teachers Training College and the restoration of the Kabul Dental Hospital. Several additional projects are in various stages of approval.

Currently, \$1.9 million has been allocated for Afghanistan’s NIPS. □

(Far left) The rebuilding of the Bagram Bridge is an Overseas Humanitarian Disaster and Civil Assistance project conducted under the auspices of the Joint Coalition Civil-Military Operation Task Force.

(Left) MAJ Alex Reidey of the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion from Knoxville, Tenn., discusses the work on the Bagram Bridge with a local Afghan contractor.

(Right) Afghan contractors — supported by soldiers of the 489th Civil Affairs Bn. and 37th Engineer Bn. — completed this classroom at the Kabul Medical Institute. It is one of six such classrooms that will provide a better learning environment for Afghan medical students.



SPC Eric Hughes



Elders representing the 92 villages of the Bagram district assemble to hear the details of a recent agreement to share work contract opportunities made available by coalition forces at Bagram Air Base.

The Quick — Fix and Story by SSG Zelda Thomas-Gates **Beyond**

SEPT. 11 dramatically changed the lives of American and Afghans alike. Combat troops went out in search of al Qaeda and Taliban forces, and the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force was created to help rebuild the war-torn country.

Headed by COL Cassel J. Nutter

SSG Zelda Thomas-Gates is assigned to the 300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Jr., of the 122nd Rear Operations Center, Georgia Army National Guard, the CJCMOTF is the first of its kind in the U.S. military to be created and deployed, he said.

Headquartered in Kabul, Afghanistan, it has subordinate civil-military operations centers in Karshi, Khanabad and Bagram, Afghanistan, and in Uzbekistan.

The CJCMOTF was initially given

the primary mission of providing humanitarian assistance through coordination with more than 24 international and nongovernmental organizations and the Afghan government.

“We’re not just a civil-affairs organization,” said Nutter. “We may have conventional and special-operations forces assigned, but we work to coordinate humanitarian efforts with

“We may have conventional and special-operations forces assigned, but we work to coordinate humanitarian efforts with many organizations in order to relieve suffering.”

many organizations in order to relieve suffering.”

The task force’s augmentees include some 250 service members from six countries, five branches of the U.S. military and 25 units.

The CJCMOTF also has civil humanitarian liaison cells in Kabul, Bagram Air Base, Konduz, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Khandahar Airfield, Khowst, Deh Rawod and Bamian.

Each CHLC has four to seven people who conduct area assessments and coordinate with international and nongovernmental organizations and local Afghan leaders. They also nominate overseas humanitarian disaster and civil-assistance projects, and the team members to participate in those projects.

To date, the CJCMOTF has spent \$6 million on humanitarian projects. Of 116 approved projects, 53 have been completed, 60 are nearing completion and three have been transferred to other agencies for completion.



MAJ Dave Young (left) of the 401st CA Bn. and a coalition civilian talk with an Afghan village elder about his community’s needs.

The task force has employed some 18,000 Afghan workers and benefited 50 schools serving some 62,000 students; 15 medical facilities serving some 526,000 people; one veterinary facility; 12 water projects benefiting an estimated 260,000 people; and 12 other building projects that provide life support and shelter to about 300,000 people, Nutter said.

Since its inception, the CJCMOTF

has participated in numerous humanitarian aid programs in conjunction with the Nahrin earthquake; Operations Anaconda and Condor; the Muslim pilgrimage; the Afghan grand council meeting; the opening of flight routes over Afghanistan; assessments of the threat of hemorrhagic fever in Tiawara province; and support of International Women’s Day in Kabul. □

Afghan workers put the finishing touches on new windows installed in the Kabul Medical Institute under a CJCMOTF contract.



SPC Eric E. Hughes



(Above) A well repaired by members of the 401st Civil Affairs Battalion provides clean water for members of a Bagram neighborhood. (Left) MG Robert B. Ostenberg, commander of the Army Reserve's 63rd Regional Support Command, looks on as the well is dedicated.

Water Works

Story by SSG Zelda Thomas-Gates Photos by SGT Sean A. Terry

Houston, a project engineer for the CJCMOTF.

Many of the wells are in poor condition, and those that operate continuously eventually run dry. The villages that have water therefore attract a disproportionate number of refugees, which eventually creates another problem — overcrowding.

To prevent this, the CJCMOTF is working with local and national government representatives throughout Afghanistan to ensure water projects are distributed equitably and that their locations don't pose security risks to coalition forces.

"Because of our work, the Afghans are getting better medical care, children are going back to school and they have access to clean water," said 1LT Carolyn Harris, an engineer project

manager at the CJCMOTF.

Since early spring the CJCMOTF has helped the people of Herat through the completion of two irrigation projects. Additionally, the task force has provided Bagram with six wells; Khost, 13 wells; Kabul, two wells; and Kandahar, 81 wells.

The CJCMOTF is currently working on 18 more wells across the country.

By providing the people of Afghanistan with new wells, pumps, auxiliary generators and water storage and pump houses, the task force has made it possible for farmers to increase their crop production, hospitals to treat more patients, and the general population to have enough water to drink, cook with and maintain their own personal hygiene, Harris said. □

NEAR Kabul, Afghanistan, home of the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force, Afghan villagers migrate in search of water for drinking, bathing and growing crops.

They're among the thousands of Afghans in desperate need of irrigation systems and drinking water as a result of years of war and drought.

Since the defeat of the Taliban, their nation's economy has begun to stabilize, and more and more people are returning to the homes they had abandoned, said CPT Benjamin H.

SSG Zelda Thomas-Gates and SGT Sean A. Terry are assigned to the 300th Mobile PA Det. in Kabul, Afghanistan.

WHILE most people his age are contemplating the “golden sunset” of retirement, COL Narayan Deshmukh ponders the golden sunsets at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan.

A surgeon with the 1980th Forward Surgical Team, 64-year-old Deshmukh may be the oldest U.S. service member in Kandahar. But he has little trouble keeping up with his younger coworkers in one of the harshest and most desolate places on earth.

“I really don’t feel as though I’m the oldest person,” he said. He’s comfortable and at ease in his operating room-turned-office. He looks fit and trim. His eyes are bright. And he has a quick wit. The streaks of gray in his dark hair give him a look of distinction, and suggest experience and wisdom rather than age. He has no complaints, except for the heat.

Deshmukh requested and received an extension of his Mandatory Removal Date from the Army to serve in the war against terrorism.

“I feel that the biggest sacrifice one can make is to serve with the military during wartime and be prepared to die for one’s country,” he said.

Deshmukh came to the United States in 1969, after completing studies at the Osmania Medical Center in his hometown of Hyderabad, India. Oddly, a stamp collection he had at the time influenced his decision to study and practice advanced medicine in America rather than Australia or Great Britain. The stamps contained quotes from various leaders referencing American values.

In 1984 Deshmukh joined the U.S. Army Individual Ready Reserve and began his career as an Army surgeon with the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Augmentation Detachment at Fort McPherson, Ga. The detach-

SGT Calvin Williams is assigned to the 300th Mobile PA Det. at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

COL Narayan Deshmukh examines a patient at the Army hospital in Kandahar.



A Handsome Man

**Story and Photo by
SGT Calvin Williams**

ment is a temporary agency for military physicians and other medical personnel, placing them with units that need their expertise.

Today Deshmukh is also the president of the surgical staff at the Guthrie Clinic, a multidisciplinary teaching hospital in Sayre, Pa., where he teaches surgical residents and supervises the medical staff.

He has earned the expert field medical badge, air assault badge and flight surgeon Badge, after receiving age-limit waivers to undergo the tasks required. “The only time my age bothers me is when I see jump wings,” Deshmukh said.

Airborne School was the only training Deshmukh applied for but was unable to enroll in because of his age. “I was very disappointed,” he said.

Deshmukh, who has been in Afghanistan since July, earlier deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to assist American forces there. “The

Army was able to find another surgeon for Kandahar, but not a linguist to go to Guantanamo Bay,” said Deshmukh, who speaks five languages.

In Kandahar, he stays in shape by working out in the weight room. And while he doesn’t run, because of a leg injury, he consistently scores 300 on the Army Physical Fitness Test.

“In one APFT, I did 150 pushups in two minutes,” he said proudly. “It was part of a competition between medical personnel.”

“I love getting mobilized,” Deshmukh said, “and I always make sure that I’m fit and ready to go.

“I want to inspire young people and motivate older ones,” he continued. “I want them to know that even if you’re 64, you can come to Afghanistan, serve your country and return home to your grandchildren as the handsomest man in the world to them — because you’re in uniform.” □

AMERICA and the War on Terrorism

At press time more than 38,000 Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers were on active duty in support of the partial mobilization. The total number of reserve-component personnel for all services on active duty as of October was 72,269, including both units and individual augmentees.

U.S. Northern Command was activated Oct. 1, and is “responsible for land, aerospace and sea defenses of the United States,” said Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. The NORTHCOM commander will command U.S. forces that operate within the United States in support of civil authorities and will provide civil support not only in response to attacks, but for natural disasters.

As world attention turned to discussion of Iraq as a terrorist base, U.S. forces continued to come under attack in Afghanistan. A firebase near Lwara was attacked on Sept. 20, and U.S. personnel responded with mortar fire and strikes by Air Force A-10 attack aircraft. Also in September, special-operations forces conducted searches near Orgun-e and in one compound found a large arms cache that included 107mm rockets, small-arms rounds, rocket-propelled grenades, mortar rounds, and anti-aircraft weapons and ammunition.

The Army has published a revised deployment and mobilization policy on operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. The Personnel Policy Guidance, which is online at www.odcsper.army.mil, outlines requirements for deploying and redeploying troops engaged in the war on terrorism, and delves into equipment, medical and dental issues, and family assistance for deployed troops.

National Guard military police soldiers and an 82nd Airborne Division field artillery battalion with howitzers are among recent arrivals in Afghanistan. Battery C, 1st Battalion, 309th Field Artillery Regiment, from Fort Bragg, N.C., arrived in Kandahar Aug. 29. Members of the 772nd Military Police Company, from Taunton, Mass., began arriving in Kabul Aug. 14 to support the 1st Bn., 3rd Special Forces Group, which is responsible for training the new Afghan National Army.

The 49th Military History Detachment, from Forest Park, Ill., is in Afghanistan documenting the planning, execution and significant events of Operation Enduring Freedom. The team is conducting interviews and is collecting artifacts, including photographs and documents, weapons and objects that may have been significant or unique to activities in the region.

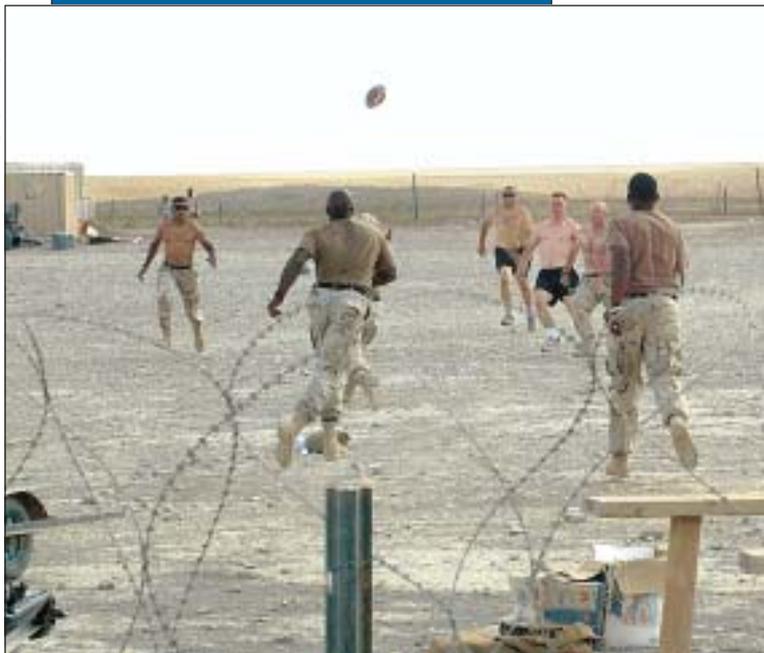
Members of the 82nd Airborne Division's 3rd Battalion, 505th Infantry Regiment, pose with some of the RPG rounds they discovered cached in Gangikhel, a town in Afghanistan's Malikasay province.

SGT Sean A. Terry



Other members of the 505th Inf. take time at the end of the day for a little recreation — an impromptu game of touch football — at Camp Harrimon in Afghanistan's Orgun Province.

SFC Fred Gurwell





SFC Fred Gurwell

SMA Jack Tilley speaks with enlisted soldiers at Afghanistan's Bagram Air Base during his tour of the region.



Linda D. Kozaryn

Active duty and Army National Guard military police soldiers who had provided security at the Pentagon since Sept. 11, 2001, stand in formation during a redeployment ceremony on the building's River parade field.



Harriet Rice



The Army recreation destinations available to service members include the Seward Resort on Alaska's beautiful Kenai Peninsula.

Alexandria, Va.

Finding Your "Paths Across America"

FROM the desert to the seashore, from Alaska to Hawaii, some of the most beautiful vacation spots in America are available only through the Army and its sister services. The trick is finding them.

"Paths Across America," an interactive Web site provided by Army morale, welfare and recreation, is your travel map to these "best kept secrets" that in most cases are accessible only to Department of Defense personnel.

And it's an address that's easy to remember: www.pathsacrossamerica.com.

The site opens with a map of the United States that will, with a few additional clicks, lead the visitor to military campgrounds, beaches and other recreation facilities in each state. The spots listed range from the most rustic tent sites to well-appointed cabins and lodges.

Perhaps the best feature of the Web site is that it allows visitors to discover lodging and recreation facilities in unexpected places. What soldier would know, for example, that the Cape Henry Inn and Travel Camp is a very popular resort on the water, offering rooms, cabins and RV sites just minutes away from Virginia Beach, Va.? Or that Hawaii has seven different recreation centers that provide cabins and camping sites near some of the best beaches on the islands?

Many of these recreation centers also offer equipment rentals and have programs and staffs to help visitors take advantage of other MWR activities and local area attractions.

Only parks and recreational areas are listed at the Paths Across America site, but the **Armed Forces Recreation Centers** link takes visitors to information and help related to MWR's more well-known major recreation centers around the world. — *U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center Public Affairs Office*

Army Knowledge Online News

Fort Belvoir, Va.

Free Training Enhances Performance

ALL members of the Army's active and reserve components, including civilian employees, can train in more than 1,500 information-technology, business and interpersonal skills subjects — from any location and at any time — at no cost to themselves or their organizations.

The computer-based training is available through Army e.Learning's partnership with SmartForce, and can be accessed by using an Army Knowledge Online user name and password. To browse the SmartForce catalog or to register, visit Army e.Learning online at www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/eLearning/smartforce. — AKO

Fort Irwin, Calif.

Strykers Pass the Test at NTC

THE newly introduced Stryker wheeled infantry carrier vehicle proved to be a battlefield enabler in the Army Transformation Experiment and Exercise Millennium Challenge 2002, both conducted at the National Training Center this summer.

"The Strykers exceeded expectations," said 1LT Nathan A. Molica, executive officer for Company A, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry, from Fort Lewis, Wash. "I think they impressed everyone."

Millennium Challenge, which ended in August, was the first tactical deployment of

a Stryker Brigade Combat Team, said COL Mike Rounds, commander of the 3rd Bde, 2nd Infantry Division, from Fort Lewis.

"A primary advantage of the SBCT is its ability to deploy rapidly," Rounds said. "We

Soldiers of the Fort Lewis-based Stryker Brigade Combat Team found their vehicles to be fast, maneuverable and highly capable on NTC's vast "battlefield."



now have a force that is light enough to quickly move into the theater and mobile enough to take on almost any enemy.”

The Stryker is an improvement over heavier, slower vehicles because “it’s very agile, it moves well over difficult terrain, and provides more space for personnel and equipment,” said SPC Todd Lezier, an infantryman from Fort Lewis.

One of the major advantages the Strykers give soldiers is a much-needed ride to the battlefield, said infantryman SPC Coby Schwab. “We can move farther and faster and not waste any energy doing it,” he said. “We’re able to get onto the objective as fresh as we can be.”

Another big advantage comes from the Stryker’s technological capabilities, Rounds said. “Inside is a system that gives soldiers total situational awareness. They know where the friendly forces are; they have a near-perfect

read of where the enemy forces are, and can see the terrain both on a map and in real time.”

Variants of the Stryker family are making debut rollouts on a continual basis, and the medical variant will be the fifth of the nine to arrive at Fort Lewis early next year.

The reconnaissance variant was expected to arrive at Fort Lewis in October of this year, officials said. The infantry carrier, commander’s vehicle and mortar carrier have already touched down at Lewis. The other variants are the fire support vehicle; anti-tank missile-guided vehicle; engineer vehicle; the nuclear, biological and chemical reconnaissance vehicle; and the mobile gun system.

The medical variant of the Stryker Interim Armored Vehicle was scheduled to roll off the assembly line at Anniston, Ala., at the end of September 2002, to be delivered to Aberdeen Proving

Ground, Md., for further tests. The vehicles will then head to the Stryker Brigade at Fort

Lewis in February or March, officials said. — *Army News Service*

Career News

BNCOC Grads Receive Equal Promotion Points

BEGINNING Aug. 1, all soldiers who successfully complete the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course will be awarded 40 promotion points instead of the previous four points per course week. Personnel officials said they are making the change to reduce administrative mistakes and create a fair valuation of the training for BNCOC graduates with similar military occupational specialties.

Some soldiers may at first believe they are losing points under the new system because their particular BNCOC is longer than 10 weeks, said SGM Gerald Purcell, the Department of the Army’s personnel policy integrator. But that’s not true, he said, because soldiers compete for promotion within the same MOS.

The soldiers most greatly affected by the change are those in MOSs that have merged, and those that will be merged, to consolidate MOSs with similar functions, Purcell said. “We’re treating BNCOC as an equal element. So as we merge similar MOSs, no one is at a disadvantage.” — *ARNEWS*

Sergeant-major Board Tests Automated System

THE ARMY’s sergeant-major board, meeting in October, tested a new automated selection system that will eliminate hardcopy files. The board reviewed hard-copy records for NCOs in all career management fields except CMF 91, the medical field, which was selected as the test population, officials said. In that group, all records (official military personnel file, photo, enlisted record brief, and letter to the board president, if submitted) were viewed as electronic files.

The next officer files that will test the automated selection process will be the Army Medical Command colonel selection board, which takes place in January, and the February AMEDD promotion selection board for captains.

George Piccirilli, the director of the Management Support Division in U.S. Army Personnel Command, said that in future boards soldiers will be notified to review their electronic files through Army Knowledge Online, and they will be able to validate their own promotion files online. — *ARNEWS*



SPC Marc Loi

PART I - ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Updating the**OER System****Story by Joe Burlas**

THOUGH the latest version of the Officer Evaluation Report “accurately assesses officers’ performance and potential” — according to personnel managers — refinements are being made as a result of an eight-month review of the system, Army officials said.

The OER is doing what it was designed to do — assess an officer’s performance and potential, so that officials can more aptly identify, assign and select the best-qualified officers for promotion, training and command duties, said George Piccirilli, the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command’s officer evaluation system chief.

He should know that first-hand; he briefs each officer board on the OER and reviews selection results and board surveys when the board adjourns.

Over the past year Piccirilli’s had a lot of feedback indicating that board members find it difficult to separate the rater’s remarks about the officer’s performance from remarks about his or her potential, as both are entered in the same section of the OER.

To eliminate the confusion, PERSCOM will soon direct all commands to request raters to double-space between the “performance” and “potential” entries until the actual OER form can be revised and fielded.

The OER review was prompted, in part, by the officer Army Training and Leader Development Panel study, released last May, which reported a perception in the field that Army

culture expected a “zero-defects” performance from its leaders.

Following the results of the study, Army Chief of Staff GEN Eric K. Shinseki directed a further review of the OER system.

The officer ATLDP also found that many officers believed that a “center-of-mass” check on the OER by the senior rater meant no possibility of promotion beyond captain.

“Center-of-mass ratings are not a ‘killer,’” Piccirilli said, “and promotion board results bear that out.”

Promotions are based on Army requirements, Piccirilli said, and those requirements often dictate the selection line between “promote” and “do not promote” to be drawn somewhere in the center-of-mass population.

As part of the OER review, surveyed senior leaders and junior officers were offered alternatives to the senior-rater portion of the current OER. Almost all chose to remain with the current system, Piccirilli said.

Counseling is another area of concern identified by the ATLDP study. The subsequent OER system review found mixed results in field interviews. Some units conduct counseling very well, others don’t, Piccirilli said.

By regulation, raters must conduct a face-to-face initial counseling session with all rated officers within 30 days of the start of the rated period. Periodic follow-up counseling should be conducted, as needed, to make adjustments to agreed-upon

goals, Piccirilli said.

For rated lieutenants and warrant officers 1, quarterly development counseling is required and includes the use of the Junior Officer Development Support Form.

“We’ve found the best units schedule appropriate counseling and mark it on their training calendars in advance,” he said. “It’s a visible mark on the wall, so everyone knows what’s expected and when it’s supposed to be done.”

Piccirilli advised rated officers who are not receiving the mandatory counseling to seek appropriate opportunities to ask for rater feedback.

Counseling doesn’t need to be a formal sit-down session. It can be a frank discussion at the motor pool or on the training range, Piccirilli said, as long as it covers the performance bases. Those bases include what the officer has been doing right, what he’s been doing wrong, what improvements can be made and how he stacks up against others. “It can be tough to look someone in the eye and tell him he’s at the bottom of the totem pole,” Piccirilli said, “but every officer deserves to know where he stands before an OER is filed.” □



For more information on the OER system and officer promotion rates visit PERSCOM Online at <https://www.perscom.army.mil>

and select the Officer Information link under the Soldier Services section.

Joe Burlas works for the Army News Service at the Pentagon.

VETERANS DAY 2002 *Message*

“The Army remains the world’s preeminent warfighting land force — the most esteemed institution in the Nation, and the most respected Army in the world.”

ON Veterans Day, we pay tribute to the American men and women who have served in our Nation’s Armed Forces. Through their sacrifices, they have purchased for us the privileges of freedom, democracy, and unmatched opportunity that we enjoy in the United States today, and they have set the conditions for the United States’ place as global leader, with the world’s strongest economy, and the most respected and feared military in the world.

And as we celebrate the contributions of our veterans, we also take this opportunity to salute and to honor you, the Soldiers serving in the Army today. Your determination and your readiness to go where you are needed whenever you are called are potent symbols of liberty, justice, and hope for freedom-loving people the world over.

Today, Soldiers build upon the 227-year legacy established by veterans who have gone before. From the first battle of the American Revolution to our ongoing war against terrorism, in conflicts around the globe and in humanitarian missions at home and abroad that have saved countless lives, Soldiers have provided the sword and shield that protects our Nation. And they are doing so today—over 190,000 Soldiers deployed and forward stationed in 120 countries around the world.

Each day you serve, you voluntarily forego comfort and wealth, willingly facing hardships and deployments away from family and loved ones. Sometimes you confront danger and face death in defending the Nation’s security. To all of you on point for the Nation, whether far from home or here in the United States, thank you for your contributions and your countless sacrifices. It is an honor to serve with you.

And so on 11 November, a day of reflection and tribute, we salute you, and we pledge to you our tireless efforts to ensure that The Army remains the world’s preeminent warfighting land force—the most esteemed institution in the Nation, and the most respected Army in the world.



Eric K. Shinseki

Eric K. Shinseki
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Thomas E. White

Thomas E. White
Secretary of the Army

THE VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

Personalizing the Past
Story by Heike Hasenauer



JUST as every war has its top generals, its celebrated heroes, renowned landmarks and major battles, it has its countless individual stories of survival, valor, even humor. Those stories reveal the intimate feelings that separate one person's experiences from another's.

Realizing the significance of those personal stories, and knowing that many of the stories are lost as thousands of veterans die each year, President George W. Bush signed legislation in October 2000 authorizing the Veterans History Project.

Now those individual stories — which pull heartstrings, evoke pride in country and military service, and introduce “ordinary” people who were swept by the tides of their times and lived as best they could — will live for generations to come, said Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, who directs the project for the Library of Congress's American Folklife Center in Washington, D.C.

The project will preserve the stories of war veterans, service members who supported the war from the home front and the civilian war-industry workers — without whose invaluable service America's efforts to protect freedom around the world would not have been possible, she said.

The national, ongoing effort to preserve their stories

will result in a valuable resource to teach all Americans, including those of future generations, about the rich legacy of military service, said Kelley Curtin, a spokeswoman for Fleishman-Hillard, the advertising company that's working to raise awareness of the project.

The company is among some 250 project partners, including veterans' service organizations, historical societies, libraries, museums, military archives, colleges and universities, and military historical groups, Curtin said.

The American Association of Retired Persons is encouraging its 35 million members to contact veterans whose stories have yet to be recorded, said AARP president Jim Parkel.

“We're creating a well-trained volunteer force to conduct oral-history interviews. And we're continuing to create public programs across the country that will allow veterans, and those who served them, to share their personal experiences,” Parkel added.

These volunteers will conduct audio and video interviews, and collect letters, diaries, photos and other documents, from both civilian and military veterans of World War I, World War II and the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars, said McCulloch-Lovell.

“After 365 days in Vietnam, I went from war to peace, from childhood to irrevocable adulthood. I had changed, but, I thought, I’d never be able to explain it to anybody.”



Janis Nark

Individuals such as Janis Nark, a motivational speaker and retired Army officer, are also contributing to the project by encouraging veterans to come forward.

Nark was a registered nurse at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, and served 23 years in the Army Reserve. She was recalled to active duty for nine months during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

“In Vietnam I cared for the sick and wounded, and those that would die,” Nark said. “We treated everything you can imagine, and lots of things that would never occur to a ‘normal’ person. We

Janis Nark served at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, and was recalled to active duty during the Gulf War.

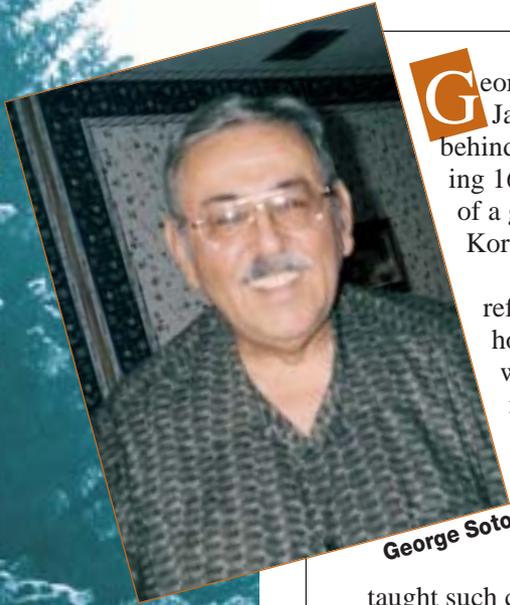
worked 12-hour shifts, six days a week. I was there late in the conflict, and it was obvious there was no winning that war. Morale was abysmally low and drug use predictably high. Towards the end of my tour, the hospital where I worked was turned into the Drug Detoxification Center of Vietnam.

“We detoxed around 500 heroin-addicted soldiers a week,” Nark said, as she remembered enduring threats to her life because she held the keys to the narcotics cabinet and refused to let them out of her sight.

“After 365 days in Vietnam, I went from war to peace, from childhood to irrevocable adulthood. I had changed, but, I thought, I’d never be able to explain it to anybody.”



Participants in the Vietnam War are among those being urged to share their military experiences as part of the ongoing Veterans History Project.



George Soto

George Soto, an Army corporal from January 1952 to January 1954, stayed behind at Camp Chaffee, Ark., after completing 16 weeks of infantry basic training. Out of a graduating class of 28, 27 got orders for Korea.

“I was like a displaced person,” Soto reflected. “I remember going to the hospital one day with a buddy of mine whose wife had just had their baby. The next morning, he was on his way to Korea, and I, ironically, who was single, with no attachments, remained at the camp as part of the 5th Armored Division.”

An instructor of military subjects, Soto taught such common soldier skills as map- and compass-reading to inductees. It’s not the exciting stuff most authors write about in their depictions of war, Soto said. “But, I want people to know that there were others who were important to the war effort because they did stay home to teach the soldiers who went to the front lines.”

His story, as written by a professor at Rutgers University in New York for one of the Spanish-language newspapers in Queens, will be incorporated into the Veterans History Project. It touches on Soto’s life during the 1950s.

“As a New Yorker, a Northerner, who was born in Spanish Harlem, I experienced a great deal of racial inequality,” Soto said. Because he’s Hispanic and was often mistaken for a member of other ethnic groups, he was able to empathize with blacks, who were discriminated against in those years before the civil rights movement gradually righted some of America’s wrongs, he said.

“I remember sitting in the waiting room at a bus station, and a constable told me I was in the wrong place. He told me I shouldn’t be sitting with the ‘coloreds,’” Soto said. “I thought: ‘These are the



George Soto posed for this photo outside a 5th Armored Division classroom.

men who are waiting to go to war, they should certainly be afforded the respect due all soldiers.”

Soto attended the New York kick-off event for the Veterans History Project because he’s actively involved with AARP in his home state, he said. “I bring AARP’s programs to elderly Hispanics, many of whom don’t speak English.” At the same time, Soto has asked them to share their stories.

At the time of this writing, some 1,000 veterans had contacted AARP to tell their stories, Parkel said. And eight short video clips and one audio clip were available at the Veterans History Project’s Internet site, according to McCulloch-Lovell.

Among the developing archives are 1,261 letters exchanged between Jerry Brenner and his wife during World War II.

Brenner was a radio operator and repairman in the 740th Field Artillery Battalion.

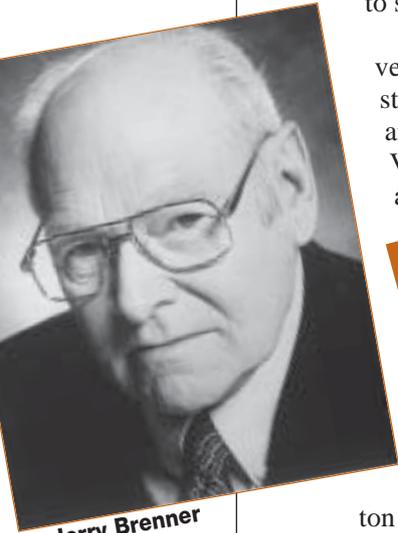
After seeing an article about the Veterans History Project in the Washington Post a year ago, he called the information number provided to see if anyone would be interested in the letters.

“They were thrilled to get them,” Brenner said, “because letters that are part of historical collections typically don’t include the replies.”

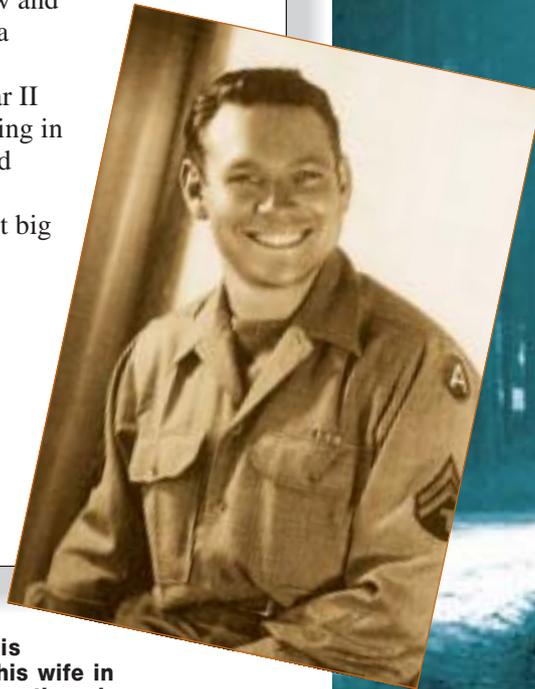
The letters are now part of an exhibit “that will be available to the public between now and forever,” said Brenner, who wrote a forward to the volume of letters, to indicate that they “show World War II from the perspective of a G.I. fighting in Europe, as well as a young wife and mother on the home front.

“Most histories of war are about big battles, admirals and generals and landmark events,” Brenner said. “They rarely highlight the experiences of ordinary people.”

Included in the correspondence is a letter to his wife, which still contains the flower Brenner was given by a little French boy in one of many towns the Americans



Jerry Brenner



Brenner sent this cheerful photo to his wife in one of the many letters the pair exchanged during the war.

“Most histories of war are about big battles, admirals and generals and landmark events,” Brenner said. “They rarely highlight the experiences of ordinary people.”



Brenner’s wife and young daughter were among thousands of loved ones who daily awaited news from the front lines.

liberated from the Germans.

Many of the letters are his wife’s updates on their daughter’s growth, said Brenner, who was 24 in December 1943, when he left New York for England, and, ultimately, the Battle of the Bulge. His daughter was three months old.

“The letters are full of information about the conditions people on the home front had to contend with, and about the feelings of people very much in love,” Brenner said. U.S. News and World Report reprinted one

of the letters in its June 10, 2002, issue. It’s a letter his wife wrote on pink stationery that contained little lip imprints.

“My wife thought the lips were too small, so she redid them with her own lips,” Brenner said. On another occasion, because she’d heard that all the guys carried pinups of beautiful women in bathing suits, she had a seductive photo of herself taken in a bathing suit and enclosed it in a letter.

There was also something called the “blue letter,” Brenner said. It was a very personal letter that a soldier didn’t want his immediate commanding officer to read, as was the typical procedure to censor soldiers’ mail to prevent breaches of security. “If you put your letter in a blue envelope, it went instead to corps headquarters, where some lieutenant you didn’t know read it.”

Brenner wrote such a letter on May 7, 1945, the day the war in Europe ended. “There’s some really personal stuff in that letter,” Brenner said. “I poured my heart out in that one.”

McCulloch-Lovell said some of the material that will become part of the Veterans History Project will be reviewed for historical accuracy, but it would be impossible to review everything. “Most people will



Brenner and hundreds of thousands of other soldiers sent photos home to reassure their loved ones.



be as accurate as they can be, and those who access the material will be doing so with the knowledge that these are individuals' accounts of their own experiences."

As the world's largest library, and the national library of the United States, the Library of Congress's mission is to make its holdings available to Congress and the American people, and preserve knowledge for future generations, said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington.

The American Folklife Center was created in 1976 to document, preserve and present all aspects of traditional culture and life in America. It currently boasts some two million items.

There's no cut-off date for submissions to the Veterans History Project, McCulloch-Lovell said. "We're just now beginning to really get the word out." □

Share Your Stories of WWI, WWII . . .

and the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars, or record the stories of others, by calling toll free (800) 315-8300 or visiting the project's Web site at

www.loc.gov/vets

Information is also available at AARP's Web site, ***www.aarp.org***, and at project partner and MilitaryLifestyle at ***www.militarylifestyle.com***.



Fort McHenry Birthplace

Story and Photos by SSG Alberto Betancourt



SAILBOATS glide lazily over the tranquil waters of Baltimore Harbor. And on a nearby hillside is a star-shaped brick fort, above which a huge 18th-century American flag proudly flies.

Fort McHenry is the birthplace of the American national anthem. The valiant defense of the fort and the harbor by American forces during the War of 1812 inspired Francis Scott Key to write “The Star Spangled Banner.”

“The site is full of history,” said Paul Plamann, a park ranger who’s worked at Fort McHenry for more than 35 years. “We’re not only considered a national park, but also a national monument and historic shrine. Of America’s 385 national parks, we’re the only one with this special designation.”

“Surprisingly, most people who visit the fort don’t realize our national anthem was written during the 1800s,” Plamann said. “Most think it dates to the Revolutionary War or even the Civil War.”

It was, in fact, a battle that took place Sept. 13 and 14, 1814, and the flag flying over the fort at that time, that inspired the young poet-lawyer to pen his famous words.

“Key didn’t know at the time that he was writing his country’s national anthem,” Plamann said. “In fact, he never knew. He died before the words became the anthem.”

Today silent cannons guard the fort’s exterior walls, and living-history volunteers are re-enactors and tour guides for the more than 600,000 people who visit the 43-acre park each year.

Wearing an 18th-century uniform, Wayne Cofiell stands at attention in front of one of the barracks inside the fort.

Cofiell has been a living-history volun-

A replica of the flag that inspired Francis Scott Key flies over Fort McHenry. The original flag is being restored at the Smithsonian Institution.

the American ce of National Anthem



Re-enactors sit inside the enlisted men's barracks while a colleague talks with visitors.

teen for more than three years. The University of Baltimore history major and local firefighter said he volunteers as part of a school research project, and also because of his family's historical connection to the war.

"A cousin on my mother's side was in the Maryland militia and fought the British," he said.

Cofiell said Americans have to understand the country's past in order to understand its present.

"We represent soldiers of the past, and by doing that show respect for soldiers of today," he said.

Both Plamann and Cofiell encourage soldiers everywhere to visit the fort or any national park associated with an historic battlefield.

"You can read about them, see them on TV, but when you visit one of the historic sites it leaves a lasting impression," said Plamann. "It allows you to visualize events that took place hundreds of years ago and helps you understand how those events continue to shape our lives." □

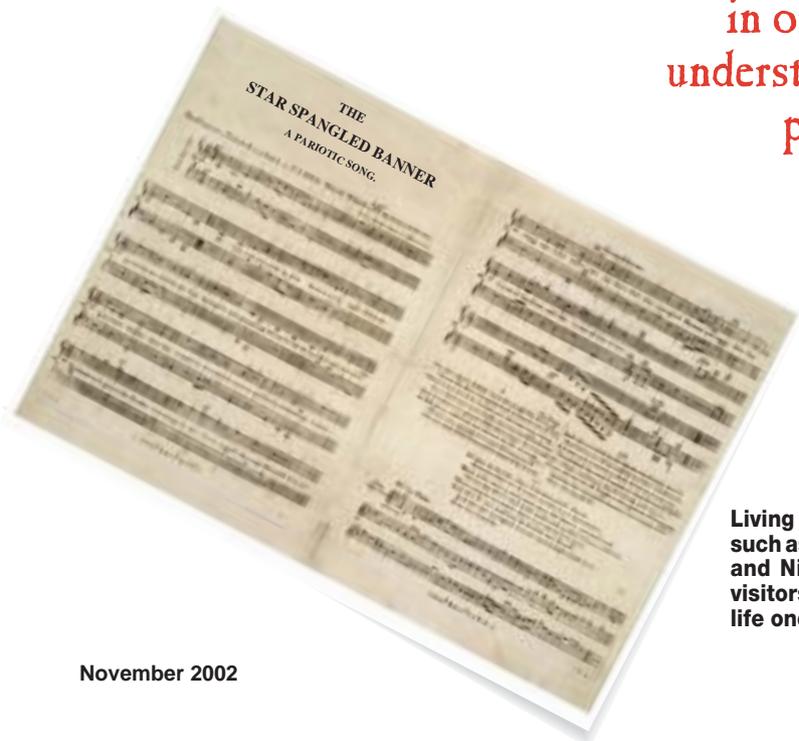


Fort McHenry living history volunteer Nicholas Ross demonstrates the loading of one of the fort's large cannons.

Americans have
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Living history volunteers such as Monty Phair (left) and Nicholas Ross give visitors a glimpse of how life once was at the fort.



The Army's FLOATING

Story and Photos by Steve Harding



At 950 feet APSRON 4's Watson-class LMSRs (*main photo*) are the second-largest ships in the Navy's inventory. Yet despite their size, the squadron's vessels fit easily within Diego Garcia's huge lagoon (*inset photo*).

NG BRIGADE





Diego Garcia's well-protected lagoon — some 13 miles long and 6.5 miles wide — is an ideal anchorage for APSRON 4.

U.S. Navy photo



Because the LMSRs' crews live aboard the anchored-out vessels, mail and other items are delivered by small craft and winched aboard.

R IDING calmly at anchor in the wide lagoon, the huge Navy cargo ships don't look at all menacing. But packed within them are enough armored vehicles and other equipment to equip an entire Army heavy brigade.

The vessels — collectively known as Afloat Prepositioning Ships Squadron 4, or APSRON 4 — are based at the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia [see page 30]. Among the newest and most advanced ships in the nation's inventory, they are the key component in a vast force-projection partnership among the Army, Navy, civilian contractors and merchant mariners.

The goal of that partnership is to be able to put two armored battalions and two mechanized battalions — plus support elements — ashore anywhere in the world within 15 days of notification to do so.

It's a tall order, but one that APSRON 4 was specifically created to handle.

COMBAT POWER ON CALL

The establishment of APSRON 4 and its basing at Diego Garcia resulted from a post-Gulf War strategic mobility study that examined in detail the problems which arose during the deployment stage of that conflict, said Navy Capt. Edward C. Zurey, the squadron's commander.

"The study determined the types of equipment the Army would need to have forward-deployed. While some of this equipment could be stored on land, the study noted that the continuing closure of U.S. bases overseas would have a detrimental effect on the

Army's ability to preposition the necessary materiel ashore," he said.

Positioning the equipment aboard fast ships at a forward location was the logical solution, Zurey said, because it eliminates reliance on relatively slow sealift deliveries from the continental United States to overseas theaters, while also avoiding the high cost of the large airlift required to quickly deliver vital equipment. And it was an already-proven concept, he added, because the Marine Corps had been prepositioning vehicles and equipment aboard ships for several years.

The study ultimately resulted in the creation of Army Prepositioned Set 3,

or APS-3, the afloat component of the larger Army Prepositioned Stocks program.

APS-3 encompasses a staggering range of materiel, including combat and tactical wheeled vehicles; trucks and Humvees; Army watercraft; port-opening and cargo-handling equipment; artillery; ammunition; quartermaster and mortuary-affairs assets; and thousands of cargo containers packed with tools, spare parts, and medical and food supplies.

All of this materiel is currently stowed aboard the 15 ships of the Combat Prepositioning Force, a component of the Navy's Military



Each of APSRON 4's ships is packed with materiel, including hundreds of vehicles chained down within a series of cargo holds.

APS-3 encompasses a staggering range of materiel, including combat and tactical wheeled vehicles; trucks and Humvees ...

Sealift Command. While the watercraft and most of the sustainment materiel are carried aboard leased civilian ships based on Guam, in the western Pacific, it is the Diego Garcia-based ships of APSRON 4 that carry APS-3's combat power, Zurey said.

THE RIGHT SHIP FOR THE JOB

APSRON 4 is built around a class of advanced cargo ships known as Large, Medium Speed, Roll-on/roll-off, or LMSR, vessels. Seven are currently on hand, with an eighth to be delivered this fall, and all are named after Army Medal of Honor recipients.

At 950 feet the *Watson*-class LMSRs are only about 90 feet shorter than a *Nimitz*-class aircraft carrier and, except for that type of vessel, are the largest ships in the Navy's inventory. Each LMSR can carry some 1,100 pieces of rolling stock, including Abrams tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles, Paladin self-propelled howitzers, Humvees, trucks and trailers, all of which are chained down in a series of cavernous holds. The vehicles are loaded and unloaded via large stern and side ramps, while two large deck-mounted cargo cranes are used to dispatch other materiel.

"These are the most advanced ships

in the Military Sealift Command," said Capt. George W. Hynes, the civilian master of the USNS *Watson*, which was the first of the LMSRs built and is now APSRON 4's flagship. "They're fast and very maneuverable, despite their size and huge cargo capacity."

Just as important, Hynes said, is the fact that the LMSRs are highly automated.

"Each ship has state-of-the-art electronics for navigation, engine operation, communications, and fire detection and suppression," he said. "That means that each ship, despite its size, can operate with a crew of just 28 people."



☐ MARINERS AND SAILORS

The civilian mariners on each of the Diego Garcia-based LMSRs work for the Maersk Line Ltd., the Virginia-based contractor tasked with operating the ships.

The mariners work a four-months-on, four-months-off schedule. When they're on, they work set watches, seven days a week, and handle everything from navigation to engine-room operations to food service.

While the mariners operate the LMSRs, Zurey and his 12 military and civilian APSRON 4 staff members ensure that the ships are always ready to deploy.

"The Navy personnel handle all the many details involved in planning for, and executing, APSRON 4's mission," said Lt. Carmelo W. Nicastro Jr., the squadron's operations officer.

"While that encompasses all the day-to-day details common to any military organization — coordination with other commands, logistical planning, personnel actions and force

protection, for example — our main job is to ensure that the ships are ready to sail when called on," he said.

"Our charter is to be ready to get underway and go anywhere within 24 hours, and we're expected to be able to get there at maximum speed," Zurey said. "We test our ability to do that in a number of ways, including getting the ships underway once a month for about four days at a time. That allows us to conduct engineering trials, at-sea training and so on.

"The bottom line for APSRON 4 is to deliver the embarked equipment where it needs to go, when it needs to be there," Zurey said. "The troops then just have to meet us at the off-load location and 'marry up' with the equipment. They don't have to bring much with them beyond their personal gear, since we carry virtually all the equipment they'll need."

☐ MAINTAINERS AND SOLDIERS

While it's up to APSRON 4's sailors and civilian mariners to get the

LMSRs' vital cargoes to the appointed place quickly and efficiently, ensuring that the equipment is ready to roll when it gets ashore is up to contract maintenance teams and soldiers.

Each LMSR has an assigned contractor team of seven mechanics and a supply specialist, all of whom are on renewable one-year contracts with Texas-based DynCorp.

"We ensure that the equipment runs properly and is safe when it is turned over to the Army," said Gary Ridley, *Watson's* lead DynCorp mechanic. "We inspect the vehicles frequently, and every one gets started up about every six months. We maintain the equipment and do any repairs that are required."

The job can be challenging, Ridley said, given that the vehicles are packed very closely together within each ship's seven vast parking decks.

"The way some of the vehicles are stowed, it's difficult to visually inspect certain areas," he said. "And though we do a lot of minor fixes, we simply can't do the major repairs that are done



Though large vessels by any standards, APSRON 4's LMSRs are highly automated and can thus be operated by relatively small crews.

in a motorpool ashore. But we know how important this mission is, and we do whatever it takes to make sure this equipment is ready when it's needed."

Validating the equipment's readiness is the prime mission for the soldiers of the Combat Equipment Detachment, Diego Garcia, who perform Care of Supplies in Storage, or COSIS, functions for the cargo.

"We go aboard the ships frequently to inspect the vehicles, and provide whatever technical and logistical assistance the contract maintainers might need," said SFC Larry Fick, contracting officer representative for the LMSRs and one of four soldiers on the COSIS team.

The Army requires the embarked equipment to be at the highest possible state of readiness, Fick said.

"Contractors can't always fix everything aboard ship, but as long as they have the necessary parts on hand and ready to go when they download the ship, they can fix most problems very quickly," he said. "The cargo should be close to 100 percent mission-capable within about a week of the ship's arrival in port."

Overseeing the care and maintenance of the varied equipment embarked on the LMSRs is a job the COSIS soldiers obviously take very seriously.

"The whole idea is that this equipment has to be ready for war soon after it rolls off the ship, and we help guarantee that."

"We think we have one of the most important jobs in the Army," Fick said. "We're taking care of more than 8,000 pieces of rolling stock valued at more than \$6 billion. The whole idea is that this equipment has to be ready for war soon after it rolls off the ship, and we help guarantee that."

TEAM EFFORT

Though the ships of APSRON 4 are painted Navy gray, the squadron's mission is to project Army combat power quickly and efficiently over vast distances. The organization's success in that role, its members say, is the result of close coordination.

"This has been a team effort from the beginning," Nicastro said. "The cooperation among the Army, the Navy, the mariners and the contractors is fantastic. We've been able to quickly find common ground, and we've been able to fill gaps in each other's knowledge or experience."

And that same close relationship also exists with the other members of the team outside Diego Garcia, Zurey added.

"We also work very closely with the Army's Central Command and Military Traffic Management Cmd., and with the Bahrain-based 831st Transportation Battalion," Zurey said. "And, of course, we work arm-in-arm with the U.S. Army Materiel Command's Combat Equipment Group-Afloat, at Goose Creek, S.C.; they're the people who are ultimately responsible for taking care of the cargo we carry."

The success of the team approach to APSRON 4's mission has been validated in the real world, Zurey said, most recently when the squadron's USNS *Watkins* deployed from Diego Garcia to Kuwait. There it offloaded its cargo of vehicles and equipment to support Exercise Vigilant Hammer, after which the ship took aboard other vehicles for return to the United States.

"All the people who have a stake in APSRON 4's mission — Army, Navy, merchant mariners and contractors — are focused on one goal: ensuring that the Army combat power embarked on these ships is ready when and where it's needed," Zurey said. "That's the whole reason we're here." □



Capt. George W. Hynes studies a navigation aid as he takes the *Watson* out of the lagoon and into the open sea.



Diego Garcia's isolation helps protect its natural beauty, which is a major benefit of life on the remote Indian Ocean island, residents say.

Island Focus

Story and Photo by Steve Harding

AT first glance, Diego Garcia might seem too remote to be an important U.S. military installation. Lying some 900 miles southwest of the southern tip of India, and about halfway between Africa and Indonesia, the island seems a long way from anywhere.

Yet its location is one of Diego Garcia's best features, officials say, for

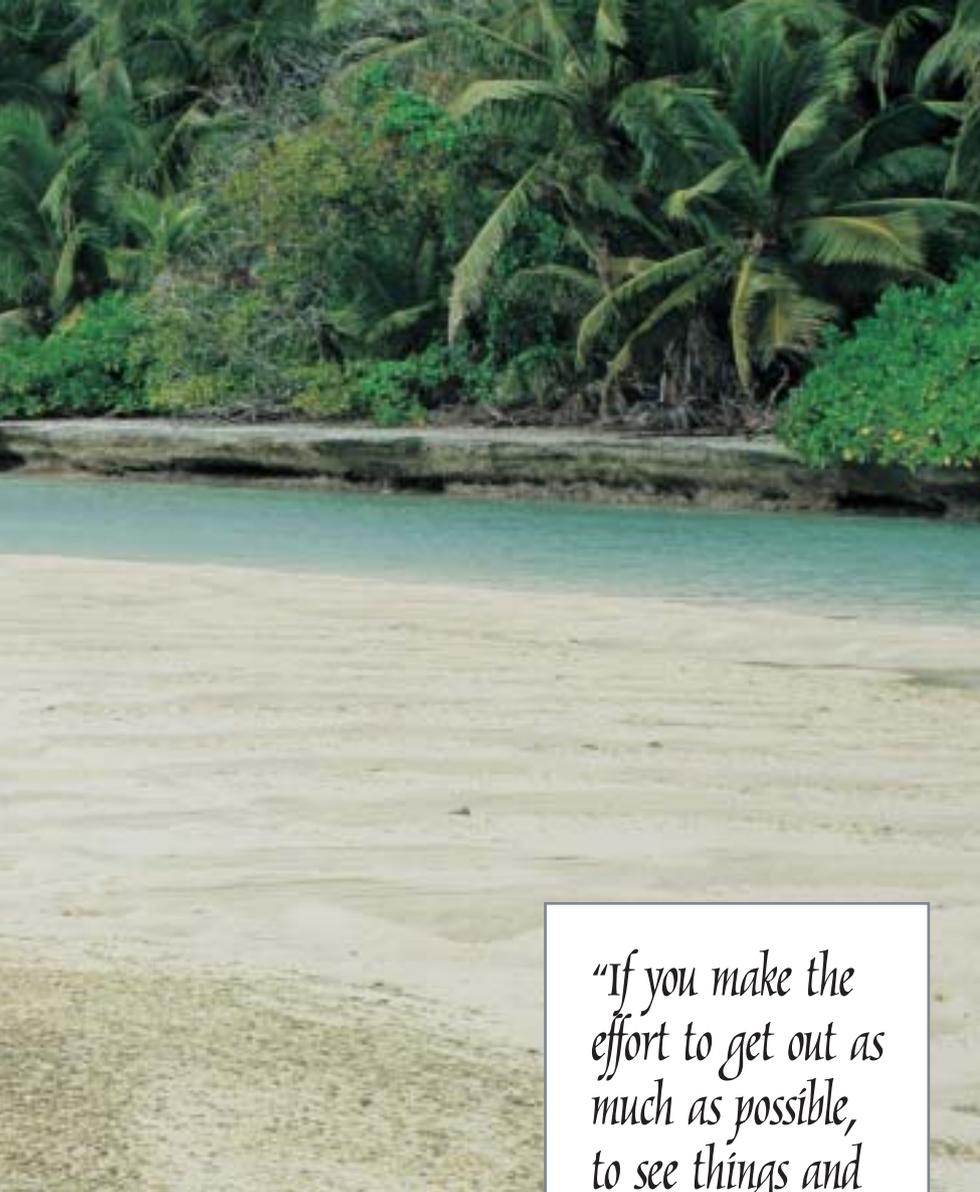
it's well within aircraft and ship range of several regions that are strategically important to the United States — including the Persian Gulf and Southwest Asia.

≡ *An Ideal Location*

Shaped like a horseshoe and said by many residents to look from the air like a large human footprint, Diego

Garcia is a coral atoll stretching about 34 miles from tip to tip. The low-lying island covers about 10.5 square miles, is covered by coconut palms and other tropical vegetation, and encompasses a lagoon that is some 13 miles long and 6.5 miles across at its widest point.

Discovered by the Portuguese in the 16th century, since 1815 Diego Garcia has been governed and policed by Great Britain as the British Indian



Ocean Territory. The United States leases space for an airfield and other military facilities, and uses the lagoon as a harbor for the 15 ships carrying prepositioned equipment and supplies for the Army, Marine Corps and Air Force.

The lagoon is an ideal harbor for the LMSRs and other vessels, said Navy Capt. Edward C. Zurey, commander of Afloat Prepositioning Ships Squadron 4.

“The squadron was initially based in the Arabian Gulf, but moved to Diego Garcia two years ago because the atoll offers excellent anchorage and great force protection, and because its location allows us to get to any part of our area of operations within a fairly short time,” he said. “And on top of all that, this island is a very interesting place to live.”

“If you make the effort to get out as much as possible, to see things and meet the other people on the island, your tour here can be a really positive experience.”

≡ *Not Your Average Base*

Given Diego Garcia’s remoteness, residents say that living on the island has both its ups and downs.

“The fact that it’s so isolated is actually one of Diego Garcia’s best points, in terms of outdoor activities,”

said SFC Dale Buck, one of the technical representatives assigned to the island’s Army COSIS team. The nearby waters teem with marine life, he said, and the lagoon and uncrowded beaches are ideal for sailing, swimming and snorkeling.

“In terms of off-duty time, things don’t get much better than here on Diego Garcia,” agreed CPT Jacob H. Freeman, commander of a Japan-based 599th Transportation Group Deployment Support Team working on the island at the time of Soldiers’ visit. “The facilities and the morale, welfare and recreation programs are great, and there are so many different events to keep you occupied when you’re not working.”

Though some Air Force and Army Reserve personnel temporarily assigned to the island to support Operation Enduring Freedom activities are housed in a vast tent city near the airfield, most permanent-party military members live in standard dormitory- and barracks-style buildings. There are several dining facilities on the island, as well as clubs, chapels, a bank, a library, a small hospital and a post exchange-like “ship’s store” open to all residents.

“I’ve been on Diego Garcia for 15 months, and I wish they’d let me stay here until I retire,” said SSG Dhana Belding, another COSIS team member. “The island is very nice, and most of the services — like haircuts, cleaning and laundry — are free. The only real downside is that it’s an unaccompanied tour.”

For most island residents, the quality of life on Diego Garcia is what they make of it, said Navy Lt. Carmelo W. Nicastro Jr., APSRON 4’s operations officer.

“If you make the effort to get out as much as possible, to see things and meet the other people on the island, your tour here can be a really positive experience,” Nicastro said. “And if you make the most of your time here, you’ll really miss it when you leave.” □

TOMORROW'S Classroom

Story by MAJ Stephan Pacard Photos by Tech. Sgt. Gerold Gamble

PUPILS from Thornburg Middle School in Spotsylvania, Va., sat at rapt attention, staring at the images of Earth being shown on the monitor at the front of their classroom.

“Many people say Earth from space looks like a big blue marble,” a voice said. “How would you describe it?”

“Come on, Thornburg. Let’s hear from you,” the voice cajoled when there was no response.

“A ball?” one student ventured.

“Yes, it does look like a ball,” the voice responded, and now the speaker’s image came onscreen as she asked for other descriptions.

One by one, the children responded, and Cheri Jurls, a distance learning education teacher working for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, continued to encour-

age participation.

Then students from Hebrew Day Institute of Silver Spring, Md., joined in the conversation, from a facility several miles away.

“I think it looks icy — like a snow globe,” said 12-year-old Hebrew Day student Daniella Bardack.

“That’s great,” Jurls said. She worked patiently with the children at both locations, and her audiences responded with enthusiasm, notwithstanding the fact that she was more than 1,500 miles from either classroom.

The hour-long interactive session, conducted in April, was a test of an emerging partnership between NASA and the National Guard Bureau to deliver space and science educational programs nationwide. The session marked the first time pupils at different locations simultaneously participated in NGB-distributed NASA educational programming, opening the way to reaching thousands of students across the country in the near future.

MAJ Stephan Pacard is the National Guard Bureau’s policy and liaison officer. Tech. Sgt. Gerold Gamble is assigned to the NGB.



Virginia and Maryland schoolchildren were the first to try out an emerging National Guard Bureau-NASA partnership program intended to increase children’s interest in science.

A New Way to Learn

The students confessed they were a little nervous at first, having left their comfortable school environments to work in unfamiliar classrooms equipped with computers, microphones, and headsets — and the video cameras the children would look into when it came time to respond to a question.

Before long, however, they were eagerly raising their hands to interact with the NASA instructors — and with students at other locations.

A Wider Reach

One of NASA's missions is to share knowledge gained from its space programs with U.S. citizens, particularly the nation's young people. Working closely with the space agency's scientists, engineers and astronauts, NASA educators have created a variety of educational materials and programming for live interactive sessions and television broadcasts. What they lacked, though, were mechanisms to permit direct, face-to-face interaction with larger audiences at multiple locations.

"NASA's education division has been developing programs to generate interest in math and science among middle- and high-school students, and to attract them to careers in these fields," said Susan Anderson, director of NASA's Johnson Space Center Office of Education in Houston, Texas. "The National Guard Bureau, through its Distributive Training Technology Project, will enable us to reach a much wider audience — including students without access to technological resources, who might not otherwise be able to participate in these programs."

DTTP is a distributed-learning initiative that has revolutionized how the Guard promotes military readiness, providing training for soldiers while simultaneously reducing costs and improving morale. The DTTP network consists of more than 300 classrooms, located in state-designated areas such as armories, schools and libraries. Plans call for more than 450 classroom installations by 2003, with the goal of maintaining a classroom within 50 miles of virtually every soldier in the country.

The children viewed images of Earth from space and could ask questions during a one-hour, interactive session with a NASA distance-learning teacher.

Proofs of Concept

The three demonstrations of the system that have so far been conducted have engaged students in different parts of the country, and more such exercises are being planned.

The first demonstration took place in March. Working from the DTTP classroom at the Regional Training Institute in Austin, Texas, students from Kealing Junior High explored "Space Farming" with educators from NASA's Johnson Space Center, where the program originated.

The second demonstration, involving Thornburg, Hebrew Day and Austin's Bartlett High School, took place in April and had students discussing "Imagery from Space." Using satellite images and interactive graphics, the educators led the students through discussions about Earth's geological history, cataclysmic events such as volcanic eruptions and meteor strikes, and the long-term effects of human activity on the planet.

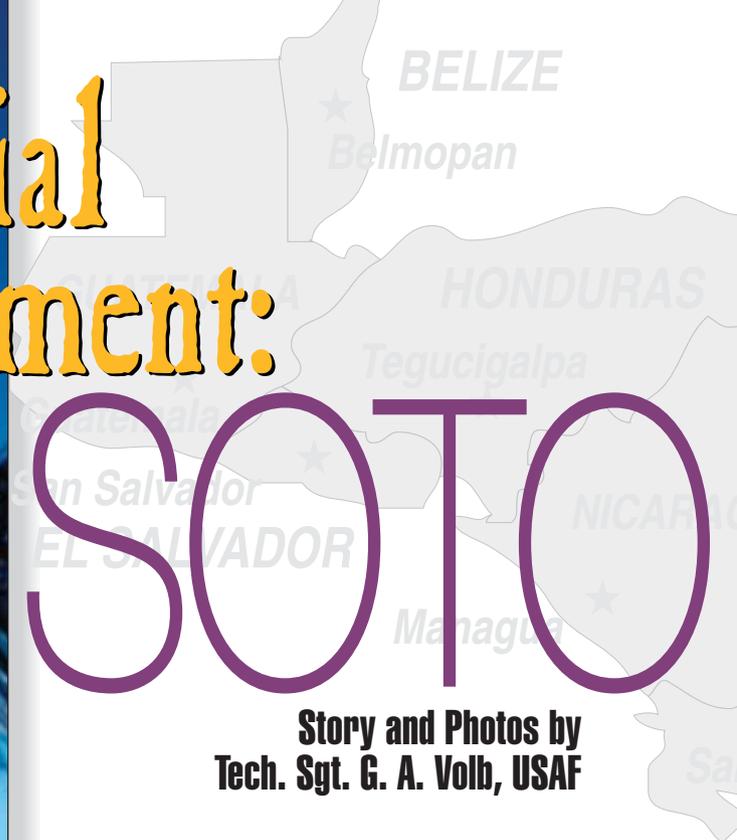
In the third demonstration, held in May, fourth-grade students from Springwoods Elementary School in Woodbridge, Va., explored "The Effects of Space on the Human Body," covering topics such as bone and muscle degradation, cardiovascular system changes and space sickness, and exploring ways to prevent or mitigate such problems.

"This is definitely the direction to go for future education," said 12-year-old Rachael Picard from Thornburg. "Talking live with someone who's actually 'been there and done that' makes it so much more fun to learn." □





Special Assignment:



SOTO

**Story and Photos by
Tech. Sgt. G. A. Volb, USAF**

TUCKED away among banana trees and iguanas, in the north-west corner of Honduras, is one of those “special” Army assignments.

It’s where a small contingent of soldiers juggle an eclectic assortment of real-world missions and exercises under the auspices of Joint Task Force Bravo.

Based at little-known Enrique Soto Cano Air Base — just outside Comayaqua, the third largest city in the country — JTF-Bravo routinely participates in multi-national exercises and humanitarian-aid and drug-interdiction missions.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. G. A. Volb is assigned to the JTF-Bravo public affairs office.

Roatan Island off the Honduran coast is a popular travel destination for service members assigned to Joint Task Force-Bravo at Soto Cano.

CANO

COSTA RICA

The recipe for success here is as varied as the mission itself, calling for a mix of about 550 soldiers, airmen and marines. Most of them arrive at the “outpost” wondering what they’ve gotten themselves into. Quickly, they learn the challenges are well complemented by a vast array of off-duty programs and a thriving social life.

As an added benefit, the dollar still goes a long way in Honduras. And though Soto Cano is considered remote — one reason being that there is no fixed plumbing in the living facilities — most of the service members don’t seem to mind the short trek to the showers and latrine.

“We’re called ‘a non-permanent force,’” said CSM Andre Booker. “Among the reasons is the lack of permanent structures and plumbing on base, in keeping with an agreement between the United States and Honduras.”

“Not too many people know about Soto Cano, but once they hear about it, they’re intrigued,” said JTF-Bravo commander COL Michael Okita.

Honduras offers colorful wildlife, historic buildings, the ruins of lost civilizations and virtually untouched wilderness.

An assignment to the base offers soldiers the chance to work with the other services. And most personnel leave with a better understanding of how the different services work together to accomplish a mission, he said. “That’s the real value of coming to Honduras.

“One of the reasons most people don’t know about Soto Cano until they’re assigned here, is because we’re not making headlines,” Okita said. “But we continue to be a support base for American military operations in the theater, with primary responsi-



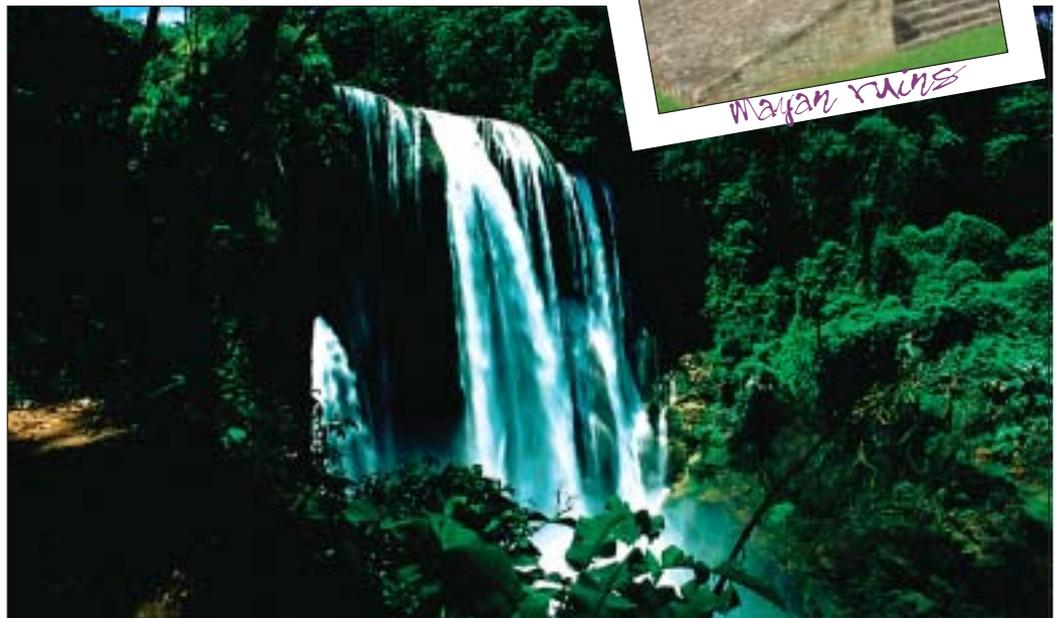
Cepan Macaw



Church of Cepan



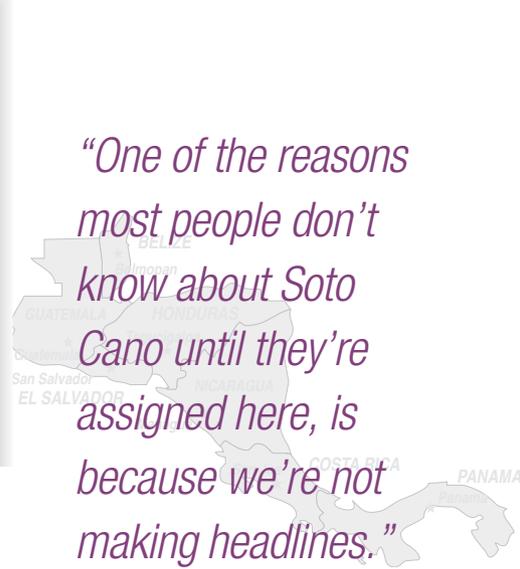
Mayan ruins



Yajoa Waterfalls



Soldiers check each other's gear before rappelling from an Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during training at Soto Cano.



“One of the reasons most people don’t know about Soto Cano until they’re assigned here, is because we’re not making headlines.”

bility to our joint operations area, which includes six countries in Central America.”

Soto Cano supports the commander of U.S. Southern Command in carrying out any military operations in Central America. The broad range of missions includes responding to natural disasters, other crisis situations and humanitarian-aid contingencies.

Additionally, units at Soto Cano participate in scheduled engineering and construction programs, and medical-readiness training exercises that provide care to local villagers.

Besides Honduras, Soto Cano’s area of responsibility includes Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Belize and Panama. “That’s 172,000 square miles of territory and some 30 million people. It’s an impoverished region of the world, but rich in history,” Okita said.

“Our presence provides many things to the commander in chief responsible for the Central America area of operations,” he added. “We support training, operate the only military airfield in the region capable of

accommodating a C-5 transport, and are a valuable transition point for people and supplies.

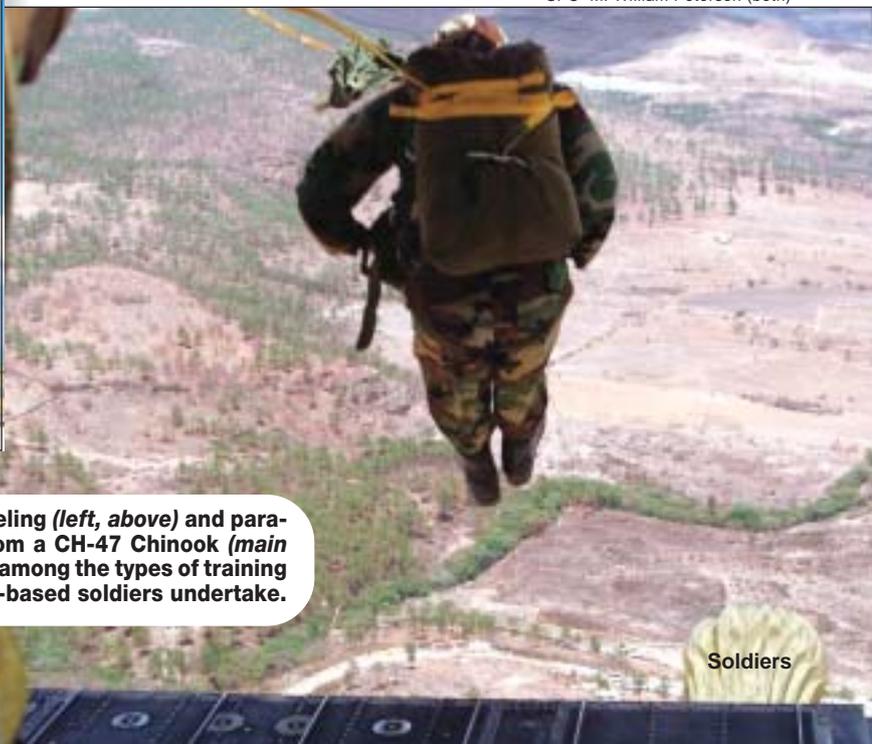
“This has really been an eye-opener for me,” Okita said. “My first 21 years were primarily involved with battalion-level operations. Here you have the opportunity to work with other services and agencies, especially during disaster responses.”

JTF-Bravo has recently been involved in such missions as New Horizons, a program to build schools and other basic infrastructure in Nicaragua and El Salvador; Central Skies, providing counter-drug support to local law-enforcement agencies; and medical readiness training exercises. Day-to-day

training events for the Army focus on common soldier skills, and include marksmanship training and rappelling.

“For the average soldier, the challenges of an assignment to Soto Cano can be cultural as well as mission-oriented,” said Booker. “You really have to know your job, be able to work in a multi-service environment and, more importantly, a multi-national atmosphere. Most soldiers quickly learn this is one of those unique assignments where they’ll actually get the chance to do their jobs. And they leave here glad they had that chance.”

“We may be a temporary unit, technically, but we’ve been here 20 years and have a proven track record,” Okita said. □



Tower rappelling (left, above) and parachuting from a CH-47 Chinook (main photo) are among the types of training Soto Cano-based soldiers undertake.

SPC M. William Petersen (both)

Soldiers

Around the Services

Compiled by *SSG Alberto Betancourt*
from service reports



Navy

SECRETARY of the Navy Gordon R. England ordered all Navy ships to fly the "First Navy Jack" in place of the Union Jack for the duration of the war on terrorism. The First Navy Jack is commonly known as the "Don't Tread On Me" flag because it depicts a moving rattlesnake on a field of 13 horizontal red and white stripes.



PH2 David A. Levy, USN



Air Force

THE Air Force women's softball team scored a 9-0 win in this year's Armed Forces Women's Softball Championship. Led by head coach Master Sgt. William Hardy of Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., the team stripped last year's champion, Army, of its crown.



Coast Guard

THE Coast Guard proclaimed Morgan City, La., a "Coast Guard City." The designation recognizes cities that have demonstrated a longstanding and enduring relationship with, and commitment to, Coast Guard members and their families.



Marines

MARINES from the 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, tested the new Mk-47 40mm advanced lightweight grenade machine gun at Camp Lejeune, N.C. The weapon is an advanced version of the Mk-19 grenade launcher. Some of the weapon's features include a lightweight video-sighting system, laser range finder and electronic elevation mechanism.



General Dynamics

Sharp Shooters

Photos by Jonas N. Jordan



THE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Savannah District's mission includes military construction, civil works, regulatory oversight and real estate management. The district serves 13 Army and Air Force installations in Georgia and North and South Carolina, building training facilities and other projects ranging from schools, hospitals and clinics to housing, commissaries, airfields, hangars, equipment shops and runways. Jonas N. Jordan, the district's photographer, captured some of those projects in the following images.



(Above) Work crews harvest timber at Fort Stewart, Ga.

(Below) A Corps of Engineers dredger works in Savannah Harbor.





(Left) The Savannah District's jack-up barge *Explorer* does geological sampling off the Georgia coast.

(Below) Boats participating in a sailing regatta catch an afternoon breeze at Lake Hartwell, Ga.



Standard photo submissions for Soldiers Sharp Shooters can be mailed to: Photo Editor, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581. Photo submissions of digital images should be directed to alberto.betancourt@belvoir.army.mil. All submissions must include an introductory paragraph and captions.

Sharp Shooters



(Left) A 200-ton replacement rotor is moved into place at Georgia's Hartwell Power Plant, one of the Corps of Engineers' few external powerplants.



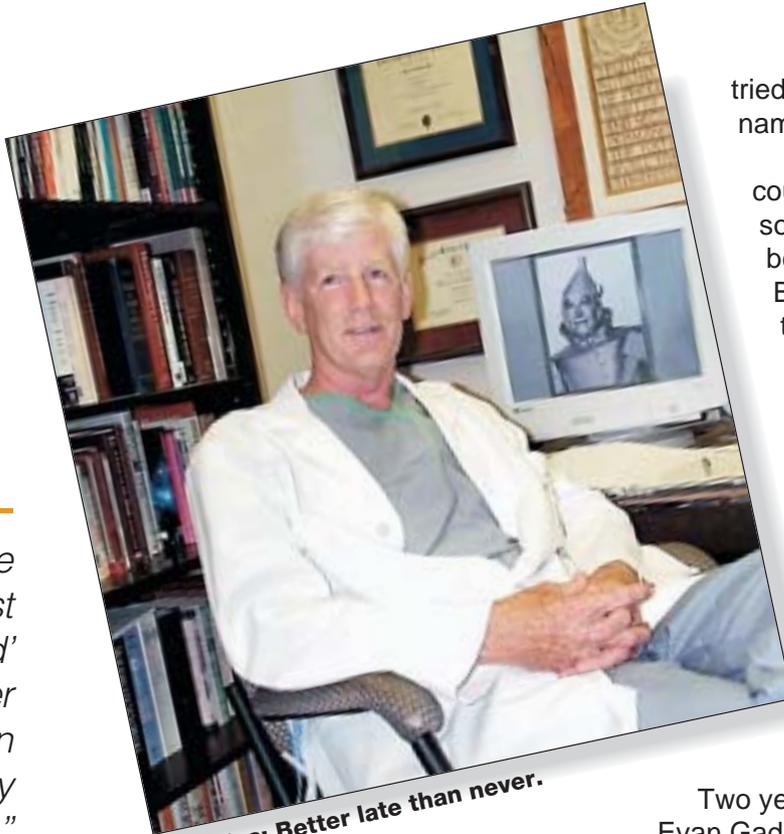
Water thunders through the spillway gates at Hartwell Dam.



Photos by Jonas N. Jordan



Container ships crowd Savannah Harbor.



DeVries: Better late than never.

"I am the most 'waivered' person ever to wear an Army uniform," DeVries said.

"I had an age waiver and a health waiver. They went through all this stuff to make it happen."

AFTER a career as a world-renowned, pioneer heart surgeon, one would think **Dr. William C. DeVries** could kick back and enjoy some golf.

On the contrary, DeVries decided to serve in the armed forces.

At 57, the doctor who implanted the first permanent artificial heart, in Seattle dentist Barney Clark, signed on at Walter Reed Army Medical Center as a Defense Department contractor — and then joined the Army Reserve.

On Dec. 29, 2000, DeVries was commissioned as a lieutenant colonel. And on Jan. 18, 2002, he became one of the oldest officers to graduate from the Army Medical Department basic officer course.

"The story goes back to when I was born at the Brooklyn Naval Hospital in 1943," DeVries said. "My dad was a physician and surgeon, and a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve.

"Right after I was born, he went to sea," DeVries said. "Six months later, he was killed in the Battle of Hollandia in the South Pacific."

DeVries was "a sole surviving son" in military terms, but he didn't know it until he

tried to join the military during the Vietnam War.

But he was not destined to serve his country at that time. As a sole surviving son, military officials said, he couldn't be deployed to an active theater.

Because of an influx of draftees, they told him, they didn't need him.

The young doctor's subsequent medical career involved breakthroughs in modern medicine. In the early 1980s, he was instrumental in creating the artificial heart dubbed the "Jarvik 7."

Between 1982 and 1987 he implanted the Jarvik 7 in four patients who collectively lived more than 1,300 days. DeVries returned to traditional cardiovascular surgery in 1988 and retired a decade later.

Two years ago DeVries golfed with MG Evan Gaddis, then commander of the Army Recruiting Command.

"I was 56, had a nice home near Fort Knox, Ky., and was cutting back my practice," he said. "I was kind of disillusioned with medicine. Everybody was worried about their retirements, and the fun had gone out of it."

Gaddis invited DeVries to accompany him to Washington, D.C., where he introduced him to the WRAMC commander.

On the return flight, Gaddis made his pitch. "He said, 'Someone with your talent and ability really could help the Army.'"

"I started feeling guilty," DeVries said.

In October, DeVries joined Walter Reed's Department of Surgery as a consultant. Still, Gaddis wasn't satisfied. The general told the doctor: "There's one more thing you need to do. You need to wear green."

"I am the most 'waivered' person ever to wear an Army uniform," DeVries said. "I had an age waiver and a health waiver. They went through all this stuff to make it happen. I didn't really appreciate it too much until I went to the Officer Basic Course and it became a major deal. They didn't quite know how to handle me." — *Linda D. Kozaryn, American Forces Press Service*

SGM Julius W. Chan of the 82nd Airborne Division Support Command's Headquarters and HQs. Company at Fort Bragg, N.C., has been performing magic for more than a decade.

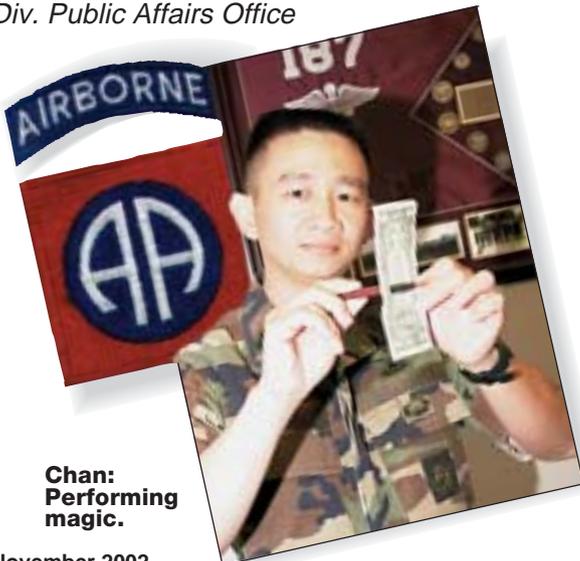
Although many of his shows are directed toward young orphans and children who are hospitalized, Chan, who has two sons of his own, performs shows for adults and military units as well. He currently gives one magic show on the first of every month at Fort Bragg's Womack Army Medical Center, during payday activities.

When Chan is on stage, he's humorous and warm, said SGM Charles J. Chan, the magician's older brother and chief medical NCO of HHC, XVIII Airborne Corps. "He helps put the audience at ease and encourages them to participate."

The best thing about performing magic is the resulting expressions on the children's faces, Julius Chan said. "I like to make a difference in the kids' lives. And, I think I do; when I finish a performance, they don't want me to go."

Once Chan hosted a magic show during a unit Christmas party to benefit the homeless. In return for the show, he asked members of the audience to donate an old toy or clothing item.

"Not only did he make the Christmas party a success, but he also made many homeless people happy on Christmas day," Charles Chan said. — PFC Heather Boyne, 82nd Abn. Div. Public Affairs Office



**Chan:
Performing
magic.**



Easley: Mrs. Hawaii.

Tara Easley has a very specific outlook on life: "I want to be a dedicated wife, committed to a lifelong relationship in marriage." It was good enough to convince a panel of judges that she should be crowned "Mrs. Hawaii International" for 2002.

The 24-year-old wife of 1LT Brian Easley, executive officer of the Army Corps of Engineers' Pacific Ocean Division, represented Hawaii in the national competition in August, in Tennessee.

A second-grade teacher at Lanakila Baptist Elementary School in Waipahu, Easley hopes her victory will help set an example for other military wives who are considering getting involved in the community.

She selected arts education in Hawaii as her "platform" area of emphasis as the reigning Mrs. Hawaii. Easley will work with pageant administrators to take the message to the classroom when she visits other schools to help host art appreciation days.

Easley feels fortunate to have been selected to represent the state, since she was the only contestant who is a military wife.

"There is a tremendous feeling of acceptance to receive such an honor," she said. "I take my selection very seriously and will try to give something back to the community." — U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division, PAO

Easley feels fortunate to have been selected to represent the state, since she was the only contestant who is a military wife.

Paula J. Randall-Pagan



SFC Theresa E. DeWitt of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit gives pistol marksmanship tips to Delayed Entry Program member Jameelah Logan at Camp Perry, Ohio.

Fort Benning, Ga.

Marksmanship as a Recruiting Tool

SOLDIERS in the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit are usually known for their ability to bring home gold medals for the Army in shooting competitions. However, the world-class shooters have been helping the Army with a different mission.

During the recent National Pistol Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, several team members took time away from the firing range to support the Army's Toledo, Ohio, Recruiting Company by using the Army Shooting Adventure Package van to provide marksmanship training to more than 40 Delayed Entry Program members.

SFC Steven V. Pullins, USAMU Recruiting Command liaison, said the ASAP van is the unit's premier recruiting tool.

The "van" is actually a 28-foot-long trailer pulled by a commercial truck, both of which are adorned with eye-catching Army graphics. And although the ASAP showcases the Army's best shooters, members of the public can also test their skills by shooting at targets using specially modified pistols or rifles.

The ASAP van is essentially a mobile shooting arcade that provides a safe venue for USAMU members and prospective recruits to interact in a fun environment, Pullins said.

CPT Michael C. Wise, commander of the Toledo Recruiting Co., said the Delayed Entry Program members really enjoyed the event, and that several of them seemed very interested in getting more marksmanship training.

"The marksmanship team showed them something new and different that we can't pro-

vide," he said. "I would definitely recommend that other recruiting stations use the ASAP van. It's a great way to familiarize recruits with the Army's weapons in a safe, fun and challenging way."

Earlier this year, Georgia recruiters brought more than 35 DEP members to meet the team at its home station at Fort Benning and use the ASAP.

"They really loved it," said SFC Kelly Price, a recruiting station commander. "They said they couldn't wait to fire real weapons and felt that this training would help them in marksmanship in Basic Combat Training."

Pullins said USAMU's recruiting-assistance events help recruiters expand their markets and reinforce the contacts they've already made. — *Paula J. Randall-Pagan, USAMU Public Affairs Office*

Fort Hood, Texas

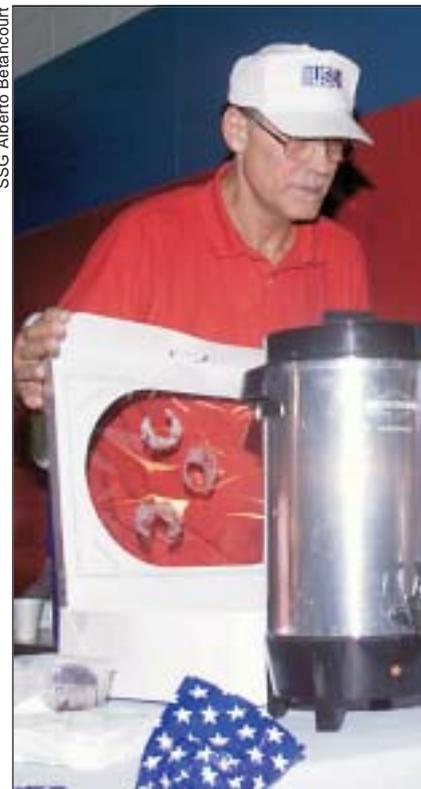
Hood's USO Supports Troops

SINCE 1941 the USO has been supporting U.S. troops by entertaining them while they're deployed, or by providing a "home-away-from-home" feeling at one of hundreds of USO hospitality centers worldwide.

The recent opening of a USO facility at Fort Hood, Texas, marks the beginning of a new era for the organization, which typically has placed its facilities in civilian airports.

"Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on our country, hundreds of troops have deployed from Fort Hood," said Dan Green, president of the installation's USO and a civilian aide to the secretary of the Army. "It was important to create a support element for

SSG Alberto Betancourt



them. Now, we're the only USO on a military installation."

With only one paid employee, the Fort Hood USO depends on community volunteers for support.

"This is an opportunity for our community to show its support for the troops and their families," Green said.

Rich Ross, director of Fort Hood's USO, said it's been pretty busy, but everyone has lent a hand.

"Whether they're serving hot dogs during the day or doughnuts in the early morning, community volunteers have really reached out and supported us," Ross said.

"We're here to help in any way we can," said Green.

"Fort Hood is our community, and anyone coming through here will receive a hearty welcome or a warm good-bye." — *Ssg Alberto Betancourt*



An 82nd Airborne Division paratrooper receives Ecuadorian jump wings during a wings-exchange ceremony following the coalition jump.

Fort Bragg, N.C.

Coalition Jump at Fort Bragg

THE motivating yell "com-mando" echoed through the sky above Fort Bragg, N.C., as Ecuadorian special forces soldiers leaped from a U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft onto Sicily Drop Zone during a recent airborne coalition exercise with 82nd Airborne Division troops.

The exercise was part of the Small Unit Familiarization Program, which is geared toward establishing coalition-training events between the Army and Latin American countries.

"The program promotes an understanding between foreign troops," said 2LT Todd Willert, scout platoon leader in the 3rd Battalion, 325th Infantry Regiment. "We can exchange tactics, so if we ever have to fight together we can integrate more easily."

The training program, which takes place during the

Dean Burkett, a USO volunteer, offers doughnuts to Fort Hood family members who were saying good-bye to deploying soldiers.

second quarter of each fiscal year, allows Latin American forces to train with soldiers in the United States and U.S. soldiers to train in Latin America.

Willert said that besides two airborne operations, the soldiers honed their skills in troop movement and link-up operations, and completed obstacle courses and weapons familiarization.

Although the Ecuadorian soldiers participate in similar training events at home, they cited many differences in the way they trained with the Americans, said Ecuadorian Lt. Wilson Sanchez.

"We train in a jungle environment," he said. "We prepare ourselves to fight in guerilla fashion with an enemy who is not very organized."

He also said they jump out of smaller aircraft and with fewer people than Americans do, and primarily perform free-fall jumps, which is jumping from higher altitudes with no static lines hooked up to the aircraft.

"The fact that each army trains differently is the best part of this exercise," said SSG William J. Colon of Company C, 3rd Bn., 325th Inf. "We learn

a lot about each other, which builds confidence on both sides that we can successfully fight together."

Soldiers on both sides said they look forward to training together again.

"We appreciate the United States giving us this opportunity to train with them," said Sanchez. "And we look forward to American soldiers visiting us so we can share some of our training with them." — *PFC Heather Boyne, 82nd Abn. Div. PAO*



1SG Raymond Cabacar of HHC, 3rd Bn., 325th Inf., watches Sgt. 2nd Class Juan C. Huerta of the Ecuadorian army jump from a 34-foot tower at Fort Bragg.

Through an Artist's Eyes

Story by Beth Reece
Art by MSG Henrietta M. Snowden (Ret.)



MSG Henrietta M. Snowden (Ret.) was the Army's first female combat artist. She used watercolor and color pencils to share with others her appreciation for soldiers' dedication.

Paul Disney



"Taking the Point"

Henrietta M. Snowden can freeze time. And during her tenure as the Army's official artist, it was a talent she used to pay creative testimony to soldiers' experiences in both peace and war.

"My art is influenced by a deep appreciation for soldiers. They are so committed in all they do. I hope my paintings inspire others to value soldiers' dedication," said Snowden, who until her retirement last month was assigned to the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C.

Uniformed artists began documenting U.S. military missions during World War I, after the British had already discovered that using military artists aided morale. "Plus, it was a good form of advertisement," said CMH art curator Renée Klish.

CMH selects one new artist every three years to record soldiers' endeavors through various media. Snowden favors watercolor and colored pencils, and occasionally adds oil pastel or ink for highlights and dimension.



"Waiting to go to War, 2002"



"Waiting to Phone Home"



"South of Ch'orwon"



"The General in the Desert"



"An Army of One"

The Whole Story

Like a reporter, Snowden gathered soldiers' stories by following them on deployments, during field exercises and in garrison environments. In early 2000 she spent 30 days lugging camera gear and sketchbooks around Kosovo before committing brush and ink to one of her first CMH projects, titled the "Kosovo Collection," which can be viewed at www.army.mil/cmh-pg/art/Snowden/kosovo.htm.

"I jumped on every available convoy so I could talk with soldiers about their parts of the mission," Snowden said. She came home with 10 rolls of film, a stack of sketches and a diary of her observations.

"This is how I develop the story that will come through in my art," she said. "I actually get to see the loneliness that soldiers sometimes experience, as well as their hard work, teamwork and pride. It inspires me."

A painting titled "Basic Training" is among Snowden's latest works. Created in honor of women in uniform, it shows a young recruit low-crawling through barbed wire with a rifle in her arms.

"You can see the determination in her eyes, even though she's obviously struggling," Snowden said, explaining



"Peacekeeper"



"Early Morning Light"

how the painting focuses on the girl's eyes. "I knew that if I had the eyes right, everything else would fall into place."

While many soldiers deployed to Saudi Arabia in early 1991 for Operation

Desert Storm, Snowden worked as a graphics manager for the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. Wanting to contribute to the war, she delved through the photos that arrived daily from combat photographers in the war zone. An overexposed image of GEN Colin Powell caught her attention.

"The photograph was so incredible. To me, it depicted what the desert must have been like — red hot. I wanted to convey this overexposed heat in my painting," she said.

The finished product shows Powell grimacing from light so bright that his image fades off the canvas. CMH officials liked it so much, they added it to their permanent Army art collection and invited Snowden to join a team of artists that would complete artworks depicting soldiers returning home from Operation Desert Storm.

Snowden believes art offers a greater freedom of expression than photography. Artists, she said, have the liberty to expand a photograph's emotion through their choices of medium, color, brush stroke and overall composition.

"The background I paint may not have been in the original photograph, for example. Or I may choose to focus on just one part of the photograph," she said. "A photographer can capture only what occurs at a specific moment,



"Basic Training"



Secure the firing line.



"New York Welcome"

but an artist continues to define that moment."



Most artists fear criticism and censorship, but Snowden's supervisors supported her desire to project the truth. Even the blood she painted in some of her Kosovo works went unchallenged, she said.

"I wasn't sure how that would be received, though blood was a very real element of the deployment," she said. "That everyone was supportive says a lot about the value placed on the program."

"Still, everyone is an art critic," she added. "There's always going to

Paintings by MSG Henrietta M. Snowden

be somebody who asks, 'Where's the rest of the story?' or 'When are you going to finish this?'" Refusing to let bad feedback block her creative flow, Snowden tells critics that her creations are products of personal perception.

Army artists are referred to as multimedia illustrators by occupational specialty. They're trained to develop and enhance graphic presentations. Because commanders are sometimes unaware of illustrators' capabilities, the artists are occasionally pushed aside or underused in auxiliary jobs, Snowden said.

"Most illustrators extend their artistic abilities to the units they support, such as designing T-shirts for a unit run, or a caricature for a hail and farewell," she said. "This is the sort of job that requires soldiers to find their own opportunities, to seek ways they can contribute — even if it means working on their own time."

The titles "soldier" and "artist" may seem contradictory to some. But if an artist's creativity is influenced by experience, who better to paint soldiers than a soldier, Snowden said.

"I was judged by the same standards and went through the same training as other soldiers, so I understood what they do and how they feel. I had an insider's view," she said.

Snowden retired in October after 20 years of illustrating and painting for the Army. In the final phase of her career, she said, her artistic "flow" was just beginning to run smooth and constant. But a new artist, she said, will

help further enrich the collective image of the Army's past.

"Henrietta should be very, very proud of her art," Klish said. "It will help us always remember where the Army has been." □

CMH owns more than 15,000 historical artworks, some of which can be viewed at www.army.mil/cmh-pg/.

THANKSGIVING 2002 *Message*

"Families have long provided strength and values to our Soldiers, our Army, and our Nation. We know we do not soldier alone."

THANKSGIVING is a time for the Army Family to pause and enjoy a day of rest, relaxation, and fellowship. As families and friends gather, Thanksgiving also provides an opportunity to show our gratitude for the blessings we enjoy in a free and prosperous Nation. Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians, veterans, retirees, and all of their families can take pride in the fact that their service and sacrifices preserve the privilege of living and working in a free society characterized by the highest ideals of liberty.

Almost 140 years ago, Abraham Lincoln reminded Americans, "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown." Those words were spoken in 1863 during the Civil War. Our Nation emerged from that conflict stronger than ever before. And today, as The Army fights the war on terrorism as part of the joint team, those words still ring true as we enjoy the privileges and unparalleled freedoms that Soldiers have helped secure for over 227 years.

And so on this special day, we offer our appreciation to you, the Soldiers and civilians of The Army, who serve our Nation with a level of devotion and selfless service unequalled in any other profession. You walk point for our Nation 24 hours a day, uphold freedom's torch as you willingly step forward to defend the American people from all enemies and animate the values and principles that we hold dear—loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage.

Thanksgiving is also a time for families to join in celebration and reunions. Families have long provided strength and values to our Soldiers, our Army, and our Nation. We know we do not soldier alone. For just as Soldiers sacrifice and dedicate themselves to honorable service, their families also sacrifice and make invaluable contributions to the Well-Being of our Army and our Nation. We give you our thanks, and a grateful nation thanks you as well.

We are proud of The Army Family. And so to all of you, the dedicated men and women of the U.S. Army—uniformed and civilian—we offer special thanks for the difficult and dangerous work you are doing for the citizens of our great Nation. We wish all of you and your loved ones a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday.

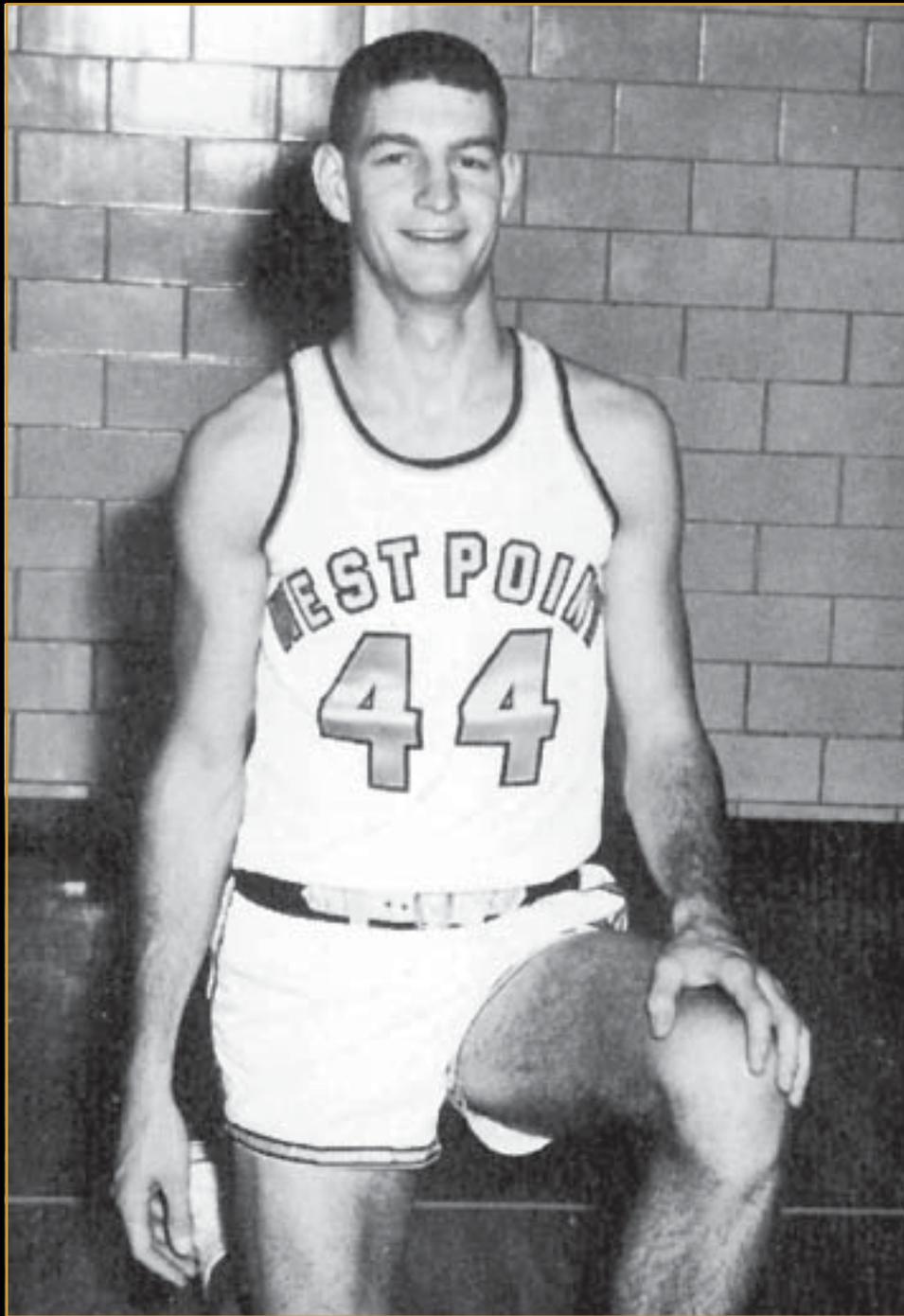


Eric K. Shinseki
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff



Thomas E. White
Secretary of the Army





ROBERT F. FOLEY

ROBERT F. Foley was a three-year letterman in basketball at the academy and the captain for the team during the 1962-1963 season. A Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient, he retired in 2000 as a lieutenant general.

