

NOSOTROS

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

Serving the U.S. Southern Command and our military family in South Florida, the Caribbean, Central and South America and the surrounding seas.

FEBRUARY 10, 2012

— NEWS —

- Warriors Basketball Season Update p2
- Black History Month p3
- More Positions Open For Women in Military p3
- Haitian Archivists p5
- Honoring a Long Time Friend of SOUTHCOM p5
- Guard Partnership p7
- Foreign Liaison Officers Embark Enterprise p8

SECTIONS

- Feedback Info p2
- After Hours p4
- Around the Americas p6



Ruth Kane

Members of the MAST Junior ROTC Corps perform a pass-in-review for Rear Adm. Steven H. Ratti, SOUTHCOM J3. See Story on page 11.

Interview: Operation Martillo



Arthur McQueen

Gen. Douglas Fraser, SOUTHCOM Commander, talks with Dan Rather, former CBS News network anchorman and HDTV correspondent, about the efforts of U.S. Southern Command and its components to stifle the illegal drug and weapons trade and human trafficking that funds Transnational Criminal Organizations in Latin America. Operation Martillo (Hammer) is the command's latest cooperative effort, see related story on page 10.

Costa Rica Invests in Security

The Government of Costa Rica made significant expenditures in 2011 to strengthen its citizen security institutions and the GOCR is posed to continue such investments in 2012 with a new tax revenue fund dedicated to security. The GOCR is spending \$1.2 million to renovate the Migration facilities at the principal chokepoint on the Pan-American Highway. It has

.. see SECURE, page 8

JTF-B, Honduran Medics See 1,980 Patients

Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks
Joint Task Force-Bravo Public Affairs

OLANCHO, Honduras – Members of the Joint Medical Readiness Training Exercise team saw their final patient in the village of La Bacadia as part of a four-day MEDRETE mission to provide medical assistance to the Honduran communities throughout the region Jan. 29 through Feb. 1 here.

The Joint MEDRETE team which consisted of members from the Honduran Ministry of Health, the Honduran military and Joint Task Force-Bravo,

Soto Cano Air Base, provided medical services to approximately 1,983 Hondurans. Included in that number were 1,671 patients screened, more than 300 tooth extractions, 10 immunizations, 96 women's wellness visits and over 2,665 medications distributed.

Col. Matthew Rettke, JTF-Bravo's Medical Element commander, said he was proud of the work and the partnership that the Joint MEDRETE team accomplished during the four-day event which serviced the areas of San Rio Tinto, Cerro Del Vigia and La Bacadia in

the Olancho District.

"This was a very productive event that impacted the lives of many throughout the Olancho District," Rettke said. "It was apparent to us by the way they opened their homes and schools and allowed us to set up and provide medical services in them."

During this Joint MEDRETE, medical professionals treated illnesses including respiratory infections, skin infections, pneumonia, tuberculosis, diabetes, and high blood pressure.

.. see MEDICAL, page 3

SOUTHCOM Warriors Roundball Roundup

SOUTHCOM Coasts Past Coast Guard, 46-35

Lt. Cmdr. Ron Flanders

HOMESTEAD – The SOUTHCOM Warriors showed a little rust coming off their bye week, defeating Coast Guard District 7 for a second time, 46-35.

Charlie Gammage had eight points and nine rebounds for the Warriors (4-0), who led by 24 at one point in a game that was not as close as the final score indicated.

“If we ever learn to play defense, we can be a really good team,” Head Coach Kelvin Scott said.

The Coasties put up a much better fight than the season opener, but committed 19 turnovers. The Warriors also outrebounded the Guard, 35-19.

The Warriors prepared for the game by scrimmaging against the Miami-Dade Police team, a likely opponent for the scheduled March Madness tournament that will be hosted by SOUTHCOM.

Warriors Fall to Defending Champs, 53-42

Something just wasn't right for the SOUTHCOM Warriors. Maybe it was the traffic jam that caused them to arrive minutes before tipoff. Or maybe they weren't comfortable in their shiny new red and

... BASKETBALL on page 10

Black Women in American History



African American/Black History Month
“Black Women in American History and Culture”

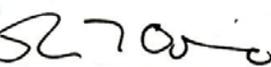
February 2012

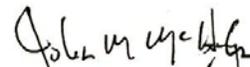
African American women have played a vital role in the history of our Nation and our Army since the American Revolution. Their patriotism, loyalty and leadership, coupled with their hard work, intellect and artistic expression, have enriched the African American community and the Nation as a whole. In slavery and freedom, their struggles have been at the heart of the human experience, and their fight against racism and sexism serve as a testament to their perseverance to overcome adversity.

From Harriet Tubman, a leader and conductor of the Underground Railroad, to Rosa Parks, the mother of the modern Civil Rights Movement, to First Lady Michelle Obama, these courageous women serve as role models for all to emulate. The Army has also benefitted from the leadership, intelligence and contributions of the African American women in our ranks, and today we celebrate the recent promotion of Major General Marcia Anderson, the Army's first African American female Two Star General and recognize Ms. Tracey Pinson, the Army's highest ranking female African American Senior Executive Service member. These women, and so many others, are expressions of a vibrant culture in which African American women play a critical role in the strength of this Nation and our Army.

We are grateful for the sacrifices and contributions African American Women, Soldiers, Civilians and Families have played in our success. We encourage the entire Army Family to honor publicly their contributions by encouraging all leaders from across the Army to plan and execute appropriate commemorative activities to celebrate African American/Black History Month.


 Raymond F. Chandler III
 Sergeant Major of the Army


 Raymond T. Odierno
 General, United States Army
 Chief of Staff


 John M. McHugh
 Secretary of the Army

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Via ICE at: http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=124098&s=628&dep=*DoD&sc=2

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“NOSOTROS” is an authorized internal bi-weekly publication intended for: uniformed members of the Department of Defense, US Government civilians, contractors and liaisons working for U.S. Southern Command or in its Area of Responsibility and their dependents.

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DOS Exchange Program With DOD Cooperation in Space

The Dept. of State announced a new memorandum of understanding with the Dept. of Defense establishing the most significant formal exchange between both departments in history.

The personnel exchange expansion offers more opportunities for both DOS and DOD personnel to gain a greater understanding of shared missions, furthering their ability to collaborate effectively in support of U.S. national security.

It will also be beneficial to both departments in budgeting and planning processes. DOD personnel assigned to various DOS positions increased from 50 to

98; and the number of diplomats serving on the staffs of senior military commanders under the Foreign Policy Advisor (POLAD) Program has doubled to nearly 90 personnel over the past four years. DOS is one of more than a dozen federal agencies represented within SOUTHCOM.

The senior representative at SOUTHCOM is the Civilian Deputy to the Commander and POLAD, Ambassador Carmen Martinez, who advises the commander on U.S. foreign policy issues linked to the command's area of responsibility and support's the command's relationship with DOS and U.S. embassies.



A four member team from Air Force Space Command visited with the Chilean AF to determine the best site to set up a deployable satellite tracking station. The station would be used for the next 3 to 5 years, with the first planned event scheduled for April 2012 in support of a USAF communications satellite.

More Military Positions To Open For Women

The Defense Department announced today changes to its assignment policy which will result in 14,325 additional positions being opened to women.

"Women are contributing in unprecedented ways to the military's mission," Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta said. "We will continue to open as many positions as possible to women."

The department notified Congress it intends to make two changes: first, occupations will no longer be closed to women solely because the positions are required to be co-located with ground combat units; and second, a sizable number of positions will be opened to women at the battalion level in select direct ground combat units in specific occupations. The services also will continuously assess their experience with these changes to help determine future changes to the 1994 rules.

Money Time Out Called

Tuesday, February 28th at 4:00 am the Ocean Bank's System will be upgraded. The estimated time the upgrade will take is approximately 3 hours; during this time the ATMs machines will be out of service and transactions will not be honored until the upgrade is completed.

... MEDICAL on page 1

There are several mission objectives to MEDRETES, to include providing U.S. military personnel training in delivery of medical care in austere conditions, promoting diplomatic relations between the U.S. and host nations in Central America, and providing humanitarian and civic assistance via a long-term, proactive program.

"This was a great opportunity to team up with the Honduran government and the Honduran Ministry of Health," Rettke said. "This partnership is key and gives our personnel an opportunity to provide medical care in austere conditions similar to what they would encounter in a disaster response."

In fiscal 2011, Joint Task Force Bravo and Honduran Ministry of Health clinicians provided general medical care to 14,401 patients and dental care to 1,061 patients for a total of 15,462 Hondurans receiving much-needed assistance.



Staff Sgt. Bryan Franks

A small Honduran child looks around the room while U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Sarah Shipman, Medical Element medical technician, and Sgt. Cesar Burgos, Joint Security Forces member, screen his family before sending them to a physician during a Joint Medical Readiness Training Exercise Jan. 31. Nurses and medical technicians evaluated approximately 1,671 during the four-day MEDRETE in the Olancho District.

After Hours:

Family & Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities and events

FAMILY AND MWR announcements may be found on the NIPR portal

To be placed on the Family and MWR e-mail list, send your name, phone number and e-mail address to mwrcustomerservice@hq.southcom.mil.

TICKETS OFFERED BY THE INFORMATION, TICKETS AND REGISTRATION (ITR) OFFICE, 305.437.1595/2400

■ **SPECIAL OFFERS FROM THE ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER** Save up to 20% off. <http://www.arshtcenter.org/tickets/calendar/view.aspx?id=10698>, and enter promo code HOLIDAY prior to selecting your seats.

■ **CIRQUE DU SOLEIL PRESENTS: MICHAEL JACKSON THE IMMORTAL TOUR**, March 3, 2012, 8pm, American Airlines Arena, prices start at \$55

■ **WRESTLEMANIA XVIII** tickets are available now at the ITR Office, before they go on sale to the general public. Prices: Section 436 Row 16: \$45; Section 439 Row 11: \$65; Section 139 Row 18: \$145; Sun Life Stadium on April 1, 7pm

SPORTS & FITNESS PHONE: 305.437.0123/4

■ NEW CLASS SCHEDULE:

Monday

0600-0700 Functional Fitness with Frank Same
1130-1230 Tai-Chi with Sensei Montalban
1130-1230 Spinning with Gabriella
1130-1300 Functional Fitness with Frank Same
1230-1330 Yoga with Gabriella
1700-1800 Explosive Cardio with Frank Same

Tuesday

0600-0700 Functional Fitness with Frank Same
1130-1230 Spin Lunch with Lucy
1130-1300 Functional Fitness with Frank Same
1200-1300 Power Yoga with Rae
1645-1745 Zumba with Rosie

Wednesday

0600-0700 Functional Fitness with Frank Same
1130-1230 Spinning with Gabriella
1130-1230 Self defense with Sensei Montalban
1130-1300 Functional Fitness with Frank Same
1230-1330 Yoga with Gabriella
1530-1630 Mid-Week Restorative Yoga w/Rae
1645-1745 Zumba Toning with Rosie
1700-1800 Explosive Cardio with Frank Same

Thursday

0600-0700 Functional Fitness with Frank Same
1130-1230 Spin Lunch with Lucy
1130-1300 Functional Fitness with Frank Same
1200-1300 Power Yoga with Rae
1645-1745 Zumba with Rosie
1700-1800 Explosive Cardio with Frank Same

Friday

1130-1230 Spinning with Gabriella
1230-1330 Yoga with Gabriella

Saturday

1030-1130 Spinning with Demetria

Schedule is subject to change. \$3 per class or \$25 for 10 classes Please arrive on time for class. First come – first served. Jill M. Hauser, Recreation Specialist, 305.437.1682/0123.

■ **FITNESS CLASSES AT NO COST:** **Functional Fitness (outside)** – M-TH, 6-7am, 11:30-1pm, and 5-6 pm, P.O.C. Frank Same 305.437.1152, Sign-up at the Gym counter. **Open Play Volleyball** – Tues., Thurs., 12-1pm **Racquetball Challenge Court** – M-F 1130-1pm, Court #1. Beginning Jan 9, 2012 – **Tai chi**, Mondays at 1130, **Self-defense**, Wednesdays at 1130 with Sensei Montalban.

■ **NAVAL AIR STATION KEY WEST MWR** Activities sheet is online at www.cnic.navy.mil/keywest

■ **MASSAGE THERAPIST** 60 minute session – \$70, 30 minute session – \$35. Call Russell Protzman, 305.951.1286 or 305.887.1719.

■ **ONE – ONE PERSONAL TRAINING WITH GABRIELLA** 60-minute session, \$60; 30-minute session, \$30. Sign-up at the Gym counter.

■ **SATURDAY SPIN CLASS** at 1030 with Demetria. To register, please email Jill Hauser at jill.hauser@hq.southcom.mil \$3.00 a class or \$25.00 for 10 class punch pass.

■ **ZUMBA TONING** Wednesdays at 1645 with Rosi. We only have 20 toning sticks, so first come – first served. Must register at the fitness center front desk before class.

■ **EXPLOSIVE CARDIO** Involves upper body, pushing and pulling lower body and explosive bodyweight exercises. Start the new year off with an explosive workout Classes are FREE Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 1700.

■ **VALENTINES FOR VETERANS** Concert Feb 12 VALENTINES FOR VETERANS FREE CONCERT – Join the Miami VA Healthcare System in honoring South Florida Veterans with a complimentary concert performance by recording legend B.J. Thomas at The Fillmore Miami Beach Feb. 12 at 5:30 p.m. Complimentary Tickets can be picked up at The Fillmore Miami Beach Box Office during regular business hours. For more information, contact the Miami VA Healthcare System Voluntary Service Office at (305) 575-3140.

■ **BRICKELL HOT YOGA** supports the troops! 40% off of all classes, drop-in, workshops, and packages for all Military and Dependents with I.D. <http://www.brickellyoga.com/> 305 856 1387 Brickell Hot Yoga, 301 SW 17th Road Miami, Florida 33129

■ **TRIBUTE TO THE MILITARY** Family and MWR Sports and Fitness will sponsor Military and SOUTHCOM employees to participate in the upcoming Tribute to Military 5k Sunday, February 19, 8am at Merrick Park/Coral Gables City Hall, 405 Biltmore Way. If you are interested, please fill out a registration form and send it to Jill Hauser at Jill.Hauser@hq.southcom.mil or drop it off at the fitness center front desk. Forms are online at <http://www.active.com/running/coral-gables-fl/tribute-to-the-military-2012> or at fitness center front desk. Deadline to register with Family and MWR is February 14 COB.

■ **"BUDGETING 101"**, Wednesday, 22 February 2012, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm, USAG-Miami, Class

will be in the USSOUTHCOM Headquarters Bldg, 9301 NW 33rd Street, 1st Floor, Room 1104B, Basics of creating a household or personal budget, Tried and true ways to stick to your budget, Dealing with and eliminating debt. Reserve your seat(s) now – email Mr. Richard Zimmelman at Richard.Zimmelman@hq.southcom.mil or telephone 305 437-2645

■ **"THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN"**, Thursday, 23 February, 1-3pm, USAG-Miami, Installation Services Center, 9301 NW 33rd Street, 2nd Floor, Suite E2005, Family Support Center Classroom. Learn about the features and benefits of the Thrift Savings Plan. Who should attend: Military and Civilian Personnel and Family Members. Space is limited. Please email to reserve your seat: Richard.Zimmelman@hq.southcom.mil

■ **"ESTATE PLANNING, What Everyone Needs to Know"**, Friday, 24 February, 1 – 2pm, USAG-Miami, Installation Services Center, 9301 NW 33rd Street, 2nd Floor, Suite E2005 Learn about the estate planning process, features and benefits of wills, durable powers of attorney, healthcare proxy, and various types of trusts. Seating is limited.

■ **TILLMAN SCHOLARSHIP** The Pat Tillman Foundation's Tillman Military Scholars program supports our nation's active and veteran service members and their families by removing financial barriers to completing a degree or certification program of choice. The scholarships cover not only direct study-related expenses such as tuition and fees, but also other needs, including housing and child care. The application opens Monday February 13, 2012 and closes Friday March 16, 2012. For further information on eligibility and the application process, please visit: <http://www.patillmanfoundation.org/tillman-military-scholars/apply/>

■ **BAG OF GROCERIES** Eat Like An O6 On An E5's budget – Healthy Grocery Shopping Without Breaking the Bank – Family and MWR is offering another Lunch and Learn with RD Kristie Hinton, Tuesday Feb 28, 2012 12-1pm ACS Room 2005, Taught by: Kristie Hinton, RD. Please register with Jill Hauser at Jill.Hauser@hq.southcom.mil <mailto:Jill.Hauser@hq.southcom.mil>

<http://www.cityofdoral.com/email/images/Boys-Night-Out-Flyer.jpg> Rhythm in the Park this Friday, Feb 10, 7-10:30pm, JC Bermudez Park, Doral, Free. <http://www.cityofdoral.com/email/musicInThePark-static.html>

■ COUPLES RECREATIONAL SAIL

Who: Veterans and Spouses/SO
What: Sunset sail aboard a 49 foot catamaran. Snacks/beverages will be provided.
Where: Shake-A-Leg, Miami, Coconut Grove, FL
When: Sunday, February 12th, 2:30-6:30 PM.
Why: To experience the healing power of water, enjoy the magic of Biscayne Bay and relax.
What else you need to know: Bring clothes for on the water outdoor activities.
For registration information, please email captainbranson@gmail.com, Capt Branson Rector, Sailing "At Ease" H26, Miami, FL

Historian Coordinates Training at Haitian Archives



Haitian archivist Cerette Lubin prepares a photo negative for digitalization during training, sponsored by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, at the National Archives Feb. 1.

From Staff Reports

SOUTHCOM historian Dr. Bradley Coleman led a two-day digitalization workshop at the National Archives of Haiti in early February. The training focused on preserving and perpetuating archival documents endangered by the 2010 earth-

quake. The Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) sponsored the event.

In March 2010, Dr. Coleman and SOUTHCOM civilian deputy to the commander Ambassador Paul Trivelli (2008-11) submitted a grant application to PAIGH on behalf of the Haitian archives. Part of the

Organization of American States, PAIGH promotes cooperation among countries of the Western Hemisphere through projects in the fields of cartography, geography, geophysics, and history. PAIGH leaders announced their support for the initiative in November.

The Digital Library of the Caribbean (Miami), University of Florida (UF), University of British Columbia, National Library of the Dominican Republic, and U.S. Department of State also contributed to the project.

Using PAIGH money, Dr. Coleman acquired a state-of-the-art digitalization suite for the National Archives. Haitian archivists trained on the equipment during the workshop in Port au Prince. Specifically, they practiced converting degraded photo negatives, taken during the U.S. occupation of Haiti (1915-34), into high-resolution digital images. The system captures digital documents on network servers in Florida.

Employees of the National Archives, National Library, and Library of the Brothers of Christian Instruction attended the training.

“The project contributes to our understanding of the Haitian experience by ensuring that historical documents are safeguarded and accessible,” Dr. Coleman said. “Equally important, it builds meaningful professional connections between Haiti and its neighbors.”

‘Monumental’ Support to SOUTHCOM

Gen. Douglas Fraser, SOUTHCOM Commander, presented the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal to Donald Slesnick, a retired Army Lt. Col., mayor of Coral Gables from 2001-11, president of the Florida League of Mayors from 2009-10.

Fraser thanked Slesnick for his “steadfast commitment to our men and women in the armed services.” Slesnick’s tireless personal efforts and collective work with “Team Miami” in support of the command were instrumental to building enduring partnerships with South Florida leaders, businesses and organizations.



Spc. Scott Riley

DORAL, FLA.



Sandra Johnson



Arthur McQueen

AROUND THE AMERICAS

CALLAO, PERU

ABOVE: Feb. 10, Gen. Douglas Fraser presented Brazilian Navy Cmdr. Paulo Petro (right) and Chilean Navy Capt. Luis Bravo (left) with the Joint Service Commendation Medal for efforts in strengthening longstanding military cooperation and partnership between our armed forces. Another partner nation liaison officer, Peruvian Army Col. Juan Carlos Liendo was also honored Feb. 3. As representatives of their countries' armed forces at SOUTHCOM, partner nation liaison officers play a vital role in facilitating understanding and coordination, advancing information sharing, enhancing mutual trust, and improving interoperability.

RIGHT: Steelworker 2nd Class Barron Montowski, a Seabee assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 23, embarked aboard High Speed Vessel (HSV-2) Swift, re-paints a wall in Escuela Pronoie Nuevo Despertar Mis Primeros Pasitos in Zona De Acapulco. NMCB-23 is working with Peruvian combat engineers from Base Naval De Callao and Brigada Infanteria De Marina De Ancon during HSV-Southern Partnership Station 2012. The Seabees and engineers will spend three weeks refurbishing schools in the area. Southern Partnership Station is an annual deployment of U.S. Navy ships and assets to the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility in the Caribbean, Central and South America.



Spc. Jennifer Grier

Partnership Benefits New Hampshire Guard, El Salvador

Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy
National Guard Bureau

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador – New Hampshire Guard senior leaders recently spent several days here meeting with key military leaders to strengthen the state and nation’s pairing in the National Guard State Partnership Program.

The SPP builds relationships between the National Guard in the states and territories and partnered nations worldwide. New Hampshire’s relationship with El Salvador recently passed the 12-year mark and will continue to grow, state Guard leaders said.

New Hampshire’s adjutant general, Air Force Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, credits the SPP relationship as one of the reasons why El Salvador troops served alongside U.S. troops in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

“I truly believe that one of the reasons why El Salvador went to Iraq ... was because of [the New Hampshire Guard],” said Reddel. “They are the only country in this hemisphere that has done that.”

The adjutant general envisions growth in New Hampshire SPP activities. “The hope is that we may be able to take on a second country, but have a tri-lateral agreement and that all three countries would be working together to solve problems,” Reddel said. “Other states have done it; New Hampshire can do it.”

Meanwhile, Reddel said New Hampshire and El Salvador’s relationship has matured and deepened. “When we look at engagements, they were pretty much ‘events’ in the very beginning,” Reddel said. “As we kept on moving forward we turned ‘events’ into ‘outcomes.’ And now, it’s all about outcomes.”

Those outcomes, said Reddel, have included partnered training and a greater understanding of ways the U.S. and El Salvador can work together. “With SPP you find it’s all about relationships,” he said. “It’s all about tant relationship that we have with the country and with their members in the military.”

The relationship has grown to encompass more than military-to-military exchanges.



Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy

U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. William Reddel III, center, in flight suit, adjutant general of the New Hampshire National Guard, and other senior leaders from the New Hampshire Guard look over maintenance records while visiting with members of the El Salvadoran 1st Air Brigade near San Salvador, El Salvador. Reddel met with Salvadoran military officials as part of the State Partnership Program, which builds relationships between the National Guard in the states and territories and partnered nations worldwide. New Hampshire is in its 12th year of partnering with El Salvador.

New Hampshire students from a local high school partnered with a school in El Salvador and have had exchanges between both teachers and students, said Reddel, who added that interaction came about because of the structure of the Guard. “Given the fact that we are a community-based force, we can reach out into the community to find those relationships that we can take down to El Salvador,” he said.

“Every year we alternate with the Salvadorans – one year we’ll go down there, the next year they’ll come here,” he said.

During the recent visit, the New Hampshire delegation not only met with military leadership to discuss future endeavors, but they also spent time observing aspects of army basic training and air force pilots and ground crews as they performed their mission, and they received briefings on Salvadoran military response to severe flooding in the country in November.

“It’s a great opportunity for us to expand opportunities to exchange ideas, to ex-

change education and to exchange things that make both the United States and El Salvador better,” said U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Carolyn Protzmann, assistant adjutant general for Air with the New Hampshire Guard. One of those areas is international and homeland security.

“Our relationship with El Salvador helps to strengthen the security and security cooperation, and it puts the National Guard in the forefront of the homeland defense and homeland security mission,” said Protzmann. “And that’s where we need to be.”

The ability to do that comes back to relationship building. “By coming down here and being exposed to this culture, exposed to the

challenges that the Salvadoran people are up against, helps us to be better informed on how we should act and react as global citizens,” said Brig. Gen. Craig Bennett, assistant adjutant general for Army with the New Hampshire National Guard.

And that means long-term success.

“In the long term, if we need to call on the El Salvadorans for their help in times of need or vice-versa, existing relationships allow us to do that much more effectively,” Bennett said.



... SECURE on page 1

purchased new boats for the Coast Guard and Migration and is improving its Coast Guard installations. These important investments in upgrading the country's security infrastructure, combined with the resolve the Ministry of Public Security is showing in moving forward with its police professionalization platform and the establishment of a dedicated border police force, offer reason for optimism in what at times can be a bleak security panorama in the region.

According to Ministry of Public Security Vice-Minister Marcela Chacon and Migration Director Kathya Rodriguez, the GOCR is spending a total of \$1.2 million to renovate the Migration facilities at Peñas Blancas, the primary land crossing and chokepoint along the northern border with Nicaragua. Between mid-December and January alone, roughly 120,000 people crossed the border at Peñas Blancas, with 10,000 people crossing in a single day on some days. This high volume of traffic caused many problems while Costa Rica was still using its outdated facilities. The renovation of the Peñas Blancas facilities aims to reduce problems by separating incoming and outgoing traffic and creating a sterile area in which vendors and other non-travelers cannot enter and mix with travelers. It will also separate tourist traffic from large-scale commercial traffic. It will double the number of counters for migration officers and will require travelers to move in a single pattern from the migration counters, to customs, to agricultural inspectors. A perimeter fence will be installed, along with a camera system that will monitor the fence and the Migration officers working at the counters.

The renovation is to be completed in March 2012. The GOCR is creating a comprehensive plan for developing its border crossings. They are currently working on improving the extremely porous border crossing with Panama at Paso Canoas and are planning to move forward soon with developing at least three new border crossings. Chacon and Rodriguez report there has been excellent and frequent inter-agency coordination among MPS, Customs, COMEX, Ministry of Agriculture, and others.

The Ministry of Public Security purchased a total of 4 vessels in 2011 for counternarcotics operations on the Caribbean coast. This is the first time in its history that the Costa Rican Coast Guard has purchased vessels, rather than obtain them through donations or seized assets. In addition to the new interceptors, the SNGC reported spending \$600,000 during 2011 to refurbish a 65-foot patrol boat assigned to Moin, \$200,000 to refurbish a 36-foot interceptor, and \$700,000 for the purchase of engines and other support equipment for two additional interceptors to be purchased in 2012. Meanwhile, with 2011 funds the MPS purchased two new boats for its Migration Directorate and repaired two others. These craft will be used primarily for riverine operations. Additionally, the SNGC reports plans to expand its force from 450 members at present to 550 by the end of 2012, and to 650 by the end of 2013. These figures are evidence of the GOCR's increased and continuing ef-



Completely rebuilt by the MPS at a cost of \$160,000, the Barra del Colorado SNGC station provides new, clean living quarters, storage and offices for the SNGC detachment.

forts in making important and needed investments in security and bode well for effective collaboration with our planned INL-funded maritime advisor.

Costa Rica is also investing in improving its Coast Guard installations, a key step in providing Costa Rican law enforcement with the means to combat the rising tide of organized crime and narcotics activity. Post representatives traveled to Costa Rica's Caribbean coast in December 2011 to view the recent work undertaken by the MPS to improve SNGC stations in the region.

The SNGC station at Pacuares is being built at a cost of \$70,000. Although this station is substantially smaller than the Barra del Colorado station, its location halfway between the Barra del Colorado and Moin stations allows for a more rapid response in an area which has seen increased narcotics activity.

Minister of Public Security and Governance Mario Zamora continues to successfully use MPS funds to better the institution and improve the level of security in Costa Rica. He consistently states the GOCR must

get away from its "poverty mentality". While he welcomes the support that the USG and other donors provide, he believes his country must rely on its own resources. Although the MPS budget was still tight in 2011—a little over 315 million—Zamora appears to have found ways to direct money to significant improvements in equipment and infrastructure, a success that had eluded many of his predecessors. He told the Ambassador on January 20 that he intended to use some of the funds his ministry will receive from the recently passed tax on corporations (reftel) to support a new digital platform for his ministry. Vice Minister Chacon told us that some of the money would be used for investments similar to those in 2011 (vehicles, boats, and infrastructure). These important investments in upgrading the country's security infrastructure, combined with the resolve his ministry is showing in moving forward with its police professionalization platform and the establishment of a dedicated border police force, offer reason for optimism in what at times can be a bleak security panorama in the region.

USNAVSO Foreign Liaison Officers and SOUTHCOM DV's Embark Enterprise

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet Public Affairs

MAYPORT, Fla. (NNS) – Nine distinguished visitors from U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. Fourth Fleet embarked aboard USS Enterprise (CVN 65) Feb. 1, for an overnight familiarization tour of the U.S. Navy's first nuclear aircraft carrier.

USNAVSO/C4F Deputy Commander, Rear Adm. A. B. Cruz, hosted and escorted the international representatives and distinguished visitors to the ship, with the purpose of showing them the distinct capabilities and complexities of an aircraft carrier strike group operating at sea. The guests embarked the ship while conducting exercises off the coast of Northern Florida in preparation for the aircraft carrier's last scheduled deployment later this year.

"This embark to Enterprise is a unique opportunity for our partner nation representatives and distinguished visitors to experience life on an aircraft carrier and better understand the immeasurable maritime capabilities of a carrier strike group. Even more importantly, our guests can now further recognize how to integrate aircraft carriers into combined operations in theater if needed," Cruz said. "I know firsthand that they truly appreciate and understand what a special privilege this has been. It is a moment in time that I hope each of our guests will pass on to their colleagues and discuss the experiences that we shared with this great, great crew and famous warship."

The opportunity to better understand the capabilities was also echoed by Chilean Navy Capt. Luis Bravo, USSOUTHCOM Foreign Liaison Officer.

"The Chilean Navy and U.S. Navy have been good friends for a long time so it is a good thing to know each other's capabilities when we operate together at sea. This was an enlightening experience to see an aircraft carrier in so much detail," Bravo said.

During the embark, the guests observed sea-and-anchor detail, day and night flight operations, underway replenishment and received briefings from many of the sup-



Lt. Cmdr. Corey Barker

ATLANTIC OCEAN – Seaman Justin Bledsoe, a helmsman aboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN 65), explains the lee helmsman watch station to Chilean Navy Capt. Luis Bravo, U.S. Southern Command foreign liaison officer. Bravo embarked aboard Enterprise as part of an overnight familiarization tour with other members from SOUTHCOM, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet.

port departments and aviation squadrons aboard the ship. The military-to-military liaisons from Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina and Brazil all commented how complex the operations and day-to-day life were aboard the ship.

Ecuadorian Navy Capt. Manuel Caamano, USNAVSOFLO said, "We have a small Navy and my surprise from observing Sailors on the flight deck and hangar bay is everyone knows what to do without any visible direct supervision. I am impressed with the level of responsibility that is empowered to the crew to do their jobs."

Caamano referred flight deck operations to that of a clock.

"The aircraft carrier is like a timepiece. Every Sailor is an essential part of an intricate machine that must work in harmony to be accurate and function correctly. There is obviously no time for mistakes on an aircraft carrier," Caamano said.

The group departed the ship Feb. 2 after Rear Adm. Walter E. "Ted" Carter, Jr., Commander, Carrier Strike Group 12.

"It is a pleasure to have the chance to show off one our greatest warships in U.S.

Naval aviation history to our coalition partners throughout all of our friends in South America. I think they had their eyes opened up to what I would consider one of the centerpieces of our Navy," said Carter.

Enterprise is the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and is the oldest aircraft carrier in the Navy with a rich history reaching back 50 years. The Enterprise is the only ship of her class and is the second-oldest vessel in commission in the U.S. Navy, after the wooden-hulled, three-masted frigate USS Constitution.

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet (COMUSNAVSO/C4F) supports U.S. Southern Command joint and combined full-spectrum military operations by providing principally sea-based, forward presence to ensure freedom of maneuver in the maritime domain, to foster and sustain cooperative relationships with international partners and to fully exploit the sea as maneuver space in order to enhance regional security and promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the Caribbean, Central and South American regions.

...BASKETBALL on page 2

black uniforms.

Whatever it was, the run-and-gun Warriors could only watch as the older, grayer, Once Graphics team dissected them with layup after layup, handing SOUTHCOM their first loss of the season, 53-42. With the win, Once Graphics (3-2) served notice to SOUTHCOM (4-1) that they intend to keep the league trophy in Homestead.

"It was just one of those nights," Head Coach Kelvin Scott said after watching his team throw a pass to a phantom teammate--and into the wall along the baseline. "Shots didn't fall, we didn't get calls, but

mostly, we didn't seem to know how to play defense."

Aaron Williams led all scorers for Once Graphics, scoring 14 points to lead four O.G. players in double figures. Aaron Jones had nine points for SOUTHCOM. A barrage of five three-pointers from Jones and Zequawn Sims kept the Warriors in the game, but every time SOUTHCOM got close, another defensive breakdown gave the champs either a layup or a foul.

"We don't have five guys on the same page on the zone," said center Charlie Gammage, who had six points and 10 rebounds. "There's no excuse for the way we defended tonight."

SOUTHCOM Defeats Security, 46-43

The SOUTHCOM Warriors were engaged in another hard fight in the Homestead League Feb. 9.

They traded basket for basket with Security Forces, and a cursory glance at their bench might have explained why. There on an empty seat, was the neatly pressed #3 jersey of Warrior captain Marlin Lee.

Midway through the first half, Lee trudged into the arena, donned his uniform, and helped turn a 16-16 halftime tie into a 46-43 win for SOUTHCOM (5-1) over SF (2-3), a win which keeps the Warriors atop the standings.

Luchmy Luc led the Warriors with 10 points, Aaron Jones had another strong game with 9 points, including a three-pointer that broke the game open late in the second half, and Chuck Waynes racked up eight steals as the Warriors' depth and athleticism outlasted the size and strength of Security Forces.

But it was the return of Lee to the court that got SOUTHCOM running again, and seemed to inject swagger back into the Warrior attack. Upon checking into the game, Lee single-handedly forced the tempo, racking up four assists and getting his teammates easy layups. Once SOUTHCOM broke out of their offensive doldrums, there was no looking back, as Luc, Jones and Zequawn Sims--who has hit a three-pointer in every game this season--took care of the rest.

As for his tardiness, Lee apologized to his teammates, and the coaching staff.

"I got lost," Lee explained. Apparently, the All-Star forward's chauffeur called in sick on short notice, and his Bentley's GPS was on the fritz.

Head Coach Kelvin Scott said he was considering disciplinary action against Lee. "There will certainly be some suicides in practice. Beyond that, we'll see. Bottom line, we need him. He's a leader on the court."

Scott added that mental mistakes abounded for the red and white, and that was evident from the start.

The very first play of the game, Security Forces won the tip and immediately got an uncontested layup. Later, center Charlie Gammage picked up his fourth foul--and then got a technical for arguing it.

"We all just call him 'Sheed now,'" said swingman Martin Galvez.

In the first half, the Warriors offense may have been sloppy, but their defensive energy was palpable. When Waynes wasn't stealing the ball, he was getting deflections. Donald Forte brought the Warrior bench to a frenzy with three monster blocks, and Gammage also swatted away two shots.

The Warriors return to action Tuesday night at 6:30 against Maintenance Squadron (3-2).

Target: Transnational Organized Crime

MIAMI, Fla. – Joint Interagency Task Force South, a component of U.S. Southern Command, announced today its participation in Operation MARTILLO (HAMMER), a U.S., European, and Western Hemisphere partner nation effort targeting illicit trafficking routes in coastal waters along the Central American isthmus.

The U.S. contribution to this multinational detection, monitoring and interdiction operation includes Navy and Coast Guard vessels, aircraft from U.S. federal law enforcement agencies, and military and law enforcement units from various nations working together to deny transnational criminal organizations the ability to exploit these transshipment routes for the movement of narcotics, precursor chemicals, bulk cash, and weapons.

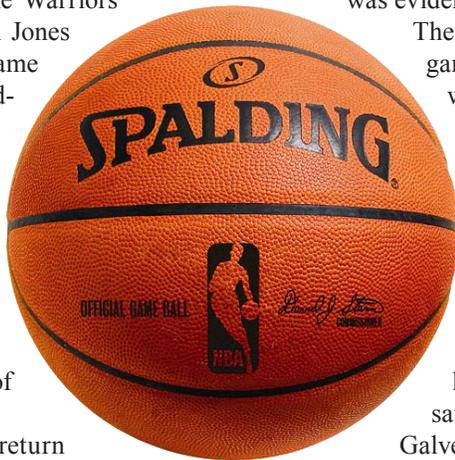
In describing the purpose of the operation, the commander of SOUTHCOM, Air Force Gen. Douglas Fraser, highlighted the extent of illicit trafficking in the region and its harmful impact on the lives of citizens within the widely-used transit zone.

"More than 80 percent of the cocaine destined for U.S. markets is transported via sea lanes, primarily using littoral routes through Central America," he said. "Working with our partner nations, we intend to disrupt their operations by limiting their ability to use Central America as a transit zone."

"Illicit trafficking jeopardizes the safety and well being of citizens of every country and has a negative influence on regional and national security," Fraser added.

Operation MARTILLO is a critical component of the U.S. government's coordinated interagency regional security strategy in support of the White House Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime and the U.S. Central America Regional Security Initiative.

In 2011, international and cooperative interagency efforts coordinated through JIATF South resulted in the disruption of 119 metric tons of cocaine, with a wholesale value of \$2.35 billion, before it could reach destinations in the United States. JIATF South's efforts also enabled the interdiction of \$21 million in bulk cash destined for traffickers in Central and South America and \$16 million worth of black market goods.



MAST Academy Pass-in-Review Ends Up As More

MIAMI – Rear Adm. Steven H. Ratti, SOUTHCOM Director of Operations, recently visited the Maritime and Science Technology Academy on Virginia Key, and came away with a plan to introduce some of America’s finest young people to the military.

The occasion was a pass-in-review where he acted as the presiding official.

“I was glad to be able to be there, it was a great event,” he said. “Because I happen to be a senior coast guard officer, I went there also with the view of representing the military to the entire student body.”

Ratti was able to make remarks to parents, staff, students and faculty.

“So I took the opportunity to talk about the military in general and specifically about U.S. Southern Command, the types of things that we do, where a tough school like the MAST Academy can help prepare you for life inside or outside of the military.

The MAST Academy is a Miami-Dade County magnet high school specializing in maritime studies.

Students from all over the country compete to go there.

Of the 550 students, 90 of them are in what was the Coast Guard’s only JROTC program, headed by a former SOUTHCOM employee, retired Capt. Glen Grahl. Ratti is pleased with the positive changes Grahl has made in the program.

“You want to get them excited about the military in general, and the Coast Guard



from YouTube

Aboard the International Space Station, Expedition 30 Commander Dan Burbank, a retired Captain in the U.S. Coast Guard, fielded questions from students living on the Eastern seaboard during an in-flight educational event February 2, 2012 hosted at Burbank’s alma mater at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. Burbank has been aboard the station since mid-November.

in particular,” he said. “With the right level of effort, we will convince many of those young men and women that a branch of the service is right for them.”

“The smart kids that are there are right for an officer accession program, if they can get into one of the service academies, they will be better prepared than most of their peers – in leadership, discipline, and interacting with their peers. It is one of the most select schools in the country.”

Ratti was impressed with the quality of MAST’s students, and reflected that the military needs the best.

“We are all competing for bright young

men and women. I want to represent through my ranks all of the people that we serve. The people at the MAST Academy represent South Florida. In my mind these are young students who are bright, and have great potential for the service.”

The Admiral plans to bring the MAST Academy students to SOUTHCOM Headquarters – “to show them the conference center, give them some talks, Fitness Center, let them talk to representatives from several services, interact with some of the folks here.”

Ratti believes that the services greatest recruiters are the service members themselves.

“All we have to do is get young people to interact with some of our service members here. They’ll be extremely impressed.”

Another impressive person who interacted recently with the MAST students was retired Coast Guard Capt. Dan Burbank – the second Coast Guardsman in space – who hosted a video teleconference program titled “Ask an Astronaut” from the International Space Station, where he has been since November.

Ratti spent some time at MAST speaking with parents who were not initially pro-military.

“There are members of the cadet corps who did not intend to go there,” he said. “When they learn more, I met some enthused parents who said ‘this is the best thing my son or daughter has ever done.’”



photos by Ruth Kane

The MAST Academy Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps poses with active duty visitors, including Rear Adm. Steven Ratti, SOUTHCOM J3.