

PROFILE

Life in the Armed Forces

December 2003

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High School Seniors: Not too early to think of future

During the holidays, you will likely hear from friends and family the age-old question: So, what are you going to do after graduation? You essentially have three good options: higher education, enter the work force or join the military. Regardless of what you plan to do, now is the time to get serious about planning. Here are some things to think about:

Higher Education

- ✂ Determine the admissions requirements for the institution you want to attend.
- ✂ Visit institutions to ensure they are what you are looking for.
- ✂ Register for and take entrance exams or aptitude tests, such as the SAT and ACT.
- ✂ Complete entrance applications. Submit applications early to ensure you meet deadlines.
- ✂ Complete scholarship and financial aid applications.

Enter the Work Force

- ✂ Determine the qualifications required by the job or company for which you want to work.
- ✂ Visit companies to ensure they are what you are looking for.
- ✂ If special certifications or licenses are required, register for classes and certification programs.
- ✂ Get to know people within the industry or companies for which you would like to work. Many if not most jobs are obtained through networking contacts.
- ✂ Gather necessary information and complete job applications early.

Join the Military

- ✂ Select a service: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard. Two helpful websites are www.todaymilitary.com or www.myfuture.com.
- ✂ Visit an armed forces recruiter to schedule an aptitude test.
- ✂ Make a decision and sign contracts early. Directly after graduation training slots fill up early.

Whatever you plan to do with life after graduation, get started early. An exciting future awaits you.

Maj. Ted Wadsworth
Executive Editor
twadsworth@fhtnc.spear.navy.mil

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Rear Adm. T.L. McCreary, USN

Director of DoD HS News Service

Lt. Cmdr. Denise Shorey, USN

Executive Editor

Maj. Ted Wadsworth, USA

Managing Editor

TSgt. Kenneth P. Goss, USAF

Production Editor

Sgt. Aaron Thacker, USA

Staff Writers

Cpl. Jake Boerhave, USMC
Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan Scofield, USN

Photographer

Airman Carly Cranston, USN

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Send questions or concerns to **Profile** at:

DoD High School News Service
9420 Third Ave., Suite 100
Norfolk, VA 23511-2129

Tele: (757) 444-4199 Ext 308
E-Mail: twadsworth@fhnc.spear.navy.mil

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ON THE COVER >>>

The F-117 Stealth Fighter is the premiere aircraft of its kind.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Derrick C. Goode



VRC 40

Flying essential equipment to ships while hitting exotic shores is what these sailors are all about.



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A look at the job that makes the Coast Guard move.

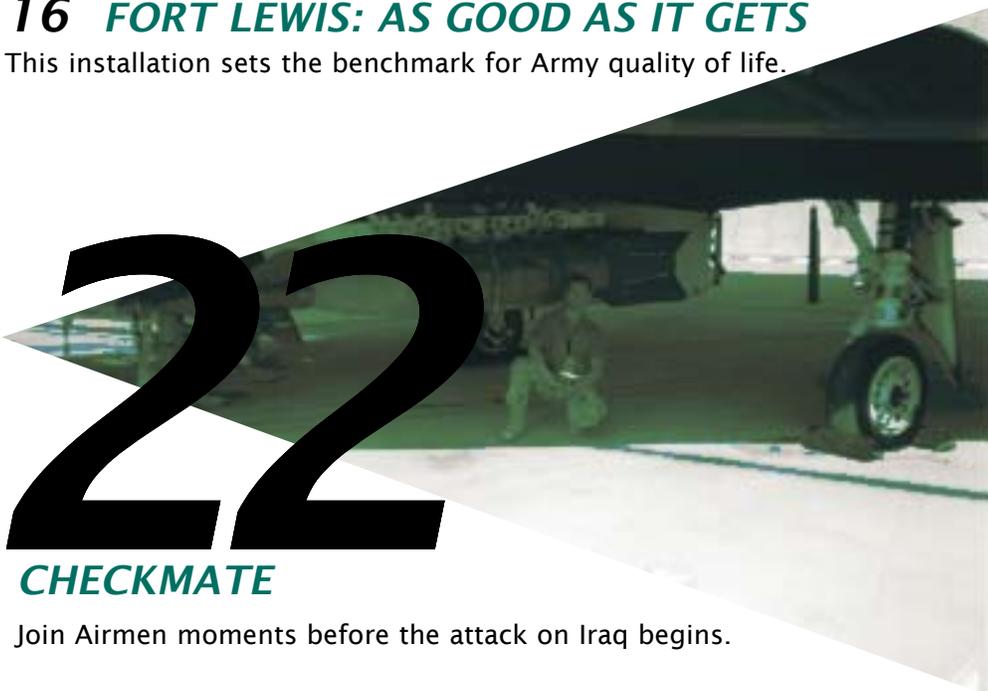
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Fighting terrorism at home and abroad.

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16 FORT LEWIS: AS GOOD AS IT GETS

This installation sets the benchmark for Army quality of life.



CHECKMATE

Join Airmen moments before the attack on Iraq begins.

NEWS & INFORMATION >>>

SEA MAMMALS HELP NAVY DEFEND AGAINST UNDERWATER ATTACK



Petty Officer 2nd Class Bob Houlihan

SAN DIEGO — The U.S. Navy has formed a new alliance with dolphins and sea lions in an effort to better protect ships and ports around the world. Much more than your typical Sea World entertainers, these dolphins and sea lions are dedicated Navy sailors, standing watch to deter unwanted guests seeking to harm U.S. ships and ports.

Agile swimmers with keen senses of hearing, dolphins and sea lions are

trained to patrol an area in search of underwater intruders. When one is located, they shoot in and attach a spring-loaded clamp that brings the intruder to the surface unharmed to be taken into custody.

The Navy uses bottlenose dolphins and California sea lions, which are marine mammals. Sailors and Navy civilian employees train and care for the animals often developing close relationships.

We build relationships with them through the years. They've learned to trust us and they see that all positive things come from being with us, said Brenda Bryan, head animal trainer for the Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, San Diego.

Whenever the teams deploy, an Army veterinarian with a mobile veterinary hospital is sent out with them to provide constant care for the animals. They receive frequent physicals, are inspected daily for nicks and cuts they might receive swimming among the piers and ships, and their diets are strictly monitored. Each sea lion gets a set amount of food each day to make sure it maintains its weight.

The biggest reward of working with these animals is that they're fun to be around and always out to please you, said Bryan. When you're both having a good time, it's just completely fun.

(Editor's Note: Navy Lt. j.g. Josh Frey contributed to this article.)



Hall of Fame Quarterback, NASCAR Driver Visit Pentagon



U.S. Navy Photos

NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Terry Bradshaw speaks with Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert Sekula at the Pentagon.

WASHINGTON -- National Football League Hall of Fame quarterback Terry Bradshaw and NASCAR drivers

pion and Fox Sports football commentator, said he has the utmost respect for sailors and is proud to be associat-

Casey Atwood and Armando Fitz toured the Pentagon and signed autographs for fans.

Bradshaw and his FitzBradshaw Racing Team partner, Fitz, own the Navy sponsored silver Number 14 car, which they displayed to fans in the Pentagon Courtyard during their visit.

Bradshaw, a four-time Super Bowl champion and Fox Sports football commen-

ed with the Navy.

"No one appreciates the entire military more so than I do," Bradshaw said. "Trust me, we respect you. We have the greatest deal of admiration for your job, [and] your courage defending this great nation of ours."

"Not a day goes by that we don't think about you and the tremendous pressure you're under, and how the job you're doing is so admirable, and we're very, very proud of you."

Bradshaw and Atwood ate lunch with sailors during the visit. One sailor, Airman Danny Mathenia, was thrilled to break bread with the legendary quarterback and the NASCAR driver.

"Terry Bradshaw and Casey Atwood are both awesome," said Mathenia, a

Military athletes honored on cereal box

FORT LEE, Va. -- Five military athletes were honored in September by being featured on the covers of Cheerios boxes.

The Armed Forces Sports Office teamed with corporate partner General Mills to honor five armed forces athletes on a 2003 commemorative Cheerios box. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard athletes were featured with action shots and short biographies outlining their accomplishments as both military members and armed forces athletes.

Appearing on the Armed Forces commemorative Cheerios box is going to be a very surreal experience for me, said soccer star and Air Force Female Athlete of the Year Kristy Kuhlman. I am grateful for the support the military gives its athletes and the opportunity to compete in armed forces, national and international competitions.

This box is an exciting partnership for the Armed Forces Sports Program, said Suba Saty, Armed Forces Sports secretariat. The box recognizes more than the five athletes on the box -- it recognizes the accomplishments of all armed forces athletes!

The men and women who participate in the Armed Forces Sports

San Bernadino, Calif., native, adding that the representation of the FitzBradshaw Racing Team "builds better morale for everybody in the Navy."

According to Atwood, racing requires a great deal of teamwork, similar to the



Lt. Cmdr. Paul Jensen shows Terry Bradshaw pictures of the submarine USS Pittsburgh.



Courtesy General Mills

Program while still maintaining a full-time military career should be an inspiration to us all, said Mike Goetzmann, senior development manager for General Mills.

The special boxes were sent to military commissaries worldwide during the month of September.

(Editor's Note: Information from this report was taken from a DECA news release, Aug. 22, 2003)

teamwork the Navy displays around the globe and around the clock.

"The driver, the equipment, the people, and having a good sponsor, you've got to have it all come together," said Atwood.

He added that he has witnessed this same kind of teamwork and esprit de corps during his visits with the Navy.

As a part of the sponsorship deal, Atwood will represent the Navy in eight Busch Series races and one Winston Cup Series race between Memorial Day and Nov. 30.

(Editor's Note: Navy Chief Walter T. Ham IV, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert Sekula contributed to this article.)

Army's Jessica Lynch home

ELIZABETH, W.V. -- "It's great to be home," Army Pfc. Jessica Lynch told hundreds of well-wishers who lined the streets of Elizabeth, W. Va., to welcome the former prisoner of war.

Flags, signs and yellow ribbons awaited the young soldier in Elizabeth. The Wirt County High School marching band was there, as was West Virginia Governor Bob Wise, who said the people of West Virginia were welcoming back "a young citizen and a soldier."

"She left here as one of many newly enlisted in the military pursuing both her duty and her dreams," he said. "She returns a renowned international figure and the symbol of the quiet courage and commitment of all of our armed forces."

Dressed in her Army green uniform and black beret, Lynch appeared to hold back tears as she made her first public statement since her March 23 capture by Iraqi forces.

Lynch thanked the Special Forces soldiers who saved her life and expressed her feelings about her experience.

"I'm proud to be a soldier in the Army," she said. "I'm proud to have served with the 507th. I'm happy that some of the soldiers I served with made it home alive. And it hurts that some of my company didn't."

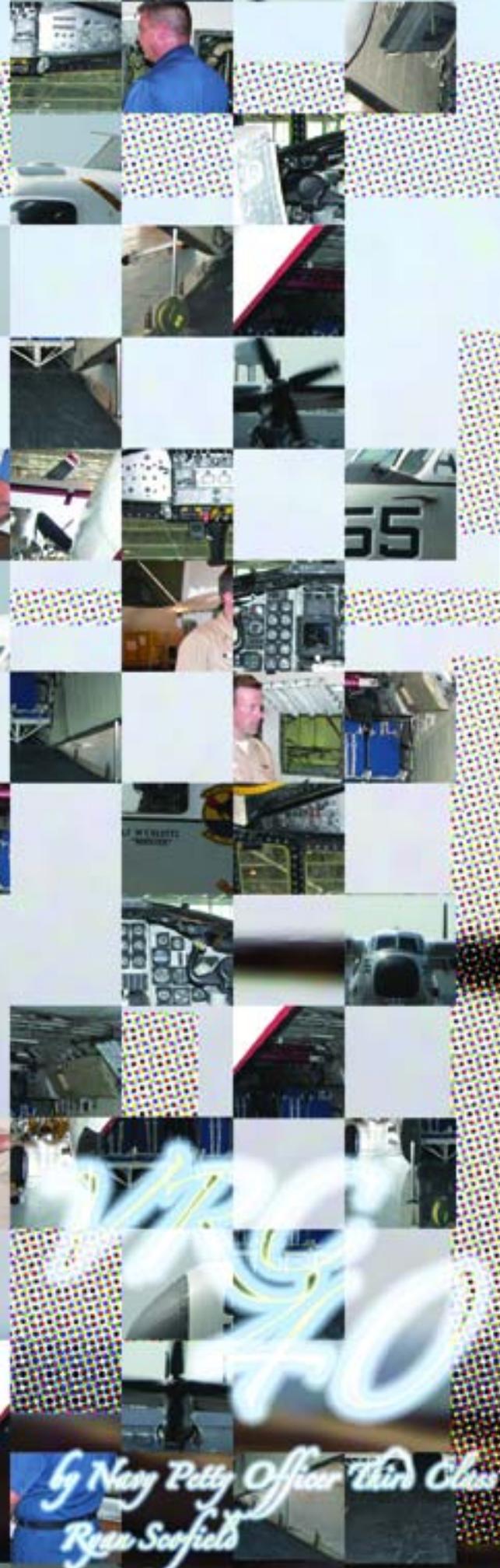
Thank you for this welcome and it's great to be home."

(Editor's Note: Linda D. Kozaryn of the American Forces Press Service contributed to this article)



U.S. Navy Photos

Pfc. Jessica Lynch receives a Purple Heart from Lt. Gen. James Peaks during a ceremony at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.



U.S. Navy Photo

Aircrewmen load essential equipment and mail to be taken off the carrier. VRC 40 makes a minimum of two runs a day to assigned carriers.



U.S. Navy Photo

A COD flight prepares for a catapult launch. Within two seconds the catapult will launch the plane off the carrier at 150 miles per hour.

the engines are screaming

around you, as you look down and realize you're strapped into a chair. As you look to the left, things become clearer. You're in some sort of plane.

Glancing behind, you see what looks like various boxes and other packages, all packed in a large, metallic cage. You can just make out the small corridor leading to the cockpit. You can hear people talking. Suddenly the plane banks left. Somewhere beneath you awaits a floating island; a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier. The C2-A Greyhound you're aboard is traveling at 130 mph. The carrier beneath you is traveling at 25 mph and awaits you 500 feet to land on. It's like trying to hit a golf

ball with a broomstick while spinning in a circle and jumping. It feels like the plane is jerking around, not very steady at all. You hear someone say PREPARE FOR LANDING. The plane continues to maintain its altitude and the pilot keeps it as steady as possible. You feel the plane hit, and that's the last thing you remember. Well, that and the feeling of going from 130 mph to zero in two seconds. You've just taken a carrier on board delivery (COD) flight.

The Navy has done COD flights for a long time. When carriers need parts, supplies, or personnel moved, the planes are ready to make their move. Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 40 is stationed at Norfolk, Va., and handles COD flights for all six East Coast carriers.

VRC 40 breaks up its 350-plus crew into six detachments with five seagoing and one ashore. The squadron flies C2-A Greyhounds, the only fixed-wing plane to service carriers. The busiest time for the squadron is during the carriers cruise period. A cruise is a six-month trek, usually to the Mediterranean, with stops in Spain, the Middle East, Italy and Greece.

For many sailors, the cruise reminds



U.S. Navy Photo

One of VRC 40's planes approaches a carrier. Landing on a aircraft carrier is one of the most dangerous things that a pilot can do.



U.S. Navy Photo

A carrier flight crew prepares a COD flight for departure. The plane and crew make at least two flights to the carrier each day.

ship, get refueled and cleared to depart. Sometimes the carriers will ask us to make an extra trip or two, so sometimes we may work an 18- or 20-hour day. I wouldn't trade it though. The travel and excitement is a huge payoff.

The detachment-style that VRC 40 uses is unique. It

highly trained enlisted personnel. They are responsible for the packing and securing of cargo and the safety of passengers on board. They attend months of aviation training, studying rescue swimming, flight safety and more. Of the entire Navy, few sailors ever become naval air crewman (NAC). Those who do, however, get a job like none other, according to Young.

the travel and excitement is a huge payoff

When we deployed for Operation Enduring Freedom, we had the chance to visit Greece, Italy, Spain, and tons more places. I felt kind of bad for the guys on the ship. While I was checking out the sights, sleeping on a bed in a hotel, and transporting people and parts, the guys on the ship were on board the ship for two months before they got a port call. What can I say, I've got a great job.

them of why they joined: to see the world. Petty Officer 3rd Class Stan Young, an aviation structural mechanic, said traveling with VRC 40 has been a blast. There's plenty of fun to be had here. I've seen a lot of the Mediterranean. On a six-month cruise, we usually spend about two to four weeks on board the ship. The rest of the time, we're on land.

A deployment with the carriers means working seven days a week. The detachments are required to make at least two trips to their assigned carrier a day. Sometimes though, it can be a little longer than that, according to Lt. Eric Perle, a C2-A Greyhound pilot with VRC 40. The trip from shore to ship is about three and a half hours. Then we wait on the

when we deployed for operation enduring freedom, we had the chance to visit greece, italy, spain, and tons more places

allows detachments within the squadron to become close-knit, cohesive units, which is exactly how the crews need to be. Everyone depends on one another to get their job done, or it could cost someone his life. The aircrews on board the Greyhounds consist of a pilot and co-pilot and a few



U.S. Navy Photo

Aircrewmembers work tirelessly to keep the COD aircraft in peak condition. For every hour of flight, the plane requires 23 hours of maintenance.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan Scofield

A VRC 40 COD crew practices landing on a carrier. The pilot bounces the plane off of the flight deck, a rough process, but guaranteed to help train younger pilots.

VRC 40 is one of only two COD squadrons in the Navy, with the other located in San Diego. The squadrons spend the 18 months between cruises ensuring the aircraft are ready to go. According to Cmdr. Doug Carsten, VRC 40's commanding officer, the squadron works hard all the time. During Operation Enduring Freedom, we transported more than 800,000 pounds of cargo and 3,800 personnel to and from the ships. As the only fixed-wing plane to service carriers, those are impressive numbers. Not only are the sailors here busy flying, but we're constantly working on the planes as well. For every hour of flight, we're required to put in 23 maintenance hours. The guys and gals who work here are the best of the best. That's why we're able to average 750 flight hours per cruise.

The men and women at VRC 40 provide an essential service to the Navy by providing

parts, personnel and mail. Mail is an important way for sailors to keep in touch with home. It's important to the Navy because morale is something that affects battle far more than equipment or facilities. The squadron works hard to keep the mail traffic flowing.

The men and women serving in VRC 40 have the only job of its kind in the world. They work long hours, sometimes weeks without a day off. But when they're not flying, loading cargo or fixing the aircraft, they might be on a beach in Greece, or at a local restaurant on the isle of Bahrain. They could be dancing the night away in a Spanish club or maybe at a hotel, overlooking the Italian coast and the Mediterranean Sea. Why does VRC 40 have the best job in the Navy? The thing with this job is, answers Perle, things never go as planned and you never know where you're going to end up. But we're always busy and always traveling.

things **never** go as **planned** and you **never know** where you're **going** to end up. But **we're** always **busy** and **always** traveling



A C2-A Greyhound sits parked on a carrier's flight deck. While the plane is parked, it will be worked on, refueled and the crew has an opportunity to eat and rest before departure.

U.S. Navy Photo



C2-A

GREYHOUND

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ON BOARD
DELIVERY
(COD) AIRCRAFT

UNIT COST: \$38.96 million

PROPULSION:

Two Allison T56-A-425 turbo-prop engines; 4,600 shaft horsepower each

LENGTH: 56 feet 10 inches

HEIGHT: 17 feet 2 inches

WING SPAN: 80 feet 7 inches

WEIGHT: Max. gross, take-off: 57,500 lbs

CRUISE AIRSPEED:

Approximately 260 knots

MAXIMUM AIRSPEED:

Approximately 343 knots

CEILING: 30,000 feet

RANGE: 1,300 nautical miles (1,497 statute miles)

CREW: Four

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PROFILES:



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ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING:
Yorktown, Va.



Oregon Inlet, NC 47 foot motor lifeboat.

Photos & Illustrations by Navy Airman Carly Cranston

For more information about the U.S. Coast Guard, contact 1-800-NOW-USCG or visit www.gocoastguard.com

Boatswain's Mate

Why did you join the Coast Guard?

After 9/11 I felt that I needed to do more for my country and what better branch of service to join than the one that protects our homeland. I wanted to be a part of something and I wanted to make a difference. In the big scheme of things I may not have done much, but I made a difference to the people I saved from a boating accident last fall. I made a difference to the people I helped get out of their homes during the hurricane evacuation.

What do you like most about being in the Coast Guard?

Every day is different. I learn something new every day that I can use to better myself and my duty. It feels great when I walk down the street in my uniform and I have total strangers come up to me and thank me for my service. It makes me feel like I have done my part, little as it may be, I have done it.

What has the Coast Guard given you?

Great leadership and time management skills. I can now accomplish anything and everything I set my mind to no matter how long I am given. I also have found great



Tall and slim, with bold black alternating with stark white circular stripes, the 156-foot Bodie Island Lighthouse sits between Nags Head and Oregon Inlet. It was completed in 1872, the third lighthouse built in this area. The first was destroyed by a storm and the second by war.

friends that will last a lifetime that I would never had met had I not joined. People come from all different parts of the country and because we are all away from home it makes it easier to bond. It s like we become our own little family.

When you re not at work what are you doing?

If I am not on call with the Bodie Island fire department I am training for the Olympic Trials. I spend about five hours a day in the pool conditioning my body and constantly trying to improve my time [Men s 400 Meter Freestyle]. I have been practicing for years and I finally have a time that will qualify me for the Olympics. Trials are at the end of the year and I plan on being there.



Life in the FAST

Story and Photographs by Cpl. Josh H. Hauser

On-call 24 hours a day protecting high-level officials, nuclear assets, ships and embassies.

A constant training cycle to achieve perfection on missions so vital that national security depends on you. All of these things describe the task of a United States Marine Corps

Fleet **A**nti-terrorism
Security **T**eam member.

e

l a n e . . .



Established in 1987, the Marine Corps FAST companies have become a force against terrorism, and home to a handful of highly trained and dedicated individuals.

A FAST company deploys like no other unit in the Marine Corps. Sgt. Tim L. Terrell, 3rd Platoon, 1st FAST squad leader, explains, "We deploy as a platoon-size element of approximately 50 Marines. We've got each other to depend on out there and that's it. When you're catching the heat out there you've [only] got each other to rely on."

As exciting as it may sound, considering the rigors of the job, FAST isn't for everybody, noted the Bowling Green, Fla., native.

If you're not ready to train and put forth 100 percent effort, stay physically fit with a solid mind and a solid body, then FAST may not be the place for you,



Pvt. 1st Class Michael J. Riggs, 1st Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team, 7th Platoon, mans a machine gun nest at an entry control point during a recent training exercise at Camp Allen. The 18-year-old Lebanon, Ind., native and other FAST Marines are trained to be specialists with a variety of weapons, including the M240 Gulf shown here.

You will definitely be overwhelmed with the amount of action you'll see.



Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Brinson (right) and Pfc. Paul E. Greenfield, 1st Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team, 7th Platoon, stand guard at an entry control point during a training exercise at Camp Allen.

Terrell said, because that's what it takes.

For those who choose to dedicate themselves to such a demanding pace, the payoff is well worth it, says Terrell.

It is a very challenging job, he said.

You will definitely be overwhelmed with the amount of action you'll see.

The places a Marine may see action are as endless as the training and preparedness he receives. The first and second FAST companies rotate between three separate forward-deployed positions in Japan, Spain and Bahrain to provide added security to Navy, Marine Corps and other national interests. There's no telling where you may find yourself, according to Terrell.

From these locations, Marines are called to move out by the Chief of Naval Operations at any time.

According to Lance Cpl. Todd A. Garcia, a 26-year-old sentry with 3rd Platoon, 1st FAST, the speed of a FAST Marine's lifestyle sometimes takes a while to sink in.

Garcia, who grew up in McCook, Neb., said the constant traveling involved with

training and missions could play with the mind. It takes a while to kick in, but then you realize where you're at, Garcia said.

You're so focused on the mission, you don't realize you're halfway around the world.

The teamwork and camaraderie that come with the job, however, are like no other, noted Garcia.

It's like 50 brothers going out to do a mission, Garcia said.

So how do 50 brothers get ready to go on a mission? The answer is simple: Never stop training.



Lance Cpl. James S. Morrison, 1st Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team, 7th Platoon, assaultman, keeps a close watch on an entry control point during a training exercise at Camp Allen. As a FAST Marine, the 18-year-old Philadelphia, Pa., native is trained to handle a variety of weapons and equipment in order to provide the most effective anti-terrorism and security measures possible.

You're so focused on the mission, you don't realize you're halfway around the world.



Pvt. 1st Class William D. Woods, 1st Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team, 7th Platoon, infantryman, stands guard at an entry control point during a training exercise at Camp Allen.

They learn to fire a wide assortment of handguns, grenades and automatic weapons, how to operate in close-quarters battle, as well as train for cold weather and chemical environments. FAST Marines have to master it all.

It really doesn't get any better than this, says Lance Cpl. Latroy D. Butler, a sentry with the 3rd Platoon, 1st FAST.

And that's not hard to believe when looking at the day-to-day life of a FAST Marine. They are trained to not only work flawlessly as a team, but individually as well. FAST Marines learn the ins and outs of a wide array of weapons, to the point where they can fire them with deadly accuracy, both strong and weak hands.

This job definitely instills discipline, Butler said. Being out there standing post alone takes a lot of guts all in itself.

According to Butler, it takes a strong-minded individual to handle the job of a FAST Marine, with its more intense and realistic training.

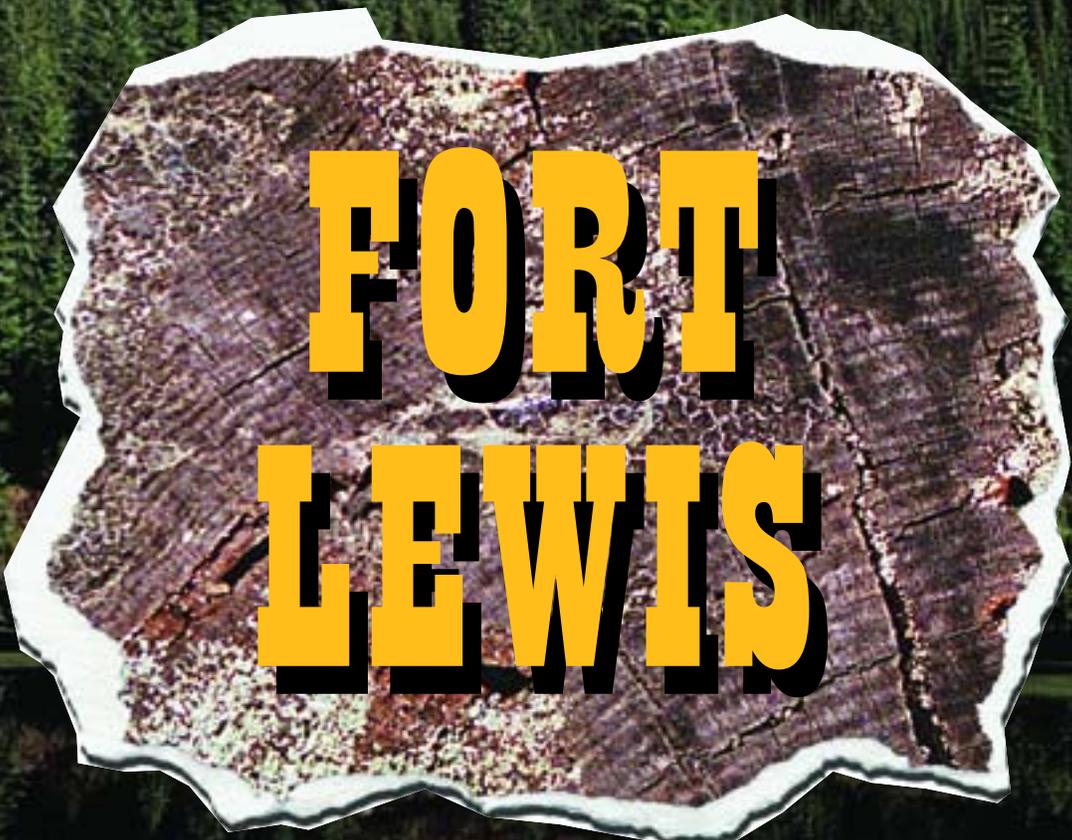
To qualify for FAST companies, Marines undergo background screens at a number of levels. A recruiter screens those individuals wishing to be FAST Marines with the help of local law enforcement. After completion of Marine Corps Recruit Training and the School of Infantry, FAST prospects go to Security Force School, then on to actual FAST training, where they are again screened.

Candidates are eligible only when it is certain they are trustworthy enough to handle the high-security areas their job will take them.

For more information about the United States Marine Corps, contact 1-800-MARINES or visit www.marines.com

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

It's no secret that a happy worker is a productive worker and this trait is no different for members of today's armed forces. Quality of life is as much a concern to the soldiers who serve in the Army as it is to Americans working in the civilian sector.

Story and Photo Illustrations By Army Sgt. Aaron Thacker

Knowing this, the Army fosters programs and initiatives designed to help make the lifestyle of a soldier a happy one.

Taking the lead in this role is Fort Lewis, which won "best installation" in last year's Army Times Readers Poll. The installation was recognized for its quality of life programs for active and retired members, as well as best post overall. Make no mistake, striving for this type of an award isn't to satisfy anyone's ego. It is seen as a necessary means to an end.

"In order to attract and retain the best qualified young people, we have to offer them a lifestyle that meets their needs and expectations," said Army Sgt. Maj. J.C. Mathews, I Corps public affairs sergeant major at Fort Lewis, Wash. "They have a right to expect a good place to live and quality work conditions."

Half the battle of meeting these expectations is the salesman's mantra, "location, location, location." It isn't as hard to meet the needs when you're surrounded by the means.

"I've never lived on the West Coast before," Mathews said. "My family and I like it. It's a great adventure for us to walk outside the house everyday and look up and see Mount Rainier looming over the entire installation."

Mount Rainier is one of many mountains in the region, which facilitates outdoor recreational activities. Flanked by mountain ranges to the West and East, Mount Baker to the North and Mount Hood to the South, soldiers can get to world-class hiking, biking, snowboarding and more in as little as an hour. Also, being on the coast, there are several bodies of water within minutes. The Puget Sound fosters a variety of sports like fishing,

"You have mountains on one side and the ocean on the other. Get out of the barracks!"

--Spc. John Reinhardt
Better Opportunities for Single
Soldiers Representative



FORT LEWIS PHOTO

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation scuba shop at North Fort Lewis is the first military scuba shop that made it to a five-star Instructor Development Center level, which means the shop has become certified to teach scuba instructors. Along with scuba, the Northwest Adventure center offers a variety of outdoor recreational classes and events like snowboarding, kayaking and hunting.

boating and scuba diving, not to mention what the many nearby lakes and rivers offer.

Although these natural resources are close to the fort, trips like these can be a chore if you don't have equipment, anyone to go with, or if it costs too much money. However, with the help of the Directorate of Community Activities it can all be within reach.

DCA oversees a variety of Army programs designed to help military people maximize their quality of life. The first is Morale, Welfare and Recreation, which provides and cares for facilities such as recreation centers, child-care facilities, and recreational equipment and entertainment. Another is the MWR-sponsored, soldier-managed organization Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers.

"You have mountains on one side and the ocean on the other," said BOSS Representative Spc. John Reinhardt. "Get out of the barracks!"

As an infantryman of four years, Reinhardt understands it can get boring being a young soldier cooped up in the

barracks during your off time. That is one reason he is such an advocate of community activities.

"We help coordinate big events," Reinhardt said. "Paintball, for instance. It can be hard to get enough people to form teams, so we get it together. Or, organizing a three- or four-day trip to go skiing at Whistler, Canada. You get a great group to go with, group discounts, you don't have to drive and MWR pays for part of the trip."

Not everything BOSS does requires big plans or money.

"Last April, with no advertising and no planning, we set up a sound system, grabbed the grill and put out beverages. Next thing you know there were about 400 people in our backyard."

But BOSS is not all about fun and games. Since military installations have a large impact on the surrounding communities, Fort Lewis soldiers make a point of being good neighbors.

"Community service is about being a representative of Fort Lewis and the Army," Reinhardt said. "It gives soldiers

another chance to feel good about themselves and to interact with people outside of the Army.

"The last two years we've partnered with the American Cancer Society in the Relay for Life series. It's a nationwide event holding 29 relays in this state alone. The original relay was started here in Tacoma. Five to six thousand people walk around the track for 24 hours. We help set up, clean up; we do whatever we have to do including participate," he continued.

"We work with Northwest Equicare teaching children how to ride horses, and Fort Lewis hosts the state's Special Olympics. The amount of volunteers that weekend is unbelievable."

BOSS-sponsored events aren't exclusive to single soldiers either. Although that is who they primarily target, they encourage others to participate. "Any MWR-eligible patron can participate in BOSS events: retirees, geographical bachelors and dependents," Reinhardt said.

Between a soldier's duties and all the extra activities available, it's a wonder they get any food or rest. But, soldiers

(Continued on page 20)

STRYKER BRIGADE



Fort Lewis is home to the Army's most advanced rapid deployment infantry units, the Stryker Brigades. The Stryker is a highly deployable wheeled armored vehicle that combines firepower, battlefield mobility, survivability and versatility with reduced logistics requirements. The Stryker Force fills the gap between the Army heavy and light forces, such as the traditional tank units and foot soldiers. It uses state-of-the-art technologies to bridge the capabilities gap between today's Army with that of tomorrow's.

THE BARRACKS



"We live in what is called the 'Fort Lewis Ramada'."

---Spc. John Reinhardt

BARRACKS PHOTOS BY ARMY SGT. AARON THACKER

This historical building was recently renovated to meet the standards of the Army's One Plus One barracks program. One Plus One models have two sleeping quarters and a shared bathroom and kitchenette. This facility is the most expensive project to date.



BOSS representative Spc. Carmen Torres reads a newspaper in her bedroom.

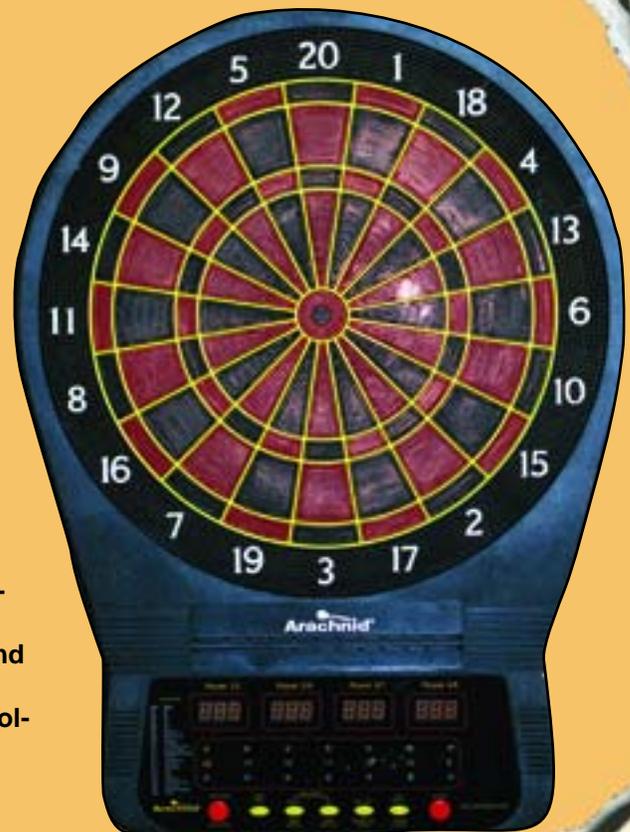


The view from Torres' bed looks into the common kitchen area leading into the bathroom and the adjoining bedroom.

Barracks Features

- Two bedrooms, bathroom, kitchenette
- 10-foot ceilings
- Keyless entry
- Two common kitchens for the building
- Two common day rooms for

- the building including: big-screen television, foosball tables, ping-pong tables and pool tables
- Extra storage space per soldier
- Gear-cleaning room





Barista Kimberly Brown makes a latte for a patron of one of the many Morale, Welfare and Recreation coffee shops on Fort Lewis. Since the Northwest is known as the "Coffee Capital" of the United States, it's no sur-

prise there's a high demand for specialty coffee here. To help meet this demand, MWR roasts their own beans, allowing them to offer a quality product at a competitive, if not lower, cost than commercial rivals.

(Continued from page 18)

being humans who need sustenance, and installations, being the mini-cities they are, offer a number of facilities to meet soldiers' needs. There's a commissary, or grocery store; a post exchange, which is a department store — usually with a food court; as well as a number of MWR coffee shops, which roast their own beans, not to mention many commercial restaurants. What else could a soldier need but a place to rest his head.

"We live in what is called the Fort Lewis Ramada," says Reinhardt, using a term of affection for the recently completed barracks. "These two historic buildings on main post have been gutted and remodeled to the One Plus One standard. It was the most expensive barracks

project in the Army."

Fort Lewis was the first installation to complete the One Plus One standard set by the Army. "One Plus One standard says each soldier will have his own room; one half of a module," according to Reinhardt. "A module has two rooms with separate entrances with a common area in the middle consisting of a kitchenette and a bathroom and keyless entry. There are about five different versions of this standard.

"This new style of apartment grants more leniency," Reinhardt says. "Most of the old-style barracks have one entrance, so the first person you see is the CQ (building manager). We have eight entrances to one building, so it's like

going into an apartment building, not a barracks."

Living standards such as these refurbished historical buildings, as well as benefits that come from all the other Army programs, may be exemplified at Fort Lewis; however, they are standards that are being applied at Army installations across the world.

This Army practice of providing the best quality of life for its soldiers is not only about competing in the labor pool, but rewarding people with a dignified way of life. As Sgt. Maj. Mathews says: "The Army lifestyle provides rewards you can't find anywhere else."

For more information about the U.S. Army, call 1-800-USA-ARMY or visit www.goarmy.com

ARMY LIFE ABOARD

Being in the Army requires a sense of adventure. Whether a soldier is stationed somewhere in the United States, or any number of places abroad like Europe or Asia, he's destined to see new things from a new perspective.

Sgt. Maj. J.C. Mathews, I Corps public affairs sergeant major, recently left his role in Europe for his present assignment at Fort Lewis, Wash.

"I just spent four years in Europe with my family," Mathews said. "We've seen the great palaces of Europe. We visited London, Rome, Venice and the former Eastern block nations like the Czech Republic. We were five hours from Paris, France, where we walked on the beach at Normandy (the location of the D-Day invasion of World War II). The cultural experience that offers is irreplaceable."

His adventures weren't limited to Europe. In addition to his time in Germany, Mathews served abroad in Japan. "Prior to my son's birth I did a tour in Japan where I climbed Mount Fuji. I experienced a very different culture over there."

Seeing new cultures first-hand is what the sergeant major says makes these experiences special. To enrich the experience, the Army has developed a program to help soldiers hit the ground running. Head Start is a course where soldiers are culturally indoctrinated to learn a practical portion of the language.

"There was a week of German lessons," Mathews said. Then, "we did a practical exercise near the end. We visited the local downtown where you do your own ordering, do a little shopping and practice the German you learned. It gets you over the fear of walking into a restaurant and being able to ask for a cup of coffee."

"It's a terrific program to help make the transition from the United States."

*Story & Graphic illustration by
Army Sgt. Aaron Thacker*

Photos by Army Maj. Michael Durham

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CheckMate

Story and Photo Illustrations by
Marine Cpl. Jake Boerhave

In a **sweltering, dry desert** located a stone's throw from the **war-torn hotbed** of corruption known as Baghdad, heat beads off the faceted design of one aircraft that will not be making an appearance after nightfall, at least to the enemy. The **F-117 Nighthawk** stealth fighter is the Air Force's ace of spades, and soon it will again prove its already **notorious** dominance in the skies of the Iraqi capital. Somewhere, Saddam and his generals sit wondering when these **dreaded implements** of war will attempt to force his **demise** once again. The jets are loaded with a new breed of ordnance, the Global Positioning System -guided **bunker buster**: a state-of-the-art satellite-guided bomb.

Someone can be seen underneath its wing making last-minute checks on the timing of the bomb's **fuse**. Tonight it will make an **unexpected entrance**.

The rest of the airmen of the Air Force's 49th Fighter Wing are falling back to the shade of camp, after spending a long day arming the jets to the hilt with these **deadly** new weapons. They will see their **hard work** pay off soon.



Airman 1st Class Mike Patten poses in front of a freshly loaded bomb at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. The bombs his unit loaded in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom were among the first to hit targets in Baghdad.

Air Force Airman 1st Class Brandon Anderson



Marine Cpl. Jake Boerhave

Airman 1st Class Brandon Anderson poses in front of an F-117 stealth fighter. A Gulfport, Miss., native, Anderson's job includes setting the timing on the fuses of satellite-guided bombs. Anderson spent three months at Al Udeid Air Base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His father is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm.

Airman 1st Class Brandon Anderson, an aircraft armament systems specialist, finishes his work on the last bomb and decides to pay a silent tribute to his father, a veteran of Operation Desert Storm. He pulls a marker from his pocket and begins to write on the bomb's drab green paint.

"From an old friend, this time I won't miss."

Missing is something these bombs are virtually incapable of. Anderson then signs his father's name and returns inside. He's only 21 years old and about to become a war veteran. The sun begins to set on the second night of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



F-117 Nighthawk Specs

Unit Cost: \$45 Million

Top Speed: High subsonic

Range: Unlimited with mid-air refueling

Wingspan: 43 feet, 4 inches

Length: 63 feet, 9 inches

Crew: One

Mission: First operational aircraft designed to exploit low-observable stealth technology.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Derrick C. Goode



Inside, the crew is relaxing. Staff Sergeant Michael W. Israel explains the role of the F-117 and its crew. **For Operation Iraqi Freedom, our primary mission could be summed up as a long-range sniper.** According to Israel, whether it's raining, snowing or sleeting, the new bunker-busters will go to the exact GPS location they're programmed to hit.

Precision is the word that best describes the jet's essence and Israel is quick to explain why. **We don't go after tanks in the middle of the desert. We go after the command center right beside the orphanage and the baby milk factory, and we're expected to hit the command center.** And they do. The weapon's accuracy not only increases the chance of mission success, but also lessens the risk of unnecessary casualties.

Out on the flight line, crew chiefs run inspections on the jets, preparing them for launch. Senior Airman Kevin Beiland, a tactical aircraft maintenance specialist works on the F-117, comments on its effectiveness as they take off one-by-one into enemy territory. **It's done, and they know it. It's only a matter of time. CheckMate.**

Darkness falls over Baghdad. Many in Saddam's regime already know what's in store for them. Their problem is, they have no way of knowing when. **Without warning, a 2000-pound satellite-guided bomb is going to come screaming down through their reinforced bunker. It will wait, smartly, to pound through several layers of concrete before erupting in one cataclysmic fireball, abruptly putting an end to the question.** The answer: **2100 hours.**

The time is **2057** at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. Some airmen are sleeping in their chairs, and some have their eyes fixated on the TV screen in their small but cozy mess hall. Anticipation builds as the clock nears the specified time.

2100: With a resounding explosion felt throughout the Iraqi regime, the fireworks begin. **The room full of airmen erupts with cheers as they witness the bombs they loaded earlier in the day hitting their targets with flawless accuracy.**



Unseen and untouched, the stealth fighter that unleashed **certain hell** on Saddam's regime cruises out of sight in the night sky. Its ability to appear invisible to radar gives it an undeniable **upper hand** on *any* opponent. Meanwhile, the airmen of the 49th FW witness their hard work paying off with each simultaneous explosion of key enemy targets.



Just moments later, their **euphoria** turns to **panic** as air raid sirens *blare* through every ear in the camp. Perhaps a chemical attack has been detected; perhaps a missile. All they know is they must seek cover immediately. Still asleep, **Airman 1st Class Mike Patten's eyes open to the sight of his comrades scrambling to get out.** Shocked, he instinctively *grabs* his gear, *dons* his gas mask, and *burns* a path to the safety of a nearby bunker. A rude awakening to say the least. ***Ironically, he's the first one out of the building.***



ABOVE- Airman 1st Class Mike Patten ensures a bomb is locked properly in place, with correct sway. Comically, Patten will tell you the best opportunity the Air Force has afforded him is getting him out of the house. Patten was stationed at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar for three months.



The view from inside a bunker at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. This photograph was taken shortly after air raid sirens sounded on the second evening of Operation Iraqi Freedom, requiring all personnel to don gas masks and protective gear and take cover.

Air Force Airman 1st Class Brandon Anderson

RIGHT- Staff Sgt. Michael W. Israel and Airman 1st Class Mike Patten stand next to one of the F-117 stealth fighters on which they work. The F-117's design contains no right angles, aiding in its stealth capability.

BELOW- Staff Sgt. Michael Israel makes checks on a bomb's alignment. Israel, an Asheville, N.C. native, compares the aircraft's role to that of a long-range sniper.



Crew photos by Marine Cpl. Jake Boerhave



This is real life to a 20-year-old aircraft armament systems specialist in the Air Force. Only 18 months after joining the service, this Minnesota native is anticipating the worst, *crammed* into a crowded **bomb shelter** in the blistering heat of the **Middle East**. The unknown, the fog of war, is reflected in the eyes of his fellow airmen through their gas masks. Muffled voices sporadically fill the air of the small bunker. One airman stands with a camera, and snaps a photograph. They would all live to see it.

Meanwhile, the stealth fighters on which they have worked *tirelessly* to support are returning to base *unscathed*. They can **stand proud** now, knowing that the work they've done has played a large part in the momentum of **the U.S. push into Iraq**. It has been a night for the history books; although it will *never* be depicted as **colorfully** outside **the memoirs of those whose sweat rode the bombs into Baghdad**.



For more information about the U.S. Air Force, call 1-800-423-USAFA or visit www.airforce.com

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AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. REYNALDO RAMON



NAVY AIRMAN APPRENTICE CHRISTIAN N. KNOELL

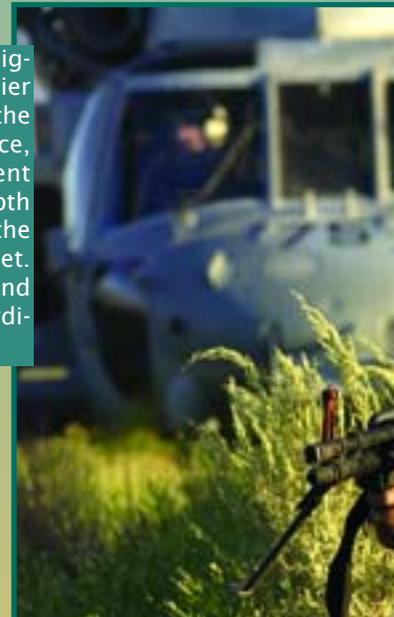
Staff Sgt. Zachary Gyokeres, a flight engineer, 41st Rescue Squadron, Moody Air Force Base, Ga., watches for power lines and other hazards during a training exercise at Desert Rescue XI, Aug. 13th. The joint-service combat search and rescue training exercise simulates downed aircrew behind enemy lines and allows airmen to practice rescue-related missions.

Marines from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit wait on the flight deck of USS Iwo Jima prior to boarding one of nine helicopters bound for Monrovia, Liberia. The Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group launched Marines assigned to the 26th MEU in support of peace-keeping efforts in the war-torn capitol of Monrovia.



USCG PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS DAVE HARDESTY

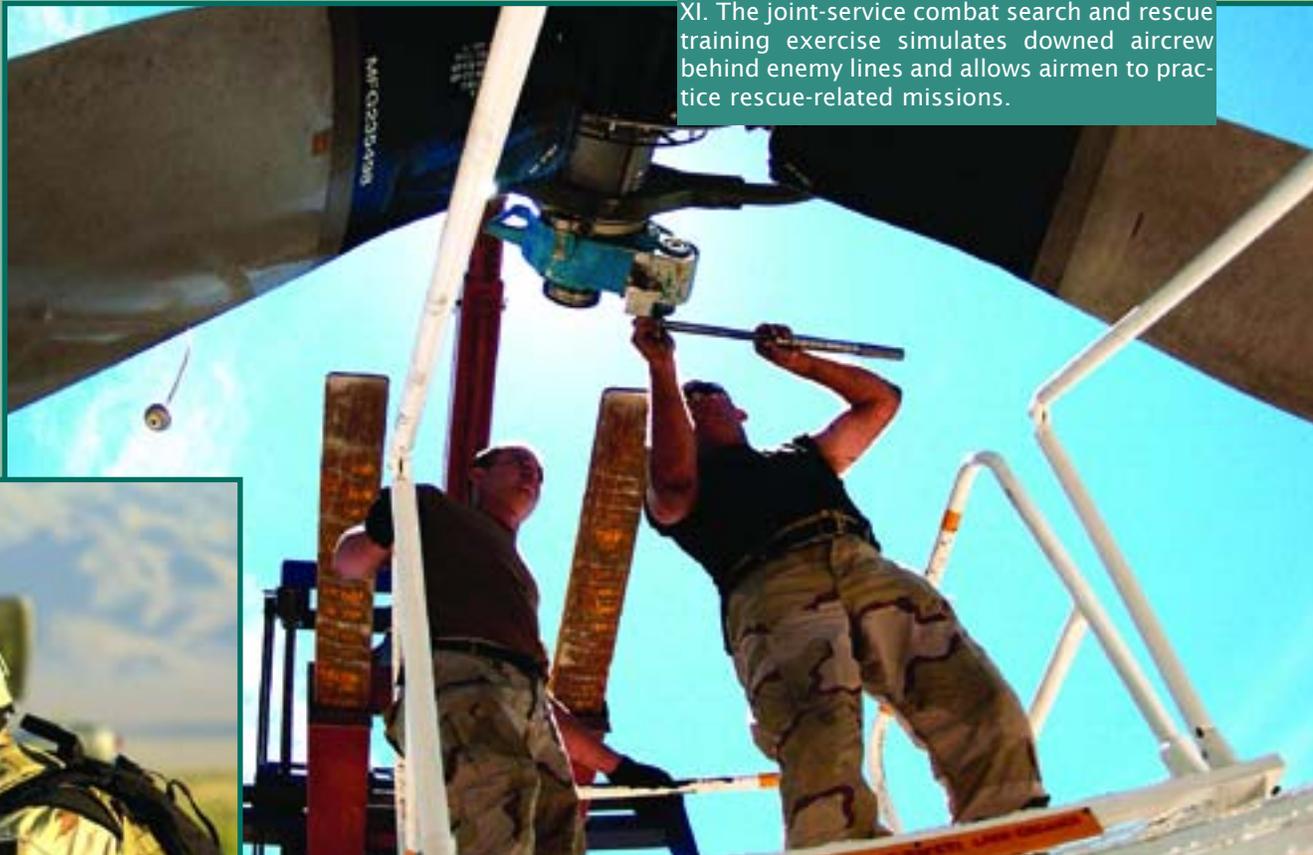
Coast Guard divers give the 'OK' signal after entering the water for a pier sweep evolution. Divers from the Coast Guard, LAPD, LA Port Police, and Long Beach Fire Department searched 980 feet of pier to a depth of 25 feet to clear the pier for the arrival of a Navy high-value asset. Divers were looking for bombs and anything that looked out of the ordinary.





Flight deck personnel stand by to launch an F/A-18F Super Hornet assigned to the "Diamondbacks" of Strike Fighter Squadron One Zero Two on the flight deck of USS John C. Stennis. Stennis is at sea conducting training exercises in the southern California operating area.

NAVY AIRMAN CHARLES D. WHETSTONE



Maintainers from the 347th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Moody Air Force Base, Ga., detach a propeller from an HC-130P. The 347th AMS is participating in Desert Rescue XI. The joint-service combat search and rescue training exercise simulates downed aircrew behind enemy lines and allows airmen to practice rescue-related missions.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Scott Reed



Air Force Staff Sgt. Aaron D. Alimon II

U.S. Navy SEAL Team members secure a landing zone as part of a downed pilot scenario during Desert Rescue XI at Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev. The exercise simulates the rescue of downed aircrew behind enemy lines enabling other aircrews to perform Combat Search and Rescue-related missions as well as experiment with new techniques in realistic scenarios. Desert Rescue XI is a joint service CSAR training exercise hosted by the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center.

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