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Change is a good thing...

The DOD High School News Service and Profile Magazine is an organization like any other. It must undergo changes from time to time to keep pace with transformation in the world around us. Here are a few adjustments we have planned for 2004:

First is our distribution strategy. Instead of sending PM to school guidance counselors, we are now sending it directly to school libraries where it will be more available to our target audience: students. If you are a librarian, we ask that you please make Profile available to your patrons.

Another change in the works is our appearance. We have planned a major facelift for the cover as well as some content to give it a more modern look. Keep your eye out for our April edition to get a sneak peek at what is to come.

Our staff is currently working on a new improved online version of PM to be launched in August 2004. At Profile Online, you will be able read the same great feature articles that we publish in our magazine edition. In addition, we are planning a current news section that will provide students with information about the Armed Forces, tailored to their interests; a military photo gallery, and an Armed Forces fact file.

As we proceed with our changes, we would like to hear what you think. Please take the time to drop us a line and let us know what you would like to see. On behalf of the entire Profile staff, I would like to thank you for reading Profile: Life in the Armed Forces.

Lt. Col. Ted Wadsworth
Executive Editor
twadsworth@fhtnc.spear.navy.mil

CORRECTION: Profile Magazine's January 2004 edition (P.11) describes the cost of military retiree medical care as being "free" for life. While it is true military healthcare for retirees costs much less than comparable civilian health insurance, it is not free. To participate in the military healthcare system, Tricare Prime, a retiree must pay an annual enrollment fee of \$230 plus co-pays if care is received through civilian care providers. Although not free, military healthcare remains an economical way to receive healthcare following retirement. For more information about Tricare for military retirees, go to: www.tricare.osd.mil/retirees. Thanks to our readers who brought this error to our attention.

PROFILE

www.spear.navy.mil/profile

THE ZINE >>>

Secretary of the Navy
The Honorable Gordon R. England

Chief of Information
Rear Adm. T.L. McCreary, USN

Director of DoD HS News Service
Cmdr. Donald A. Sewell, Sr., USN

Executive Editor
Lt. Col. 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 >>>



Maritime Safety and Security Team member Petty Officer 3rd Class Jason Bergeron loads an M-60 machine gun onboard a Defender speedboat. Graphic illustration by Army Sgt. Aaron Thacker.

IN THIS EDITION >>>



MY SUMMER IN SCOTLAND

Sgt. Swaim gets an indirect tour of the Scotland Highlands while covering a NATO training exercise.

PROFILES

Darleen Brooks works in the fitness center at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia. We found out what makes her job so interesting.



S.W.C.C.

If the U.S. military ever supplied its ranks with true grit, these sailors may very well be it: Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewmen.



MP 24/7

Being a cop in the military is a 24-hour a day, seven days a week job. Here's a look at how they better their communities.



M.S.S.T.

Coast Guard Maritime Safety Security Team uses lighting-fast speed with awesome firepower to get the bad guys out of the water for good.



Ben Affleck boosts morale after boarding USS Enterprise in Persian Gulf

ABOARD USS ENTERPRISE, at sea -- On the heels of a crowd-pleasing show by actor/comedian Robin Williams, the United Service Organization brought another taste of Hollywood aboard USS Enterprise for the holidays. Dec. 22nd, actor Ben Affleck came aboard the deployed aircraft carrier to spend some quality time with the "Big E" crew.

Affleck was spending the holidays with forward-deployed troops. He kicked off his USO-sponsored tour with a visit to the Enterprise. The actor is no stranger to the Navy, having worked with sailors for his films "Armageddon" and "Pearl Harbor."

According to Affleck, USO-sponsored celebrity visits to deployed military troops are an important way to show American support for those in uniform.

"A vast majority of Americans are at home with their families for the holidays, and this is an important time to remember our men and women serving their country," he said. "You're out here, away from your families, not complaining, at great risk to yourselves,

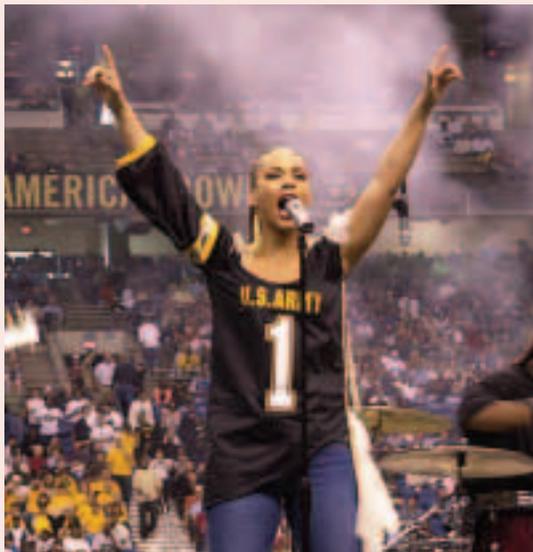


Official U.S. Navy Photos

and people miss you. It's important that you feel appreciated and have a sense of gratitude."

After taking a few questions from the crew, Affleck introduced his new film "Paycheck" which he brought to the ship for a screening. As the crew enjoyed the film on Big E's mess decks, the actor left for Naval Support Activity Bahrain to continue his USO tour.

(Editor's note: Petty Officer 1st Class Misty Trent, USS Enterprise Public Affairs contributed to this article)



Army Photo by Sgt. Aaron Thacker

Alicia Keys performs her hit single "You Don't Know My Name" at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio, Texas.

Iraq War heroes honored at U.S. Army All-American Bowl

SAN ANTONIO (DoD High School News Service) -- The Alamodome shook as 25,000 fans sounded off with the Army mantra "Hooah!" to help motivate the 78 top high school football players in the country as they participated in the fourth U.S. Army All-American Bowl where 87 decorated Soldier-veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom were honored Jan. 3.

Each of the 87 soldiers -- coined "heroes" -- had received a Silver Star, Bronze Star or a Purple Heart for their actions in Iraq.

"This is a unique time," said Lt. Gen. Dennis Cavin, commander of U.S. Army Accessions Command and deputy commanding general of Initial Entry Training. "People understand the sacrifices young people make. This is our chance to say thanks and recognize these heroes."

"We're here not only to be honored for our achievements, but to celebrate the outstanding achievements these high school athletes have demonstrated," said Maj. Walleon Bobo, a civil affairs officer with the 431st Civil Affairs Battalion, North Little Rock, Ark. "Athletes who have demonstrated their hard work and success on the field mirror the hard work and dedication of today's soldiers."

Being a "young Marine" makes a difference

MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE, ALBANY, Ga.(Dec 18, 2003) -- Nineteen young men and women received the title "Young Marine" during a morning ceremony here Dec. 6.

The ceremony held at the base theater gave family and friends a chance to watch proudly as their child's 13-week experience reached its pinnacle.

"This is the best day I've had since I started," said Mercedes Willis, a 13-year-old whose loss of her father caused her attitude to change for the worst. "After today, I can look back and see all the things I've accomplished and how much I've changed."



Photo by Marine Cpl. Damian McGee
Pfc. Justin Lewis, 14, was meritoriously promoted during the Young Marines' graduation ceremony.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacadan

Slide for life

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. -- Airman 1st Class Jessica Stacks exits the bottom of a Baker Life Chute during a control tower evacuation exercise here. The 116-foot chute can be used for evacuations during emergencies like fires and bomb threats. Stacks is an air traffic controller with the 509th Operations Support Squadron.

Bobo was awarded the Purple Heart for his injuries as a result of hostile actions near Mosul, Iraq, while serving with the 101st Airborne Division.

Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley joined Lt. Gen. Cavin at center filed for the coin toss after spending the previous evening meeting the events 'heroes.'

"You're what stands between them and us," Brownlee said.

One 19-year-old soldier who took that stand nearly paid the ultimate price when an Improvised Explosive Device took out her vehicle. Pfc. Michelle Loftus, a combat medic with the 581st Area Support Medical Company, Fort Hood, Texas, was on her way to Kuwait to go home when the attack occurred. She suffered bone loss to her face and some scarring but the experience has motivated her.

"Being over there has changed me," Loftus, who received a Purple Heart for her injuries, said as she talked about her desire to stay in the Army. "I'm ready to lead and take on more responsibilities."

At the halftime ceremony, five-time Grammy winner Alicia Keys, who wore the "1" U.S. Army All-American Bowl jersey, performed her hit single "You Don't Know My Name." Dancers and bands from local schools also performed at the ceremony.

(Editor's note: Richard Lamance of Army/Air Force Hometown News contributed to this story.)

Rollins visits soldiers at Bagram

BAGRAM, Afghanistan (Army News Service) - - Hundreds of fans packed Bagram Civic Center to see hardcore rock icon Henry Rollins Dec. 7 as part of his USO-sponsored tour to visit service members deployed overseas.

Rollins, former front man of legendary 80's punk pioneers Black Flag and currently lead singer of Rollin's Band, as well as record company executive, publisher, writer, actor, and spoken word performer, took time from his schedule to bring a message of support from home for American service members here.

During his daylong visit, Rollins met soldiers in Kabul and Bagram Air Base and had an opportunity to walk around and meet hundreds of service members where they live and work.

He shared his thoughts and reflections on some of the things he saw during the day while talking to the service members.

"To have someone come over here like him, it's like, for a couple of minutes, you're back home again," said Pfc. Ethan Kreutzer, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment. Kreutzer said he's a huge fan of Rollins' music and spoken word material.

Rollins said that when he was asked by the USO to come out and visit the troops, he instantly agreed to do it.

(Editor's note: Sgt. Greg Heath of the 4th Public Affairs Detachment in Afghanistan contributed to this article.)



U.S. Army Photo

Punk rock legend Henry Rollins performs for soldiers at Bagram Civic Center in Afghanistan.

Speezing from
Scotland

Hey
Just got sent on assignment to Scotland, crazy huh? anyways, thought you'd like to see what it looks like and what your big brother's doing in the military. Say hey to mom and dad for me and take care of sis.

love ya kiddo

Scottish and purple by SFC
Glen Smith



281315
A barcode label with the number 281315 and a barcode.

I sat at my desk checking my e-mail when I noticed I had received one from a superior. I don't usually get mail from higher-ups, so I opened it with some trepidation. The first thing I read was: "Pack your bags, Bubba, you're going to Scotland."

It was Sept. 12 when I set off to Scotland to provide international support for NATO exercise Northern Light '03. My assignment was to work with the Royal Navy writing a story about the event and run media-escort missions. It turns out the journey surrounding the exercise was more eventful than the story I was to cover.

After several flights and a bus, train and cab ride later, the team consisting of seven sailors and myself – the lone Marine – arrived at our bed and breakfast in Helensburg. After a quick shower, we put on our uniforms and went to the media center to meet our Royal Navy counterparts. This is where we received our first 'cultural briefing'. Upon arriving, the first thing they noted was that we had been in public in our uniforms. Apparently, this is frowned upon by the British military due to troubles with the Irish Republican Army.

Things were slow in the beginning, but after a few days there was finally some work. Four team members went to cover events in southern Scotland while the rest of us headed north. One of us, Chief Petty Officer Gary Boucher, would be escorting a French journalist, and Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Shalk, a photographer, and I were to go to a briefing that our British counterparts assured us was only a three-hour drive away.

Since I had lived in Japan for a year and was used to driving on the left side of the road, I was the designated driver for the time being. Even though the United Kingdom uses the metric system, they still use miles instead of kilometers. So while everything else was different, the road signs and the speedometers were almost the same as home.

Driving north into the highlands was almost indescribable. Heather was dying off that time of year leaving the slightest shade of purple covering the downs. The other colors of the rainbow were represented by wildflowers sprinkled across the rolling hills, and rock formations randomly jutting out of the countryside like spiked thorns. There were tranquil streams, gushing waterfalls and mysterious lochs to contrast the land. Even ancient man was represented as castles poked up out of the forests every now and then. I half expected to see trolls and hobbits along the side of the road.

Five hours into our three-hour journey, I decided to call and make sure I was on the right path. In this area "path" is more than a figure of speech. The roads are tiny, well-marked one-lane affairs where one is always on the lookout for errant sheep. Traveling on these roads seriously tested my driving ability, having to pull off for oncoming traffic, but I must have passed because Robert never leapt from the moving car. Minutes later we arrived at our destination, the sleepy little town of Aultbea, which is nestled along the shore of Loch Ewe.

We ran into Gary there. The French journalist went to one of the ships offshore to see some of his old friends in the French Foreign Legion. Gary stayed behind to wait for our arrival so he could brief us on what we missed.

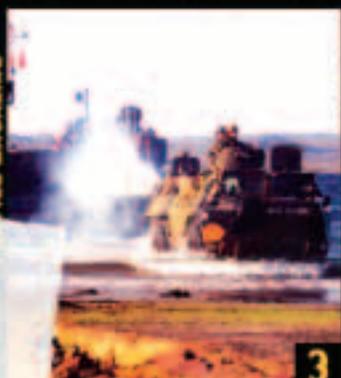
The next morning Robert and I went to the shore to cover a Non-combatant Evacuation Operation exercise involving French and Ukrainian troops as well as some of the local citizens. This is where the job became a challenge. Robert was running all over taking photos of troops coming ashore, helicopters landing and patrols moving through the fields. I began gathering information for my NATO story. I started with the Ukrainians, but there was one problem: none of the Ukrainians spoke English, and I couldn't speak Ukrainian.



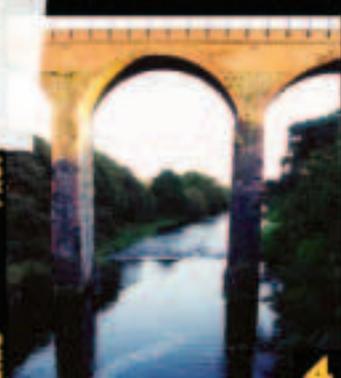
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Undaunted, I went on to search for a Legionnaire whom I might persuade to give me some information. I found one. Let me remind you that I was here to write a real story about the exercise, not the scenario. The interviewee answered every one of my questions; however, thinking I was part of the exercise, rather than writing a real story, almost all of the information was fictitious.

I spent the rest of the day driving too and fro, crossing Ukrainian checkpoints and visiting different locations where I might get the scoop. I finally found an observer who had done most of the groundwork in organizing the opposition forces for the exercise. Royal Marine Maj. Reginald Turner provided me with enough information to finish my story.

After an exhausting day of running around the Scottish Highlands, I was informed we would be staying another night and heading back to Helensburgh in the morning. I was worried about getting the story out that night, but Gary put my mind at ease by informing me not to worry about it; without internet or fax, it would have to wait. So, we spent another night with the locals.

An elderly man who noticed my anxiety earlier in the evening told me a little story about a local who went to Spain during the days when the Scottish still spoke Gaelic. While he was trying to learn to speak a little Spanish, he came across the word “mañana”. He asked one of his newfound friends what it meant. They tried to explain to him that it meant tomorrow or the next day, but it never set in. No one was ever in enough of a hurry to worry about tomorrow where he was from. I then realized that the only rational thing to do was to join everyone in the pub.

The next day we were on the road before the sun made its appearance. Gary wanted Robert and me to follow along and help with the escorting duties for the French journalist. This would prove to be a long, but interesting day.

It was quite entertaining following the Frenchman through the Scottish countryside. He often drove on the wrong side of the road, and I don't recall him ever making a turn we didn't have to come back to. After a few close calls, Gary decided to ride with us. The bright side is that we were able to see many towns and even paid a visit to the famous Loch Ness. Unfortunately, there was no monster to be seen. After a long day of driving down the twisty roads we left the beauty of the highlands behind us and returned to Helensburgh to finish our work.

After the exercise was over, we packed up our equipment and prepared for two days of sightseeing before we had to leave. On the first day we all went into Glasgow. The whole day was spent walking, shopping and eating. Glasgow has a massive shopping district and, unlike most big cities, people were very friendly. Almost every person I asked for directions wanted to get to know me and where I was from.

The next day, some folks slept, some went on a castle tour and I went for a walkabout. I took a southern route along the coast watching sailboats ply back and forth. On one occasion I was walking out to a point along the coast and I thought I could hear bagpipes. After rounding the point I found that it was not my imagination as there was a man standing on a large outcropping of rock over the water playing the bagpipes.

We all went to bed early that night, for the next day we were coming home. After turning in our rental cars we checked our bags and began the long journey home. A few flights and customs lines later we were back in Norfolk, Va. Our trip is over now, but I don't think that there's one person in our group who wouldn't want to go back.

CS



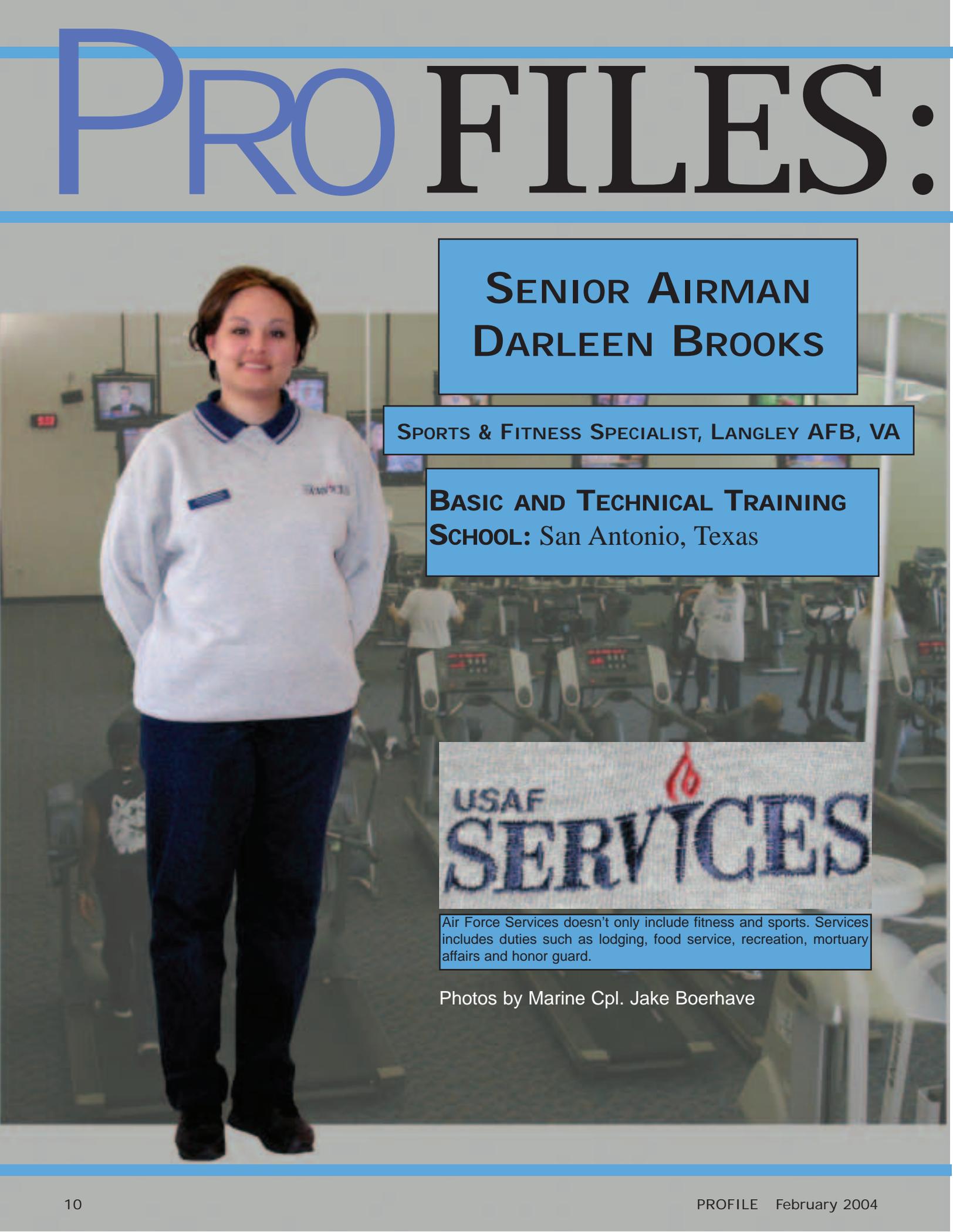
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- 1 - A Norwegian landing craft offloads a fast attack vehicle from 1st Co. 25th French Marines. In order to preserve Loch Ewe's coastline of, they landed at a boat launch instead of the shore.
- 2 - British Royal Marine Maj. Reginald Turner observes French and Ukrainian counterparts plan for the evacuation of locals.
- 3 - French forces roll ashore as they begin the Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation exercise at the beginning of Northern Light 2003.
- 4 - This ancient bridge stands outside Glenuce, Scotland.
- 5 - An Ault Bey resident dons a floatation device before evacuation.
- 6 - Citizens of Ault Bey board a helicopter bound for one of the many NATO ships stationed of the western coast.
- 7 - French Marines prepare to move inland, seeking out opposing forces simulating social unrest.

- 8 - French Legionaries keep a sharp lookout, high in the moors of east Ault Bey.
- 9 - Loch Ness, one of the many stops during our trip back to Helensburgh.
- 10 - One of the many streams that we passed during our drive north to Ault Bey.
- 11 - French Marine 1st Lt. Baptist Rolland shouts orders to his combat engineers during the amphibious landing at Ault Bey.
- 12 - Navy Petty Officer Second Class Robert Schalk takes a break near a stream before we continued north to Ault Bey.
- 13 - Here I am in the seedy underbelly of Glasgow. Acting on a hot tip, Robert and I were looking for some computer equipment we needed before we arrived at Ault Bey.



PROFILES:

A full-page photograph of Senior Airman Darleen Brooks standing in a gym. She is wearing a white long-sleeved polo shirt with a dark collar and dark pants. The gym background shows several treadmills and other people working out.

SENIOR AIRMAN DARLEEN BROOKS

SPORTS & FITNESS SPECIALIST, LANGLEY AFB, VA

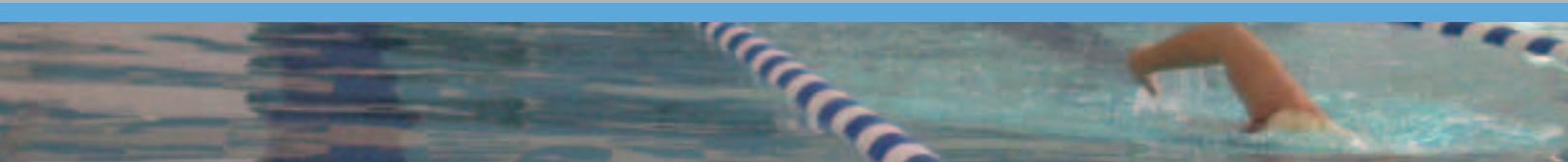
**BASIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING
SCHOOL: San Antonio, Texas**



Air Force Services doesn't only include fitness and sports. Services includes duties such as lodging, food service, recreation, mortuary affairs and honor guard.

Photos by Marine Cpl. Jake Boerhave

Service Apprentice



Why did you join the Air Force?

The reason I joined the Air Force was to further my education. I also joined for the opportunity to meet new people and explore different places. I've always loved to travel and the Air Force has given me the opportunity to do all these things.

What do you like most about the Air Force?

The people. The Air Force brings together so many different cultures and races you learn so much from everyone you meet. Everyone's background is so different that you have to learn to work together. I think that is a wonderful experience to have.

What has the Air Force given you?

The Air Force has given me the opportunity to continue my education, the chance to travel around the world, a great job and my husband! The Air Force has also given me great friends and memories for a lifetime.

When you're not at work what are you doing?

When I'm not at work I'm spending my time with my husband, working out, hanging out with friends, going to school and playing with remote-controlled cars.

Right- Senior Airman Darleen Brooks inspects new exercise bikes at the fitness center at Langley AFB, Va., where she serves as a sports and fitness specialist.



What are some of the more eventful experiences you have had since joining?

All the time that our entire fitness staff put in opening the new fitness center really pulled us together as a team. With the base being turned into a lake during Hurricane Isabel last September, we had a major clean-up job on our hands. Our basketball courts turned into a lake bottom. Also, once a year the fitness staff puts on an event called "Sports Day." It brings the entire base together to compete in sporting events.



Senior Airman Darleen Brooks assists a fellow service member while operating the front desk at the Langley AFB fitness center. Senior Airman Brooks is in charge of scheduling PT (Physical Training) times for 36 squadrons of airmen on base.

Dominance on the water, it has been the way of the U.S. Navy since its birth.

Its tactical reach extends over not only the vast blue of the ocean,

but the murky water of coastal rivers as well.



U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. John Perkins



U.S. Navy Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Sandberg

Left- Army Rangers use a special insertion and extraction method to extract troops from two Navy Mark V Special Operations Craft assigned to Special Boat Team Twenty, stationed in Norfolk, Va.

Top- A rescue swimmer hovers over a Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat during recovery operations. The swimmers are conducting Combat Search and Rescue training with the members of Special Boat Team Twenty.

ringing

SWCC

Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewman

Story by Marine Cpl. Jake Boerhave



U.S. Navy Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Arlo K. Abrahamson

A U.S. Naval Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewman sits beside a .50 caliber machine gun mounted on the back of a Special Operations Craft -Riverine as it transits through Iraq's southern waterways. Naval Special Warfare operators patrolled the waterways following operations that cleared Iraqi waterways of mines and rogue vessels to make way for the arrival of humanitarian relief shipments to the port of Umm Qasr in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This is the job of Riverine SWCC: Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewmen,

the sailors of brown water

the bayou



U.S. Navy Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Robert Benson

Special Warfare Combat-Craft Crewmen spray a mock enemy area with a barrage of live gunfire from weapon stations aboard their combat patrol craft during a training exercise in the bayous of Stennis, Miss.

If the U.S. military ever supplied its ranks with true grit, these sailors may very well be it. As the name infers, SWCC (pronounced Swick) conducts special types of operations. To be exact: driving high-speed boats down narrow, winding rivers, transporting SEALs to and from hostile situations and operating nearly every weapon with a trigger the military has to offer. Day and night. The situations they train for are extremely dangerous and require every member of the team to be razor sharp, physically as well as mentally. The road to becoming one is tough, but rewarding.

“Basically, if you need a heavily-armed, high-speed ride on the water, you’d look for us,” says Gunner’s Mate 1st Class Ralph W. Young, a member of Special Boat Team Twenty Two, Stennis Space Center, Miss. “There’s no one in the armed forces who can do the job we do.”

SWCC is a relatively new force in the Navy, designed after the original boat support units created for the Vietnam War depicted in the epic film “Apocalypse Now.” Recently, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, the new generation of boat teams had the opportunity to test its mettle. According to Smith, it also gave SWCC a chance to “give [their] community a name.”

“Patrolling with my men across enemy lines, [I was] walking in the footsteps of the warriors before me,” said Engineman 1st Class Stacey Smith, a member of SBT-22, referring to the veteran boat unit members of Vietnam, who were the trailblazers of Naval Special Warfare.

“Brown water sailors,” as they refer to themselves, are few and proud. In order to become one you must first complete Navy basic training, as well as a secondary school of your choosing. This includes most of the jobs the Navy has to offer. Keep in mind that becoming a SWCC member does not release you from your obligations to the job you choose since SWCC is not an independent rate in the Navy.

After attaining your initial rate, you will attend SWCC basic: a physically grueling indoctrination into the ways of Naval Special Warfare. After this 10-week course, a required Crewman Qualification Training course is taken. Upon completion of CQT, a sailor receives the SWCC pin: an insignia that can be worn with your regular Navy uniform.

After their required training, SWCC sailors are assigned to Special Boat Teams, or SBTs. This is where their role of supporting other members of Navy Special Warfare, such as SEALs, in performing special operations becomes more clearly defined. There are two types of SBTs, Coastal as well as

Armed: SWCC sailors are proficient in all of the following weapons:



M16

The standard-issue rifle of the U.S. Armed forces.



Mk19

This 40mm grenade launcher’s blast can penetrate two inches of armor and cause extensive fragmentation damage. It can be fired from a tripod or boat-mounted.



M2

The .50 caliber M2 “Ma Deuce” has been in the military longer than any other piece of weaponry. Effective at up to 2,000 meters, it is a highly-capable anti-personnel and anti-aircraft weapon.



Gau 17

Dubbed “Old Painless” by Jesse Ventura’s character in *Predator*, the GAU 17 minigun hums out 6,000 rounds per minute at its peak rate. Contrary to popular belief, this is NOT hand-carried or fired from the hip.



M240

Originally a tank-mounted weapon, the M240 medium machine gun is accurate at long range and very durable. It is estimated to fire more than 26,000 rounds before a failure.

are two types of SBTs: coastal and riverine.

Upon arriving at an SBT, sailors begin training cycles. It's this constant training that keeps SWCCs mentally and physically sharp. At SBT-22, new members go through an 18-month training cycle before being eligible for deployment. During this cycle, SWCCs learn through on-the-job training and attend speciality schools to learn the boats and their parts. According to Young, after being awake for 18 to 36 hours, a new recruit will find out if SWCC is for him or not.

"Be ready to travel," Young says.

You can be an electrician, boatswain's mate, parachute rigger or a cook and still be in SWCC. Part of the challenge of being in SWCC is the fact that you are not promoted solely on your performance, but also on your proficiency of the job you have chosen. However, SWCC is in the process of expanding and becoming a rate in itself. Look at it as extremely challenging volunteer work. Volunteer work with a big payoff.

According to Smith, one of the biggest benefits of the job is being on the cutting edge of the military.

"It's the high you get from being on the tip of the sword," Smith says.

The tip of the technological sword for SBT-22 is the new SOCR (pronounced Sock-R): the Special Operations Craft Riverine. "By boat guys, for boat guys," the SOCR combines high speed and maneuverability with large cargo and weapon capacity. The SOCR utilizes twin 440hp engines with individual buckets (think jet-ski) to give it incredible acceleration and stop-on-a-dime handling. Insert five SWCC sailors and some firepower and the enemy's got quite a problem.

The members of a boat team are like the pieces of a puzzle, each having his own role and each an equally formidable force. A five-man team will include roles such as communications, medical, maintenance and weapons. The team must train to be silent as well as self-sufficient because some operations may require them to hide behind enemy lines -- in the boat -- for days at a time.

Speaking of weapons, the SOCR is equipped to mount some of the most powerful weaponry the military has to offer. SWCCs operate and maintain proficiency on the .50 cal heavy machine gun, M19 grenade launcher, M240 machine gun as well as the 7.62mm GAU-17 minigun, capable of firing several thousand rounds per minute. SWCCs are trained to operate these weapons while traveling down-river at close to 50 miles per hour. Their training involves strict muzzle-discipline because often there may be two or more boats traveling closely behind one another down winding rivers.

Trust is a major factor in the success of any combat unit. In SWCC, teamwork is ingrained so far into training that team members can nearly predict their partner's next move. According to Smith, this is one of the most rewarding benefits of being in such a

riverine

SWCC

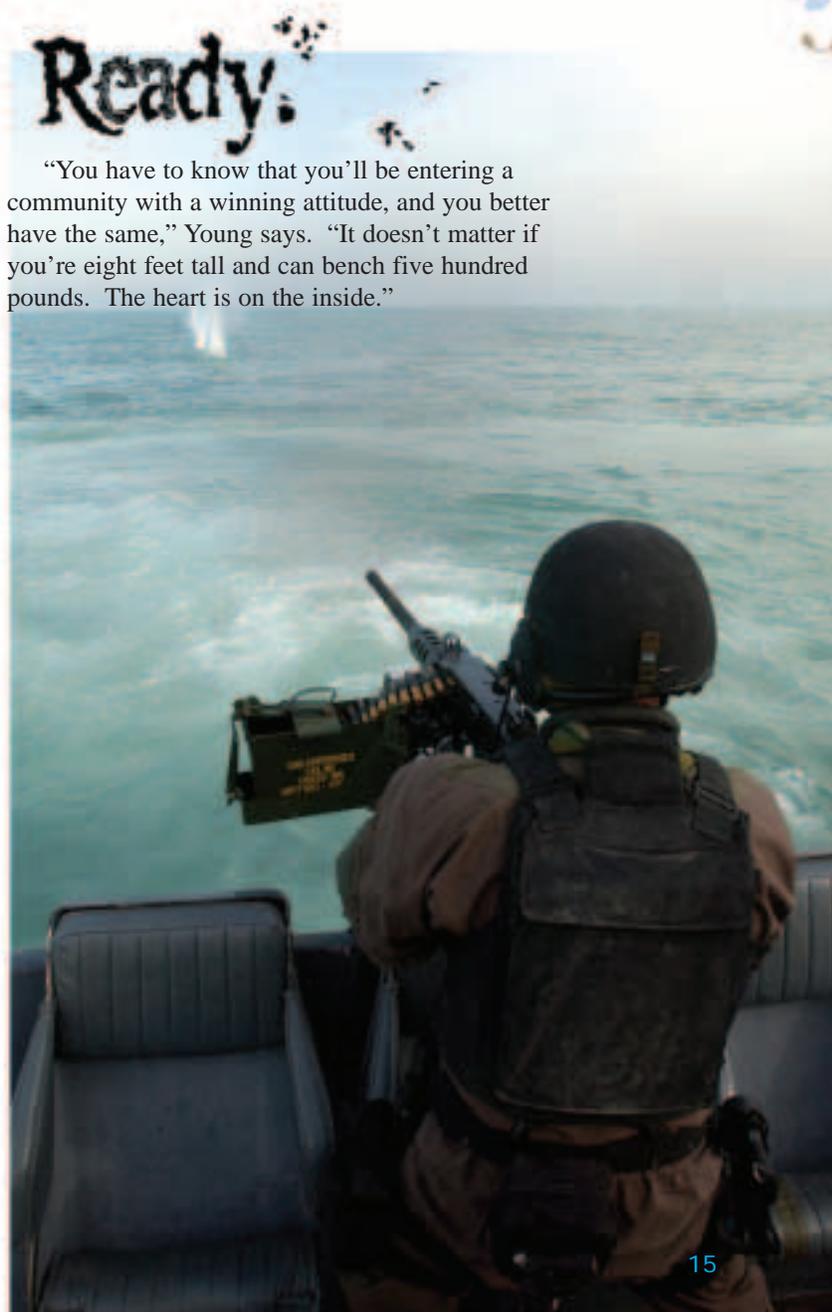
tightly knit organization.

"It's being able to work hand-in-hand and trust one another, believing in the next person," Smith says.

Achieving the level of physical and mental proficiency of a SWCC requires a special type of person. Like most elite forces in the military, SWCC may not be for everyone. But in the same light, there may not be a more rewarding experience than the one that tests you as an individual. According to Young, joining their ranks is more a matter of heart and will, not of brawn.

Ready.

"You have to know that you'll be entering a community with a winning attitude, and you better have the same," Young says. "It doesn't matter if you're eight feet tall and can bench five hundred pounds. The heart is on the inside."



servicing the country
And the community

SOLDIERS/CITIZENS

24/7

MMP

MILITARY POLICE



Story and Photos
By Marine Cpl. Jake Boehave



Army forts don't only consist of large barbed-wire fences surrounding masses of tanks and soldiers in formation 24/7. They more closely resemble cities where soldiers are its citizens. Soldiers are people too, and all people have basic needs including food, housing and safety. The task of keeping the premises safe falls on the shoulders of the Army's own security force: MPs.

Military Policemen are soldiers like any one else, but they're also police officers with a commitment to both their country and community. During peace and wartime, stateside and overseas, MPs make a pledge to serve, protect and assist.

**Twenty-four hours a day,
seven days a week.**



Spc. Rammses Correa, a member of the 544th MP Company, takes some time to play with students at recess at Fort Bliss Elementary School while on patrol.

Spc. Ruby Owen, an MP with the 5035th Garrison Support Unit inspects a vehicle during an Explosive Ordnance Disposal exercise.

US Army 89th MP Brigade Special Reaction Team soldiers check the identification of each motorist before entering the main gate at Fort Hood, Texas, Sept. 11th, 2001.



Patrols are part of the daily life of military police. At Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, MPs perform patrols through designated areas of the base on a rotating schedule. They are given responsibility for a section of the base, and respond to calls occurring in that area. Spc. Ruby Owen, a member of Fort Bliss' 5035th Garrison Support Unit who joined the Army to be an MP at the age of 17, says you can't predict what may happen while on patrol.

"We get calls for domestics disturbances, assaults, shoplifting; you just adjust. You have the training, but you really don't know what to expect [when a call comes in]" Owen says. "Every situation is different."

Owen says that sometimes the information about a situation may be limited and the key is to be prepared for anything. In a possibly dangerous situation, MPs will wait for backup before approaching the scenario. MPs are their own force, but the element of teamwork makes them that much stronger.

"I make sure I have some kind of plan with the person who's going in with me," Owen says. MPs must plan as best they can to ensure the safety of the community as well as their partners. "Your life depends on them as well as their life depends on you."

Owen, who aspires to become a lawyer, says the training and experience of being an MP will help her

in her future career.

"What I wanted to do is start from the bottom, so you know what it's like being a policeman. I'll know how everything works," Owen says. She hopes the knowledge she gains as a junior member of the justice system will help her do a better job when she's more experienced.

MPs are given a certain amount of authority and are faced with situations daily that require them to make decisions on how to use it. Since they carry firearms, the highest level of force they are entrusted with could be deadly. Not letting it get to that level is engrained in the mind of all MPs.

"It's all common sense," says Spc. Rammses Correa, a member of the 544th MP Company, who has been called up from the Puerto Rico National Guard to support Fort Bliss. "We have different levels of force, from verbal all the way to deadly force if necessary. If you feel like your life, or someone else's life or government property, is being threatened, you go to the next level. But until then you try to keep it at the lowest level."

Police of all types are often looked at as "out to get you," and "only want to ruin your day." Anyone who thinks that doesn't know the real mindset of military policemen.

"Some people think that we're just hunting them down for speeding when our main concern is their protection: having them feel safe," Correa says.



“My main concerns are the housing areas. There may be children playing in the streets, so I make sure people obey stop signs and don’t speed. It’s for the welfare of the people.”

It takes a certain drive for someone to do the job of an MP and do it well. For some, it’s knowing they’ve given people peace of mind.

“Parents see us there in a school zone and they know people aren’t going to speed. They know their child can be safe playing around,” Correa says. “Just letting people feel comfortable ... I think that’s the prize right there.”

For others, it’s more personal.

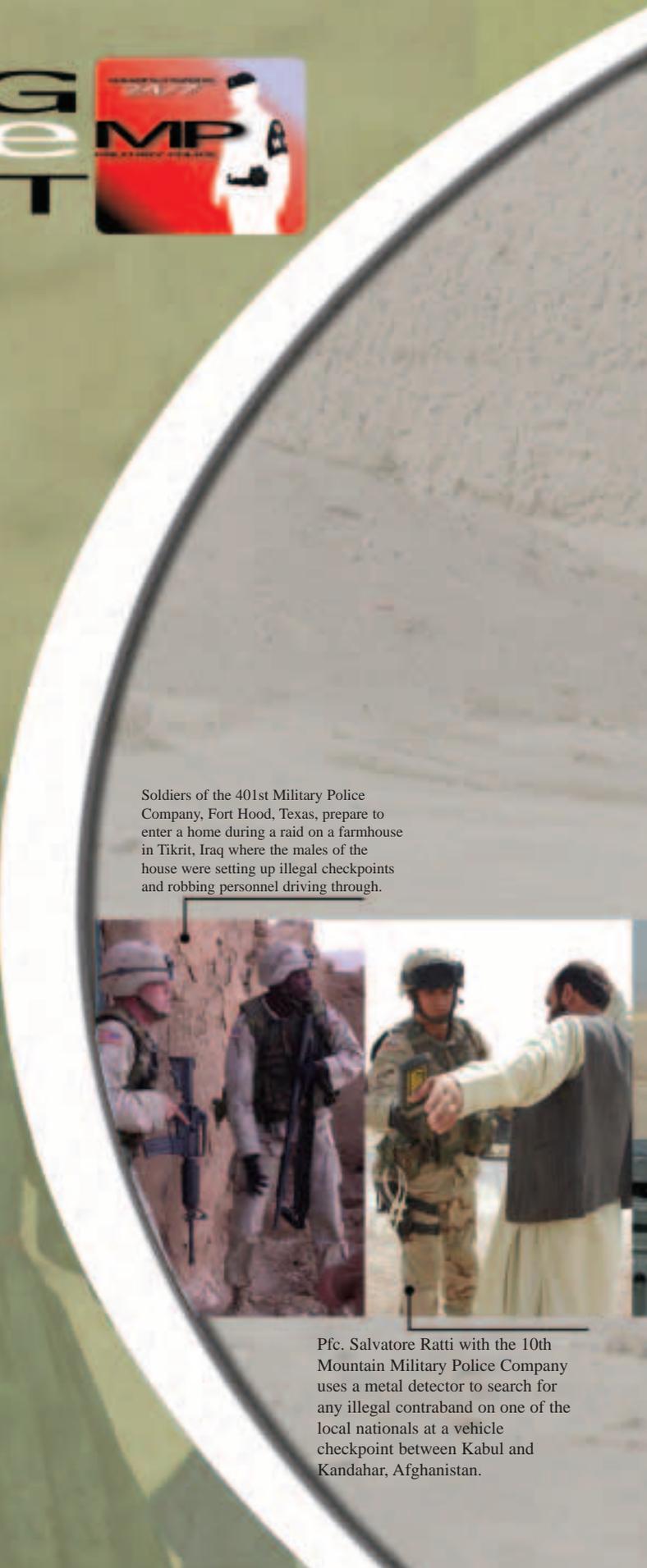
“It’s doing what few people do: doing what’s right,” Says Owen, “It’s doing what’s going to make my family proud, and that makes me the person I am.”



SERVING THE COUNTRY
WITH THE COMMUNITY

KEEPING in the PEACE in the MIDEAST

Words by Marine Cpl. Jake Boerhave



Soldiers of the 401st Military Police Company, Fort Hood, Texas, prepare to enter a home during a raid on a farmhouse in Tikrit, Iraq where the males of the house were setting up illegal checkpoints and robbing personnel driving through.



Pfc. Salvatore Ratti with the 10th Mountain Military Police Company uses a metal detector to search for any illegal contraband on one of the local nationals at a vehicle checkpoint between Kabul and Kandahar, Afghanistan.

During the U.S. armed forces' involvement in Operation Enduring Freedom, and more recently Operation Iraqi Freedom, military police have been needed to keep the peace like never before.

The ongoing process has come a long way since the end of major combat in these areas, but the dangers of lawlessness are still present. Remnants of Saddam's regime and others who oppose the Army's embedment continue to create curves in the road to peace in the Mideast. This is a danger MPs are trained to be ever vigilant of, and deal with accordingly.

Being outsiders to the culture and customs of Afghanistan and Iraq, MPs have overcome great challenges in restoring a sense of safety and security among the native people. Establishing rapport with the local people and working with local authorities and cultural head figures is one of their main objectives. By becoming a face of reassurance to locals, MPs are crucial to the military becoming a presence that brings hope and peace to the people of these war-torn countries.

Pfc. Zachary Bonner with the 10th Mountain Military Police Company provides security during a Combined Medical Assistance Exercise mission in the province of Najoy, Afghanistan, to provide the residents of the village with medical and dental assistance.

Pvt. Jeremy Wilson with the 10th Mountain Military Police Company hands a stick of gum to one of the children in the village of Haji Mohammad Zai Kalacha during a mission to visit local villages and provide situational awareness, gather passive intelligence and evaluate any humanitarian aid that has been or will be distributed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



A young Afghani girl stops her chores to watch the Military police conduct a presence patrol.

Army Photo 1 by Sgt. Albert Eaddy
Army Photos 2,3 and 5 by Pfc. Hugo A. Baray-Vasquez
Army Photo 4 by Staff Sgt. Kyle Davis

Maritime Security & Safety Team

On Point For
The Homeland

MISSION



STORY & PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS
BY
ARMY SGT. AARON THACKER



Fast roping out of helicopters into a hostile territory is a task usually reserved for forces like the Army Rangers, but with the unpredictable state of the world today the United States Coast Guard has stepped up its role in defending the homeland with tasks like this and more.



Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Donnie Brzuska

Petty Officer 2nd Class Micheal Boyle pulls his dog, Dusty, up to a two-story platform. This training gets the dogs used to being raised and lowered on and off ships before they enter the maritime environment. Boyle and Dusty serve with MSST 91103 in San Pedro, Calif.

"It's a new Coast Guard," says Lt. Taylor Lam, officer in charge of Maritime Safety and Security Team, Detachment Two. "We're on the water with machine guns mounted in speed boats. We are a deterrent presence."

Numerically designated as "91101" in tribute to the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the Seattle-based MSST is one of four units designed to provide an anti-terrorism presence in U.S. coastal regions. With additional teams in Chesapeake, Va., Los Angeles and Houston, and plans for two more on the East Coast, their mission is to provide enhanced port safety and security to significant economic and military ports. They can also deploy to support national security during major disasters or storm recovery operations as well as for special events such as the Olympics.

"We are essentially military police on the water," Lam says.

The creation of the unit opened a lot of new opportunities for enthusiastic young Coasties and recruits interested in challenges outside the normal spectrum of the Coast Guard. Traditionally, the USCG has been more of a search and rescue force, but from now on its plate is a lot more diverse and exciting.

"We do a lot of law enforcement, which is what I wanted," says Petty Officer 3rd Class Jason Vannier.

Vannier, 22, is a boat crewman and boarding team member who loves the new direction his job and his service has taken. He is one of about 45 people currently assigned to 91101. "Law enforcement has always been a collateral duty for the Coast Guard. This will [eventually] become a formal law enforcement [occupation]," Vannier says.

Eventually, each MSST will have approximately 100 active duty and reserve personnel, all of whom are fully trained experts at specialties and collateral duties such as force protection, weapons of mass destruction detection, explosives detection, search and rescue, commercial port protection/anti-sabotage and canine handling.

Creating, collecting, training and assigning these professionals to a unit and calling them a team is a simple matter of paperwork, but building a sense of camaraderie among members takes some elbow grease. To accomplish this ever-important mission, the unit took a trip to North Carolina where they conducted training with what is often



MSST 91101 Photos/Graphic by Sgt. Aaron Thacker

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jason Bergeron mans a M-60 machine gun aboard a 25-foot Defender speedboat as he and his crew escort a U.S. Navy carrier into port. Bergeron is a member of MSST 91101 from Seattle, Wa.

considered the toughest team of all, the U.S. Marines Corps.

"Before we were commissioned as a unit, we all headed off to Marine Corps base Camp Lejeune for Initial Standup Training," Lam says. "We spent a month there learning different things about force protection and law enforcement. We also performed Marine PT (physical training), which was very different for these guys." The mission definitely hit its target, according to Lam. "Before that time no one really knew each other, but after that we really gelled."

Once on its feet, the team was ready to start running. One unique aspect of the USCG is, unlike the rest of the military, the Coast Guard actually performs its mission on a daily basis.

And instead of having to perform that job 2,000 miles from home, Coast Guardsmen do their job of protecting their fellow citizens every day and go home to their families every night.

"We board any type of civilian watercraft: boats, ships, sailboats," Lam says. "But we also board large foreign commercial ships like deep-draft cargo freighters or oil tankers, whether it's for watercraft safety or port security. We're checking identification of foreign citizens and checking cargo to make sure it is what they say it is."

"I've done a few '10 percent' boardings," says Vannier, "which is when foreign and national freighters come into the Puget Sound and we board the vessel.

"We muster the crew and check their identification to make sure they're legal. Then we check certain areas of the ship for unaccounted-for personnel, explosives or anything out of the ordinary." Once that is done, the boarding team places themselves strategically around the ship for the ride into port. If there is any foul play in the works they have about a half-

'You've got to be highly motivated because this mission can be complex and it can be exciting.'

**>>Lt. Taylor Lam
Maritime Safety and Security
Team Leader**

hour to counteract and take control of the ship before it gets to port.

Since MSST is still a member of the Coast Guard, they are not limited exclusively to policing potential terrorist situations. In addition to protecting their peers on dry land, they also watch out for the safety of those they encounter on the water.

"We also do 4100 boardings (4100 is the name of the form used to document

these boardings), or 'mom and pop' boardings. We board the vessel, check their protective equipment, flares, lifejackets; make sure there are no holes in the boat, their engines work properly and they're not poaching," Vannier says.

Every routine boarding can be something different depending on the location. For example: "If we're in Bellingham (a Washington city near the British Columbia, Canada, border)," Vannier says, "it's more of a border patrol and drug traffic mission. There is a big drug trafficking highway for 'B.C. Bud' (high-grade Canadian marijuana)."

This type of random search not only cuts down on drug trafficking, but helps deter terrorists from entering the country. Wherever they may be, the USCG is right there waiting for them.

Fighting terrorism on the front lines is no walk in the park, but being a member of a Marine Safety and Security Team offers thrilling challenges and personal gratification. There are many opportunities for those who may be interested, according to Lam, but "you've got to be highly motivated because this mission can be complex and it can be exciting. We travel throughout the U.S., but we're outside the continental U.S. too, so you need to have a sense of adventure."

"It's a great unit," says Vannier. To get in, he mentioned it's important to "keep your grades up" and "stay away from the B.C. Bud."

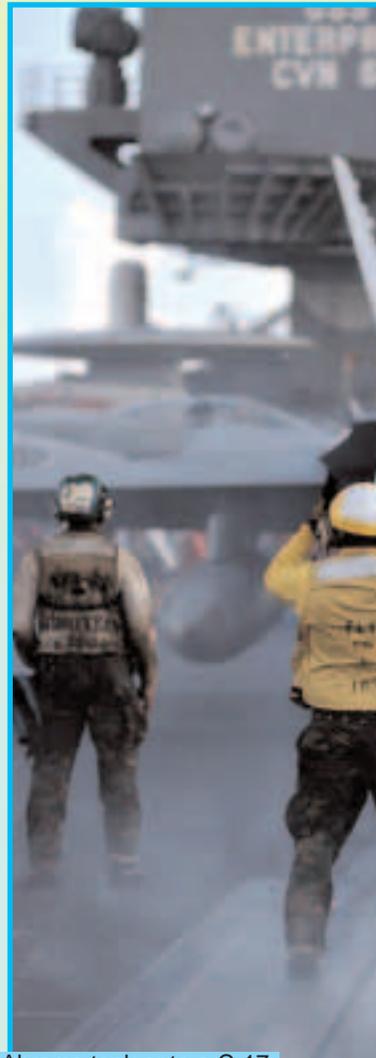
Members of MSST 91101 patrol the waterways in and around the Seattle area aboard their Defender speedboat. The crew consists of three members: one for each M-60 and a driver.



MSST 91101 Photo

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

AROUND THE SERVICES > > >

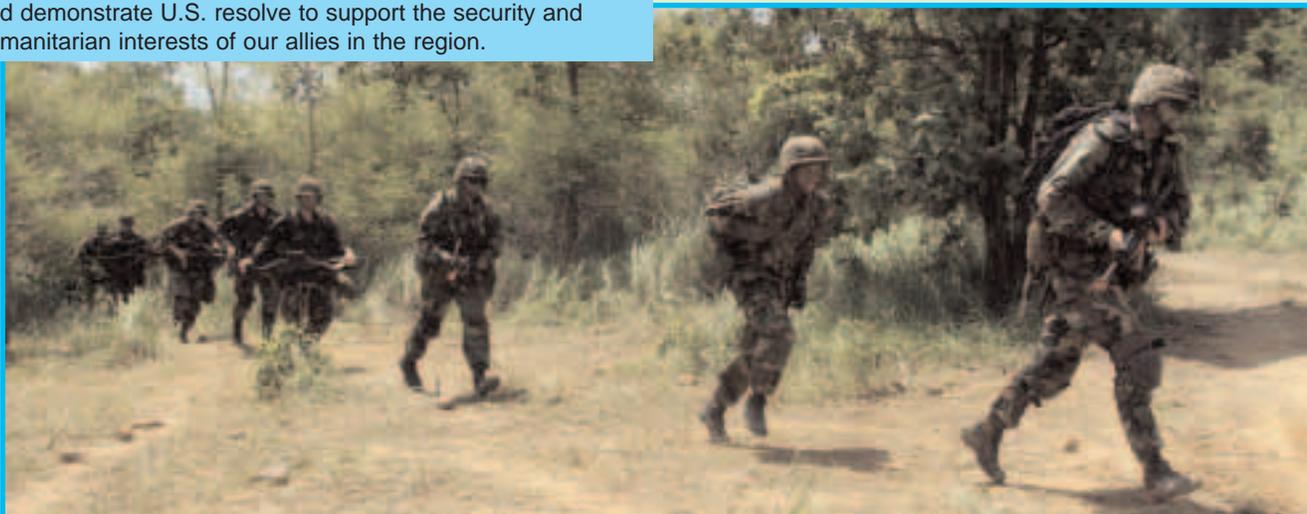


Pfc. Hugo A. Baray-Vasquez

Soldiers from Kandahar Army Airfield, Afghanistan conducted a Team Village mission where members of Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations visited local villages to provide humanitarian aid and gather passive intelligence in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Nov. 23, 2003. Pvt. Melanie Vieira with the 10th Mountain Military Police Company pulls security near the village of Haji Raza Kalacha.

Ground crews load a 66-ton Abrams tank onto a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft. The aircraft, from the 17th Airlift Squadron, Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., delivered the Army's main battle tank to an Operation Iraqi Freedom air base in northern Iraq.

Infantrymen of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, rally up to their next blank fire training site during Cobra Gold '03 held in Thailand, Nov. 23, 2003. The purpose of Cobra Gold is to improve U.S., Thai and Singaporean combat readiness and combined-joint interoperability, enhance security relationships and demonstrate U.S. resolve to support the security and humanitarian interests of our allies in the region.



Staff Sgt. Jerry Morrison



An Aviation Boatswain's Mate aboard USS Enterprise guides an F/A-18 Hornet with Strike Fighter Squadron 86 (VFA 86 Sidewinders), into position for launch, Nov. 26. USS Enterprise is currently underway .

Petty Officer 3rd Class Lance H. Mayhew Jr



Margo Wright

Using land navigation and combat tactics, 2nd Lt. Earl Elam (right) keeps a close eye on his surroundings as his unit moves out to rescue a "downed pilot" during a field training exercise. The exercise was part of a professional development program for lieutenants. Elam is assigned to the 552nd Maintenance Operations Squadron, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

Aviation Warfare Systems Operator 2nd Class Rusty Dewoody, from Cleveland, Ohio, inventories .50-caliber machine gun rounds in preparation for a live-fire exercise. Petty Officer Dewoody is assigned to the "Black Knights" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Four USS John C. Stennis and Carrier Air Wing Fourteen.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Jayme Pastoric



Master Sgt. Keith Reed



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