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Local soldiers rescue Russian sailor

by Sgt. Lori Davis
USARSO Public Affairs Office

ALBROOK AFS - Medevac soldiers from the 214th Medical Detachment rescued a Russian sailor injured in a fire on the Greek ship *Grain Trader* Jan. 5.

Valery Lukjanov suffered third degree burns to his face and hands and second degree burns to his chest from an electrical fire, said SSgt. Robert Rojas, 214th Med. Det. medic.

A rescue crew in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter responded to the emergency at 3 p.m. and flew 120 miles north of Colon in the Caribbean Sea to meet the ship. The helicopter and ship did not have matching radio frequencies, so they communicated with each other through a third radio operator, said pilot CWO 2 Arthur Johnson.

Because they could not communicate directly, the air crew sent directions to the ship to turn into the wind when the helicopter approached. This not only assured the pilots they found the right ship, it also made it easier to lower the medic to pick up the injured sailor, he said.

Military ships usually have large decks where helicopters can land. However, this ship did not have a deck for a

helicopter landing so the medic was lowered by cable, said pilot 1st Lt. Jack Parry.

As the helicopter hovered 90 feet above the deck, the crew chief lowered the medic on the jungle penetrator, a small cone-shaped device with three folding seats used to retrieve people from obstructed areas, Johnson said.

Macias had to lower Rojas through a network of pipes on the ship's deck, guiding him into an opening 10 feet wide by 20 feet long. The ship's movement, the wing and the jungle penetrator's tendency to spin made the effort even more difficult, Macias said.

"The crew chief has a special technique to reverse the spin so he can maintain control on the drop. There is nobody I trust more to send me down than Macias," Rojas said.

Rojas made it safely to the deck and was met by the Greek sailors helping the burn victim. They helped him straddle one of the folding seats and then hooked the strap around his back. He gripped the padded cone and Rojas held on to him for the trip up, Rojas said.

"I noticed that everyone on the ship was very concerned about helping us. Since I've been here I've done a lot, but this was different. No matter who you are or where

you are from we take care of you like you are our own," Rojas said.

"He (Lukjanov) seemed very impressed by our military because we took such good care of him. He smiled the whole time," he said.

Lukjanov kept that smile in spite of extreme pain. When the two men were on their way up to the helicopter the blisters from his burns broke and soaked Rojas's uniform and the inside of the helicopter, Rojas said.

"His burns were really bad. We bandaged them and kept them moist to prevent the bandage from sticking to the wound and gave him 3,000 CC's of saline. That's a lot of fluid for a burn victim," Rojas said.

The medevac crew flew Lukjanov to Gorgas Army Community Hospital and he was transferred to Paitilla Hospital, Parry said.

"One thing about this mission I will never forget was when a crewmember on the ship brought out his (Lukjanov's) luggage," Rojas said. "They handed me a plastic bag holding a toothbrush and an apple. We've got everything and we complain, and all he had was an apple and a toothbrush."

Help sought in baby's death investigation

FORT CLAYTON (USARSO PAO) - The Panama Criminal Investigation Office is now investigating the homicide of Baby Doe and is offering a reward for information.

A newborn baby was found in a trash bin at Valent Recreation Center May 13, 1993 with his skull fractured.

Witnesses described a suspect seen at the center between 4-10 p.m. May 12 as a light complexioned black female in her early 20s.

She was 5 feet, 9 inches tall and weighed about 160 pounds. The suspect had shoulder-length hair which was curled at the ends.

It was further reported the suspect was wearing a dark blue or purple tunic top and pants and was carrying a black canvas bag with a white handkerchief with blue trim laid over the top.

She was standing near the area of the large screen television in the center and appeared to be upset.

The suspect used the public telephones several times becoming more upset and hanging up each time.

The suspect was seen carrying the bag into the ladies room of the center where the baby was found.

A reward of \$2,500 is being offered by CID for information leading to the identity and arrest of the person or people responsible for the murder of Baby Doe.

Anyone having information should call Special Agent Daniel Carton at 285-4314/6011 or the Fort Clayton Military Police at 287-4401.

All information received will be handled in the strictest confidence.

Without help, the death of a child may go unresolved, CID officials said.



Department of Defense photo by SMSgt. Steve Taylor

Around the world in 89 days

The *Queen Elizabeth 2* glides underneath the Bridge of the Americas Monday afternoon after completing its transit through the Panama Canal. The *QE 2*, in day 10 of its 89-day trek around the world, paid a \$128,955.71 toll enroute to Acapulco, Mexico. The vessel attracted larger than normal crowds at the Miraflores Locks. On an average day 700-800 people go to the locks, Monday more than 3,000 visited.

Aviation soldier kills wife, self after domestic dispute

FORT CLAYTON (USARSO PAO) - A U.S. Army South soldier and his wife died Saturday as a result of an apparent murder-suicide at their off-post quarters.

Spec. Ray Jerkins of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment, shot his wife, Nicolle, and

turned the gun on himself after a domestic dispute.

One of the couple's three children, a 17-month-old girl, was slightly injured during the incident and is being held at Gorgas Army Community Hospital for observation.

The 5- and 3-year-old sons have been placed in foster homes until the next of kin take custody.

The incident is under investigation by the Panama National Police and U.S. Army South Criminal Investigations officials.

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Navy civilians help chart Panama waterways

by Lt.jg. Laura C. Moore
USNAVSTAPANCANAL

LA PALMA, Darien, Panama - Safe navigation is now possible in previously uncharted rivers of the Darien Province.

A three-year project to chart all of the region's waterways ended last month.

U.S. Hydrographic Cooperation Program, Latin American Region located at Fort Amador, provided the equipment and dollars, and Panama's National Geographic Institute provided manpower, local knowledge, and technical expertise.

The two organizations, which have been working together since 1975, used the latest technology to make a product which will benefit the region, the country, and the United States in many respects.

A group of six NGI employees, headed by Carlos Moreno, surveyed the area using the Global Positioning System, 386 Ultra computers with specialized hydrographic software, and an electronic ecosounder.

The group took soundings from the survey boat, "HYCOOP II," using the Global Positioning System to determine their location with an accuracy of better than 20 meters. Survey lines were 200 meters apart, and soundings were taken every 10 to 15 meters.

"The specialized software processes the data and contours the soundings to determine the areas of danger and the areas of navigation and these final soundings are then used by the nautical cartographers to produce an updated chart of the area or to update the existing chart when one exists," said Jim Page, officer-in-charge of HYCOOPLAR.



Jim Page and Victor Torrero discuss navigation plots during a charting mission in the Darien Province.

U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Delano Mays

"Sometimes we can combine the data with aerial photography and satellite pictures to produce an even more accurate chart," Page said.

By making these rivers more navigable with charting, they will be more accessible to the Panamanian government to exercise their sovereignty, Page said.

"This area is on the frontier with Colombia and it's an area where there could be movement of any type of contraband between countries and areas where there may be some plantations of illegal sub-

stances," Page said. "Who knows. But without adequate charts, the government would not be able to come out here and try to counter these threats."

"The principle navigators here are Panamanian supply boats that come from Panama City into these smaller towns here. There may be many reasons in the future where Panamanian patrol boats or U.S. assets might wish to navigate in these rivers for nation-building projects," he added.

The former governor of the Darien

Province, Lesbia Alarcon, said the new charts will help the province to expand economically.

"The province has a lot of problems with the highway to Panama City, which at any moment may become impassable," Alarcon said. "The province depends on these waterways for exporting its goods."

"The rivers are a much more dependable means of access to the province, but some people in the province say the rivers are deep, some say they're shallow," Alarcon said. "It will be a great help to expand the exports of the agricultural products from the province. Better defined waterways will help commerce in the region in the Darien."

One of the areas that could see an economic improvement is the tourism industry, Alarcon said.

"In the last couple of years there have been tourists on ships that have come up here, but they've been nervous about going up the rivers much farther because they don't know the channel and a big ship could get stuck for a long time. They come as far as La Palma, but with new charts and better-defined channels there's a possibility to expand the tourism of the province," Alarcon said.

Eric Reina, one of the NGI employees working on the Darien project, which is HYCOOPLAR's last project, said that the knowledge gained from the Darien survey will also benefit the United States.

"It's not just a one-way street, information flows both ways," Reina said. "We know a lot about this country and have insight into this area, and working together gives us all the opportunity to interchange ideas and experiences."

Rodman hosts holiday party

RODMAN NS (USNAVSTAPANCANAL) - Volunteers here welcomed more than 460 students from Escuela de los Estados Unidos when they arrived here recently aboard the Fantasia del Mar for the annual Christmas Picnic.

The children were greeted by Rodman NS commanding officer Capt. Arthur Rowley III, executive officer Cmdr. Richard Smith and U.S. Ambassador to Panama Dean Hinton at Pier One North.

From there, the children were escorted by Army Capt. Linda Fischer, 92nd Military Police Battalion, and station volunteers to the Rodman Fitness Center for the festivities.

The children also saw a 25-foot patrol boat used for Riverine operations. The 92nd MP volunteers gave the children a complete camouflage makeover and put on a dog handlers demonstration.

Inter-American Naval Telecommunications Network volunteers provided *raspados* (snow cones).

After lunch, a bilingual Santa Claus arrived aboard a Panama Canal Commission fire truck and passed out gifts.

Housing office expands

FORT CLAYTON (USARSO PAO) - To increase the quality of life for its customers, the Furniture Management and Customer Service Offices has moved from Albrook Air Force Station to the Housing Division Office in Building 519 on Fort Clayton.

Servicemembers are now able to handle both housing and furnishing needs in one location during in and out-processing, said Dick Davis, Housing Division chief, Department of Engineering and Housing.

The move was made because transportation to Albrook AFS was difficult for newly arrived people and those leaving who shipped or sold their vehicles, he said.

Servicemembers living both on and off post may apply for 90-day furniture loans through the Customer Service Office upon arrival in Panama and within 90 days of departure, Davis said.

Air Force 1995 drawdown plans target early retirement, separation programs

by TSgt. Sarah Hood
Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON - Maximizing voluntary losses where it can afford to lose people is still the Air Force's priority as the fiscal 1995 drawdown game plan is implemented, said personnel officials here.

The Air Force must trim its ranks by an additional 2,300 officers and 17,000 enlisted members to help meet fiscal 1995 end strength requirements. The additional losses called for are above those that would normally be achieved through attrition.

The latest plan expands the eligibility criteria for the temporary early retirement, voluntary separation incentive and special separation benefit programs.

Officials said the Air Force will also hold officer selective early retirement boards and a possible first-ever senior NCO SERB, if needed, to help meet those requirements.

In addition to the SERBs, the Air Force will stop selective continuation of majors twice deferred for promotion. Instead, these officers will be offered early retirement in lieu of separation.

Officials expect to meet end-strength goals with a phased program beginning Feb. 1.

Should a second phase be necessary, the Air Force will further expand the VSI/SSB eligibility for officers and enlisted members.

Early retirement/VSI/SSB applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis starting Feb. 1 for separations and retirements to occur effective Oct. 1, 1994, through July 1, 1995.

The Air Force will determine if the program needs to be expanded into a second phase, based on the number of applications received.

Phase I eligibility criteria:

◆ Early retirement/VSI/SSB for senior master sergeants and below who will have 15 years of service by their requested retirement date (total active federal military service date of June 30, 1980, or earlier.) Some specialty code exemptions apply.

◆ VSI/SSB for staff sergeants and below with 10 years of service by their separation date (TAFMSD of June 30, 1985, or earlier). Some specialty code exemptions apply.

◆ Early retirement/VSI/SSB for eligible line majors and lieutenant colonels (including deferred majors and lieutenant colonels) with 15 years of service by their retirement date. Officers in selected weapons systems are ineligible.

◆ VSI/SSB for majors in the 1980 and 1981 year groups. Pilots and navigators with less than 15 years of service are ineligible.

◆ Early retirement/VSI/SSB for line non-deferred captains in the 1983-1987 year groups with 15 years of service by their retirement date. Pilots and navigators are not eligible.

◆ VSI/SSB for captains in the 1983-1985 year groups. Below-the-promotion zone officers, pilots and navigators, and deferred captains are still ineligible to apply. The 1982 year group is also excluded from participation. Cap-

tains in the 1983 year group must apply for separation or retirement no later than Aug. 19, 1994, with separation or retirement to occur between Oct. 1, 1994, and Nov. 21, 1994.

◆ Early retirement/VSI/SSB for deferred majors and lieutenant colonels in judge advocate general, chaplain, biomedical science corps, medical science corps and nurse corps. Only twice or more deferred chaplains are eligible. Nurse anesthetists are ineligible.

◆ Line and non-line deferred captains and all below-the-promotion zone officers are ineligible for early retirement/VSI/SSB.

Approximately 400 military members here are eligible under the new guidelines, according to TSgt. Art Clark of the Military Personnel Flight.

These people will receive notice soon and should contact their orderly room to start both separation and retirement actions.

People who feel they are eligible, but have not been contacted, should check with their orderly room as well, Clark said.

The Air Force must trim its ranks by an additional 2,300 officers and 17,000 enlisted members to meet fiscal 1995 end strength requirements.



U.S. Army photo by Spec. Alexander C. White

Spec. Kerl Parris, 511th Military Police Company, Fort Drum, N.Y., takes part in riot control training at Fort Clayton.

Southern Exposure

Fort Drum military police enjoy sunny welcome

by Spec. Alexander C. White
USARSO Public Affairs Office

FORT CLAYTON - The 511th Military Police Company experienced a dramatic change in climate when they deployed from Fort Drum, N.Y., to Panama recently to augment the 92nd Military Police Battalion in law enforcement.

When the 511th MP Co. left upstate New York Jan. 3, snow had piled up and temperatures had reached record lows of 21 degrees below zero, said 1st Sgt. William Fassinger, 511th MP Co.

"By the time we got here, (to Panama) we had gone through a 110 degrees in a day," he said.

"The Christmas holidays were nasty. When we got down here we heard that they (Fort Drum) had been blasted with a snow storm that had left six to eight inches to be followed with 16 more inches."

One hundred thirty-three soldiers deployed here to complete a four-month mission.

Besides performing its main objective of law enforcement, the 511th MPs

are also responsible for the quick reaction force.

"We are looking to reduce, if not eliminate, crime in our area of operation," Fassinger said.

"The 511th is no stranger to the Panamanian environment. This should help the soldiers perform their jobs easier."

The unit has pulled at least four tours here.

Besides duty in Central America, the company spent last Christmas and New Years in Somalia where it provided escorts for food convoys and helped with the break up of Somali thugs known as technicals and confiscated weapons.

"While we were in Somalia, our mission was strictly combat-oriented," Fassinger said. "Here, we are pulling more of a peacetime mission."

"I think we are the only MOS (military occupational specialty) with a defined wartime and peacetime mission."

He explained that the mission in Somalia and now the time spent here has given the unit the opportunity to perform all aspects of their job.

Howard security police host weekend 'bike rodeo'

by SSgt. Rian Clawson
24th Wing Public Affairs

HOWARD AFB - More than 30 youths saddled up for the competitive speed slalom competition at 24th Security Police Squadron's bike rodeo here Saturday.

Having the fastest times in several age categories earned some of the young bikers Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift certificates and free movie and bowling coupons, or McGruff the Crime Dog frisbees, hats, key chains and pencils sporting the slogan, "take a bite out of crime."

SPS officials processed 25 new registrations during the most recent rodeo, compared to 65 during the last one. The program averaged 100 registrations per event. Since the 24th SPS began keeping track of the numbers in 1990, it has registered 1,432 bicycles for military, DoD and family members.

"Last year there were 104 bicycles stolen from military members living on Howard or Albrook or from their family members," said Sgt. Jacqueline White, 24th Security Police Squadron crime prevention monitor. "Of that number, less than half were registered on base and of those we've recovered 13."

There have been occasions when the Panamanian National Police have recovered bicycles and notified 24th SPS officials, but the bikes could not be released because they had no registration stickers or other permanent identifying marks on them.

"If thieves have enough time they can scrape off stickers, file off identifying numbers, repaint the bike and even trade out parts from other stolen bikes," White explained. "In order to do this, though, the thief must get the bike off base. Having the bikes registered helps keep them from ever leaving the base. If the security police at the gate see a non-base resident try to leave the base with a registered bike, they can and will stop them."



U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt. Rian Clawson

SSgt. Delbert Champ, 24th Security Police Squadron, tests the chain on a bicycle during the bicycle rodeo at Howard AFB Saturday.

"People usually lose their bikes in one of two ways," the security specialist said. "They either leave them either totally unsecured or they secure them inadequately where they are easily seen (like in a carport.)"

"When that happens, a lot of opportunity can just walk by, see the bike and take it," she added.

"In these situations, having the bikes registered and engraved with your name,

social security number or other identifying marks will help in their recovery."

"The best way to ensure your bike will still be yours in the morning is to take it indoors and secure it inside a secure area if possible," White said.

For more information about the bike registration program or any other aspect of crime prevention, call the security police at 284-4755.

Bike safety tips

FORT CLAYTON (USARSO PAO) - With the new year, beginning and experienced bicyclists need to review the rules of the road and learn a few safety tips to help get where they're going safely, said Don Patterson, U.S. Army Garrison Safety Office specialist.

"Riding through Fort Clayton this past weekend, you couldn't help but notice all the new bicycles and probably new bike riders as well," he said. Some of the rules of the road are:

- ◆ When riding, keep to the right.
- ◆ Obey all traffic rules, lights, stop signs, and no U-turn signs.
- ◆ Use appropriate hand signals.
- ◆ Always ride single — an extra person makes it harder to balance.
- ◆ Avoid crowded and high-speed roads and use paths when available.
- ◆ Never hitch a ride with a truck, car or motorcycle.
- ◆ Look out for pedestrians because they have the right-of-way, especially at crosswalks.
- ◆ Keep hands on the handlebars, except to signal.
- ◆ Travel single file when in a group and don't pass unless it's safe.
- ◆ Walk your bike across curbs and busy intersections if necessary.
- ◆ Drive in a straight line. Cutting in and out of traffic is dangerous.
- ◆ Always wear a bicycle helmet and light-colored clothing.
- ◆ Use lights, reflectors and a bicycle flag.
- ◆ Riding during daylight hours is safer.



AP LaserPhoto

U.S. soldiers stand outside the gate of the Papal Nuncio where former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega sought refuge during the 1989 invasion. A federal drug agent who arrested Noriega in 1989 pleaded guilty to trying to pocket \$700,000 from money launderers.

U.S. drug agent pleads guilty in laundering case

MIAMI (Reuters) - A federal drug agent who arrested Panamanian dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega pleaded guilty to trying to pocket \$700,000 that money launderers gave him during an undercover investigation.

Drug Enforcement Administration agent Rene De la Cova, an 11-year veteran of the agency, was one of the U.S. agents who arrested Noriega and escorted him to the United States four years ago after the U.S. invasion of Panama. Noriega was later tried and convicted on federal drug charges and is serving a 40-year prison term.

Federal prosecutors said De la Cova pleaded guilty to charges of stealing \$700,000 that money launderers handed him last July while he was posing as a launderer.

They said he obeyed procedures and handed to his superiors money the launderers gave him on three other occasions. But on July 17, 1993, he met secretly with the launderers and kept the cash.

De la Cova, who worked for the DEA in Florida, Panama and Colombia, will be sentenced in March. Prosecutors are seeking a two-year sentence with no parole.

Under a plea bargain, he also has to pay back the money to the government.

Mexican envoy, church leaders negotiating to end rebel uprising

MEXICO CITY (AP) - A government envoy met with church leaders in his first attempts to negotiate an end to a rebel uprising in southern Mexico. Soldiers, meanwhile, advanced on the insurgent's positions near the Guatemalan border.

In the poor southern state of Chiapas, troops were reportedly moving toward Guadalupe Tepeyac, a small town just north of the border where up to 500 rebels are entrenched.

Journalists who traveled Tuesday from the towns of Nuevo Momom to Las Margaritas, both in Chiapas, said the army was advancing in that border region. Refugees bucked the tide of incoming troops, trying to escape a possible clash.

The rebels of the Zapatista National Liberation Army said they would negotiate with the government if the military stopped bombing, withdrew its soldiers and recognized their movement.

Otherwise, they threatened to carry the war to Mexico City, where bombings linked to the uprising that began New Year's Day have put the government on alert and residents on edge.

The uprising began in Chiapas, 390 miles southeast of the capital. Rebels occupied towns for days, saying they were fighting for better living conditions and an end to the exploitation of Mexico's native Indians.

They pulled back into hideouts in remote areas when the army started to move in. Officials said 107 people have died in the fighting.

In the capital, newly appointed peace commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis met with Roman Catholic leaders from southern Mexico, including Bishop Samuel Ruiz of San Cristobal de las Casas, an outspoken defender of indigenous rights.

"It's necessary to rebuild the political process in the region," said Camacho, who stepped down as foreign minister to take the job. "We'll have to find a dignified political exit for all."

The soft-spoken Camacho gained a reputation as a savvy negotiator while mayor of Mexico City. He is seen as a progressive within the Institutional Revolutionary

Party, which has ruled Mexico since 1929 through a blend of populism, repression and election fraud.

Camacho said his first goal was to establish "a truce and then seek a dialogue that will bring peace and reconciliation." He told a news conference Tuesday that he would travel to Chiapas "soon."

The rebellion is already adding to the pain of the people whose poverty and hardship it is intended to solve, although the rebels enjoy support.

The rebels have blocked the narrow dirt roads to its strongholds with ditches and fallen trees. The army, too, is setting up roadblocks to help chase down the insurgents.

That means poor Mexican farmers in the region cannot sell what little they raise or buy what little they can afford.

"What are we going to do? When our corn is gone, we won't have anything to live on," said Jose Antonio Perez, standing before the concrete water trough in Cruz del Rosario, where men washed coffee beans and women cleaned clothes.

The village of 400 Mayan Indians, enclosed in a steep jungle valley, is already suffering from low coffee prices, bad roads and a lack of running water. That poverty creates sympathy for the rebels based a few miles away, despite the hardship caused by the conflict.

The rebels "are fighting for the same causes, for our people," said Gerardo Jimenez, standing nearby.

A rebel captain up the road gave a more ideological defense.

"The enemy is the state, the oligarchy, monopolies," said the rebel who called himself Capt. Noe, a young farmer with two red stars on his brown shirt and an old AK-47 rifle in his hands.

The rich, he says, "have always raised their level, while the people are treated like garbage."

Except for sporadic skirmishes and the troop movements, the region has been quiet since the weekend. About 14,000 government soldiers are now stationed in the state, far outnumbering the estimated 1,000 to 2,000 rebels.

Prison director fired after bloody jail riot

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) - The national prison director was fired Tuesday, a week after 109 people died in the bloodiest jail riot in Venezuela's history.

Justice Minister Fermin Marmol Leon did not comment on why he dismissed Dora Bracho Barreto, 56, a former criminal lawyer who became director of the 32-prison system last year.

Bracho Barreto told The Associated Press by phone the minister was angry over comments she made while testifying before Congress earlier Tuesday about the riot at Maracaibo National Jail.

"He was displeased because I told the truth, that he wasn't informed about the Venezuelan penitentiary system," she said.

Authorities in Maracaibo, 440 miles west of Caracas, Venezuela, said the Jan. 3 riot was started by native Guajiro Indian inmates angered by inmates — white and black.

On Jan. 4, national guardsmen shot and killed 11 of 40 prisoners escaping through a tunnel from Aragua Penitentiary Center in Maracay, 60 miles west of the capital.

Demonstrators burn effigy of U.S. soldier

PANAMA CITY (Reuters) - About 400 Panamanians burned an effigy of a U.S. soldier and chanted anti-American slogans on the 30th anniversary Sunday of nationalist riots in which 22 Panamanians were killed and 500 injured.

Shouting "Panama Yes, Yankees No" and waving Panamanian flags, the protesters set fire to the life-sized doll in front of U.S. soldiers guarding the Quarry Heights military base, next to the Panama Canal.

They later staged a noisy rally at a shrine to the 22 students who, Panamanian historians say, were shot by U.S. security forces in the so-called flag riots of Jan. 9, 1964.

The riots, one of the worst flashpoints in Panama's often-tense relationship with the United States this century, started after U.S. residents of the Panama Canal zone prevented Panamanian students from hoisting their flag there.

There was no violence at Sunday's demonstration. U.S. officials estimated about 150 people demonstrated peacefully outside the Quarry Heights back gate Sunday.

Bomb explodes near opposition office

PANAMA CITY (Reuters) - A small bomb exploded Tuesday at an office of Panama's main opposition party, but there were no injuries and only minor damage, police and party officials said.

The homemade explosive was detonated in the early hours outside the empty Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD) office in the Juan Diaz district of Panama City, waking nearby residents and damaging a wall, PRD official Alberto Alvarado told Reuters.

The PRD, which was the political arm of former strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega's military regime, is currently leading polls ahead of May general elections here.

Police spokesman Marcos Fernandez said it was not known who placed the bomb and rejected rumours circulating in the capital of an imminent wave of political violence before the May 8 vote.

The election is intended to seal Panama's transition from dictatorship to democracy following the December 1989 U.S. invasion that ousted Noriega and brought the current government of President Guillermo Endara to power.

Colombian soldiers find 65 skeletons

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) - Soldiers found the bullet-riddled skeletons of 65 people in a cave in a jungled mountain region of Colombia, the army said Tuesday.

The bodies were buried at least two years ago, Gen. Alfonso Ortega said. His soldiers found them in separate graves Monday near Landazuri village, 105 miles north of Bogota.

Workers put the bones into plastic bags to be taken to a pathology lab, Deysi Agudelo, an official from nearby Cimitarra, told a local radio reporter. The region, home to rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, is one of the most dangerous in Colombia. The rebels conduct periodic purges of suspected traitors and informants in their ranks.

Drug traffickers and right-wing death squads also operate in the area.

Prisoner burned in Brazilian riot

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) - Inmates in an overcrowded prison rioted Monday and burned a fellow prisoner to death, accusing him of collaborating with authorities, officials said. At least 54 inmates were injured.

Riot police with batons and attack dogs quelled the uprising at the Cadeia Publica do Hipodromo prison in Sao Paulo's eastern outskirts.

"Some 20 men were injured due to police brutality and dog bites," said Antonio Pereira, the Sao Paulo deputy state secretary for penitentiary administration. The remaining 34 suffered minor injuries.

Aspin supports women-in-combat policy

WASHINGTON (AP) - Defense Secretary Les Aspin has approved a new version of a policy designed to help open more jobs for women in ground combat units, a Pentagon spokeswoman said Tuesday.

"We expect to be putting out the newly revised ... ground combat definition, probably later this week. Certainly before Secretary Aspin leaves office, but probably later this week," Pentagon spokeswoman Kathleen deLaski said at a Pentagon briefing.

The step would be Aspin's last during a year-long tenure that has been marked by his efforts to expand opportunities for women. Last April, he moved to help open combat aviation jobs and warship assignments to females.

The most lethal specialties and units in the Army and the Marine Corps that are used to search and destroy the enemy — such as infantry and armor units — will not be affected by Aspin's new announcement, deLaski said.

DeLaski declined to outline the exact changes Aspin is expected to announce. But deLaski said Aspin is supportive of the new version because it had removed certain "ambiguities" in a draft policy that he ordered reviewed last week.

Pentagon sources speaking on condition of anonymity said agreement has been reached with the services to more narrowly define the term "direct combat" in the new version.

A previous draft had cast the definition in terms that could have been used by the services to exclude women even from some job categories they now hold, as well as potentially keeping them from jobs Aspin had attempted to open to them, one Pentagon source said.

"That was just stopped cold," the source said.

But Aspin also has not been able to achieve everything he had hoped to, which



AP LaserPhoto

U.S. soldiers stand in an honor guard with a Saudi soldier in a ceremony in Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf War. Defense Secretary Les Aspin has approved a version of a new policy that would open up more jobs for women in ground combat units.

was to have had the services define exactly which jobs will be open to women, a second source said.

"He wanted to nail it down. He just didn't have the time," the source said.

DeLaski noted that the services will now have several months to study exactly which jobs will be affected by the new combat definition, something that will be

accomplished after Aspin leaves office.

"When you see this new definition, you won't be able to say for certain which kinds of billets (jobs) will be open in which areas. It's something that services will have to take and then interpret. And that is why we have to put this out," deLaski said.

But the change could open more slots

for women in areas that are considered on the fringes of direct combat, such as engineering jobs or air defense artillery units.

While women would not be in an engineering unit that bulldoze through front line berms and defensive trenches, it's possible they could serve in units used to clear mines in occupied areas or to prepare defensive positions in advance.



File photo

Last survivor of famous war photo dies at 70

ANTIGO, Wis. (AP) - John Bradley, the last survivor among the servicemen shown raising the U.S. flag on Iwo Jima in a famous World War II photograph, died Tuesday of a stroke. He was 70.

Bradley, who served in the Navy as a pharmacist mate second class, helped five Marines raise the flag on Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945. It was the first time an American flag had flown over Japanese territory.

Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal took the Pulitzer Prize-winning picture. It became the model for the Iwo Jima Memorial near Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Tailhook scandal

Navy flier can't avoid court martial

WASHINGTON (AP) - A Navy flier charged with indecent assault on a woman in the Tailhook scandal lost an attempt Tuesday to avoid court martial, although military judges found the Navy "careless and amateurish" in the case it brought against him.

"The assembly-line technique in this case that merged and blurred investigative and justice procedures is troublesome," said the U.S. Court of Military Appeals, the military's highest tribunal.

Still, the court ruled that Lt. David Samples has failed to establish that he was given full immunity for his actions at the rowdy 1991 aviators convention. Samples was granted a more limited "testimonial" immunity by Vice Adm. J. Paul Reason in a letter, which constituted a promise that he could not be prosecuted based on what he had told investigators.

Samples' court martial at the Norfolk, Va., naval base, the first stemming from the Tailhook convention, was stopped in October after the trial judge turned down the immunity claim and Samples filed his appeal.

The appeals court ruled that "as a matter of law, (Samples) is not entitled to invoke transactional immunity as a bar to his pending court-martial" and his own

testimony makes clear he full understood that the immunity grant was limited to use of his statements.

Samples' lawyer, Lt. David P. Sheldon, said he was debating whether to ask the court for reconsideration on grounds it applied an incorrect standards. He has 10 days to make the appeal.

Samples was on duty in Washington state and was not reached for comment.

The five-member appeals court was scathing in its assessment of how the Navy handled the case.

As Samples was passed from one level of investigation to another, no official was particularly concerned about his legal rights, the ruling said.

"At each point along this route, petitioner stood alone, without either his military or civilian defense counsel at his side," the court ruled. "Why defense counsel permitted such a situation is unexplained in the record."

At best, said the court "it reflects a most curiously careless and amateurish approach to a very high profile case by experienced military lawyers and investigators.

"At worst, it raises the possibility of a shadiness in respecting the rights of military members caught up in a criminal investigation that cannot be condoned."

Pregnant Somali killing raises questions

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) - Two days after U.S. Marines apparently killed a pregnant Somali with a .50-caliber rifle, a senior Pakistani peacekeeper questioned the use of heavy weaponry in a zone crowded with civilians.

Also Tuesday, the U.S. military command in Mogadishu completed its informal inquiry into the shooting and concluded the Marines were not negligent and did not exceed the U.N. rules for peacekeepers in Somalia.

Col. Tariq Salim Malik, who is Pakistan's longest-serving commander in Somalia, declined to comment di-

rectly on Sunday's shooting.

But he said Pakistani snipers use only smaller-caliber rifles in Mogadishu because of the danger that larger weapons present to any civilians close to the target.

"The problem is once you use a heavy-caliber weapon there's a possibility of the bullet going through and hitting someone else," Tariq said.

U.N. combat rules state that U.N. troops may fire at any Somali carrying a machine gun or other heavy weapon, but may only shoot someone carrying an assault rifle or other small arm if they feel directly threatened.

Flood ditch causes concern

Dear Mayors' Corner:

The entire time I have been in the military I have been preached to about safety and I believe in it to the maximum. I can't see how anyone who is suppose to believe in safety as much as those in the military do can overlook one of the biggest safety hazards on Fort Clayton.

The safety hazard I am talking about is the flood ditch that runs through the 600 housing area. This housing area has a vast amount of children living and playing in it, so why isn't there a fence along this ditch?

Every time it rains, this ditch floods with very deep and fast moving water. Let's not wait for an accident to happen with one of these children before doing something about this safety hazard. It's like they always say when an accident happens, it could have been prevented. So let's not wait until this can be said about this ditch.

I don't live on post, but this ditch scares me every time I cross the bridge that runs over it. I tell my wife that one day we will read in the newspaper about a child who was hurt in this ditch if there isn't a fence put up soon. Please check with your sources and find out what they say about this safety hazard.

A Concerned Citizen

Dear Concerned:

I submitted your letter to Richard Davis who is the chief of the Housing Division, Directorate of Engineering and Housing. He wants you to know that your concern about safety is also a concern of the command.

As you travel through the 600 housing area on Fort Clayton, you will find fencing separating the drainage ditches from the housing yards. Also, there is fencing by the foot bridge. It has been determined that along part of the stream away from the houses, fencing is not prudent.

Thank you for writing; it is always helpful to review safety concerns.

Dear Mayors' Corner:

I'm not the type of person who complains when the commissary runs out of cream cheese or if the Post Ex-

Mayors' Corner

change doesn't carry my favorite color of eye shadow. Something has happened recently that I feel I should complain about though.

I have been trying to buy an infant car seat from the furniture store on Albrook AFS for about one month. For a while they had car seats for small babies under 20 pounds, but now they don't even have those. They haven't had seats for toddlers for at least one month. Every time I check, they tell me to come back next week. There isn't one infant car seat for sale anywhere on post that I am aware of.

Infant car seats should be a priority. They are not only required by law, but are a necessity for the safety of babies and toddlers. I'm a little upset and I want a car seat.

Priority One

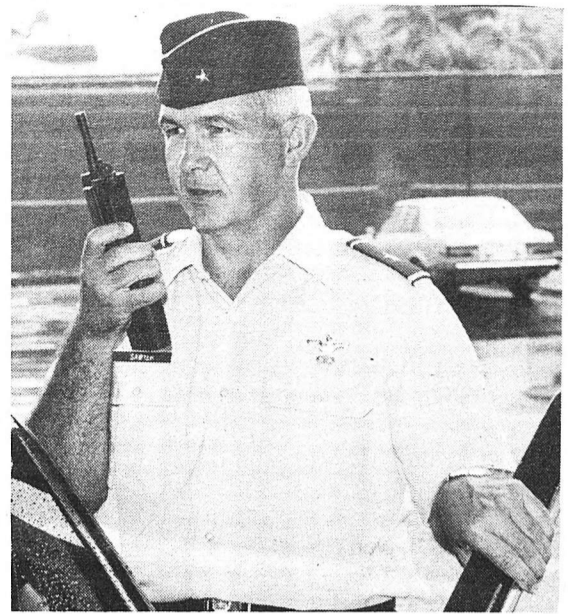
Dear Priority One:

I checked with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and found that the warehouse was out of stock on various styles of infant car seats for almost three weeks. During this time, this merchandise was being ordered consistently.

A shipment of containing all styles of car seats has arrived and is now being sold at the Main Exchange on Corozal. AAFES regrets the inconvenience this may have caused you and hopes that by now, you have been able to buy your car seat.

Editor's note: This column allows community members to submit questions to the Mayoral Congress. Letters should be mailed to: Mayors' Corner, Publicity Chairperson, APO AA 34004 (MPS). Anonymity will be granted upon request. The *Tropic Times* reserves the right to edit letters and responses for brevity, clarity and propriety.

Action Line



Brig. Gen. David A. Sawyer

Officials address janitor fees

The Action Line is a direct link between Brig. Gen. David A. Sawyer, 24th Wing Commander, and Howard AFB and Albrook AFS personnel.

If you have a question or problem that you can't solve through normal supervisory channels, call the Action Line at 284-5849. Callers should leave a name, telephone number and mailing address in case the question needs to be qualified. Names will be kept confidential and used only to provide callers with a response.

Q. We've heard from the housing office that they plan to increase the janitorial fees — dorm dues — at the unaccompanied senior NCO and officer's dormitories (Buildings 19 and 21 on Albrook.) I've talked with several other residents there and we all agreed that we're already paying plenty for the services we receive.

Is there any way to ensure we don't have to pay increased dues for someone to hose down sidewalks, replace a few light bulbs, and dump a small amount of trash?

A. Good news for the residents of Albrook's Buildings 19 and 21 — there will be no increase in janitorial fees for either building. Because you said your information came from the housing office, we also went back and provided them with the correct information.

Billiting operates the janitorial service on a non-profit basis and reviews the rate each year to ensure fairness. "Dorm dues" go toward paying the janitor's wages, as well as the employer's share of Panamanian social security taxes, sick and annual leave, and workman's compensation. This procedure is in accordance with Panamanian and U.S. code.

Gun-wielding robber nets \$450, more

Robbed at gunpoint

A soldier visiting Panama from Honduras was robbed at gunpoint while he sat in his rental car at El Dorado Mall at about 7 p.m. this weekend. The thief took \$450 in cash, credit cards and the rental vehicle. Though El Dorado Mall is usually not considered a high crime area to most people, military police advise those visiting the mall to use caution.

To help avoid becoming a victim of crime when shopping in the El Dorado Mall area, carry as little cash as possible, leave credit cards at home and take a bus or taxi instead of driving.

If a victim of crime, call 287-4401 or 289-5133.

Exceeding established limitations

Several arrests have been made recently for exceeding established limitations of controlled items. The U.S. Southern Command Contraband Control Section has reported that some of the more commonly abused items are beer, liquor and large appliances.

Each household is allowed 10 cases of beer and eight bottles of hard liquor each month. Large appliances such as refrigerators, stoves and microwave ovens are restricted to one of each item per 36 months.

For more information, see U.S. Southern Command Regulation 1-19 or call 286-3303 or 289-3701.

Secure bikes inside

Many bikes have been stolen from housing areas recently. Most of the stolen bikes were left outside either chained to a fixed object or left unsecured. MPs report that chaining bikes doesn't always keep thieves away.

PM Corner

Bike owners are encouraged to secure their property inside at night to avoid becoming a victim of crime.

Report suspicious activities to the MPs at 287-4401 or 289-5133.

Unauthorized telephone calls

A person placed more than \$700 in unauthorized long distance telephone calls using a soldier's calling card number. Make sure telephone and credit cards are kept safe at all times and report the loss of these items immediately. Thieves can charge large sums of money to these accounts very quickly.

Devil's Beach

Three people had more than \$500 worth of unsecured personal property stolen while on Devil's Beach last weekend. This is considered a high crime area. If a victim of crime, call 287-4401 or 289-5133.

The following crimes occurred in on-post housing areas Dec. 31-Jan. 6.

Pacific

- Fort Clayton 300 housing area - one larceny of secured private property
- Fort Clayton 800 housing area - one larceny of unsecured private property
- Fort Clayton 1100 housing area - two larcenies of secured private property
- Cocoli housing area - four larcenies of secured private property

This authorized unofficial command information publication is for U.S. armed forces overseas. The *Tropic Times* is published in conjunction with the Armed Forces Information Program of the Department of Defense, under the supervision of the director of public affairs, U.S. Southern Command.

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Martin Luther King's dream still rings true today

by **Janine Crowder**
USSOUTHCOM Public Affairs

The stories that my grandmother used to tell me were so vivid to my young mind, yearning for knowledge, it would almost feel like I was there with her. Some of the most stirring were the ones about the writings and speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

One of those stories was about Martin when he was in a Birmingham jail for orchestrating sit ins at restaurants and not complying with the Laws of Jim Crow. He wrote, "We have waited for more than 340 years for our constitutional and God-given rights...but we still creep at horse-and-buggy pace toward gaining a cup of coffee at a lunch counter. Perhaps it is easy for those who have never felt the stinging darts of segregation to say, 'wait', but when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mothers and fathers at will and drown your sisters and brothers at whim; when you have seen hate-filled policemen curse, kick, brutalize and even kill your black brothers and sisters with impunity; when you see the vast majority of your twenty million Negro brothers smothering in an air-tight cage of poverty in the midst of an affluent society; when you suddenly find your tongue twisted and your speech stammering as you seek to explain to your six-year-old daughter why she can't go to the public amusement park that has just been advertised on television, and see tears welling in her little eyes when she is told that Funtown is closed to colored children, and see the depressing clouds of inferiority begin to form in her little mental sky, and see her begin to distort her little personality by unconsciously developing a bitterness toward white people; when you have to concoct an answer for a five-year-old son asking in agonizing pathos: 'Daddy, why do white people treat colored people so mean?'; when you take a cross-country drive and find it necessary to

sleep night after night in the uncomfortable corners of your automobile because no motel will accept you; when you are humiliated day in and day out by nagging signs reading "white" and "colored"; when your first name becomes "nigger" and your middle name becomes "boy" (however old you are) and your last name becomes "John," and when your wife and mother are never given the respected title "Mrs.," when you are harried by day and haunted by night by the fact that you are a Negro, living constantly at a tip-toe stance, never quite knowing what to expect next, and plagued with inner fears and outer resentments; when you are forever fighting a degenerating sense of 'nobodiness'; then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait."

Grandma said when they went to church that Sunday, the preacher said, "Dr. King is a great man, he stands up for our people. We all must lift our voices and stand proud."

At the time Grandma was a domestic worker for a very prominent woman in Little Rock, Ark. She explained that she didn't want to continue working for her, but she was trying to raise a daughter on her own. She would cry at night wondering how she could help.

Later on in the years to come she told me about the speech Martin gave to a congregation that lifted the hopes of all concerned. The speech was his very famous "I Have A Dream." Many of the words still ring true today.

"...I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

"I have a dream one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal.'

"I have a dream that one day, on the red hills of Georgia, sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together

at the table of brotherhood.

"I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

"I have a dream today.

"I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racist, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of innerposition and nullification, one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers.

"I have a dream today.

"I have a dream that one day "every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the tough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

"This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out the mountain of despair and a trace of hope.

With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day...

"Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside let freedom ring.

"And when this happens, and when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white

men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of that old Negro spiritual, 'Free at Last! Free at last!'

"Thank God almighty, we are free at last!"

Grandma said when she heard the speech, she knew there was hope for everyone.

One of the last things she told me about Martin, was in the last days of his life, before the fatal shot rang out, she said he had a premonition of his death, when he wrote the speech "I've been to the Mountain Top."

His voice filled with sadness, he began by saying, "Ralph Abernathy is my best friend."

Later in the speech he said, "Now, it doesn't matter, it really doesn't matter what happens now." He described the bomb threats, about what would happen to him "...from some of our sick white brothers. Well," he said, "I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountain top. Like anybody I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land.

"And I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land. So I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord. I have a dream this afternoon that the brotherhood of man will become a reality. With this faith, I will go out and carve a tunnel of hope from a mountain of despair. With faith we will be able to achieve this new day..."

For an innocent man gunned down in his prime, the name Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. still holds a lot of weight in my life and the lives of many other people.

Direct Quotes

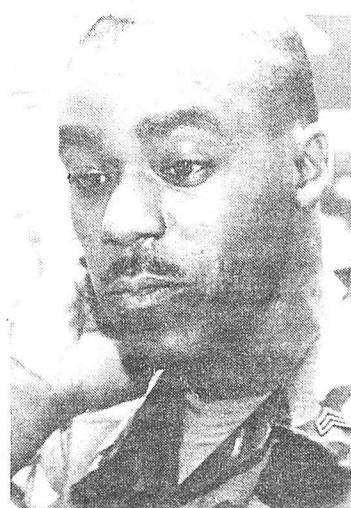
If Martin Luther King Jr. was alive today what would he fight for?



"Against prejudice."



"(Against) Fighting between white and black people — it's still around."



"He would fight for blacks to stick together."



"I guess he would fight for all people to be equal — the same as the '60s."



"More for civil rights than anything else."

SrA. Beth Yaskub
24th Operational Support Squadron

Ricardo Torres
Department of Defense civilian

Sgt. Eric Jackson
167th Combat Support Command (Forward)

Stacie Cumberbatch
Navy family member

SSgt. Jose Concepcion
Company A, 154th Signal Battalion

The opinions expressed on this page are those of the commentary writers and Direct Quotes respondents only. They do not reflect the views of U.S. Southern Command, the Department of Defense or the U.S. government. Readers may submit commentaries — or responses to commentaries — to the *Tropic Times*. The staff reserves the right to edit for brevity, clarity and appropriateness. All submissions must be signed, but names will be withheld upon request.

Local talent applauded

Theaters and Valent awarded for excellence

by Maureen Sampson
Tropic Times staff

FORT CLAYTON - For the fifth year in a row, local performers were recognized as the best in the Army during the 1993 Forces Command Festival of the Performing Arts and Recreation Center Competition.

United States Army South garnered 19 awards for entries by Valent Recreation Center, Pacific Theatre Arts Centre and Music and Theater-Atlantic.

The annual competition judges 21 Army installations that compete in several categories in recreation center programming and the performing arts, according to Jerry Brees, USARSO Chief of Entertainment.

Experts in music, theater and recreation visit each installation and judge the recreation center and music and theater programs, Brees said. This year's judges were Mary Alice Hodges and Philip Wayne, both former Army Entertainment and Recreation directors with years of experience in the performing arts and recreation.

The judges rate the productions on originality, quality of acting, musical talent, direction, lighting, sets, creativity and choreography. Individual cast members are evaluated on talent, stage presence, singing/dancing/acting ability, appearance, stage movement and enthusiasm, Brees said.

The Pacific Theatre Arts Centre's performance of the musical "Pippin" won 15 awards. Music and Theater-Atlantic's production of "The Sound of Music" won three awards.

Of the awards given, USARSO received four in the top category "Best of Festival":

◆*Top Recreation Center Programming*-Valent Recreation Center for the cultural program "Panama at a Glance."

◆*Best Musical Direction*-Melanie Bales, "Pippin"

◆*Best Choreography*-Barbra Berger, "Pippin"

◆*Best Costume Design*-Barbra Berger, "Pippin"

In the "Award of Excellence" category winners were:

◆*Publicity and Promotion*-Pacific Theatre Arts Centre, "Pippin"

◆*Installation Award*-Pacific Theatre Arts Centre, "Pippin"

◆*Best Musical Production*-"Pippin"

◆*Best Direction of a Musical*-JoAnne Mitchell and Jerry Brees, "Pippin"

◆*Best Set Design*-Jerry Brees, "Pippin"

◆*Best Lighting*-Jerry Brees, "Pippin"

◆*Best Leading Actress in a Musical*-Heather Anderson as Catherine in "Pippin"

◆*Best Supporting Actress in a Musical*-JoAnne Mitchell as Berthe in "Pippin"

◆*Best Leading Actor in a Musical*-Robert Luttrell as Pippin in "Pippin"

"Honorable Mentions" were awarded to:

◆*Best Leading Actor in a Musical*-Fred Bales as the Leading Player in "Pippin"

◆*Best Supporting Actress in a Musical*-Adrienne Miller as Fastrada in "Pippin"

◆*Best Lighting Design*-Steve Parker and Lee Thompson, "The Sound of Music"

A "Special Citation" was awarded for the Ensemble Vocal Opening category to the cast of nuns in "The Sound of Music."

Brees attributes the success of the USARSO theater programs to the abundance of local talent.

"It's unusual being in a foreign country and having such a melting pot of talent," Brees said. "It's amazing that such a diverse group of people can come together in Central America with this type of experience—from singing, dancing and acting to set design."

The winners will receive plaques and certificates as well as command recognition at an awards ceremony 4:30 p.m. Jan. 26 at Valent Recreation Center. Maj. Gen. G. A. Crocker will present the awards. A social hour with refreshments will follow the ceremony. The event is free and open to the public.

The local theaters are already planning their 1994 competition entries. Music and Theater-Atlantic will perform the musical "Annie." Auditions for the show will be held at the Fort Davis Elementary School in late February. Pacific Theatre Arts Centre will perform the comedy "Opera Comique." Auditions will be held 7:30 p.m. March 15 and 16 at the theater in Curundu. Both shows will be performed for the public in May.



Department of Defense photo by Maureen Sampson

Ken Millard and Robert Luttrell perform a scene from "Pippin," a show that received 15 awards in the 1993 Forces Command Festival of the Performing Arts and Recreation Center Programming Competition.



U.S. Army photo by SSgt. Philip D. Clark

Cast members perform a musical number from "The Sound of Music."

Clayton Hospital advanced medicine

by Dolores De Mena
USARSO Historian

FORT CLAYTON - Until the Clayton Hospital was constructed during World War II, hospital requirements of the armed forces were met by using the Panama Canal Company-operated Margarita Hospital on the Atlantic side and Gorgas Hospital on the Pacific side.

The Fort Clayton Hospital represented a significant stage in the advancement of military medicine in the Panama Canal Zone. It also represented a significant stage in the separation of military and civilian hospitalization services, centralized during canal construction days and until World War II as a responsibility of the Canal Zone government. Until its construction, military personnel were forced to rely upon civil authorities for hospital space and treatment.

Army officers were satisfied with this arrangement during canal construction and early post-construction days. However, dissatisfaction rose with a situation under which a major Army command was dependent upon civilian facilities for medical and surgical service. Intermittent informal discussions of Army hospital requirements differing from those of the canal had been taking place since 1922. The hospitalization of military personnel was not free. The cost of maintaining soldiers in civilian hospitals was charged to the Army. By 1939 the cost to treat personnel at Gorgas had risen to \$233,391.

A significant factor in the support of the Army's desire to have its own hospi-



Photo courtesy of the USARSO History Office

The Fort Clayton Hospital officially opened Sept. 6, 1943 with a staff of 31 officers, 55 nurses, one warrant officer and 278 enlisted men.

tals was a strongly felt understanding that the Canal Zone hospital system could not fill the requirements of both civil and military establishments under the pre-World War II troop augmentation program.

In 1939, the United States Congress approved appropriations to finance construction in support of canal defenses, to include the construction of three hospitals: a 528-bed hospital in the Curundu area (Fort Clayton), a 401-bed hospital at Fort Gulick (now Espinar) and a 60-bed hospital on the west bank of the Pacific at Bruja Point (Fort Kobbe).

The order to go ahead with construction of the Army hospitals was issued three

years before the United States entered into war. More than a year elapsed between authorization and action, mainly because of requests for increased bed capacity.

The hospitals were located on hills where they would have free circulation of air from all directions. (They didn't have air-conditioning). The Fort Clayton Hospital opened in 1943 with a normal capacity of 700 beds, 100 emergency beds and a potential expansion of an 200 more beds.

The peak year for Canal Zone military hospitals was 1944, both in number of patients and size of staffs. After the defeat of Germany, soldiers were redeployed from Europe to the Pacific.

Army hospitals in the Canal Zone admitted several hundred patients for treatment taken off Army transports transiting the Panama Canal enroute to the Pacific theater of war.

The rapid demobilization of the Army in late 1945 and early 1946 drastically reduced the military hospital census. In early 1946, Fort Clayton Hospital was operating at a 25-bed capacity and Fort Gulick at 15 beds.

The Fort Clayton Hospital (Building 519) is now reduced to a clinic and office building and Gorgas Hospital became an Army-run establishment on Treaty Day, Oct. 1, 1979.

Mobile Force soldiers celebrate Panama Day

FORT CLAYTON - The following are significant World War II events that took place in January 1944:

Jan. 2

The 126th Infantry and elements of the 32nd Infantry Division make a successful amphibious landing at Saidor, New Guinea.

Jan. 5

Three Panama Canal Department captains are promoted to the rank of major. The officers are: Charles W. Anthony, stationed at Quarry Heights, Alfred L. Harrington, stationed at Corozal and Frederick W. Walsmith, previously stationed at Fort Clayton and now at Quarry Heights.

A group of Brazilian airmen, bound for active duty on the European fighting front arrive at Orlando, Fla., for final training with the U.S. Army.

Jan. 6

President Franklin D. Roosevelt tells Congress that the United States has contributed \$18,608,000,000 to the Allies through Lend-Lease programs.

Jan. 10

The Caribbean Defense Command announces the promotion of five captains of the Sixth Air Force Fighter Command to major. They are: Max Weiner, Edgar M. Ewing, Walter A. Hammann, Jr., Jim C. Lagos, and William P. Maynard.

Jan. 12

U.S. Army authorities announce that two infantry soldiers (Jesus Rivera and Enrique Calderon-Franquis of Puerto Rico) stationed at Corozal died as a result of gunshot wounds during a quarrel in the vicinity of Camp Paraiso.

Jan. 14

Panama Canal Department, Headquarters Quarry

Heights announces the promotion of 41 captains and lieutenants.

Jan. 16

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower assumes duties as Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force.

Jan. 17

Former newspaper staffer, Col. Charles D. Carle, succeeds Col. Thos B. Woodburn, as Adjutant General of the Caribbean Defense Command. Carle served duty with the 33rd Infantry at Fort Clayton between 1931 and 1934.

Jan. 20

The War Department announces that total Army casualties in the war to date are 106,320. Of that number 17,018 are killed, 39,658 wounded, 24,229 missing and 25,415 taken prisoner.

Jan. 22

The Allies achieve complete surprise in an amphibious assault along the beaches near Anzio, Italy, in a move to outflank the German defensive positions across central Italy.

Jan. 25

Mobile Force headquarters announces that Panamanian President Adolfo de la Guardia will review seven provisional battalions of Mobile Force troops at a special ceremony as the climax of "Panama Day." The review, the largest of its kind held on the isthmus in the last few months, will be held on the morrow at Miller Field (now Jarman Field), Fort Clayton.

Jan. 26

"Panama Day" — the most elaborate Army program ever put on locally for a civilian audience — was celebrated by soldiers of the Mobile Force. The Presidential party was greeted at Albrook Field and flown

across the isthmus aboard two Sixth Air Force transport planes. De la Guardia and his party are the first administrative officials of any Latin American government to view jungle training demonstrations. Back on the Pacific side the party observed various displays of all types of infantry and artillery weapons at a range, presided a review and attended a reception at the Fort Clayton Officers' Club.

Jan. 29

The Coast Artillery Command announces the advancement in grade of three sergeants, one staff sergeant, and 10 new enlisted to noncommissioned grades.

Jan. 30

Panama Canal Company Governor Maj. Gen. Glen E. Edgerton, President of the Canal Zone Chapter of the American Red Cross, presents service ribbon bar awards to volunteer workers.

Jan. 31

U.S. forces land on Carter, Cecil, Carlson and Carlos Islands in the Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands, (secured Feb. 7).

Because of the decreasing civilian population, plans are under way to close Canal Zone commissaries at noon.

The road from Tivoli Crossing in Ancon to Corozo Street in Balboa is completed and designated Roosevelt Avenue.

The Air Terminal building at Albrook Field is completed. The new terminal is one of the first air conditioned buildings on the isthmus.

The Canal Zone starts a campaign to raise \$2,000,000 as part of the Fourth War Bond Loan.

Editor's note: This time line was compiled by Dolores De Mena, USARSO historian, in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of WWII.

Promotions

To Chief Warrant Officer Two - Rafael Colon of 310th Military Intelligence Battalion.

To Sergeant First Class - Rhett Neilson, Dean Iavocone and Anthony Scott, all of 310th Military Intelligence Battalion. Matthew Malanowski of Company D, Military Intelligence Battalion (Light).

To Staff Sergeant - Jason Dore and Gary Goldsberry, both of 308th Military Intelligence Battalion. Orlando Baez of 310th Military Intelligence Battalion. Richard Johnson, Jose Gonzales, William Palenik, Jude Rabago and Preston Scull, all of Company D, Military Intelligence Battalion (Light).

To Sergeant - Adrienne Johnson of Company B, 193rd Support Battalion. Lancelot Ottley of 3rd Special Operations Support Command (Airborne). John Pool of 308th Military Intelligence Battalion. Kenneth Lanoue of 408th Military Intelligence Company. Jeffrey Milos of 310th Military Intelligence Battalion. Travis Bridges of 747th Military Intelligence Battalion.

To Corporal - Demetrius Robinson of 308th Military Intelligence Battalion.

To Specialist - Tara Nix, Kenneth Holcomb and Sara Rosenfield, all of 308th Military Intelligence Battalion. Mykal Duffy of 408th Military Intelligence Company. Dexter Washer and Melvin Coates, both of 310th Military Intelligence Battalion. Stephen Barrieault and Joseph Moroschak, both of Company D, Military Intelligence Battalion (Light).

Military awards

Meritorious Service Medal - Lt. Col. Nancy Woolnough of U.S. Army Medical Activity - Panama. Capt. Phillip Miller of Headquarters Company, 470th Military Intelligence Brigade. Capt. Janice Stone and CWO2 Linda Davies, SSgt. Lorenzo Albino, all of 747th Military Intelligence Battalion. CWO 4 James Chalk and SSgt. William Santiago, both of Company D, Military Intelligence Battalion (Light).

Army Commendation Medal - 1st Lt. William Wolf and Spec. Manuel Lopez, both of Headquarters Detachment, 470th Military Intelligence Brigade. SSgt. James Dolen, SSgt. Jeffrey Neal and Spec. David Eastman, all of 747th Military Intelligence Battalion. SSgt. Brian Miers of 408th Military Intelligence Company. Sgt. David Fritts and Spec. Daniel Kemp, both of Company D, Military Intelligence Battalion (Light). Sgt. Arthur Hare, Sgt. Mark Ness, Sgt. Lyman Ross and Spec. Shae Rook, all of 310th Military Intelligence Battalion.

Army Achievement Medal - SSgt. Enrique Gordon, Sgt. Reginald Johnson, Sgt. Cheryl Lyles and Sgt. Rodney Mayo, all of Headquarters Company, 193rd Support Battalion. PFC Robert Schonfelder of Company B, 193rd Support Battalion. Capt. Lynne Roy of U.S. Army Medical Activity - Panama. SSgt. Kevin Hanson of Headquarters Detachment, 470th Military Intelligence Brigade. CWO2 Jerry Hoffman, SSgt. Michael Hessler, SSgt. Stephen Kleppe and SSgt. Jose Mendez, all of 310th Military Intelligence Battalion. Spec. Mykal Duffy and Spec. Anthony Giambruno, both of 408th Military Intelligence Company.

Certificate of Achievement - 1st Lt. Karl Konzelman of Headquarters Company, 193rd Support Battalion. SSgt. Mervin Jones, Sgt. Lee King, Spec. Josh Spencer, PFC Carl Emerson and PFC Wade Morgan, all of Company A, 193rd Support Battalion. SSgt. James Barthelemy, Sgt. Donald McQueen, Spec. Eddy Gillespie, Spec. Thomas Moore and Spec. Mark Utrata, all of Company B, 193rd Support Battalion. Spec. David Eastman of 747th Military Intelligence Battalion. Spec. Jeffery Powers, Spec. Angel Newhart and Spec. Sonya Sheffler, all of Headquarters Detachment, Military Intelligence Battalion (Light).



U.S. Army photo by SSgt. Jane Usero

Top NCO

Sgt. Alex Richardson was selected as the Noncommissioned Officer of the Month for the 193rd Support Battalion for December.

Graduations

First Sergeant Course - SFC Beatrice Perkins of 308th Military Intelligence Battalion.

Advance Noncommissioned Officers Course - SSgt. Ernest Lott of 308th Military Intelligence Battalion. SFC Chester Brown of 310th Military Intelligence Battalion.

Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course - SSgt. Jason Dore and Sgt. Scott Finley, both of 308th Military Intelligence Battalion. SSgt. Orlando Baez of 310th Military Intelligence Battalion.

Spanish Immersion - SSgt. David Lenning of 310th Military Intelligence Battalion.

Florida State University - SFC Craig Linghor and SSgt. Francis Hernandez, both of 310th Military Intelligence Battalion.

Special events

Headquarters Company, U.S. Army South, earned the Commanding General's Physical Training Streamer last month with an average score of 260.69. Scoring the maximum PT score of 300 points were Maj. Gen. George Crocker, Col. David Goodwillie, Col. Donald Holzwarth, Lt. Col. Howard Humble, Lt. Col. Donald Evans, Maj. Vern Abdoo, Maj. Dennis Harms, Maj. Carlos Vega, 2nd Lt. Matthew Ingram, SFC Pablo Miranda and SSgt. Fernando Vasquez.

Military Intelligence Battalion (Light) Vigilant Hunter Award - Sgt. David Boyd of Company D, Military In-

telligence Battalion (Light).

Sgt. Alex Richardson of Headquarters Company, 193rd Support Battalion, was selected Noncommissioned Officer of the Month and Spec. Michael Brazeel of 1097th Transportation Company, 193rd Support Battalion, was selected Soldier of the Month for the battalion.

Civilian awards

Years of Service - 30 years: Edward Jones of U.S. Army Medical Activity - Panama. 25 years: Norma Cohen of U.S. Army Medical Activity - Panama. 20 years: Hildebrando Luna, Ninfa Muir and Dalys Wong, all of U.S. Army Medical Activity - Panama. 10 years: Peregrina Gonzalez and Felipe Nino, both U.S. Army Medical Activity - Panama. 5 years: Marga Rodriguez and Nike Nightingale, both of U.S. Army Medical Activity - Panama.

Sustained Superior Performance Award - Sonia Britton, Dalcy Cubilla, Shiela Duarte, Alexander Egudin, Gloria Foster, Ana Gonzalez, Manuel Guerra, Elisa Icaza, Marie Melara, Cecilia Negron, Yolanda Parfait, Jorge Rivera, Ruth Testa, Dolores Urena and Patricia Walters, all of MEDDAC - Panama.

Promotion - Dalvis Urriola, Arnulfo Davidson, Ebba Rossan and Ines Delgado, all of U.S. Army Medical Activity - Panama.

Retired - Juan Michineau of U.S. Army Medical Activity - Panama.

Quality Step Increase - Sue Crespo, Vicente Sanger, Lilibeth Langoni and Cecilia Song, all of U.S. Army Medical Activity - Panama.



Atlantic MPs win tourney

FORT DAVIS (USARSO PAO Atlantic) - The 549th Military Police Company fired its way to the top spot in company-level basketball play here Sunday.

After downing the 69th Signal Company 61-51, the Atlantic community's 549th MP Company stood as the company level champions in U.S. Army South.

The MPs were confident going into the first game against Fort Clayton's 69th Signal Co. They lost, but it couldn't sway that confidence.

"I wasn't worried going into the second game, because I knew we hadn't played the first one the way we should have," said Aubey A. Taylor, point guard for the 549th MP Co. "We knew what we had to do to win the second game."

The 69th Signal Co. is only the second team to defeat the 549th MP Co.

"We had played them in the playoffs and thought we knew what to expect," Taylor said.

"But in the first game Sunday, we played a whole different team. They hit us with things they didn't seem to have before," Taylor said.

But in the last half of the second game, it was energy and will power that steered the championship toward the 549th.

"We started to key in on their best shooter and just run them down," Taylor said.

"They were fatigued with half of the last game left," he said.

The MPs credit team work for their victory in the championship.

"We work real well together and play as a team," said Abner Jackson, also a point guard for the 549th MP Co.

"We've got a lot of good players and the team is balanced," Jackson said.

Army teams sight transisthmian win

FORT CLAYTON (Tropic Times) - "I don't think we'll win this year's transisthmian female category, I know we will win," said Sue Bozgoz, coach of the female Army Transisthmian team U.S. Army South Ladies.

There are six females returning from the past year's 10-miler team and four new members Lisa Hudon, Gloria Lee, Michelle Digruttolo and Ethenia Torres grace the team. "All are capable of running under a 6 minute 45 second mile pace," Bozgoz said.

The other teammates are Debbie Wesloh, Norma Alderete, Mary Booth, Laura Landers, Ethenia Torres, Genoveva Ifill, Torrey Spearman and Linda Fischer.

The USARSO Ladies came in second in 1993 to the Panamanian team the Road Run Hers. "This year, we have more talent, dedication and motivation. There's no doubt in my mind we'll win," Bozgoz said.

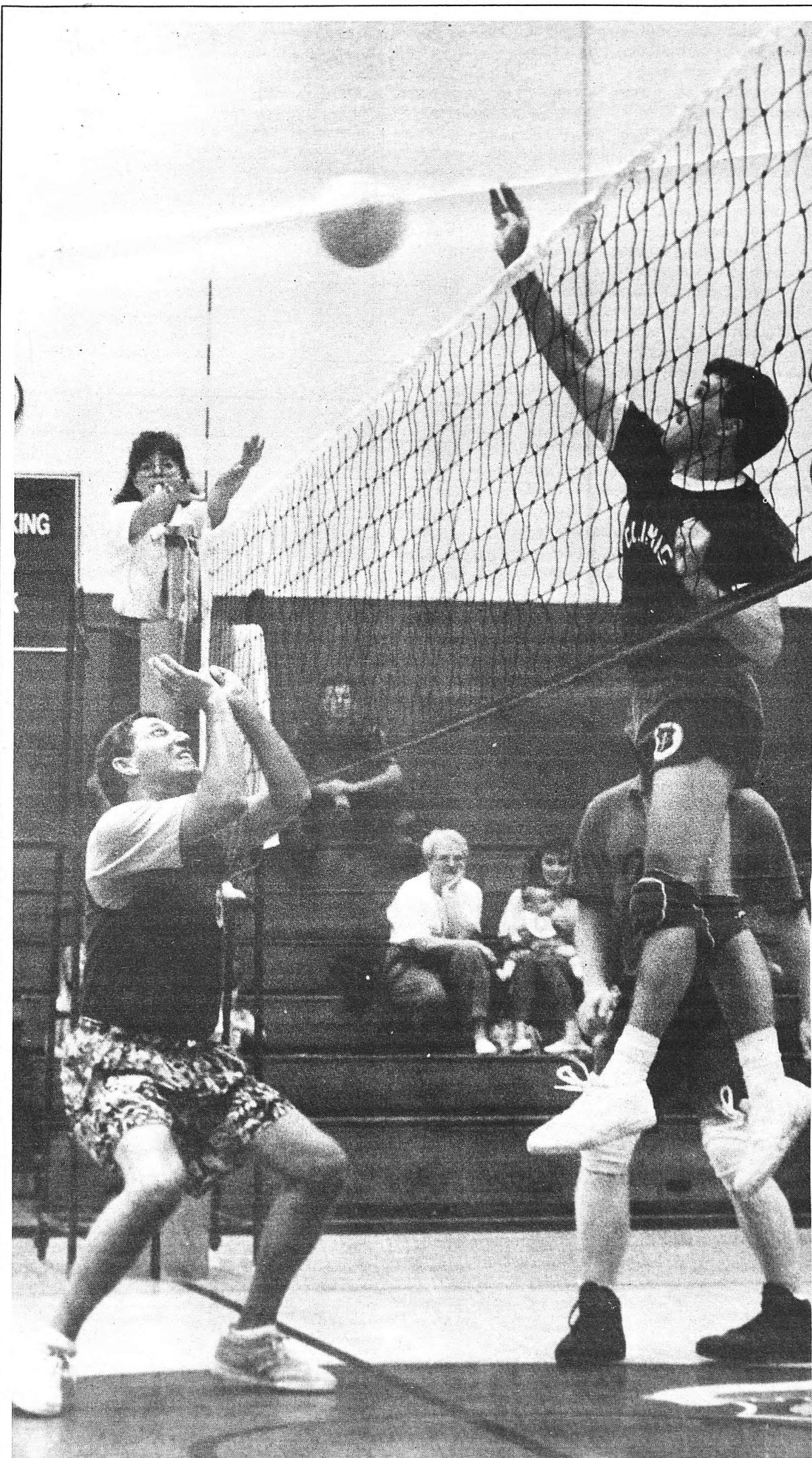
In the men's division, the USARSO Striders is the team to beat, said Striders' coach Willie Moye.

The Striders have outdistanced the Air Force team two years in a row, Moye said.

"We have conditioned our bodies with hard training. The distance speed and hill workouts will pay off," Moye said confidently.

There are four 10-miler team members returning to the Striders this year and the team is well disciplined. "We know what's need to succeed and we're ready," Moye said.

The Striders are Robert Czech, Hurchel Williams, Douglas Davis, Jose Haro, Enrique Gordon, William Segars, Ralph Gaines, Scott Digruttolo, Corey Smallwood, Nelson Marcano and Robert Neske.



U.S. Air Force photo

Easy kill

William Robinson, 24th Mission Squadron, ducks a 24th Medical Squadron's Steve Richardson spike during playoffs at Howard AFB. The 1st Battalion (Airborne), 508th Infantry, is league champion.

Little League page 12

Albrook Little League season opens doors to World Series possibilities for its all stars.

Feature page 14

The Air Force's Kimberly Tyler makes the finals on USA Network's American Gladiators.

and More Page 15

- ◆ Intramural golf
- ◆ Transisthmian Relay set
- ◆ SCN radio sports

Albrook Little League starts

ALBROOK (Tropic Times) - Little League started Saturday here with 27 teams and 378 children competing for a chance to go all the way to Williamsport, Va., for the Little League World Series.

This year, the Little League falls under a Panamanian district, which gives the little leaguers their chance, said Vince Duncan, sports director at the Albrook and Howard Youth Centers.

"Above all, our program is to teach our kids how to play baseball and how to have fun," Duncan said.

Coaches are already starting to pick the children who will represent the Albrook league in the Panama Province playoffs.

The winner of the province will play against other province winners for the country title. From there, the winner goes to the Latin American championships in Puerto Rico, Duncan said.

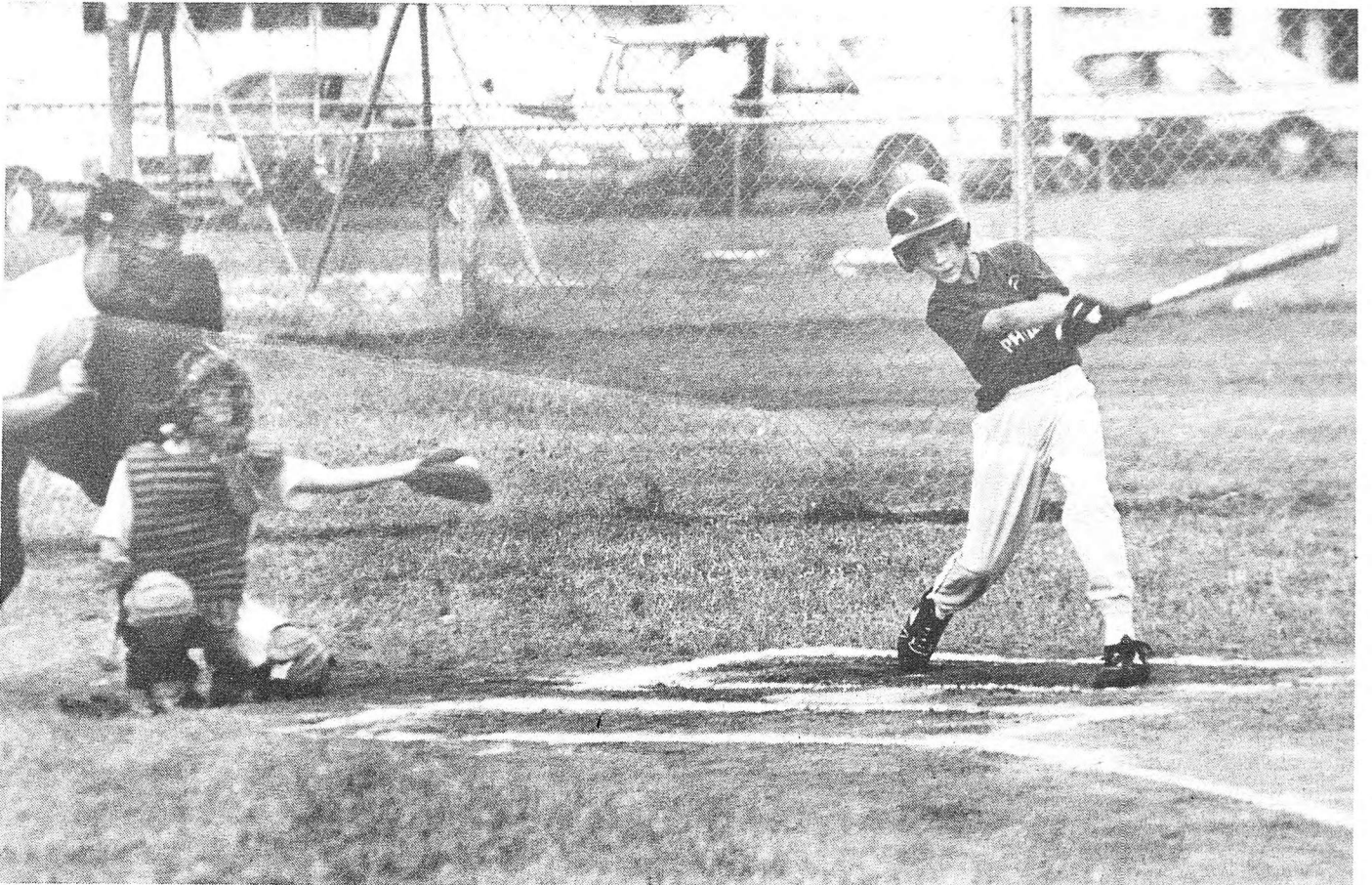
Each of the provinces have around 30 teams that will be competing. The road will be tough, he said.

The league doesn't keep win-loss records for the teams, but the competition is still there, he said.

"The kids will find a way to be competitive. Every kid in uniform gets to play.

"Competition in the program is part of life but our coaching staff is dedicated to teaching sportsmanship first," he said.

Ed McIlvaine, the Braves coach, said he's coaching at Albrook this year because he was impressed with the soccer league here.



Department of Defense photo by Sgt. E.J. Hersom

Joey Priestly takes a swing for the Phillies.

"My son was involved in the soccer league and it was a very good program. When I got the chance to coach here, I went

for it," McIlvaine said.

Mothers are also involved in Albrook little league, Duncan said.

Each team has a team Mom.

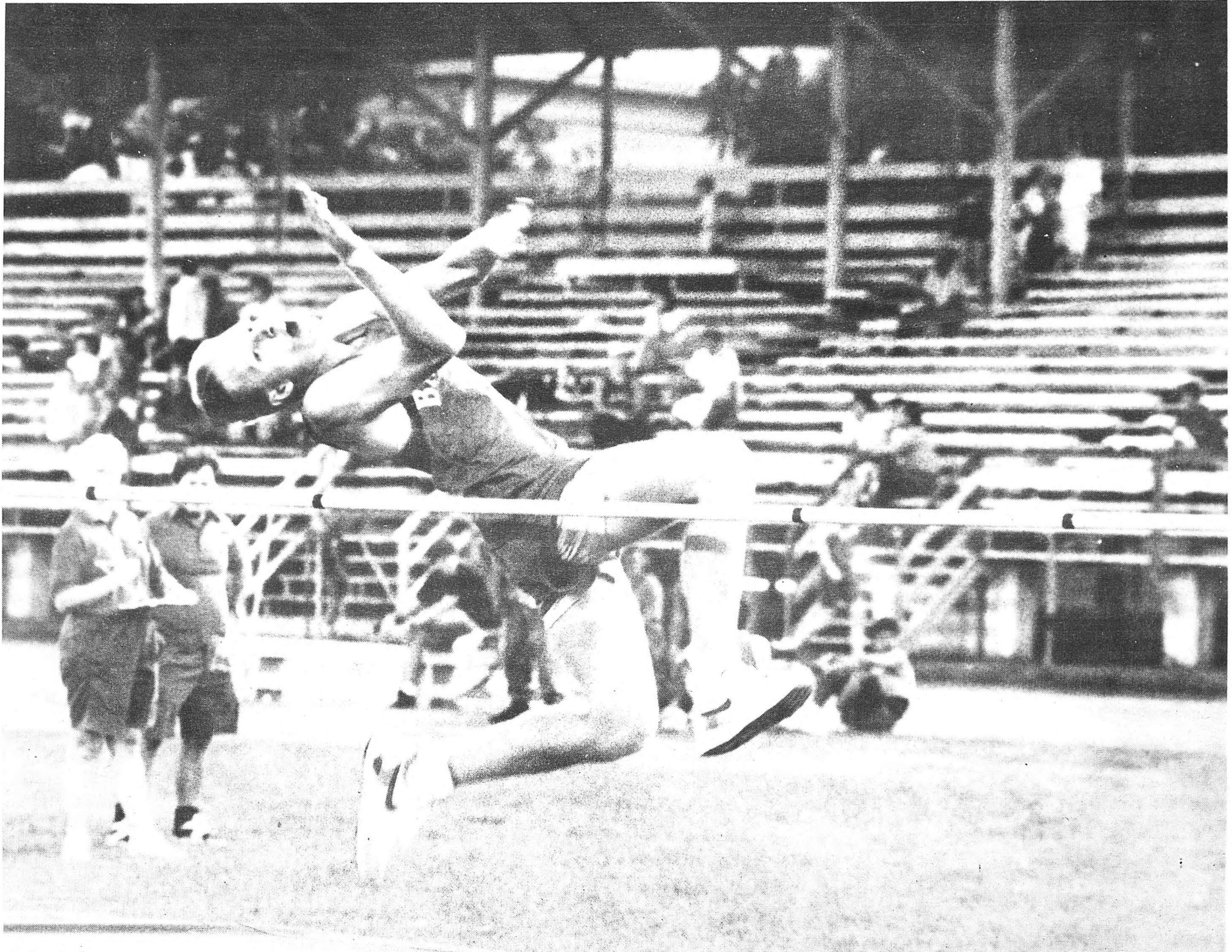
"They're the backbone of each team," he said.



Department of Defense photo by SSgt. Richard Puckett

Coming soon

The *El Caiman* passes Miraflores Locks during the Panama Canal District Boys Scouts of America's Explorer Ocean to Ocean Cayuco Race in 1993. For this year's race registration information, call 252-6376, 252-5733 or attend a meeting 7:15 p.m. Jan. 27 at the Panama Canal Commission Training Center.



Adrian Klasovsky clears 5 feet in the high jump.

Department of Defense photo by Sgt. E.J. Herson

Bulldogs win track opener

BALBOA (Balboa High School) - Coach Cleve Oliver's Balboa Bulldogs varsity track team won the first interscholastic league track meet at the Balboa High School track here Jan. 7.

Bulldog female competitor Tracy Singleton led the way for the winners, bringing in three firsts and a second for 22 of the Bulldogs' 107 points.

Panama Canal College Green Devils earned 89 points and second place with Amy Epperson, Evan Davis and Luis Gonzales each contributing 14 points.

The Red Machine came in third with 83 points. Bruce Chastain brought in 20 points for the squad with three firsts and a fourth. The Curundu Cougars took fourth with 35 points. Daniel Ortiz brought in 15 of those points.

Chame school made their first appearance at a meet this year and earned 7 points — all by Karly Schwan, who took first in the girls 800 meter run.

Performances that bested last year's records were Bruce Chastain's long jump of 19 feet 5 1/2 inches, Evan Davis' four minute 56 second 1600 meter run and Andrea Barnett's 13.2 seconds 100 meter dash breaking her own record.

In the junior varsity category, the Green Devils took first with 61 points followed by Chame school with 47 points, the Red Machine with 36 points, the Cougars with 22 points and the Bulldogs with 16 points.

Tonight, Curundu will host the second league meet at the Balboa track. Field events will begin at 5:30 p.m. Spectators and volunteer officials are welcome to attend, officials said.

The following are the individual varsity results from Jan. 7:

Girls high jump - 1, Cooper, Red Machine, 4; 2" 2, Singleton, Bulldogs, height unavailable 3, McLean, Bulldogs, 4' 4, Rosales, Green Devils, 3' 8"
Boys high jump - 1, Novotny, Bulldogs 5' 6" 2, Ortiz, Cougars 5' 5" 3, Klasovsky, Bulldogs 5' 2" 4, Martinelli, Red Machine 5' 2" 5, Erdman, Green Devils, 4' 10"
Girls long jump - 1, Singleton, Bulldogs, 13' 1 1/2" 2, Ward, Red Machine, 12' 5" 3, Barnett, Bulldogs 12' 1/2" 4, Bunch, Cougars, 11' 5, Schwan, Chame, 10' 11"
Boys long jump - 1, Chastain, Red Machine, new record 19' 5 1/2" 2, Martinelli, Red Machine, 17' 7" 3, Petitford, Cougars

16' 9 1/2" 4, Ortiz, Cougars 16' 4 1/2" 5, Novotny, Bulldogs 15' 9"

Girls shot put - 1, Singleton, Bulldogs, 27' 3 1/2" 2, Bunch, Cougars 26' 7 3/4" 3, Stanford, Cougars 24' 1/4" 4, Cooper, Red Machine 23' 4 1/4" 5, Valdilles, Green Devils, 22' 5 3/4"

Boys shot put - 1, Gutierrez, Bulldogs, 36' 5" 2, Gonzales, Green Devils, 34' 3 1/2" 3, Stanford, Red Machine 32' 3" 4, Hernandez, Red Machine, 31' 2" 5, Abrego, Red Machine 28' 5 1/2"

Boys Discus - 1, Gozales, Green Devils, 100' 1" 2, Yoshimoto, Bulldogs 92' 4" 3, Gutierrez, Bulldogs, 91' 8 1/2" 4, Stanford, Red Machine, 87' 7" 5 Abrego, Red Machine 84' 11"

Boys pole vault - 1, Watanabe, Green Devils, 9' 6" 2, Austin, Bulldogs, 8' 3, Novotny, Bulldogs, 7' 6" 4, Davis, Green Devils, 7

Girls 55 meter low hurdles - 1, Singleton, Bulldogs, 9.75 2, Epperson, Green Devils, 10.68 3, Petitford, Bulldogs, 14.27 4, Stargen, Green Devils, 14.57 5, Daniel, Bulldogs, 14.4

Boys 110 meter high hurdles - 1, Yoshimoto, Bulldogs, 19.22 2, Soto, Red Machine, 19.71 3, Perez, Red Machine, 21.36 4, Goodno, Bulldogs, 21.94

Girls 100 meter dash - 1, Barnett, Bulldogs, new record 13.2 2, Cedeno, Green Devils, time unavailable 3, Daniel, Bulldogs, 13.63 4, Atherly, Cougars, 14.03 5, Epperson, Green Devils, 14.1

Boys 100 meter dash - 1, Chastain, Red Machine 11 2, Martinelli, Red Machine, 11.76 3, Olivares, Green Devils, 11.93 4, Petitford, Cougars, 12.6 5, Trim, Red Machine 12.63

Boys 1600 meter run - 1, Davis, Green Devils, new record 4:56 2, Lee, Red Machine, 5:25.88 3, Sweeney, Green Devils, 5:30.97 4, Galvez, Cougars, 5:34.6 5, First, Bulldogs, 5:49.56

Girls 400 meter dash - 1, Epperson, Green Devils, 1:11.62 2, Mclean 1:18.25 3, Barnett, Bulldogs, 1:22.11 4, Cedeno, Green Devils, 1:22.38 5, Bunch, Cougars, 1:27.24

Boys 400 meter dash - 1, Ortiz, Cougars, 55.56 2, Yoshimoto, Bulldogs, 56.19 3, Gutierrez, Bulldogs, 58.02 4, Chastain, Red Machine, 58.29 5, Abrego, Red Machine, 59.84

Girls 800 meter run - 1, Schwan, Chame, 2:56.34 2, Mclean, Bulldogs, 3:06.46 3, Wilson, Green Devils, 3:08.8 4, Valdilles, Green Devils, 3:08.8 5, Davis, Green Devils, 3:31.32

Boys 800 meter run - 1, Davis, Green Devils, 2:19.75 2, Ortiz, Cougars, 2:23.96 3, Lee, Red Machine, 2:26.66 4, Sweeney, Green Devils, 2:29.03 5, Stanford, Red Machine, 2:31.55

Girls 200 meter dash - 1, Barnett, Bulldogs, 30.75 2, Short, Green Devils, 31.45 3, Epperson, Green Devils, 31.97 4, Choocherd, Red Machine, 36.46

Boys 200 meter dash - 1, Chastain, Red Machine 2, Martinelli, Red Machine 3, Olivares, Green Devils 4, Watanabe,

Green Devils 5, Trim, Red Machine. Times unavailable

Girls 400 meter relay - 1, Green Devils, Cedeno, Stargen, Rosales, Short, 1:02.922, Red Machine, Ward, Cooper, Moreno, Armstrong, 1:02.973, Bulldogs, Daniel, Washington, Petitford, McLean, 1:04.26

Boys 400 meter relay - 1, Red Machine, Soto, Lovejoy, Delgado, Trim, 51.72 2, Green Devils, Gozales, Sweeney, Olivares, Watanabe, 53.47 3, Bulldogs, Klasvosky, Novotny, Gutierrez, 53.88

The following are the individual junior varsity results from Jan. 7:

Girls long jump - 1, Wilson, Green Devils 11' 4 1/2" 2, Valdilles, Green Devils, 9' 6 1/2" 3, Yelverton, Green Devils, 9' 4" 4, Jordan, Chame, 8' 9" 5, Hefft, Chame, 6' 5 1/2"

Boys long jump - 1, Lovejoy, Red Machine, 15' 2, Schwan, Chame, 13' 8 1/2" 3, Erdman, Green Devils, 13' 9" 4, Tremblay, Cougars, 8 1/2" 5, Robertson, Red Machine, 11'

Discus - 1, Goodman, Chame, 71' 7" 2, Alexander, Cougars, 51' 2 1/2" 3, Robertson, Red Machine, 49' 11"

Girls shot put - 1, Cedeno, Green Devils, 19' 5" 2, Wilson, Green Devils, 17' 1 3/4" 3, Chapman, Chame, 16' 5 1/2"

Boys shot put - 1, Goodman, Chame, 35' 3" 2, Alexander, Cougars, 24' 9" 3, Robertson, Red Machine 23' 5"

Boys 55 meter low hurdles - 1, Schwan, Chame, 9.61 2, Tremblay, Cougars, 9.9 3, Erdman, Green Devils, 10.19 4, Deleon, Green Devils, 11.67

Girls 100 meter dash - 1, Short, Green Devils, 14.2 2, Washington, Bulldogs, 14.62 3, Moreno, Red Machine, 15.01 4, Jordan, Chame, 15.55 5, Yelverton, Green Devils, time unavailable

Boys 100 meter dash - 1, Perez, Red Machine, 12.07 2, Lovejoy, Red Machine, 12.15 3, Tremblay, Cougars, time unavailable

Boys 800 meter run - 1, Schwan, Chame, 2:46.28 2, Deleon, Green Devils, 3:37.52

Girls 400 meter dash - 1, Turk, Bulldogs, 1:19.22, Stargen, Green Devils, 1:22.61 3, Valdilles, Green Devils, 1:24 4, Hefft, Chame, 1:41.36 5, Stanford, Cougars, 1:45.86

Boys 400 meter dash - 1, Goodman, Chame, 1:05.18 2, Erdman, Green Devils, 1:14.53 3, Deleon, Green Devils, 1:26.94
Girls 200 meter dash - 1, Washington, Bulldogs, 32.66 2, Moreno, Red Machine, 35.15 3, Jordan, Chame, 36.26 4, Yelverton, Green Devils, 37.91

Boys 200 meter dash - 1, Perez, Red Machine, 28.2 2, Tremblay, Cougars, 29.55 3, Deleon, Green Devils, 35.25

An American Gladiator in Panama

by Sgt. E.J. Hersom
Tropic Times Sports Editor

Kimberly Tyler was a cut-the-grass-with-a-wheels-that-spin-the-mower-blades-type tomboy who chased her dog endlessly around a pond.

The youngest of six in a nowhere town's only black family, Tyler graduated from Northmoore High School in Bellville, Ohio, a four-time state track champion on full scholarship to Ohio State. She left college in her third year as a Big Ten champion in the triple jump and joined the Air Force.

She left college because of its limitations, she said. She was used to being involved in student government and winning in all types of track events and the Ohio State coaching staff had limited her to triple jump and long jump. Being "Super Kim" like she was in high school was what she wanted more of, she said.

Tyler proved herself super again when she made it to the finals on USA Network's American Gladiators where she put her 5' 7" 140-pound frame against the toughest women the TV network could find.

Her commander at the 9th Medical Group at Beale AFB, Calif., granted her the excess leave she needed to try out, compete and keep the prize money.

Tyler met a familiar face during the tryouts for the show, Peggy Odita, a Nigerian born athlete who roamed the same track competitions back in Ohio, she said.

Odita and Tyler had never competed in the same

events, but met for the show's finals, which has already been taped.

Tyler was in Panama on temporary duty when her half of regular season aired in November.

She is here again TDY working at Howard AFB as an aerospace physiologist, but will be back at Beale when the championship airs Feb. 26.

The following are excerpts from a *Tropic Times* interview with Tyler.

Tropic Times: Who was the toughest gladiator you faced?

Tyler: They have a new one. Her name is Jazz. She's very tough and very determined. I guess because she's new and wants to make a name for herself. And Siren, the one that's deaf. She goes all out. She'll run, pull you, yank you right off the platform. Both of them are very competitive and they hate to lose. Especially Siren. I kicked her butt in the pyramid. She got me back real good though.

Tropic Times: Some of the events get very physical, what was your best?

Tyler: Slingshot. It has this long pole suspended from the ceiling with all these little nerf balls velcroed all along. They have red, blue and yellow each worth different points depending on how high you get. So we're on platforms with gladiators on the corners forming an X. We bungee down to the floor and jump up and try and get these little things and suspended in the air, we try and get back to our platforms. Meanwhile

the gladiators are jumping with us — smacking us, kicking us, doing all kinds of stuff. Fortunately, we were allowed to defend ourselves during the games

Tropic Times: Every once and while, there's a new event that pops up on the American Gladiators. Are the games getting harder?

Tyler: This new season they have made it tougher they say, and I can say that because I can feel it.

Tropic Times: What was the hardest new event?

Tyler: They have a new event called the Whiplash. You have two triangles put together at the vertex. Basically, you try to yank the gladiator out of a circumference. At the same time they're trying to stay in. As big as they are... you can imagine. They yanked us around like rag dolls. I had Siren at one point and I yanked her right out, but not right away of course.

Tropic Times: Do you think that the producers knew that you and Odita would make it to the finals?

Tyler: I think they had a pretty good idea. Our shows were taped next to each other's. They edited a lot. They never showed a shot where Peggy and I were together. Peggy and I were going into the championships rounds and when I was done with the eliminator, Peggy's round was right after mine. I got my interview done, put my regular clothes on, dried off, jumped into the front row of the audience and I was standing there clapping like I hadn't done anything the whole day. I guess on TV they'll say 'Here's Kim Tyler, she won her final round for the first half last week.' Now when I

watch the show and I see some guy or girl clapping for another contestant, I can laugh.

Tropic Times: Were the gladiators fun to hang around with?

Tyler: They were friendly. The show put us up at the Sportsmans Lodge Hotel downtown. Most of the gladiators were there too because, believe it or not, their homes are not in L.A. The hotel had an Olympic-size pool and we would go out there and play around the pool. Not all the time, because they also have fraternization rules. They get paid by how many wins they get. Plus they're supposed to be mean to us on the show so they don't want to show favoritism. I was the same way when I was competing. I was like, 'Hey every man for himself. If your going to hit me in the head with that stick, look out.'

Tropic Times: Did any of it scare you?

Tyler: I was never intimidated by the gladiators. That was never a problem because I was used to competing. I was small compared to them and I was just as strong as they were. They were shocked. I was undefeated in a lot of events - the joust, the big Q tip. I kicked butt in that. The Sky Track was my biggest fear. Hanging upside down. I mean, when they took the platform from underneath us, the only thing keeping us from hitting the ground was a little cable that we were suspended on. That was pretty scary, but I had to get used to it. Looking up there, it doesn't look that high. But when you get up there and your just dangling like a little spider, you think 'Is this going to hold me.'

Tropic Times: What drives you to do these physical things?

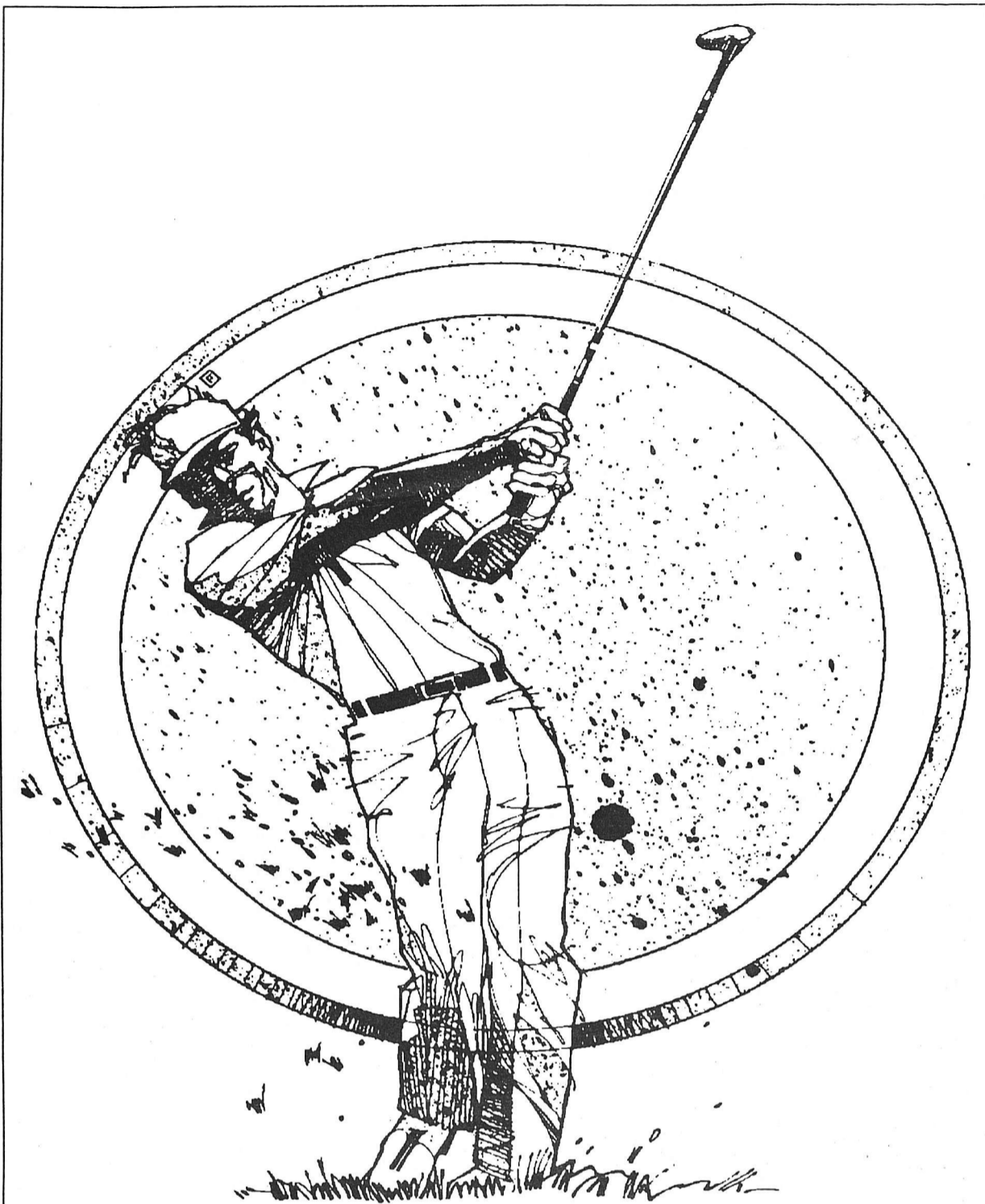
Tyler: In the back of my mind, there's a thought. Is it still there? Is there still another accomplishment that I could do? Somewhere within, I feel like there's something else. Even if I wasn't running track for the Air Force, I'd still stay in shape. Even before the gladiators, I was still working out. Just in case something comes along, I'll be ready. That's how I am. I still feel like there's more and I'm just waiting for it to fall in my lap.

Things just kind of happen by me and I just kind of grab 'em.



Kimberly Tyler, a finalist on USA Network's American Gladiators, strikes a pose.

Department of Defense photo by Sgt. E.J. Hersom



Four play

Intramural golf season begins today at Horoko Golf Course. Squadrons will host a four-person team each week that will compete head to head. Players should have an established handicap. If players do not have a Horoko handicap, scorecards may be turned into Howard Sports and Fitness Center for evaluation. Handicaps will be adjusted weekly by the center as the season progresses. Players without handicaps will play scratch. For more information, call the sports and fitness center at 284-3451.

Sports shorts

SCN radio sports

The Southern Command Network's AM 790 Pacific and 1420 Atlantic will broadcast the following sports this weekend. SCN will be broadcasting English simulcasts of pro football games that will be aired on local TV channels this weekend for people without SCN cable channel 14.

Tonight

Pro basketball: Utah Jazz at Chicago Bulls at 8:30 p.m.

Saturday

Pro football: AFC division playoff game; L.A. Raiders at Buffalo Bills at 12:30 p.m.

NFC division playoff game; N.Y. Giants at San Francisco 49ers at 4 p.m.

Sunday

Pro football: NFC Division playoff game; Green Bay Packers at Dallas Cowboys at 12:30 p.m.

AFC division playoff game; Kansas City Chiefs at Houston Oilers at 4 p.m.

Transisthmian set

The Transisthmian Relay Race will be held Saturday. Categories are U.S. military, female, open and open over 40. Teams consist of 10 runners and two alternatives. Call 287-4050.

MLK softball tourney

The Fronius Fitness Center is holding a Martin Luther King Jr. Softball Tournament Saturday through Monday. The entrance fee is \$75 per team. Company level and

women's softball tournaments are upcoming. Call 289-3108 for more information

Balboa Relays

The 43rd running of the Balboa Relays will held at Balboa High School Jan. 28-29. Events include sprints, hurdles, distance, relays, shot, discus, long jump, high jump and pole vault. Participants must be on a team to compete. For more information call Cleve Oliver at the Balboa gym at 252-5704. Army personnel interested in running the relays call Willie Moye at 287-6411 or Sue Bozgoz at 287-3445 or 260-1128.

Rodman 5K Fun Run

Runners are needed for the Rodman 5K Fun Run, which will be held 6:30 a.m. on Jan. 28. There is no entry fee. Deadline to register is Jan. 26. Run is open to all military and civilian personnel. Units with most runners and first and second place receive awards. Call 283-4222/4061 to sign up.

Free step aerobics

The Fronius Fitness Center has free step aerobics classes 9-10 a.m. weekdays. Call 289-4111 for more information.

Sports equipment

The Howard Sports and Recreational Center has the sporting equipment for weekend outings, camping, beach combing, golfing and more. Boogie boards and board games are available for children. Items are available for

daily, weekly or weekend rates. Several specials are being ran throughout January. The center will be closed Tuesday. For more information, call 284-6107.

Fishing charters

Trophy deep-sea and Sunskiff bottom fishing charters are available at the Rodman Marina. Charters include captain, fishing gear, cooler and ice. Call the marina at 283-3147 or 283 3150 for more information.

Free aerobics

The Reeder Physical Fitness Center has free aerobics given by Teresa Consterdine 9:15 a.m.- 10:15 a.m. weekdays. Each workout has a warm-up, cardiovascular workout, cool down and floorwork. Call 287-3861.

No-tap bowling

The monthly no-tap bowling tournament begins 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Curundu Bowling Center. Call 286-3914 for more information.

Baseball camp

The Directorate of Community Activities Sports Branch will hold a baseball camp 4:30-6 p.m. weekdays starting Monday until Jan. 28 at the Fort Davis Youth Field. Call 287-4540 for more information.

Amador golf

Golfers who wish to participate in tournaments should have an established handicap. Those who are not members of Fort Amador Golf Course will be expected to pay green fees.

The Amador Golf Club is also using pre-scheduled starting times for teeing off on weekends and U.S. holidays. Only groups of three or four may reserve tee times before 10 a.m. Reservations may be called in beginning Wednesday prior to the weekend. Call 292-4511 for more information.

Body building contest

The Howard Theater will host a body building contest Jan. 29. Deadline to register is today. The entrance fee is \$15 per person. Call the Howard Sports and Fitness Center at 284-3451 for more information.

MLK day special

Prices at the Curundu Bowling Center will be reduced in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day Sunday in addition to the regular green pin bowling. Open bowling is from 1-9 p.m. Call 286-3914.

Swimming classes

The Howard and Albrook pools invite parents and their children to enroll in swimming lessons. Diving classes and ladies water exercise classes are available at the Albrook Pool. For more information, call the Zodiac Community Activities Center at the Howard Pool at 284-3569 or the Albrook Pool at 286-3555.

Pan-Am Dive Club

The Pan American Dive Club is welcoming new members. The club is located in Building 214, Fort Espinar and is open 6-8 p.m. Fridays. Dues are \$6 per month or \$25 for six months. Rentals available. Call Gary Garay at 289-3428 or 289-4447 or Tom Bell at 289-3762 or 289-3538.

Free weight training

The Fronius Fitness Center has free weight training sessions and Nautilus machine training sessions 3-4 p.m. Tuesdays. Call the center at 289-3108 for more information.

Shark, bottom fishing

The Rodman Marina hosts shark and bottom fishing 6-11 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday nights on the *Black Stallion* and *Vargas* boats. Tickets must be purchased the day before the trip. Fishing charters to Pina Bay for Marlin fishing are also available. Call the marina at 283-3147.

Water exercises

The Howard and Albrook pools have ladies water exercises for adults and children. Call 284-616.

Home delivery test continues

by Maureen Sampson
Tropic Times staff

COROZAL - For the first time since 1987, people stationed in Panama can get a stateside newspaper delivered to their homes.

Subscribers will soon be receiving the *Miami Herald*-International seven days a week and the *Tropic Times* every Friday.

The new delivery routes are being worked out by newspaper carriers delivering the *Tropic Times*. Test routes on Albrook AFS have been successful so far, according to Jorge Gonzales, National and International Circulation Manager for the *Miami Herald*. Routes are currently being tested on Corozal, Fort Clayton, Albrook AFS and Quarry Heights.

The next phase will be delivery on Fort Amador, then Rodman NS and Cocoli, then Howard AFB, Fort Kobbe and Farfan.

"We'll continue implementing a base or two every four weeks," Gonzales said, "That will give us time to prepare ourselves, split up the residential areas and learn how many carriers we need."

Before starting the delivery service on the Atlantic side, Gonzales said someone must be hired as a distribution coordinator at one of the Atlantic bases.

Besides giving readers the luxury of home-delivered papers, the paper routes provide employment opportunities for family members living on base, Gonzales said.

"It's a perfect opportunity for me to do something down here since there is so little opportunity for employment," said Wendy McDermott, an Air Force family member who delivers papers on Albrook.

"I like the whole idea of being able to administer this knowledge so people can be informed of what's going on in the states," McDermott said.

McDermott, who has 13 years experience delivering newspapers, said the hours are perfect for her two small children. She delivers the papers 4-6 a.m., before her husband leaves for work in the morning.



Department of Defense photo by Maureen Sampson

The new home delivery program has provided family members like Wendy McDermott a chance to work.

The carriers are guaranteed \$5 an hour, with commission for each subscription sold. The positions were advertised through fliers in the *Miami Herald*. Gonzales said the response has been tremendous.

"We've had an excellent response from dependents," Gonzales said, "We have more than we can use at the present time, but we are still creating new routes which means more people will be involved."

The program's success depends on the amount of *Miami Herald* subscriptions sold. Gonzales said non-subscribers will still get a *Tropic Times* delivered Fridays, but to offer that service, the *Herald* must at least break even. Subscriptions cost \$20 a month. Anyone interested in subscribing or applying for a delivery or coordinator position can call Gonzales at 269-3220 or 236-1522.

Gonzales has been working with the Southern Command Public Affairs Office for more than a year to get the program running. The command supports the home delivery because of its potential to contribute to the quality of life of people stationed in Panama, said Patrick Milton, USSOUTHCOM Public Affairs Office command information officer.

"One of the benefits of the international edition is local advertisers list their products and services in English, for those of us who are not bilingual," Milton said.

"I hope we get enough subscribers so this whole project will be a 'go'," McDermott said. "I think this program will be beneficial for a long time — not just for getting information to the people, but for creating jobs that we really need down here."

Top U.S. Army South volunteer earns Orlando trip

by Sgt. Lori Davis
USARSO Public Affairs Office

**F O R T
CLAYTON** - For giving her time and caring to the Panamanian military community, Anita Scarim has been selected to represent Army volunteers at the grand opening of the Armed Forces Recreation Center - Orlando in February.



Anita Scarim

Sergeant Major of the Army, Richard A. Kidd, requested a worldwide search for a volunteer who is the spouse of an enlisted active duty soldier to attend the opening with their family.

Similar volunteers were selected to represent the other services.

"Her nomination (to represent the

Army) was based on the scope of her volunteer activities through the Family Support Group, church groups, community organizations and the Enlisted Spouses Club," said Maggie Coleman, installation volunteer coordinator.

Scarim also stood out because she took on even more projects after breaking her leg in August.

She never let her injury get her down, she would prop her leg up at meetings and make jokes about the cast, she said.

She was registered in the volunteer program and had turned in her 1,539 hours for 1993, which made her eligible for the nomination, Coleman added.

Scarim spent these hours as the president of Heart, which helps fund child care for volunteers throughout USARSO, parliamentarian of the Enlisted Spouses Club and the enlisted representative in the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment Family Support Group.

"I'm proud of my wife, she supports me and she supports others," her husband, Roger said.

She has supported soldiers and their

families here by teaching classes for the Enlisted Spouse Survival Course and organizing fund-raisers.

She also helped stuff Christmas stockings for soldiers in Honduras with the 4th Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment, she said.

"Suzy Vanairsdale, Col. (Michael J.) Vanairsdale's (128th Aviation Regiment commander) wife, wanted the 250 unaccompanied soldiers in Honduras to know we were thinking about them. She came to the Family Support Group for green Army socks and stuffers. We also sent cookies to them," she said.

Back here in Panama, the soldiers of Co. C, 1-228th are always thanking Roger for everything his wife does, Roger said.

She has even managed to get him involved in projects, as well as the rest of the family, he said.

"Before I started this, I talked about volunteering with my family and told them I wouldn't be home as much as before. They understand that because Mom is helping others and they help me with

my projects and with chores at home," Anita said.

"I couldn't do any of this without my family. My mom helps out at home with the kids and she volunteers in the community and gets involved in projects too," she said.

Her mother, Marge Fricke, sewed new curtains for the soldiers living in the Company C barracks, she said.

The whole family got involved this Christmas with the Angel Tree project.

They spent many evenings making angels and wrapping presents, Roger said.

They give much of their time to their community, but the Scarims make sure they have time for each other as well. Sunday is family day at their house, and everyone understands that she dedicates that day to her husband, children and mother, Anita said.

"She brings a quiet determination, enthusiasm of course, and a can-do or will-do attitude to everything she does. I don't think the word 'no' is in her vocabulary," Coleman said.

Martin Luther King Jr. holiday hours

FORT CLAYTON (USARSO PAO) - The hours of operation for the Army and Air Force Exchange System - Panama for Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day are as follows:
PACIFIC

COROZAL
Main PX - 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sweets Reflections - 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Frank's Franks - 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Bakery - closed
Anthony's Pizza - 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Wok Works - 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Casa de Amigos - 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
FORT CLAYTON
Shoppette (95) - closed

Frank's Franks (95) - closed
Anthony's Pizza - 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
Burger King - 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m.
Popeye's - 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
Frank's Franks (by Burger King) - closed
Clayton Plaza Shoppette - 7 a.m.-midnight
Shoppette (519) - 8 a.m.-10 p.m.
Auto parts store - 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Clothing Sales - closed
AMADOR
Shoppette - 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
ALBROOK
Shoppette - 8 a.m.-10 p.m.
Snack bar - 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Anthony's Pizza - 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Frank's Franks - 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Video rental - 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Furniture store - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Shoe store - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Toyland/Outdoor living - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Class Six - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
HOWARD
Main PX - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Class Six - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Cafeteria - 7 a.m.-2 p.m.
Anthony's Pizza - 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
Clothing Sales - closed
Service station - 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

FORT KOBBE
Shoppette/video rental - 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Burger King - 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
MISCELLANEOUS
Quarry Height shoppette - closed
Gorgas Hospital shoppette - closed
Curundu School cafeteria - closed
Cocoli shoppette - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Balboa school cafeteria - closed
Curundu Service Station - 6 a.m.-midnight
ATLANTIC

FORT ESPINAR
Shoppette - closed
FORT DAVIS
Main PX - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Auto parts store - 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Gas station - 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Cafeteria - 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Anthony's - 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Burger King - 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Clothing Sales - closed
FORT SHERMAN
Shoppette - noon-6 p.m.
Gas station - closed
Anthony's Pizza - noon-4 p.m.
COMMISSARIES
The military commissaries on Corozal, Fort Espinar and Howard Air Force Base will be closed Monday and Wednesday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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