



The New Horizon



Exercise New Horizons 2004

Issue No. 5, April 5, 2004

Base Camp's Men Behind the Curtain

Story by Sgt. Nick Minecci

JUTIAPA, Guatemala – Power outages, fire safety, broken water pipes and ensuring tenants living areas are kept clean are all concerns of any landlord or small town mayor. For Maj. Charles J. Norris and 1st Sgt. Jeffrey Morse it is not any different in the day-to-day running of Base Camp Quetzal.



Base Camp Quetzal 1st Sgt. Jeffrey Morse

Norris, a native of Anderson, S.C., and assigned to the 647th Area Support Group, 90th Regional Readiness Command, is the camp mayor, and Morse, a native of Berry, Vt., assigned to

Company B, 1st Battalion, 391st Regiment, 7th Brigade (Training Support), 98th Division (Institutional Training), is the base camp first sergeant here for New Horizons 2004.

While each day brings new challenges, Morse said the ability to smile is what allows him to meet and overcome the inevitable concerns that crop up with over 400 people living here.

"Having a good sense of humor helps most days," he said as he rushed from one meeting to another.

"We are serious about what we do, but working with each unit's [noncommissioned officer in charge] we have put together a good thing here," he said.

With rotation one of New Horizons complete, and the building of Base Camp

Quetzal transitioned to the Task Force moving to the work sites, Morse said the servicemembers now here know what is expected of them, and if they have any doubts, he is not afraid to inform them.

"All people need to do is use common sense, and things run fine," he said. "I put out the information the NCOICs need at the 7:30 p.m. meeting, and I put it out once," he added.

"I am a neat freak, and I am not going to put up with litter in the camp. It's that simple," he said.

Policing up after themselves, making sure music is not blaring and disturbing others and just using the Golden Rule are the key to making sure time in the camp is a place people enjoy living in, Norris said.

"Dignity and respect are the keywords here. It's that simple," he said.

"If you treat people with dignity and give them the proper respect that their rank and just being a human being entail, we all get along fine," he added.

— See Mayor, page 2

What is a Quetzal?

Story by Sgt. Nick Minecci

Many members of Task Force Quetzal may have asked themselves, "What is a Quetzal?"

The Quetzal is a bird found in the rain forests of Central America, and is near extinction, but efforts are underway to protect its habitat. According the "Field Guide to the Birds" of by Roger Tory Peterson and Edward Chalif, the Quetzal is "the most spectacular bird in the New World."

They write that the male is Quetzal is "intense emerald and golden green with red belly and white undertail.

"The male's body measures about 15 inches, but the tail, rich in iridescent blues and greens above and subtle white below, can extend as much as thirty inches," according to Peterson and Chalif.

The pair writes, "To watch this bird fly with its tail undulating behind is to understand why it is called the

Resplendent Quetzal."

The Quetzal is also the most sacred symbol of the Mesoamerican civilization, the Mayas, whose descendants are eighty percent of the present day inhabitants of Guatemala and the neighboring Mexican states of Yucatan, Quintano Roo, and Chiapas.

The ancient Mayas believed the Quetzal symbolized freedom and wealth. Freedom, because a Quetzal will die in captivity; wealth, because the Mayas were traders, and quetzal feathers along with jade were their most sought after treasures.

These were traded by the Mayas as far north as the central valley of Mexico and as far south as the Empire of the Incas, over 3,000 miles, an area about eight times the size of their home territory.

Today the male Quetzal appears on the Guatemalan flag and the name "Quetzal" is used as a monetary unit. ❖



Welcome From the Task Force Command Group



Welcome to New Horizons 2004 and Base Camp Quetzal.

Let me start by telling you that this is not only a great training opportunity, but a very good mission as well. When you get to the job sites you will see how much the people here welcome us, and why what we are doing is so important. If you are in the middle of a bad day here I want you to stop and think about something.

Think about what is stressing you and then think about the fact that some of the people we are helping wake up every day wondering if they will have running water, if their kids will have enough light to read by in the schools they use and they wonder if the medical clinics will have the space they need to treat the sick and injured.

Then think about what we are doing and the fact we are helping to alleviate those concerns for some. That is an awesome responsibility we have, and I know you will all give 100 percent to help make life better for the people.

Be proud of your work here and the work of the U.S. military to assist those in need. We are helping people, not fighting them here, and believe me, they DO appreciate what you are doing here.

As members of the U.S. military you also know we are going through many changes, in all branches. Look around this Base Camp and you have active duty and Reserve Soldiers, active duty Navy, Reserve component Air Force and active duty Marines serving side-by-side.

Get to know the members from the other services. Share techniques and ideas, we can all learn from one another.

The personal relationships and memories you make here will last a lifetime, and you never know you may be working shoulder-to-shoulder with some of these servicemembers again. Make the most of this opportunity.

It is my honor and my privilege to be the commander for a Task Force with the talent, dedication and spirit I have seen as I walk around. It is truly my pleasure to work alongside all of you.

Col. Tim Welch, Commander, Task Force Quetzal



Welcome to Base Camp Quetzal.

For some of the servicemembers here, this may be your first deployment overseas.

For some others this is one of many in your career.

Whatever category you fall into, remember the simple fact that as a Soldier, sailor, Airmen or Marine you are a representative of the United States military and your conduct both on and off-duty should always

be of the highest standards.

This Task Force is composed of all the branches of our armed forces. We have Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, both from the active and reserve components, living and working side-by-side.

There are also civilians integrated into the Task Force who are here to provide us with technical support.

The final group in our team is our friends and hosts, the Guatemalan soldiers. They are integrated into our engineer and security teams, and we are all working well as a team.

In order for Task Force Quetzal to be a success we must ALL think safety.

Team leaders must review safety measures related to their job sites and duty areas with their team members on a daily basis. If anyone sees a safety issue, address it on the spot, we are all safety officers.

Remember to treat everyone with dignity and respect. We are here to help the people of Jutiapa and Guatemala, so when you are working with the Guatemalan soldiers and out at the job sites, always remember that you are an ambassador for the United States.

Working together we can make New Horizons 2004 a tremendous success, help the people of Guatemala and get great training.

Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Considine, Task Force Quetzal

The New Horizon is published in support of Exercise New Horizons 2004, at Jutiapa, Guatemala, under provisions of the Department of the Army, by the 214th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 99th Regional Readiness Command, U.S. Army Reserve, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. The opinions and articles published in *The New Horizon* are not necessarily reflective of official stances or policies of the Department of the Army, Department of Defense or U.S. Government. Circulation 100

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MAYOR, from page 1



Major Charles J. Norris, Base Camp Quetzal Mayor, stands at parade rest during rehearsal for New Horizons 2004 opening ceremony.

“Just like if a person is playing their music too loud, and someone from the tent next to them asks them to turn it down, they need to abide by that. The person is not asking to be a pain, so we all need to work together,” he said.

“My main focus is to support the engineers doing their job out in the field, Soldiers, Airmen, Seabees and Marines, and to accomplish their missions they need proper rest.

“Fatigue leads to accidents and acci-

dents can lead to death, and we are not gonna’ have that happen,” Norris said.

Concerns about safety are what drive the duo, and Morse said people driving vehicles north of the road are an ongoing problem.

“It’s simple, there are no vehicles in the [Life Support Area] and in front of the [Tactical Operations Center]. That is going to stop,” he said.

“I am also tired of finding cigarette butts on the ground. If I have to I will move the designated smoking area up near Access Point One,” he said.

Norris agreed that smokers should police after themselves.

“Not only is smoking unhealthy, but if they are dropping smoldering butts on the ground and the wind blows them into a tent, it can kill others,” he said.

“Our philosophy is simple, keep things clean. The latrines, the LSA ... it doesn’t take a lot of effort to clean up after yourself. If everyone does their part things run smooth,” he said. ❖

Chaplain’s Corner

Exercise New Horizons.

We know what it means to the communities of Jutiapa; new schools, wells, latrines, and medical clinics.

We have come here to share our skills in a way that makes a positive and lasting difference to so many.

On my trips to the work sites, I have discovered that the Guatemalans also have much to teach us about New Horizons.

Their ever-present smiles and community living remind us that contentment is an attitude, not a circumstance.

Many thank you for your generosity in serving and building, but this trip can also make a priceless difference for you.

Contentment is a lasting gift.

As Paul wrote in Philippians 4:13:

“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation,

whether well fed or hungry whether living in plenty or in want.” ❖



Easter Week Schedule

Good Friday

Communion: 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Movie: *Passion of the Christ* 7 p.m.

Memos from the Mayor’s Desk

☞ Make sure you are in the proper uniform at all times. Do not wear a civilian T-shirt with your Army PT shorts, or your BDU pants with civilian shirt and shoes. Follow your particular services’ uniform regulations.

☞ Smokers, if you are going to smoke, do not walk and flick ashes everywhere. I have seen several individuals just flicking their cigarettes. This is a no-go. Use the designated butt cans.

☞ Make sure you are taking your malaria pills when you are supposed to. If you have any questions, see the medics.

☞ If you are eating your lunch in the DFAC, do us all a favor and clean up after yourself. Do not just leave the MRE packaging laying on the table for someone else to police up.

☞ The Dining Facility hours of operation are:
Breakfast: 5:00 - 7:30 a.m.
Lunch: MRE
Dinner: 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

☞ The AAFES trailer is open from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. daily.

☞ Reveille will be played at 5 a.m. and TAPS at 10 p.m.

☞ The TOC is not an internet cafe. Use the MWR facilities.

☞ Laundry drop-off is 5:30-7:30 a.m. Pick-up is 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

☞ Postal services are from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. in Tent 27.

☞ If you need help, see me, Maj. Norris or 1st Sgt. Morse I can be reached at the Mayor’s tent.

Outside the Wire

South Korea Deploying 3,000 More Soldiers to Northern Iraq

Story by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – More than 3,700 Korean soldiers will deploy to either Irbil or As Sulimaniyah provinces this summer, Korean officials announced April 1.

The commitment will make the South Korean contingent the third largest foreign contribution in Iraq after the United States and the United Kingdom.

Army Lt. Col. Michael Finnegan said the Korean contingent is expected to deploy in mid-June. The Korean Joint Staff worked closely with U.S. Central Command to see where the Korean contribution could be best used, said Finnegan, the Korea country director in the Pentagon’s policy office.

“We welcome their announcement and we look forward to working with them,” Finnegan said. Korea has been a “steadfast partner” in the war against terror, the colonel said. “They have sailed and flown in support of the global war on terror, and they have had troops serving in an exemplary manner in both Afghanistan and Iraq.”

Finnegan said the unit to arrive is a “hybrid” specializing in reconstruction. “It is a mixture of logistics types,” he said. The unit will contain engineers, medics, truck drivers and other reconstruction skills. But the unit will also contain security and civil affairs personnel.

The Koreans have named the hybrid the Zaiyatun Unit – which means “olive” in Arabic.

There are currently 500 South Korean soldiers based in Nasiriyah, mostly engineers and medical personnel. They will deploy with the rest of the arriving troops.

Finnegan said the unit will report directly to Combined Joint Task Force 7, and a major general will command it.

Finnegan said there were 50,000 South Korean volunteers for the 3,000 spaces in the Zaiyatun Unit. He said the U.S. military is looking forward to working with the South Korean military personnel.

South Korea has had a wealth of peacekeeping experience. It has participated in operations in Cambodia, the Western Sahara, Afghanistan and East Timor.

Gunmen Attack Spanish, Salvadoran Troops in Najaf

By Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Spanish and Salvadoran troops in Najaf came under attack from gunmen hiding in a crowd of protesters, coalition officials said in Baghdad yesterday.

One El Salvadoran soldier was killed, and 12 El Salvadoran soldiers and one U.S. soldier were wounded when a large number of men, many dressed in black, attacked a Coalition base with small-arms fire, said a coalition news release.

The wounded were transported to the 31st Combat Support Hospital for treatment.

Coalition forces, including U.S. Air Force aircraft and U.S. Army gunships, responded to the attacks.

Officials said the attacks began at about 11:45 a.m., when a vehicle leaving an Iraqi Civil Defense Corps base came under small-arms fire. From about noon to 2:30 p.m., the coalition base came under attack from “a large number of personnel.”

Coalition authorities said reports that hundreds of civilian casualties resulted from the attacks were incorrect.

“Any notion that the Spanish fired on the protesters in the middle of a peaceful demonstration would not be consistent with what we saw on the ground,” an official said.

The attacks came as followers of anti-American Shiite Muslim cleric Muqtada al-Sadr marched on the compound reportedly in protest of a Sadr aide detention.

A senior coalition official said the coalition had detained the aide, Mustapha Yacoubi, for the April 2003 murder of Shiite Ayatollah Sayed al-Khoei – one of Iraq’s leading advocates for human rights. Coalition forces turned the accused man over to Iraqi officials.

Yacoubi will be tried by an Iraqi court.

Also earlier in the day, Coalition Administrator Paul Bremer said that Iraqis have gained their freedoms and have exercised their new rights appropriately all over the country.

“Those freedoms must be exercised peacefully. This morning a group of people in Najaf crossed the line and have moved to violence. This will not be tolerated, not by the coalition, not by the Iraqi people, not by the Iraqi security forces.”

Sports Report

NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament Road to the Final Four

(3) Georgia Tech.....	67	(2) UConn	79
(2) Oklahoma State	65	(1) Duke.....	78

FINALS - (3) Georgia Tech. vs. (2) UConn