



The

12th Edition

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U.S., South American air forces train in Chile

By Maj. Kimberly Lalley and Capt. Elizabeth Ortiz
Salitre 2004 Public Affairs

IQUIQUE, Chile - More than 100 Airmen from the New Mexico Air National Guard, N. M., Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Ellsworth AFB, S.D., and Bolling AFB, Washington D.C. are participating in Salitre 2004, a multinational air combat training exercise taking place through Monday at Los Condores Air Base here.

"This marks an unprecedented level of multinational cooperation," said Maj. Len Summers, the chief planner for the exercise from U.S. Southern Command Air Forces. "It is a historic first for the participating nations."

Hosted by the Chilean air force, the exercise consists of more than 600 service members from Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States. This year marks the first-ever deployment of all four countries and also the first time a combined air operations center has been integrated. The bi-annual exercise, a low-intensity air campaign scenario, simulates wartime conditions pilots

would face in real combat. The Chilean sky has more than 40 fighter aircraft and 20 support aircraft engaging in the air, U.S. F-16 *Fighting Falcons*, Mirage IIIs and Vs from Argentina, F-5E *Tigres* from Brazil, and A-36s and A-37s from Chile, to name a few.

Overall, Salitre 2004 gives participants the opportunity to sharpen air-combat skills, exchange air operations and tactics, and promote closer relationships among these nations. "Salitre has given me an opportunity to work with my counterparts from other countries and experience new ways to approach intelligence operations," said Capt. Atilio Usseglio, an intelligence officer from Davis-Monthan AFB who is here in the intel-



Capt. Esmeralda Silvestre

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Larry Trejos, a firefighter from the 28th Civil Engineer Squadron at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., and Master Sgt. Omar Daniel Grosso, an Argentinean air force firefighter, help Tech. Sgt. Juana Rivas, a nurse in the Chilean air force fire department, properly adjust an oxygen mask Oct. 1 at Los Condores Air Base.

ligence control cell. "At the same time, I can share my knowledge and experience, improving our ability to work as a team."

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News Briefs

Volunteers needed

Special Olympics Pima County 2004 Area Bowling Competition is Oct. 28 through 30 at Fiesta Lanes. More than 800 athletes are scheduled to compete over the three days, and volunteers are needed to assist with monitoring the lanes, scoring, distributing lunches and other tasks. Volunteers are especially needed Oct. 29 and 30 due to the increased number of competitors. To volunteer, contact Bill Anderson, D-M Special Olympics Volunteer at 228-2033 or your unit POC.

Story idea?

Does your workcenter have a new mission? Has someone in your unit recently participated in a major sports event or have an interesting hobby? Send your ideas to 12AF/PA at 12AF.PA@dm.af.mil.

Air Chiefs compare training, build friendships

By 1st Lt. Rebecca Garland
12th Air Force Public Affairs

The U.S. shares a commitment to peace and stability with democratic states of this hemisphere. Increasing regional cooperation and sustaining regional stability remain fundamental objectives, as well as the reasons for a visit by the Air Force commanders of several Andean countries to Davis-Monthan AFB this September.

Air chiefs from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru spent five days in Arizona exchanging notes and finding common interests in training, specifically in the areas of aviation and communication.

"Aside from the business agenda, this was a great opportunity to open personal lines of communication and understanding, so under more difficult and stressful situations we won't have to invent those

lines or develop those relationships," said Lieutenant Gen. Randall Schmidt, 12th Air Force commander.

During the visit, the Air Chiefs viewed local resources, observed A-10 operations at Gila Bend, visited the USAF's F-16 training wing at Luke AFB, covered maintenance, logistics and operational

training issues, and lastly gave briefings on their own countries' concerns.

"Each of the air chiefs presented briefings highlighting areas they considered of mutual interest," said Lieutenant General Schmidt. "I continue to be impressed by the professionalism and dedication those Air Force commanders have and how open and honest their dialogue was."

The Air Chiefs were particularly interested in the exchange officer position at Luke AFB. One of the region's very

own—a Venezuelan Lieutenant Colonel—is currently in that billet. He was on-hand when the Air Chiefs were briefed on the phase maintenance process for the F-16. The officer is participating in an exchange program that allows U.S. Airmen to trade places with airmen in air forces of other countries in this region for two years at a time.

Aside from observing operations and listening to mission briefings, the air chiefs were able to fly in the F-16 simulators at Luke AFB and dog-fight against each other, said Lieutenant General Schmidt.

He said the visit could not have happened without the support of multiple bases, personnel and agencies. "I sincerely appreciate the support our U.S. Airmen gave across the board for this visit including the 366th Fighter Wing, the 27th Fighter Wing, the 355th Wing and finally the 56th Training Wing. Their support went above and beyond the call of duty for this one, and they've left a lasting impression on the minds of our visitors."

This was a great opportunity to open personal lines of communication and understanding.

-Lt. Gen. Randall Schmidt
Commander, 12th Air Force

Joint security forces, Honduran team secures base

Story and photo by Army Sgt. Jorge Gomez
Joint Task Force-Bravo Public Affairs

SOTO CANO AIR BASE, Honduras – An Air National Guard unit here recently took extra measures to build positive relationships with the people of Joint Task Force-Bravo. They had a cook out.

Puerto Rican ANG's 156th Security Forces Squadron is on a 6-month deployment to Honduras as JTF-B's Joint Security Forces. They invited Honduran military security forces and local law enforcement officers to a Puerto Rican-style feast to foster a greater working relationship with their local partners, which includes the exchange of local criminal activities information.

"We are guests on this base, so it is very important that we maintain a good relationship to mutually support and protect the personnel and resources of Soto Cano," said Air Force Maj. Jose Iguina, Joint Security Forces deputy commander.

The 156th SFS, which arrived in May, has taken the U.S./Honduran security forces relationship a step further because its members speak Spanish, said Honduran Capt. Carlos Flores, Honduran security forces chief of operations. "We've been able to work with U.S. service members with the assistance of an interpreter, but when there is no communication barrier, things run smoother and we are able to develop a friendship with each other," Captain Flores said.

Current joint responsibilities include main gate operations, base and perimeter patrol, tower security and

access control operations. Local Honduran law enforcement agencies are also interested in supporting the Joint Task Force-Bravo mission.

"JTF-Bravo has always been generous in assisting us with our operations so we are prepared to support the mission of JSF," said Jose Ramirez, Comayagua Police Department chief.

JSF provides general guidance in criminal and military police investigations to local Honduran law enforcement agencies. The 156th currently has deployed members here while also supporting the Homeland Defense mission at MacDill and Patrick Air Force Bases, Fla. Most Airmen work in law enforcement career fields back home while some members carry full-time college loads or work for state, federal and private corporations. They have been deployed to Ecuador, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Curacao, Moody AFB, Ga., and Cannon AFB, N.M.

"Here, it's different every day," he said. "We rotate between gate duty, perimeter patrols and securing facilities, so it doesn't get boring. We work well with the Hondurans, so this is a good, safe base."

The JSF unit also has personnel from the Puerto Rican ANG 612th Air Base Squadron and the Georgia Army Reserve.

JSF provides law enforcement and security for JTF-Bravo personnel, facilities, equipment and contingency operations; functions as the liaison between the U.S. government and Honduran military security elements and law enforcement agencies.



Senior Airman Jean Pierre Arroyo, Joint Security Forces, and Honduran Sgt. Osmin Ocampo, Honduran security forces, conduct a security check of the Ammunition Supply Point at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras. Airman Arroyo is from Puerto Rican ANG's 156th Security Forces Squadron, which is on a 6-month deployment to Honduras to support the Joint Task Force-Bravo mission.

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As part of building relationships, New Mexico ANG members returned for the third time this year after participating in Salitre 2000 and 2002, which were bilateral exercises with Chile.

Staff Sgt. Angelo Saiz, an ANG five-year veteran on his third deployment to Chile, says it's his favorite place to deploy. He also says he speaks enough Spanish to "make friends."

Tech. Sgt. Caytano "Guy" Arellano still e-mails two Chilean counterparts he met during Salitre 2000.

When he deployed again for Salitre 2002, he even attended a birthday party for one Chilean

friend's daughter.

"What's really nice is that you're speaking the same job language. What better way to serve and do something I love?" said Airman 1st Class Larry Trejos, a firefighter from Ellsworth AFB who is working with Chilean and Argentinean firefighters on his first deployment outside the United States.

"Through Salitre, we are making great strides toward building a powerful legacy of cooperation with the people and armed forces of the Southern Cone," said 2nd Lt. Alexander McCormick, the executive officer for the U.S. contingent.



Staff Sgt. Matt Lohr

An F-16 from the New Mexico Air National Guard lands from a training flight. Service members are here participating in Salitre 2004, a two-week multinational air combat training exercise between Chile, Argentina, Brazil and the United States. More than 100 USAF active duty and Air National Guard Airmen are participating in Salitre, which means "nitrate" in Spanish--a reference to the local nitrate mines which used to dominate the area.



The 12th Edition

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Twelfth Air Force Commander.....Lt. Gen. Randall Schmidt
Chief, Public Affairs.....Capt. Esmeralda Silvestre
Deputy, Public Affairs.....1st Lt. Rebecca Garland

SALUTE!

Congratulations to 12th AF warriors who recently were – or soon will be – promoted to the rank indicated and those who were recently awarded medals recognizing their accomplishments.

Promotees

Airman 1st Class

Rayshell Forrest

Senior Airman

Timothy Cook, Jeremy Barron,
Aaron Cull

Technical Sgt

Erik Larsen

Master Sgt

Ellen Kilinc, Anan Kimbrough

Medal Recipients

AF Commendation medal

Col. Timothy Vigil

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Maria Alsina (1st OLC)

On the road again...

Sixty-six Airmen, contractors and civilian personnel stationed at Manta, Air Base competed in a road race Sept. 10, at Santa Marianita. The race was just one event during a day of team building exercises which more than 250 personnel participated.



courtesy photo

Top of the 12th

Tech Sgt. Patty Ayala is the NCO in Charge of the Logistics Plans and Programs at the 612th Air Support Squadron.

“Tech Sgt. Ayala’s breadth of knowledge and positive, “can-do” attitude are phenomenal,” said Master Sgt. Schatzie Harvey, 612th Air Support Squadron. “She is a tremendous asset to 12th Air Force.”

Years of service: 18 years

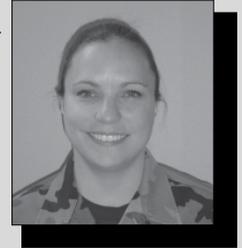
Hometown: Greenville, Texas

Primary duties and responsibilities: Monitor all Aerospace Expeditionary Force reporting tool inputs for 12th Air Force, SORTS monitor for A-4, support agreement manager for 12th AF and lead logistics planner for New Horizons exercises.

Favorite aspects of D-M: You can’t beat the weather and it’s where my husband and daughter live. If I can be with my family I am happy.

What would you change at D-M? Nothing. With the new gym, the new base exchange being built and the commissary renovation, it keeps getting better.

What motivates you? No matter how bad it may be, make the best of any situation and have fun with it.



Tech Sgt. Patty Ayala