

NOSOTROS

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 6

Serving the U.S. Southern Command military family in South Florida, the Caribbean, Central and South America and the surrounding seas

APRIL 7, 2011

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SOUTHCOM Military Deputy Cdr, Lt. Gen. Ken Keen with WW2 veteran Jean Beaugard. See more at www.miamiherald.com/2011/03/31/2144085/wwii-soldier-receives-bronze-medal.html# and on page 5.



Gunman Shoots Two, Takes Hostage in Fitness Center

Arthur McQueen

Jill Hauser, U.S. Army Garrison-Miami fitness center manager, plays a hostage while Jose Velazquez-Perez' acts as an armed and disgruntled employee in a Directorate of Emergency Services active shooter exercise Tuesday.

Arthur McQueen
USAG-Miami PAO

DORAL, Fla. – A gunman shot two people, killing one, and took fitness center director Jill Hauser hostage here Tuesday afternoon.

Jose Velazquez-Perez, a former Garrison employee toting a bright red M-16, entered the fitness center from the courtyard and immediately started yelling about losing his job.

Velazquez-Perez shot another fitness center employee working at the reception desk while Angelique Williams ran outside to call for assistance.

The situation was also noticed on camera by the Directorate of Emergency Services Security Desk personnel, who took information from Williams and passed it on to the Doral Police,

... see ATTACK, page 8

DoD to drop social security numbers from ID Cards

Special to NOSOTROS

Beginning June 1, Social Security numbers on military identification cards will begin to disappear, said Air Force Maj. Monica M. Matoush, a Pentagon spokeswoman.

The effort is part of a plan to protect service members and other DoD Identification Card holders from identity theft, officials said.

Criminals use Social Security

numbers to steal identities, allowing them to pillage resources, establish credit or to hijack credit cards, bank accounts or debit cards.

Currently, the Social Security number is printed on the back of common access cards, and on the front of cards issued to dependents and retirees.

Beginning in June, when current cards expire, they will be replaced with new cards having a DoD identification number

replacing the Social Security Number, officials said.

At U.S. Army Garrison-Miami's ID Card/Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System office, Daniel McMahan, who works in the TCSC office and was getting a new CAC card, expressed relief that the numbers are being removed.

"I think it's fine they're doing this. It's more a security

... see SSN, page 4

Speak Out:

Survey Runs thru 18th

Gen. Douglas Fraser
SOUTHCOM Commander

Please take the time to complete the confidential Organizational Assessment Survey so that I can better understand our strengths and challenges.

You can access it by clicking (<http://www2.paassessor.org/index.php/survey>), use Logon: Southcom2011, and Password: OAS4Southcom.

SOUTHCOM commander testifies about challenges facing region

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Central America remains a hotspot of instability caused by violent criminal organizations that use drug money to undermine legitimate governments, the commander of U.S. Southern Command said here yesterday.

Air Force Gen. Douglas M. Fraser said the northern triangle formed by Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras is possibly the most violent place on Earth today. Criminal organizations involved in illegal activities in the area — including drug trafficking -- realize a global profit of \$300 billion to \$400 billion, he said.

Fraser used United Nations figures to back up his point at a Pentagon news conference.

“If we look at Iraq in 2010, the violent deaths per 100,000, according to U.N. numbers, was 14 per 100,000,” he said. “In Honduras last year, it was 77 per 100,000. In El Salvador, it was 71 per 100,000.”

The region has some very capable militaries, the general said, noting that El Salvador sent troops to Iraq that American partners rated among the best in that battle. But the governments of the region are overmatched, he added.

“If you look at the transnational criminal organizations, it’s a well-financed, capable capacity -- an enterprise, if you will,” he said. “Our estimates are anywhere from, on an annual basis, on a global basis, the transnational criminal organizations bring in 300 billion [dollars] to \$400 billion a year. That’s a significant number when you put it against the capacities of the governments that we’re talking about.”

One example of the technology these crim-

inal organizations use is self-propelled, fully submersible vessels. These subs typically are 100 feet long, manned by a crew of four, and they can carry 10 tons of cocaine. They do not dive far below the surface and can transit between South America to the northern parts of Central America and into Mexico.



FRASER

Militaries are not built to handle law enforcement activities, but many have been called upon to aid police in the effort, and U.S. Southern Command helps this effort, Fraser said.

“Because of the concern from a law enforcement standpoint -- and I’ll use El Salvador as an example, the president, to address this issue, has asked and brought the military in to support law enforcement, very much in the same manner that we talk about within the United States,” the general said. “Within their authorities, they work with the law enforcement to address the issue. But almost half of the military of El Salvador is working to address the violence. And we’re seeing the same things -- not to the same level -- happen within other parts of the region.”

Southern Command is working hand in hand with the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. law enforcement agencies and others to address this issue, Fraser said. Southcom personnel are part of the solution, but not the entire solution, he added.

“It’s much more complex than that,” Fraser said. “And we have to address it, in my mind, on a regional basis, and not just on a country-by-country basis.” Toward that end, he said, the Central American Regional Security Initiative and the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative are aimed at improving the ways

countries work together, helping to empower the law enforcement and judicial systems.

“It’s a multi-pronged effort,” Fraser added.

But the foundation for these initiatives is building and sustaining military-to-military relations with partner militaries in the region, the general said.

“We engage with our partners ... to build that security capacity,” Fraser said. “Our efforts include military-to-military engagements, exercises, training [and] subject-matter expert exchanges wherever we can, to help build capacity within our military partners.”

Another important Southcom mission is to be prepared to respond in the event of natural or man-made catastrophes. The earthquake in Haiti in January 2010 was one example, and a magnitude 8.8 earthquake struck Chile last year, Fraser noted. Hurricanes probably are the most predictable natural disaster that can strike the area, he added, but the command has to be ready for everything from volcanoes to forest fires.

Fraser said the smuggling of drugs, guns, people and money is a regional problem, and it must be treated as such.

“Our boundaries from a U.S. forces standpoint is the southern border of Mexico with Guatemala and Belize,” he said. “But from our standpoint, that’s a very, very fuzzy boundary,” because of the close cooperation between the two American combatant commands.

Southern Command’s Joint Interagency Task Force South, which coordinates the interagency capacity to detect and monitor traffic in the maritime environment, has boundaries that go beyond those between the Northcom and Southcom areas of responsibility, Fraser said, and it reaches into parts of U.S. European Command and U.S. Pacific Command’s areas as well.

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Contact Public Affairs at 305.437.1213, or visit us on: Facebook: [southcomnosotros](#); Twitter: [SCNosotros](#) or E-mail: southcomnosotros@gmail.com. Submissions to NOSOTROS should be received by the Friday preceding the publication date.



SOUTHCOM Commander
Gen. Douglas Fraser, USAF

Director, Public Affairs
Col. Scott Malcom, USA

Chief, Internal Information
Raymond Sarracino

Editor
Arthur McQueen

NOSOTROS Office Address:

9301 NW 33rd St.
Room A1423
Doral, FL 33172

Phone: (305) 437-2685
Web: <http://www.southcom.mil>

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JTF-B chapel hikes help Hondurans

Air Force Staff Sgt. Kimberly Rae Moore
Joint Task Force-Bravo Public Affairs

SOTO CANO AIR BASE, Honduras – The Soto Cano Air Base Friendship Chapel sponsors monthly hiking trips that partners JTF-Bravo members with local community leaders, city hall officials and the World Food Program to provide support to surrounding villages in need of food and supplies.

“The amount of food we provide is directly reflective of the generous donations from personnel assigned to Soto Cano Air Base,” said Capt. (Chaplain) Charles Seligman.

“Once we know how much money we have to purchase food, we have our NGO (non government organization representative) at the World Food Program locate a village in need, then we meet with the patronato (town father) and he chooses families to receive our donations. We schedule the hike and volunteers sign up to transport the donations.”

“January’s hike was to the villages of Las Delicias and Guayabal where we hiked through a coffee plantation owned by retired Lt. Col. Arturo Buxo, a former JTF-B leader.

“There is a lot of need in the two villages so this location just felt like a good fit,” said Seligman.

The donations included rice, salt, oats, sugar, soup, pasta and flour.

Many hikers distributed donated products that weren’t for eating, the chaplain said.

“This was the first time we donated hygiene items,” he said.

“I asked participants to bring items we take for granted every day; things like



Staff Sgt. Kimberly Rae Moore

Capt. Charles Seligman, right, Joint Task Force-Bravo chaplain, and Herbert Gaekel, JTF-B fire inspector, address volunteers during a recent hike.

soap, lotion, toothpaste and toothbrushes, can become a luxury when resources are scarce, so the hike participants provided these items.”

There was a lot to hand out, Seligman said. “This was probably the largest attendance in recent history, we had 107 members volunteer to go on the hike and we received more monetary donations than ever before.”

Both JTF-B and the local people benefit from Chapel Hikes, he said.

“We do these because there is a need and the people of Honduras are a precious people.

“I couldn’t believe the turn out,” he said. “Everyone here is so eager to be part of positive activities. It reveals a lot about the volunteer spirit of America; we pull together and accomplish amazing things.”

Local Habitat for Humanity project still open for help

Special to NOSOTROS

There is still time to participate in the 13th Annual Blitz Build organized by Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami.

“Blitz off Broadway” features construction of 10 individual houses in Liberty City.

Individuals and teams are invited to participate in the Blitz Build by registering to work on specific dates during the period of Mon. April 4 – Sat. Apr. 16.

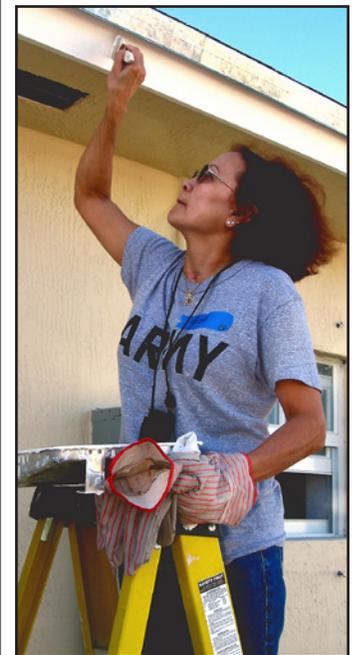
Here’s the basics:

What: Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build – build 10 new homes in just two weeks!

When: Monday April 4 – Saturday, April 16th.

Where: NW 18th Avenue in Liberty City (a stretch known locally as “Broadway”)

For more information about the Blitz Build, and to register as an individual or a team, go to www.southflorida.feb.gov and click on the “Events” tab.



File photo

A SOUTHCOM volunteer paints a fascia board during a prior Blitz Build in Miami.

AF summer camp deadlines nearing

Erin Tindell
AF Personnel, Services & Manpower Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO – Air Force officials recently announced the call for Air Force teen camps for summer 2011.

The annual camps are designed to help Air Force youth build leadership skills who aspire to careers in aviation.

The Teen Leadership Camp will be held July 11-15 at the University of Texas, San Antonio. The Space Camp will

be held July 24-29 at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala. Applications for both are due by April 15.

All applicants must be a dependent of an active, Guard, Reserve or retired Air Force member or an Air Force civilian. Applicants must be entering their Sophomore or Junior year this fall to apply for the aviation camp; students should have completed their Freshmen year for the leadership camp.

The space camp is open to

youth ages 12-18.

Interested teens must complete and submit a form to their installation youth program. Participants will be notified about three to four weeks after the application deadline. Attendees are responsible for transportation costs; lodging, meals and program are free.

For more information about each camp or on Air Force youth programs, visit:

www.afyouthprograms.com.

Navy Chiefs' mess celebrates 116 years of service

April Fool's Day event no joking matter for South Florida's Chief Petty Officers

Special to NOSOTROS

More than 130 Chiefs and friends of chiefs from around the South Florida region gathered in the Conference Center of the Americas here at Southern Command to commemorate the 116th birthday of the Navy Chief rating April 1.

Chiefs from the active, reserve, and retired rolls from SOUTHCOM, Special Operations Command - South and Naval Recruiting District Miami were joined by guests and well-wishers from all branches to celebrate.

Informally known as the backbone of the Navy, these legendary leaders, mentors and comrades-in-arms of the Chief Petty Officer rating are an instrumental part of the Navy's culture.



MCC Gabriel Puella

Chiefs from around South Florida gathered to commemorate the anniversary of the Navy's Chief rating.

SSN, from page 1 ...

measure than anything ... especially if you lose your card," he said.

The DoD identification number is a 10-digit number that is assigned to every person with a direct relationship with the department.

The new number also will be

the service member's Geneva Convention identification number. An 11-digit DoD benefits number also will appear on the cards of those people eligible for DoD benefits.

The first nine digits are common to a sponsor, the official said, and the last two digits will identify a specific person within the sponsor's family.

Social Security numbers embedded in the bar codes on the back of identification cards will remain there for the time being, and will be phased out beginning in 2012.

The department will replace identification cards as they expire.

"Because cards will be replaced upon expiration, it will

be approximately four years until all cards are replaced with the DoD ID number," Matoush said.

The identity protection program began in 2008, when DoD started removing Social Security numbers from family member identification cards.

Ed: Armed Forces Press Service contributed to this article.

Marital workshop Apr. 15 – 17 at SOUTHCOM

Special to NOSOTROS

A marital and relationship workshop hosted by U.S. Army Garrison-Miami and open to all will be led by counselor Dr. Kenneth Fowler, Jr. April 15-17.

The theme for the event will be, "How will your marriage be remembered?"

Marriage is defined by memories. They can be memories of joy and fulfillment or pain and heartbreak. It all depends on how well you apply the principles that make marriage thrive.

The Marriage and Relationship Workshop has been helping couples create the kind of memories that build a healthy marriage by understanding the military culture.

The Marriage and Relationship Work-

shop is a weekend marriage conference that teaches healthy tips for marriage and family. The environment is fun, non-threatening, and sometimes hilarious. And it's a wonderful time for couples to refresh good marriages or heal troubled ones. Don't miss the opportunity to do something different.

To register, contact Joe Walker at 305-437-2734 or joe.walker@hq.southcom.mil

Relationship workshop

- **Deadline to register: April 13**
- **FREE for all Military and DoD Civilians. Child care will be provided**
- **When: April 15 – 17**
- **Where: ACS Family Support Center, Suite E2005, 9301 NW 33rd Street, Doral, Fla. 33172**

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A central location for community information. Click on the "Command Bulletin Board" menu item from the Portal page.

Bronze Star Awarded After 66 Years



Arthur McQueen



Juan Chiari

(left) Patricia Beaugard watches as Jean (John) Beaugard, her husband of 61 years (right) receives the Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, and campaign star from Lt. Gen. Ken Keen, SOUTHCOM Military Deputy Commander, during a ceremony in the Conference Center of the Americas March 31. During a firefight his Company was encountering heavy enemy fire at which time a fellow soldier was wounded and pinned down. Officers asked for volunteers to rescue the soldier. When no one responded Pvt. Beaugard volunteered and, with disregard for his personal safety and while under enemy fire, went out to the pinned down man and brought him back to a secure position. During the cold and wet winter he, like many men, suffered “trench foot” and was evacuated to the 34th Evacuation Hospital and spent a number of months recovering in England before his discharge in 1945.

New Red Cross Office Ready to Train, Assist



Headquarters Commandant, Col. Clarence Hilton, U.S. Army Garrison-Miami Manager, Audy Snodgrass, Sam Tidwell, CEO of the South Florida Region, American Red Cross, and Ralph Zayas, Service to the Armed Forces Coordinator for Miami cut the ribbon for the new Red Cross office.

Arthur McQueen
USAG-Miami PAO

DORAL, Fla – The American Red Cross opened its first satellite station in South Florida March 25 in a ceremony here in the Installation Services Building.

“This is great, something we have been working towards for the last two months,” said Ralph Zayas, Service to the Armed Forces Coordinator. “As a disabled American Vet, it feels great to come back and serve the military community.”

The biggest hurdle was having the infrastructure available, said Tony Colmanares, regional director for service to the armed forces and international services. “Now in the new building we have the adequate space.”

There is a distinct advantage to both the military and the Red Cross through this satellite station, according to Sam

Tidwell, the CEO of the South Florida Region.

“By being here as part of the family resources, we can be here for them, not just as another organization, not just in emergencies, but in their everyday lives,” he said.

“We have some volunteer opportunities that can get people active, but starting April 16 we also have the leadership training program where we are recruiting people to become leaders within the Red Cross. We could use the talent here at SOUTHCOM, which has the leadership skills we need in volunteers.”

The organization can thus offer volunteer opportunities for service members and employees, “give them a break from their normal operations” and provide needed help, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

“Our partnership with South-

... see RED CROSS, page 8



Sebastian Kelm

WASHINGTON – Air Force Gen. Douglas M. Fraser, commander of U.S. Southern Command, testifies before the House Armed Services Committee March 30 as part of the command’s annual posture statement to Congress. Fraser testified alongside the commanders of U.S. Northern Command and U.S. European Command. See the related story on page 2.

AROUND THE AMERICAS



Arthur McQueen

FIRST CHILD: The first U.S. Army Garrison-Miami Child Development Center customer, Stephanie Vasquez, 4, arrives early in the morning March 28. “I’m excited,” she said, “I can do a lot of stuff like painting and art at this school.”



MEDICAL AID: Capt. Christopher Saylor, of the 355th Dental Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tuscon, Ariz., conducts a dental inspection on a local Salvadoran citizen during Beyond the Horizon 2011, a 4-month-long, joint-effort training exercise designed to aid the people here. The dental portion of the training exercise will last two weeks with the hopes of treating more than 2,500 Salvadoran citizens.

Spc. Emerson Marcus

After Hours: Family & Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities and events

Family and MWR announcements may be found on the portal under "Command Announcements."

Are you on **facebook**? Go to our official facebook page, **USAG-MIAMI FMWR**, and click "LIKE" for information on tickets, trips events!

To be placed on the Family and MWR e-mail list, send your name, phone number and e-mail address to mwrcustomervice@hq.southcom.mil.

Classes:

MARITAL AND RELATIONSHIP WORKSHOP

presented by Dr. Kenneth E. Fowler, Jr., CEO, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Certified Traumatologist. How will your marriage be remembered? Marriage is defined by memories. They can be memories of joy and fulfillment or pain and heartbreak. The Marriage and Relationship Workshop has been helping couples create the kind of memories that build a healthy marriage by understanding the military culture. The Marriage and Relationship Workshop is a weekend marriage conference that teaches healthy tips for marriage and family. The environment is fun, non-threatening, and sometimes hilarious. And it's a wonderful time for couples to refresh good marriages or heal troubled ones. April 15 - 17, Installation Services Center, Family Support Center, Suite 2005, 9301 NW 33rd Street, Doral, FL 33172. POC: Joe Walker, 305-437-2734, joe.walker@hq.southcom.mil. Free to all Military and DoD employees, child care will be provided. Deadline to register: 13 April. Limited to 16 couples.



GET OUT OF DEBT AND RAISE YOUR CREDIT SCORE 100 POINTS IN 45 DAYS

Tuesday, 26 April, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm, USAG-Miami, Installation Services Center, 9301 NW 33rd Street, Family Support Center, Suite E2005. Limited to 40 attendees. POC: Mr. Rich Zimmelman, ext. 2645, Richard.Zimmelman@hq.southcom.mil.



Tickets offered by the Information, Tickets and Registration (ITR) Office, 305-437-1595 or 305-437-2400



FLORIDA PANTHERS Ticket prices start at \$20.

ZOO MIAMI (formerly Miami Metro Zoo) tickets

now available. Adult: \$14, Child: \$10. Save up to 18% per person.

■ **WICKED** Sun., Apr 10, 7:30 p.m. Winner of 35 major awards, including a Grammy and three Tony Awards, **WICKED** is Broadway's biggest Blockbuster and a cultural phenomenon. Broward Center for the Performing Arts. Mezzanine seats, \$70.

■ **Florida Grand Opera presents DON GIOVANNI** Sat., Apr 30, 8 p.m. Considered by many to be the most perfect opera ever written, Mozart's Don Giovanni continues to thrill audiences today as it did at its premiere in 1787! Adrienne Arsht Center, right tier 3 seats, \$40.

■ **WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT** Now through Sep 28 active and retired U.S. military personnel (including active and retired members of the United States Coast Guard, National Guard and Reservists) or their spouses can purchase:

- Disney 4-Day Military Promotional Tickets with Park Hopper Option for \$135 each
- Disney 4-Day Military Promotional Tickets with Water Parks Fun and More Option for \$135
- Disney 4-Day Military Promotional Tickets with Park Hopper and Water Parks Fun and More Options for \$162 each
- Disney Military Promotional Tickets (including any options) expire and may not be used after Oct 1. Disney 4-Day Military Promotional Tickets (including any options) for the Walt Disney World Resort may not be used on the following blackout dates: Apr 17-23 at all Walt Disney World Theme Parks and other gated attractions and Jul 4 at Magic Kingdom Park.

Sports & Fitness

■ We now have our own **MASSEUR!** 60 minute session - \$70, 30 minute session - \$35. To schedule your appointment call Russell Protzman 305-951-1286 or 305-887-1719.



■ **TRX SUSPENSION TRAINING-** Starts April 11, Mon & Wed, 6 p.m. \$3 per class. Build functional strength, balance and core stability all at once with this unique training system. FREE INTRODUCTORY CLASS Monday April 4. Please register with Jill Hauser, Jill.Hauser@hq.southcom.mil. Classes will be given by Certified TRX Trainer Idalia Lopez.

■ **OPEN PLAY VOLLEYBALL** Tuesday and Thursday, 12-1 p.m.

■ **FUNCTIONAL FITNESS** 6-7 a.m., 1130 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 3-7 p.m., Mon.-Fri. For more information, call Frank Same, ext. 1152, Jill



Hauser, ext. 1682 or the fitness center front desk 0123/0124.

■ Join the **FAMILY AND MWR INDOOR WALKING GROUP.**

Meets every Mon., Wed. and Fri., at 11:30 a.m. on the indoor track. To join, contact Angie Williams, ext. 0123.

■ **MERCEDES-BENZ 2011 CORPORATE RUN** Apr 28, Bayfront Park. Family and MWR Sports and Fitness will enter a SOUTHCOM team. www.Mercedesbenzcorporaterun.com. Contact Jill Hauser.

■ **COMING SOON** - Zumba, Yoga, Spinning, Kick boxing and Tai-chi!

South Florida Community Events

■ **BLUES, BREWS & BARBECUE at THE FRUIT & SPICE PARK** - 1st Annual Blues, Brews & Barbecue, April 16 & 17, 2011, at the Fruit & Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Avenue in Homestead. Come out and join us lakeside for some tantalizing BBQ and incredible blues & country music. Relax while strolling through the park or spread your blanket and gaze at the sky. A multitude of children's activities, petting zoo and pony rides will be available throughout the day. Featured Bands performing onstage throughout the day include: Pit Bull Blues Band, The Jay Blues Band, Rewind, and country singer Matt Mansfield formerly of "Southern Drawl."

On Saturday from 12 noon - 2 pm Thunder Country DJ Doug Hitchcock will remote live on the air the festivities and BBQ competition.

Sponsored by: LIVE entertainment, Budweiser, 100.3 Thunder Country, and Rib vendors, Smoke n' Spice, Huckleberry Hillbilly BBQ, and Big Pig BBQ. Additional vendors will include: Fresh roasted corn on the cob, funnel cakes, ice cream, silky smooth milk shakes & fresh baked pies.

Admission is \$5 per person, children under 11 years of age are admitted free. Doors open at 10 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 am - 6 pm on Sunday. For more information, please call the Fruit & Spice Park at 305-247-5727.

Discounts

■ **TRATTORIA DAL NONNO**, 10802 NW 58th St., Doral offers a 20% discount to all members of SOUTHCOM (all federal, state, military agencies.) Show ID. 305-477-8804, www.trattoriadalnnonno.com



■ **AAAA UNIVERSE**, 7800 NW29th St., Miami, FL 33122, 10% discount or discounted price "B" to military on brand name electronics and appliances. Come in uniform or show your military ID. Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sat., 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun., 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Call to verify hours. 305-688-1000.

ATTACK, from page 1 ...

who called for further assistance from the Miami-Dade Police Special Response Team and Fire Department.

Meanwhile, Velazquez-Perez took Hauser hostage, sprinting up the stairs to the indoor running track.

There he shot and wounded a bystander and used Hauser as a human shield, threatening to kill her with the M-16 – and later – a plastic orange pistol given to him by DES exercise director Luis Martell-Castro.

The exercise ended after a 15-minute standoff, with the gunman pinned in the corner of the upper gym area by DES personnel.

Despite noting room for improvement, evaluators praised the DES security for their calm response.

“I’ve seen these kinds of exercises before,” said Jose Torres-Cruz, plans, analysis and integration officer, “and many times there is a lot of yelling, panic and confusion. I didn’t see that here.”



Deputy DES and exercise director Luis Martell-Castro conducts an after action review with input from the Doral police and Miami-Dade first responders. This was the first exercise of its kind in the Garrison. According to the DES director, Edward Weeks, the expected goal of the exercise was not only validate the department active shooter battle drill, but to foster a sense of cooperation and team work amongst the local responders and USAG-Miami Security forces. The synchronization of such training events at the individual and team collective level is the cornerstone of the process to execute training events at the installation level. The execution of weekly, quarterly department training events at individual and team collective levels reinforces the development of security personnel tactics, techniques, procedures and a sense of cooperation and teamwork amongst first responders.

Others were not so generous. “You pulled my hair,” said Hauser, playfully slapping Velazquez-Perez, a friend who is still employed in the DES. “And you guys – no one came to save me!” she said with a smile.

It turns out that rushing in would have been a mistake.

“My only shot at (the perp) was through you,” replied a Doral police officer.

“We understand that we are in the crawling phase, our people have never been exposed to this kind of scenario, either in training or in reality,” said Frank Rosado, operations chief after the debriefing. “The more you practice, the better you can handle things, and the more familiar they will become with any situation.”

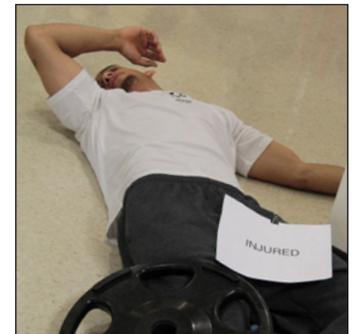
The exercise evaluated the DES officers skills at responding to the situation, dispatching forces to both protect the Child Development Center and secure the area, setting up a command post, and briefing

local community first responders.

“This training exercise was definitely a learning curve for all those involved and is clearly a stepping stone to add to and improve our own response procedures in concert with the local first responders in the future.” Martell-Castro said.



U.S. Army Garrison-Miami Directorate of Emergency Services security forces move into position during an active shooter exercise.



A bystander lies on the floor after being shot during the rampage.

All photos by Arthur McQueen

RED CROSS, from page 5 ...

ern Command and the Garrison has been very supportive,” Tidwell said.

There are few paid members of the Red Cross, 95 percent of the organizations employees are volunteers.

“But we are dedicated to being there after every fire, every catastrophe, we constantly prepare for just that kind of event,”

Zayas said.

He should know, he has literally bled gallons for the cause. “I was a blood donor for many years, and a member of a donors club, the Six Gallon Club,” he recalled.

“I was in the middle of transitioning to retirement, applied, and got involved in the Red Cross. I was also involved in the BRAIVE Fund, which seeks to help those who have deployed to Iraq and Afghani-

stan with financial, logistics, counseling and other assistance.”

The Red Cross office is manned every working day, and is at (305) 437-0622.

According to Colmanares, this is just the start, with other offices planned for Homestead Air Reserve Base, a third at the naval base at Key West, and a fourth and fifth at the VA medical centers in Miami and Broward.