

Team takes medical aid to Sri Lanka

JAFFNA, Sri Lanka — A decades-long civil war has claimed tens of thousands of Sri Lankan lives, and land mines continue to maim an untold number of civilians caught up in the aftermath of the war.

A team of 20 military medical specialists

Maj. Troy Osborn (left) monitors a Sri Lankan patient's vital signs

as Army Maj. (Drs.) Ryan Moon (center) and Philip Woodworth operate. Major Osborn is assigned to the 374th Medical Group at Yokota Air Base, Japan. He said the people of Sri Lanka were the kindest, most hospitable people he had ever met, and it was sad that fighting there has led to the mine-blast injuries.



consisting of Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen conducted a week-long humanitarian surgical training mission here known as blast, resuscitation and victim assistance. The mission, which began in April to help those in most need, was a Department of Defense humanitarian program that allowed medics to travel to countries affected by land mines and provide surgical services for victims.

The medical team was particularly concerned about the alarming

number of Sri Lankan children who were blast victims because of their tendency to innocently wander into the country's minefields.

While a sensitive cease fire — brokered in 2001 — carries on, so does the continued presence of land mines. Several large maps posted at public places warn about general minefield locations.

Rather than simply using a host nation's hospital resources, the team brought in, set up and used the same equipment they'd use in the field if they were with a deploying combat unit.

Two operating rooms handled about 10 patients a day. For those the team had time to help, the effort was definitely worth it, said Army Maj. **Donna Moore**, 127th Field Surgical Team certified registered nurse anesthetist.

"Doing humanitarian missions is the coolest thing in the world," she added.

— Maj. Kris Meyle
36th Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

Civil engineers play role in Honduras exercise

by Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz



Honduran soldiers place thatch on the roof of the camp's recreation tent. The Honduran army, U.S. Army and Airmen from the 934th Civil Engineer Squadron shared the camp during an exercise.

SABA, Honduras — The 934th Civil Engineer Squadron at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport took 48 of its Airmen and deployed here in April to participate in New Horizons 2004 as part of Joint Command Task Force Orengo.

The main focus of the exercise was to build schools and medical clinics and provide medical support to the local villages, said Senior Master Sgt. **Timothy Tamlyn** of the squadron. The civil engineers planned to make numerous improvements to the base camp where exercise participants lived and worked and to provide assistance to projects in local villages.

"It was evident that the part of

Honduras we were in was a desolate country with poverty everywhere you looked," Master Sgt. **David Sowers** said. "The level of poverty was a good example of why we should be thankful for what we have."

The Airmen graded sidewalks and poured concrete pads at locations where humanitarian projects were under way.

"We learned that private-school children attended class during the day, while public-school students met at night," Sergeant Tamlyn said. "That explained why so many kids were around during the day. Kids would stand at the wire and look in at us. It was priceless to see the looks on those kids' faces after receiving something from us."

— Master Sgt. Mike McGuire
934th Civil Engineer Squadron