



Volume 14, Issue 15

U.S. Naval Forces Central Command - U.S. FIFTH Fleet

October 2, 2003

Coalition nabs four suspected bandits



U.S. Navy Photo

U.S. Sailors from USS Fletcher (DD 992) and U.S. Coastguardsmen from Law Enforcement Detachment 407 detain four suspected sea-faring bandits in the North Arabian Gulf. Fletcher was aided by the USS Firebolt (PC 10), HMAS Newcastle (FFG 06) and an SH-60B Seahawk from the "Wolfpacks" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 45 (HSL-45), embarked aboard Fletcher, which provided this forward-looking infrared radar image of the operation.

By Lt. Garrett Kasper

COMUSNAVCENT/COMFIFTHFLT

Public Affairs

U.S. and coalition maritime interception forces (MIF) operating in the North Arabian Gulf apprehended four suspected bandits Sept. 29 after they allegedly robbed several cargo dhows.

Coalition forces maintain a significant security presence in Iraqi waters in support of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1483. Under 1483, coalition forces will provide law enforcement and security functions for the area until an Iraqi maritime security force can be established. Coalition maritime forces are supporting UNSCR 1483 in order to

help facilitate the normalization of commercial shipping for Iraq, which includes the prevention and prosecution of smugglers, and to help thwart other forms of illegal activity.

At approximately 7:30 p.m. Sept. 29, several dhows made emergency radio calls, claiming that a speedboat filled with four men approached their vessels and stole items at gunpoint. USS Fletcher (DD 992) directed its SH-60B Seahawk helicopter to investigate. The helicopter, from HSL-45's "Wolfpack," was already airborne about 15 miles north of the dhows supporting another mission when the distress calls were received.

Using their forward-looking infrared radar, the San Diego-based helicopter crew quickly found a small speedboat with four persons loitering in the area. Once the boat became aware of the helicopter's presence, it accelerated and headed on a northerly course.

Fletcher dispatched its boarding team in the destroyer's small boat, which intercepted the speedboat after a brief chase. The SH-60 crew maintained constant aerial surveillance of the speedboat, and aided Fletcher's boarding team in the final moments of the chase by hovering closely over the alleged thieves.

Fletcher's boarding team inspected the speedboat, and found several brand new tires, dozens of blankets, 20 flashlights and boxes of batteries strewn about. The items

See Bandits - page 2

Coalition naval forces complete search for missing Bahraini F-16

By Lt. Garrett Kasper

COMUSNAVCENT/COMFIFTHFLT

Public Affairs

U.S. and Coalition naval forces completed their support of a Bahraini search and rescue operation for a missing Bahraini Defense Force F-16 Tuesday evening, after 70 hours of non-stop patrols. Neither the pilot nor aircraft was found.

The Bahraini Defense Force stated that an F-16 was missing Saturday evening approximately 65 miles northwest of Bahrain, and called upon Commander, Naval Forces Central Command for assistance. Commander, Task Force Fifty-Five spearheaded the three-day search and rescue effort.

U.S. and Coalition vessels assisting the Bahrainis included (HSV 2) *Swift*, USS *Chosin* (CG 65), USS *Chinook* (PC 9), and

USCGC *Adak* (WPB 1333). There were also multiple U.S. and Coalition aircraft engaged in the search, including two SH-60B Seahawk helicopters from USS *Chosin*, and maritime patrol aircraft from the U.S., New Zealand and Australia. Additionally, Bahraini ships and patrol boats, as well as BDF aircraft participated in the search.

"The Coalition's non-stop search and res-

See F-16 - page 2

Bandits - from front page

found matched the description of items reported stolen by the dhows.

The Australian Navy frigate HMAS Newcastle (FFG 6) dispatched a liaison officer and a translator to assist with the questioning of the four suspects. USS Firebolt (PC 10) arrived on scene with Miami-based U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) 407, who performed a thorough search of the suspects and their vessel.

"This is a great example of how coalition teamwork, coupled with state-of-the-art technology, is neutralizing and deterring lawlessness in the North Arabian Gulf," said Capt. John Peterson, commander, Task Force 55, who leads the MIF. "We are helping to foster Iraq's reconstruction by enabling safe and legitimate commerce that empowers the Iraqi economy and people."

Coalition maritime interception operation (MIO) forces continue to operate in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility, enforcing U.N. Security Resolutions 1483, Iraqi law and maintaining maritime security.



File photo of Bahraini F-16

F-16 - from front page

cue effort was in support of our Bahraini allies," said Capt. John Peterson, commander of Task Force Fifty-Five. "Together, we combed more than 1,300 square miles of water

with ships, small boats, airplanes and helicopters. That's an area approximately five times the area of Bahrain itself."

The F-16 disappeared during a night training mission involving another plane.

Bahrain Marines react to save lives

By JO3 Shawnee McKain

Force Journalist

Many people on Naval Support Activity Bahrain the evening of March 24, 2003 remember a loud explosion. It was later determined that the blast was caused by a gas bottle exploding in a dumpster, but at the time, as U.S. forces were waging combat operations in Iraq, the blast could have been anything. While the rest of the base was scrambling to get to safety, the Interim Marine Corps Security Force Company, React Platoon put themselves in the face of danger.

"We responded by setting up a perimeter around the base and setting up security patrols to provide extensive protection in the case of a second threat or anything else that could happen," said Staff Sgt. Tarek Aissaoui, Platoon Sergeant of IMCSF React Platoon.

The IMCSF React Platoon provides a reactionary force to any threat anywhere on or around the base.

"If there is a threat anywhere, we provide the quickest response," Aissaoui said. "Our job is to respond to the threat and contain it."

The React Platoon's mission is to also provide force and anti-terrorism protection for U.S. strategic interests in the Arabian Gulf.

"If a terrorist were to jump over the fence with an AK-47, our job would be to make sure he doesn't harm anyone and apprehend him using appropriate force," said Lance Cpl. Robert Warchuck, Team Leader of IMCSF React Platoon. "There are five levels of appropriate response to this situation and I need to decide which one to use."

The Marines are taught these levels through continuous training. They are constantly being updated on new techniques to stay on top of their game.

"We are in a mission here," said Sgt. Benjamin Owen, Squad Leader of IMCSF React Platoon. "This is considered a hostile environment, so we are constantly on the job, as compared to being in the states where we are training for the job."

During the past six months, the Marines have been presented the opportunity to demonstrate their assertiveness and professionalism by responding to two separate suspicious packages on base.

"We are the Marine Corps. We do our job and do it well," Owen said. "We're professionals and if something happens, we're here to fix it."

"I think my job is outstanding," Warchuck said. "I'm counted on, and all the Marines in this react platoon are counted on to take care of this base. There's a lot of pride in that."



Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet, is **Vice Adm. Timothy J. Keating**.

The Scimitar is an authorized publication for the men, women and families serving overseas in the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command area. The editorial content of The Scimitar is prepared, edited and provided by Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander, U.S. Fifth Fleet Public Affairs Office. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Navy and do not imply endorsement thereof.

Questions and comments can be directed to the Public Affairs Office. The Editor of the Scimitar can be reached at 724-510 or 724-027. Stories and input may be submitted via e-mail to: scimitar@cusnc.navy.mil.

PAO: CDR Hal Pittman

Editor: JO1(SW) Dennis Herring
Layout Editor: JO2 Denny Lester

Lt. Cmdr. Lisa Brackenbury
Lt. Garrett Kasper
Lt. j.g. Joshua Frey
PH1(AW) Ernest Hunt
PH1(AW) Shane Wallenda
PH2 Veronica Birmingham
JO3 Shawnee McKain
JOSN Erica Gardner

Royal Navy Commodore Paul Robinson takes command as UKMCC, DCJFMCC

By Lt. Rudi Smith, Royal Navy

UKMCC N9

Media Operations

Royal Navy Commodore Richard Leaman bid a fond farewell to U.S. 5th Fleet Headquarters in Bahrain yesterday as he handed over command as United Kingdom Maritime Component Commander and Deputy Coalition Joint Forces Maritime Component Commander to Royal Navy Commodore Paul Robinson.

The Royal Navy has had a presence in the Gulf since 1977, contributing to peace and security in the region. In October 2001, UK Maritime Headquarters was established in Bahrain as part of the UK's contribution to the global war against terror launched after the September 11th terrorist attacks. In February 2002, the UK Commander was also given the role of Deputy Coalition Commander to the U.S. Admiral who also commands the U.S. 5th Fleet in the Middle East.

Commodore Leaman took up the post in April 2002, as part of his UK appointment as Commander UK Task Group (COMUKTG).

"The coalitions resolve and expertise con-

tinues to grow and our ability to detect, deter, deny and disrupt has made a significant impact on terrorist activity and the means of funding them," he said. "However, there is still much to be done to restore normality to Iraq, and in the continuing fight against international terrorism."

During his final reception, he praised the 15 Nation Coalition team for their meticulousness, and thanked them for their continuing support and efforts. He went on to thank his American guests stating, "I have learnt an immense amount from our American counterparts, and found it a pleasure to be part of such a professional team." Commodore Leaman returns to the UK and will assume another assignment later this month.

Commodore Robinson joins the staff in a permanent two-year appointment and will be joined by his wife Christine and 17-year-old daughter, Stephanie.

"The UK has a vital role to play in the Middle East for the foreseeable future and I am glad to be given to opportunity to take part," he said. "I very much look forward to working alongside the US and Coalition teams."



Royal Navy photo

Royal Navy Commodore Paul Robinson

Local servicemembers donate time to AYFFA

By JOSN Erica R. Gardner

Force Journalist



Children from the American Youth Flag Football Youth Association (AYFFA) execute one of the game plays learned during practice.

U.S. Navy photo by JOSN Erica R. Gardner

In 2000, American flag football was introduced to the youth of Bahrain, leading to the creation of the American Youth Flag Football Association (AYFFA).

AYFFA continues today in Bahrain with the help of dedicated NSA Bahrain volunteers and the participation of area youth.

In addition to being a wonderful outdoor activity for the kids, the AYFFA was created to promote good will among American, British and Bahraini schools in Bahrain, including the British school and St. Christopher's school playing in the games is not associated with the Navy's Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR), therefore other nationalities may participate

The Bahrain School, a Department of Defense Dependents school, is supportive of the goals of AYFFA and has given the teams permission to use their athletic field.

"I volunteer my time because I had wonderful mentors while growing up," said Senior Chief Information Systems Technician

see *Football* - page 6

France takes command of maritime task force

By Lt. Rudi Smith, Royal Navy
UKMCC N9
Media Operations

The French Navy Monday, took command of Commander Task Force 150, a Coalition Maritime Task Force operating in the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the continuing global war on terrorism.

Task Force 150, comprised of warships from the UK, US, France, Germany, Italy and Spain, has been under the command of German Rear Adm. Manfred Nielson aboard FGS Brandenburg since April. "We have succeeded in maintaining a degree of stability in the region but permanent peace has

never the less, not been achieved," Nielson said

The task force will now operate under the command of Rear Adm. Jacques Mazars, French Navy. "The activities of international terrorism have been reduced but unfortunately, have not ceased entirely." Mazars said. However, Admiral Mazars was quick to point out that CTF 150's operational objectives had been achieved. He has confidence in the success of his mission, stating, "We will continue to increase the pressure to prove the coalition resolve in combating terrorism."

The change of command took place onboard the outgoing Flag Ship, Federal German Ship Brandenburg. His Excellency,

Mr Patrick Russell, French Ambassador to Djibouti; Vice Admiral Dumontet French Navy, Head of the French Surface Flotilla; Brigadier General Martin Roberson, US Marine Corps, Commander Joint Task Forces Horn of Africa; and Commodore Richard Leaman, Royal Navy, Deputy Coalition Joint Forces Maritime Component Commander, were among the distinguished visitors attending the event.

Soon after the ceremony was complete, FGS Brandenburg, FGS Frankfurt and ITS Grecale departed the 5th Fleet region to return to their homeports. Admiral Mazar's flagship, FS Tourville, together with ITS Espero and FGS Lubeck, will sail Oct. 1 to join the remainder of the task force.

Commander, Naval Reserve Force visits NSA Bahrain

By JOSN Erica R. Gardner
Force Journalist

The Navy Reserve's top leader recently visited the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander Fifth Fleet region and spoke with about 150 Reservists serving at NSA Bahrain.

Vice Adm. John Totushek, Commander Naval Reserve Force, headquartered in New Orleans, took a few hours while in theatre to discuss the mission of the Navy Reserves

and to highlight his admiration for the work Reservists have done in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Totushek discussed future of the Navy Reserves and the plan to integrate the service with the active duty Navy.

"Everyone I have spoken with has said the missions in the Arabian Gulf could not have been done without the help of Reservists," Totushek said.

Totushek went on to express his vision

of the Naval Reserve Force in the future.

"We are starting to see the leadership recognize the position of the Naval Reserve Force and the impact they have on the active-duty Navy," Totushek said.

He further expressed the need for Reservists to continue working well with active-duty Navy personnel. Working toward a cohesive Naval force enables the missions to be carried out more efficiently.

"Adm. Totushek made me feel comfortable
see Reserves - page 5



Command Religious Program Naval Support Activity Bahrain



Weekly Schedule of Events

Monday	1200 - Catholic Mass, Chaplain's Office Chapel Annex 1700 - Gospel Choir Practice, Chapel/Training Facility
Tuesday	1200 - Catholic Mass, Chaplain's Office Chapel Annex 1830 - Gospel Bible Study, Chaplain Parker's flat
Wednesday	1200 - Catholic Mass, Chapel/Training Facility 1630 - Catholic Choir Practice, Chapel/Training Facility 1730 - Protestant Choir Practice, Chapel/Training Facility 1830 - Gospel Choir Practice, Chapel/Training Facility 1830-2000 - Alien Youth Group Bible Study (grades 9-12), Bahrain School Room NTC 2000 - Gospel Praise Dancer's rehearsal, POC Elder Sorrells
Thursday	1200 - Catholic Mass, Chaplain's Office Chapel Annex 1630-1700 - Confessions, Chapel/Training Facility 1730 - Catholic Vigil Mass, Chapel/Training Facility 1830 - Gospel Intercessory Prayer Ministry, POC Miller
Friday	0930 - Catholic Mass, Chapel/Training Facility 0930 - Protestant Adult Friday School II in the CPO Lounge at the Dome 1100 - Protestant Worship Service, Chapel/Training Facility 1130 - Gospel Friday School Class, Navy College Classroom #2 1300 - Gospel Service, Chapel/Training Facility 1330 - Gospel Children's Church ages 5-10 in the CDC, POC Mrs. Fulson 1800 - Protestant Evening Worship/Fellowship/Potluck at Chaplain Parker's flat
Saturday	0730 - Protestant Single and Geo-Bachelor Men's Study in the Dome Conference room
Sunday	1200 - Catholic Mass, Chaplain's Office Chapel Annex 1800 - Protestant Evening Worship Service, Chapel/Training Facility 1900 - Gospel Praise Dancer's rehearsal, POC Elder Sorrells

Laypeople:

Muslim- CTCM Young
Latter Day Saints- Cmdr. Hansen
Jewish- Lt. j.g. Frey
United Pentacostal- CW3 Moody

NSA Chaplain Staff:

Capt. Parker, Command Chaplain
Lt. Borger, Catholic Chaplain
RP1(SW) Jefferson-Brooks
RP2 Harris
RPSN McCalister
NAVCENT Chaplain Staff:
Capt. Tidd, Command Chaplain
Cdr. Parisi, Catholic Chaplain
RP2 Mosqueda

Questions regarding Command Religious Programs, please contact NSA Bahrain Chaplain's office at 439-4235/4303 or 724-235/303, Sunday - Thursday.

Event participation contingent upon Force Protection Conditions

Collective Soul drops into NSA Bahrain

By JO3 Shawnee McKain
Force Journalist

“Thank you for letting me be a rock and roll dude!” Collective Soul’s lead singer Ed Roland yelled to the crowd. “You’re the reason I can do it!”

Collective Soul’s way to say thank you was giving a free concert for the Sailors, Marines and Airman at Naval Support Activity Bahrain Tuesday night.

“The concert was awesome, there’s no other way to describe it,” said Sonar Technician Submarine 3rd Class Todd Soley, a USS Memphis (SSN 691) crewmember.



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Denny Lester



U.S. Navy photo by PHC(AW/SW) Thomas Coffelt

Lead singer Ed Roland (top) and lead guitarist Ross Childress (left) of Collective Soul perform for the crowd during their concert Tuesday night at NSA Bahrain.

“It was our way of showing our appreciation to the military,” Roland said. “If we can bring a little bit of home to them and make them feel good and forget about things for an hour or two, then we’ve done our job.”

Collective Soul started touring military bases in Japan about six months ago but took a short break before this military tour. This tour started at Naval Station Rota, Spain before moving on to Naples, Italy and then to NSA Bahrain.

“It was one of the coolest things we’ve ever

done in our careers because everyone was so appreciative and we just felt like we were giving something back to the military,” Roland said.

“I think it’s great the band came out here,” Soley said. “The guys out here need and deserve something like this and it’s something to look forward to when we pull in.”

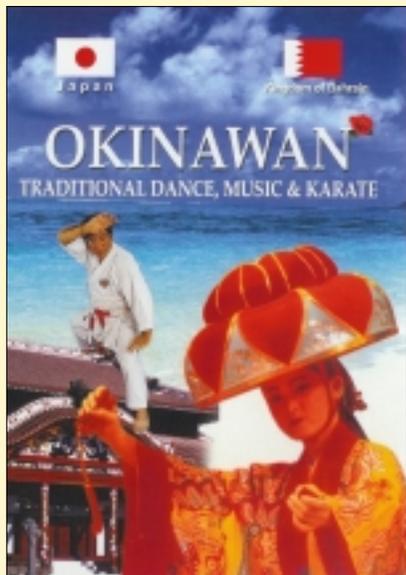
“We would like to thank everyone over here for their hard work,” Roland said. “It’s appreciated not only from us but from everyone back home.”

Reserves - from page 4

able about being a Reservist,” said Storekeeper Second Class LaQuanta Clark, General Store Keeper. “I am pleased to have our leaders recognize the efforts of Reservists as a whole,”

Closing his talk, Totushek opened the floor to questions from Reservists. He answered questions regarding a possible increase in commissary, medical and dental benefits. Discussions centering on future manning of the reserve force and reserve pay problems were entertained, as well as possible new programs to enhance Reservist education benefits.

“I want to tell you what a great honor this has been for me to be associated with the Navy Reserve Community,” Totushek said. “Without your great work, the Navy would not have the capability to perform as they have in the past couple of years.”



Under the patronage of
His Excellency Nabil Bin Yaqoub Al Hamar
Minister of Information

The Embassy of Japan in cooperation with
The Ministry of Information invites you to attend

The OKINAWAN
Traditional Dance, Music and Karate

in the 12th Bahrain International Music Festival

On October 9, 2003 at the
Bahrain National Museum

Doors open: 7:30 p.m.

Show start: 8:00 p.m.

Football - from page 3

(SW) Rob Tomlinson, Naval Computer Telecommunications Station. Tomlinson is the 2003 season commissioner for AYFFA.

The volunteer coaches donate their time and energy for a variety of reasons, most important of which are the children.

"You also have to have a love for the game," said Lt. j.g. Jammal Jones, Personnel Support Office.

"Volunteering allows you to give back to the community," Tomlinson agreed.

Tomlinson expressed that a child's development is the most important goal of the association.

"We are dealing with a different era of youth today," Tomlinson said. "This generation does not play outdoors like I did as a youth. It is

great to have the number of kids participate like we do."

"Parents are excited about the influence the coaches have on their children," Jones said.

AYFFA has about 120 youth participants of Indian, Bahraini, English and American descent. There are 30 coaches for the children, which promotes a ratio that allows more attention for the youth. There are 15 co-ed teams and the youth range from elementary to high school. The teams are divided by age. There is an elementary league for children age 6 - 10. The league for middle school children ranges from ages 11-14 and the high school league is for ages 15 - 18.

Lt. j.g. Charles Taylor, NSA Supply and a volunteer middle school league coach, feels strongly about the program. "I have been playing for many years and I want to coach, mentor

and show kids how things can be done in a positive manner," Taylor said. "It is my way of giving back to the community."

There are many departments with employees that have volunteered their time and resources to assist AYFFA. Members of the medical department provide medical screening. Employees of MWR assist in referee training and banquet planning - services that are 'donated' to AYFFA. The equipment used by the association was purchased with grants from the American Women's Association.

"Positive development of children is very important to the coaches involved in this program," Jones said when asked about his view of the program. "My personal reward is to have kids who were not on my team but participated in the program, call me by name and appreciate what I have tried to do for them." 🐭



NSA Paradise Theater

THURSDAY

- 2 1530 Piglets Big Movie (G)
- 1730 Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13)
- 1930 Hollywood Homicide (PG-13)

FRIDAY

- 3 1530 Rugrats Go Wild (G)
- 1730 Wrong Turn (R)
- 1930 Days of Thunder (PG13)

SATURDAY

- 4 1530 Air Bud (PG)
- 1730 League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (PG-13)
- 1930 Hollywood Homicide (PG13)

SUNDAY

- 5 1730 The In-Laws (PG-13)
- 1930 The Italian Job (PG-13)

MONDAY

- 6 1730 Angels in the Outfield (PG)
- 1930 Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13)

TUESDAY

- 7 1730 The In-Laws (PG-13)
- 1930 Matrix Reloaded (R)

WEDNESDAY

- 8 1530 Bambi (G)
- 1730 The Italian Job (PG-13)
- 1930 Hollywood Homicide (PG-13)

PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE (G) John Fiedler & Jim Cummings: Focusing on the tiniest member of Winnie the Pooh's extended family, this is the story of the self-confidence that timid Piglet finds when his friends are endangered. With the Book of Memories, Piglet is the one resident of Hundred Acre Wood who can save them. (75 min)

MATRIX RELOADED (R) Keanu Reeves & Carrie-Anne Moss: Neo and Trinity are summoned by Morpheus to join him on a journey to Zion, earth's last outpost of free humans. (138 min)

CHARLIE'S ANGELS: FULL THROTTLE (PG-13) Cameron Diaz & Drew Barrymore: When the Angels are summoned to Charlie's office, they are introduced to Bosley, his right hand man and given a new assignment. Recover a pair of stolen rings that contain an FBI code that allows users to access a list of everyone in the witness protection program. (106 min)

THE IN-LAWS (PG-13) Michael Douglas & Albert Brooks: A well meaning but clueless dentist, who doesn't like surprises in his life, discovers that the father of his future son-in-law is significantly stranger than he's able to deal with, as he finds himself dragged into a strange adventure involving international arms dealers, French super-villians and armed men's room attendants. (96 min)

RUGRATS GO WILD (PG) Bruce Willis & Jodi Carlisle: When the vacationing Rugrats and their parents get stranded on a deserted island, Tommy Pickles knows there's only one person who can help them: Nigel Thornberry! But a bonk on the head has made

Nigel act more like a 3 year old than a man. Can the babies make it home on their own, even with Eliza at their side? (81 min)

THE ITALIAN JOB (PG-13) Mark Wahlberg & Edward Norton: In this remake, a mastermind thief pulls off an amazing gold bullion heist from a heavily guarded palazzo in Venice, Italy, only to be double crossed by one of his crew. He travels to California with his former gang to re-stale the gold by manipulating traffic signals from a thief. (103 min)

LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN (PG-13) Sean Connery & Shane West: In an alternate universe where the principle characters of several literary classics actually exist, the queen has called an unusual summit. A league of super-powered heroes brought together to combat a mysterious villain who wants to plunge the world into war. (110 min)

HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE (PG-13) Harrison Ford & Josh Hartnett: When an entire hip-hop group is murdered on stage, two L.A.P.D. homicide detectives are assigned to the case. As the investigation progresses, they begin to suspect the rappers were offed for attempting to get out of their recording contract. Also starring Dr. Fre, Bell Biv DeVoe, Master P, Gladys Knight and Dwight Yoakam. (116 min)

WRONG TURN (R) Eliza Dushku & Jeremy Sisto: A cartload of six teens find themselves trapped in the woods of West Virginia, hunted down by cannibalistic mountain men grossly disfigured through generations of inbreeding. (84 min)