

THE WIRE

Expeditionary Legal Complex
Detainee death and transfers
Gitmo Plant Nursery

Loyalty means sacrifice and investment



By Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

What exactly is loyalty? There is a definition provided by Fred Reichheld in his book "The Loyalty Effect." Reichheld defines it as "the willingness to make an investment or personal sacrifice to strengthen a relationship." As leaders we have to show our Troopers that we are willing to sacrifice our time and invest tremendous knowledge and effort in our Troopers to make them as good as they can be.

I think that frequently, when people think of loyalty, they think of time. For example, you may have employees who have been on the job for a while but that doesn't necessarily make them loyal employees. I once knew a Soldier who had been in the military for 18 years and tested positive on his drug test. This Soldier had put in the time but obviously

was not being loyal to his profession. Being loyal is about putting in the time as well as doing whatever it takes to be successful and, more importantly, leading your team to be successful.

As leaders we need to show our loyalty to our Troopers in our actions at all times. If we don't put forth 100 percent effort at all times, Troopers will see that and say, "If the first sergeant is not giving it everything, Why should I?" To use another example, we can show our loyalty in our physical

fitness proficiency evaluations by continuing to do push-ups or sit-ups to the end of each event and leaving nothing in the gas tank at the end of our runs. Troopers appreciate that example and will work hard to duplicate it if our efforts are shown.

By being loyal to our profession and our Troopers we will also help the military retain good qualified service members. If Troopers think that their unit and leaders are at up they will consider leaving the military. However, if Troopers know that their leaders will do whatever it takes to look out for their well being and that they will treat them fairly, they in turn will give their loyalty to leaders and the unit. So I challenge myself and all of the leadership here at JTF Guantanamo to be loyal to the mission and to our Troopers. I also challenge Troopers to show loyalty to each other, their leaders and the core values of their service.

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ON THE COVER:

New Year's Eve celebrations held at the Goat Locker, Cooper Field, Community Center and private venues brought Guantanamo residents together for one last time in 2007. Celebrants wore party hats, blew noisemakers and toasted each other with wishes for a 'Happy New Year' to all. (Photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard)



The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regards to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by the Document Automation & Production Service with a circulation of 1000.

Detainee dies of cancer at Guantanamo detention facility



Commander, JTF Guantanamo Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby receives a briefing, Dec. 31, from Capt. Bruce Meneley, commander of the Joint Medical Group, on issues relating to the Dec. 30 death of Afghan detainee Abdul Razzak. Razzak was diagnosed with colorectal cancer in September 2007 and was “treated humanely, gently and compassionately with dignity throughout the entire course of his treatment right up to the very end,” said Buzby. (Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)

By Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Joint Task Force Guantanamo announced that a detainee died Dec. 30 of colorectal cancer.

The detainee, Abdul Razzak of Afghanistan, who was undergoing a chemotherapy course of treatment for cancer, was pronounced dead by a physician that morning.

An International Committee of the Red Cross representative was present to witness the care provided to the detainee prior to and at the time of death.

Rear Adm. Mark Buzby, commander of JTF Guantanamo, said that the detainee received the same level of care that any U.S. citizen would have received.

“I think it’s important to know that

the oncologist that was the attending physician in this case came from Bethesda Naval Hospital and is the same oncologist that would treat the president and members of Congress or anyone else who would come to Bethesda seeking cancer treatment. We did not skimp in the least bit in this. This detainee got the very best medical treatment we were able to offer,” said Buzby

The detainee had been receiving chemotherapy since October this year after diagnosis in September following symptoms of abdominal pain. Buzby said that Razzak was an active participant in discussions with JTF doctors concerning the type and intensity of cancer treatments he would receive.

“He was given a menu of options to treat his cancer from the very

aggressive to very passive. I think he was very appreciative that he was consulted and given options. He was treated humanely and gently and compassionately with dignity throughout the entire course of his treatment right up to the very end,” said Buzby

The remains of the deceased detainee are being treated with the utmost respect. A cultural advisor and Imam ensured that the remains were handled in a culturally and religiously appropriate manner. Additional information about the disposition of the remains will be provided when details become available.

According to Buzby, the Joint Task Force coordinated quickly

following Razzak’s death with U.S. Southern Command, detainee affairs in Washington, and across the entire interagency spectrum including the State Department and the government of Afghanistan.

Following his capture; Abdul Razzak was assessed to be an experienced jihadist with command responsibilities and was assessed to have had multiple links to anti-coalition forces. He was detained in Guantanamo as an enemy combatant, consistent with the international law of Armed Conflict.

The mission of safe and humane detention and interrogation at Guantanamo remains vital to the security of our nation and allies. This mission and is being carried out professionally by the men and women of JTF Guantanamo.

ELC phase one nears completion

Story and photo by
Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The first phase of a \$10.2 million project to construct the Expeditionary Legal Complex here inches closer to completion as Air Guard civil engineers put their finishing touches on its various structures.

With a scheduled phase one completion date of Jan. 15, Air Force Lt. Col. James Starnes, commander of the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, said his Troopers will need to complete their part of the project so that government contractors can be brought in to paint, install communications equipment and eventually add furniture. As the 474th's tour comes to an end in February, Starnes said their replacement unit will begin its mission of maintaining the complex's various facilities to ensure they are properly functional.

When the 474th arrived here, Aug. 5, it was immediately tasked with erecting a tent city that would become living quarters for the 474th Airmen. During their six-month deployment, Starnes said his Troopers converted an abandoned airfield and a derelict cement foundation into a sprawling campus that includes all the amenities needed to facilitate military commissions.

"We went from showing up here where the runway had waist-high grass to installing a tent city, to cleaning off the concrete, and then to erecting the complex. We started with a bare patch of land and had to construct various structures on it," said Starnes.

Once construction is completed in early Spring, the legal complex will include a number of buildings that will accommodate a courtroom as well as facilities that other essential parties can utilize during military commissions proceedings. The Expeditionary Legal Complex will also have cell blocks where detainees will be held during their hearings or trials, and a connecting, highly-secure walkway through which they will be escorted into the courtroom.

This mission is a unique one for the six Air National Guard units that combined to form a 'mega' group of civil engineers tasked



Air Force Staff Sgt. Kevin Gordon, Senior Master Sgt. Patrick J. O'Brien and Senior Airman Kevin Green construct a cell that will be used to hold detainee witnesses during military commissions. This cell is one of many new features that will become a part of the new Expeditionary Legal Complex.

with constructing the complex from start to finish. This particular mission became quite an adventure for these Troopers—whose skill sets range from carpentry and plumbing to heavy equipment operators and mechanics – when they arrived here with a blueprint created by a 'Red Horse' civil engineering design group in hand and an abandoned airfield to work with.

"This particular type of construction was especially rare for this unit since our mission typically involves supporting other units by maintaining structures that have already been built," said Starnes.

Starnes credits the teamwork and effort displayed by his Troopers for enabling the construction mission to run smoothly. However, one uncontrollable challenge the 474th often faced was obtaining needed supplies that were not available on the island.

"The most difficult part of the mission was to construct a complex that is located on an island since almost everything had to be brought in from the states either on the barge or by plane," said Starnes. "There were times when we had to figure out a way of getting things here either by borrowing it from someone on the island or just waiting

on the stuff to get here from a supplier in the States."

Once the ceilings and floors are installed within the complex's various structures, the 474th will have completed the final step in their phase of the overall project. Despite the challenges, Starnes said he is proud of his Troopers for being able to come aboard and efficiently complete their mission by the specific target date. Starnes expressed his gratitude for the highly-skilled Troopers assigned to the Indiana Air National Guard's 122nd, the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 128th, the Vermont Air National Guard's 158th, the Ohio Air National Guard's 150th and the California Air National Guard's 163rd Prime Base Engineer Emergency Forces who stepped up to perform this mission.

"We are extremely proud of what we have accomplished. I am proud of the Troopers who left their civilian jobs and families in order to come down here and build this complex," said Starnes.

"Even though this is a very essential mission that helps fight the War on Terror, the Troopers came down here to do something that they enjoy doing and that they are trained to do."

JTF Guantanamo marks 500th detainee transfer

By Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Department of Defense announced Dec. 28 the transfer of ten detainees to Saudi Arabia. This marks 500 detainees who have been relocated to other countries via transfer or release.

“Under international law there is no requirement for the U.S. Government to have any process, other than just simply keeping them off the battle field. However, in keeping with the President’s intent to not hold any detainee longer than necessary, we have implemented a series of procedures to ensure we evaluate current information on each of them,” said Joint Task Force Guantanamo Deputy Commander Brig. Gen. Cameron Crawford.

Annual review boards are the process by which both classified and unclassified evidence against a detainee is reviewed each year. Three field grade officers make up the board.

Providing only a recommendation on the status of detention, the board members review the facts and offer their findings to the Designated Civilian Official, the Hon. Gordon England, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense. England then makes the final determination whether to release, transfer or continue to detain.

The Department of Defense has determined, via the annual review boards, that more than 60 detainees currently held here are eligible for transfer or release. Departure of these detainees hinges on negotiations between the U.S. State Department and other nations.



JTF Guantanamo Deputy Commander, Army Brig. Gen. Cameron Crawford, and the JTF Chief of Staff discuss detainee transfer operations. Approximately 500 detainees have been either transferred or released from JTF detention facilities since the beginning of detention operations in January 2002. (Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)

“Some countries are happy to have their constituents back, however, sometimes we have credible evidence that they may be tortured or killed when they return there. We will not knowingly release a detainee if we have information that he will be tortured or killed,” Crawford said. “That causes us to look to third party nations to attempt to take some detainees.”

Since 2002, detainees have been released to other countries including Albania, Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom and Yemen.

There are approximately 275 detainees currently held here.

Guantanamo nursery flourishes with JTF assistance

Story and photo by
Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The beautiful palm trees, bushes and flowering plants that complement roads, buildings and yards are attractive features of naval base scenery and are the result of a lot of hard work by personnel deployed or stationed here at Guantanamo Bay.

The Public Works Department opened the base garden to Joint Task Force personnel just this past year. Whether a Trooper lives in Camp America, Cuzco or Windward Loop housing, they are welcome to stop by the base garden and pick out a free plant. Amelia Smith, manager of the base garden, said opening up the base garden to Troopers gives them the opportunity to beautify the

community while helping to nourish the environment.

“Troopers said they wanted a little something green to add a special touch to their dwellings here,” said Smith. “There is no money involved. We just encourage Troopers to visit the nursery and pick out one free plant per family,” said Smith.

By showing their JTF identification, all unaccompanied Troopers can choose a free plant every first and third Saturday of the month between 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Troopers can choose from a variety of plants ranging from palm and mango trees to elephant ear and spider plants.

According to statistics collected by the nursery, JTF personnel were the number one customers of nursery services last

year. On Saturdays when the nursery is open to the public, Smith said that more than 50 Troopers sometimes stop by to pick up free plants. Smith urges Troopers who visit to consult with her or a volunteer when choosing a plant so that they’ll know whether and how their choice can survive within their specific living environments. Since some plants do not grow well in small, air conditioned homes, Smith’s staff can educate Troopers on the types of plants that will grow successfully in their homes.

Smith also reminds Troopers living in Cuzco, Tierra Kay and Camp America’s barracks that they are not allowed to plant vegetation outside of their dwellings. However, Troopers residing in Windward

Continued on page 13

NFL playoffs promise more surprises

By Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen

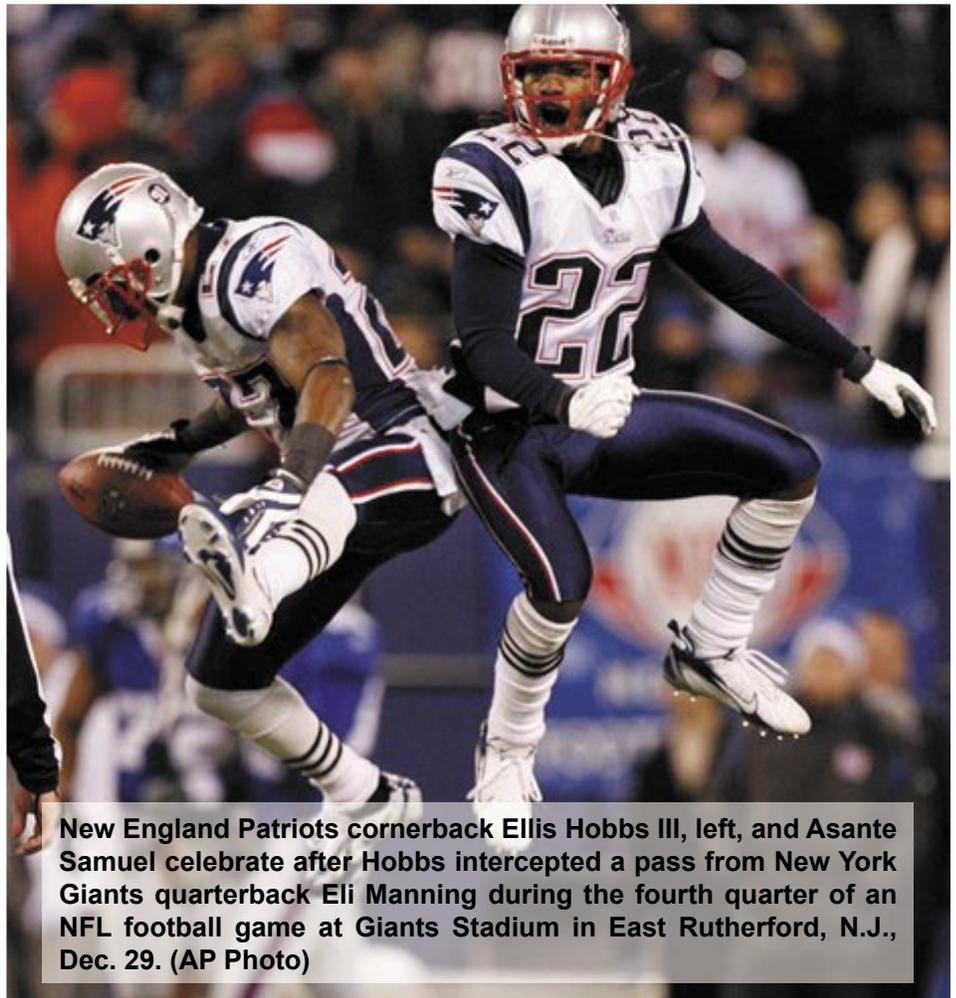
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

With 17 weeks and 16 games in the record books the dust has settled and 12 teams are left fighting for the Lombardi trophy. It has been a wild and exciting season! We have seen a team go 16-0 and break more records than you care to count and we had another team give a serious run at 0-16 and then there has been everything in between. So now that the regular season is over, it's on to wildcard weekend. I will break down the match-ups and give you my predictions.

In the NFC the Dallas Cowboys are the number one seed and have a bye this weekend. I hope they use the time to heal up and get back to mid-season form. If they don't, it will be an early exit for them. The Green Bay Packers are number two and rebounded nicely last week against the Detroit Lions after a bad loss to Chicago the week before. The Pack seems to have everything moving in the right direction for the playoffs.

The red hot Washington Redskins go west to face the Seattle Seahawks this Saturday. The Redskins (9-7) won their last four games to get into the playoffs. Led by Todd Collins and an outstanding defense, the Skins have themselves poised to continue their run. Seattle has been flying under the radar. They had won six out of seven games before Sunday's loss, a game in which their starters played little. The Seahawks are healthy on both sides of the ball and are playing great football. Sorry, Redskins – the run is over. Seattle will win this one 24 -14.

Sunday's match-up has the Tampa Bay Buccaneers hosting the New York Giants. The Buccaneers are pretty beat up physically and have been resting their starters for two weeks, which could make them rusty. The Buccaneers will try to ride the NFL's second ranked defense to a victory; however, if Eli Manning and the Giants come



New England Patriots cornerback Ellis Hobbs III, left, and Asante Samuel celebrate after Hobbs intercepted a pass from New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., Dec. 29. (AP Photo)

out and play as well as they did last weekend against the Patriots they should win 20 – 13.

My hat is off to the AFC's number one seed, the New England Patriots, who have the week off before they continue their amazing run beyond 16 -0. Number two seed Indianapolis Colts have the week off to heal as they attempt to defend their 2007 Super-bowl title.

The Pittsburgh Steelers welcome the Jacksonville Jaguars Saturday in a rematch of week 15 when the Jags ran for 224 yards on Pittsburgh's top ranked defense. The Jags are led by quarterback David Garrard who threw only three interceptions this season. The Jags have huge offensive and defensive lines that play physical smash-mouth football. The Steelers have not been playing good football

lately and have to overcome the loss of stand out running back Willie Parker. Even though the Steelers will enjoy home field advantage, it will be a long day. The Jags win this one 17 -10.

The Sunday match-up has the Tennessee Titans traveling to San Diego to face the Chargers. The Titans won last weekend to get into the playoffs, but it was against the Colts who played their water boy and equipment manager in the second half. Kerry Collins came off the bench and looked better than starter Vince Young. Count on LaDainian Tomlinson to show up and play well on Sunday, but the Chargers need a good performance from quarterback Philip Rivers against Tennessee's stout defense if the Chargers hope to advance. I don't think Tennessee has enough offense to win. The Chargers take this one easily 20 - 7.

Yatera Seca golf course delivers cross-country adventure



**Story and photos by
Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Military golfers have an old joke about what each of the four branches of the service would do if they arrived for work and the door was locked and barricaded: The Marines would post a guard immediately, order him to stand at attention and secure the perimeter. The Army would muster a battalion and march in formation around the building. The Navy would find the nearest body of water and commandeer all the row boats and the Air Force would high-tail it to the nearest golf course.

Now, in my experience it isn't only the Air Force that beats feet for a chance to spend a work day out on the fairway, though I don't think I've ever been to the golf course here on a day when someone from the Air Force wasn't playing. It may be the result of a fast paced working environment or high stress jobs, but from what I can tell most Armed Forces types are happy to spend a couple of hours in the sunshine (and out of the office) chasing after a little white ball.

In the world of military-destination golf you are not likely to find Guantanamo Bay's Yatera Seca Golf Course in any hot-spot finder. We don't have lush, perfectly manicured greens, a golf pro, a caddy shack or even a 19th hole, but the things we do have here are pretty darn cheap – if not free. And everyone likes cheap or free.

In our 360 days of sunshine every

year, golf enthusiasts usually find any day a nice one for hitting the links. No tee times or greens fees are required at Yatera Seca and carts can be rented for \$10 on a first come first served basis.

Club rentals are also free for active duty personnel and only \$5 for everyone else. There are even a few full sets of Big Berthas (donated to the course by Callaway) for active duty folks to hit. They're not a bad little set of clubs. You'll have to get there pretty early though; they're usually the first to go.

The club house is open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Besides carts and clubs, renting the clubhouse sells hats and visors, gloves, assorted beverages and can supply you with the all important ball. Get lots of them. You will lose balls on this course ...even in the fairway.

Yatera Seca does boast a pretty decent driving range. Canopies and lights make this 250 yard range playable at any time and in pretty much any weather. You can buy a bucket of range balls (40 per bucket) for \$1 during regular business hours and hit them any time you like. Range balls are not allowed to be played on the course though. So don't try, the course staff will ask

you to leave.

The course hosts four-man scrambles, best ball, handicap and three-club tournaments as well as 'command sponsored' tournaments. They occasionally have glow golf, which is a rockin' good time, and sometimes host pros who come from time to time to give free lessons. For more information on special events call John Tully at 74123 or by cellular phone at 84843.



Navy Capt. Ted Fessel tees off the 'back nine' of the Yatera Seca golf course. The course has 9 holes and a driving range that are free to everyone.

Guantanamo Rings in the New Year



Photos by Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker, Army Sgt. Jody Metzger,
Army Spc. Shanita Simmons, Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard and Navy
Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Joint Task Force Guantanamo servicemembers
attended a series of parties and concerts
as they ring in the New Year. Bands such as
Ingram Hill and Five Star Iris entertained crowds
at Cooper Field while others held
their own parties from Cuzco to
Tierra Kay.



Winter semester at Columbia College begins soon



Troopers can hit the books at Columbia College's satellite campus here when the winter semester begins Jan. 18. The college offers traditional classroom duration and online work.

**Story and photo by Navy Petty
Officer 3rd Class William Weinert**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The new year brings new beginnings and new chances to try to improve ourselves. One excellent opportunity is to further your educational goals by enrolling for second semester classes at Columbia College's satellite campus here.

Columbia College will begin its winter semester Jan. 18. The college will offer both in-house and online courses for the duration of the winter semester that ends Mar. 18.

There will be six classes offered on campus in live classroom settings this semester. The course offerings include English Composition I and II, Introduction to Computer Information Systems, College Algebra, Criminal Law, and Personal Financial Planning.

For those who want to continue their education, but do not need

any of the in-house classes for their degree plan, online classes are available in more than 100 subjects.

"All of our classes are available online. To find out about them students can either come into our office, or they can go to our website at www.ccis.edu," said Melissa Belleman, Columbia College director here.

All of the online courses follow the same eight-week semester schedule as the on campus classes. Throughout the semester, students will have weekly assignments administered online as well as mid-term and final exams that are proctored at the campus here.

Those interested in signing up for classes need to register as soon as possible. Registration began Dec. 3 and will continue through the first week of classes, but Belleman advises all prospective students to sign up as soon as possible.

"If you haven't yet registered

for this semester, you should come in soon because the classes start Jan. 14 and there are two factors to take into account. First, the online classes fill up quickly, and second you need to allow time for your books to be shipped in the mail. It is best to allow at least two weeks for your books to get here," said Belleman.

New students who are interested in signing up for classes need to go to the Columbia College office where staff will walk them through the application process and arrange meetings with college advisors. The advisors offer guidance to fit everyone's educational goals.

"We have two academic advisors and they're both very experienced and very knowledgeable about the programs," Belleman said.

College personnel will also assist students with financial aid and help them fill out the various forms of service tuition assistance. Some of the available tuition assistance programs include service specific tuition assistance programs, the Montgomery GI Bill, and federal financial aid.

"We are more familiar with the Navy tuition assistance and the GoArmyEd portal, but we've done everything," said Belleman.

The college is holding a graduation ceremony Mar. 30 for students who are within nine hours of graduation at the end of this term. The ceremony is not exclusive to Columbia College students. It will be a joint ceremony with Navy College and also open to people taking classes from other accredited institutions.

Those interested in participating in the ceremony can contact Candice Rice of Navy College at 2211 or the Columbia College office at 75555.

New Year's fitness resolutions require safety considerations

By Air Force Capt. Billy Jeffords

JTF Guantanamo Safety Officer

With the new year started, most of us will have probably made the classic first of the year pledge to ourselves...the New Year's resolution. These commitments are notorious for being the best meant of intentions, but more often than not are discarded before the beginning of February as demands of work, family and life in general retake control of your schedule.

More often than not, exercise and a healthier lifestyle are on the resolution list. An excellent choice to start the New Year, these commitments should be carefully considered and an achievable, goal oriented plan created to help guide you. Then, make that plan your priority.

From a safety standpoint, a drastic increase in exercise can shock the body and cause injuries that will certainly derail the intent of the resolution. This will limit the success of an exercise program, your ability to accomplish the mission and certainly the reliance of fellow troopers and teammates on what you bring to the daily fight in the Joint Task Force.

Start with a serious, critical and honest assessment of yourself. You must know your starting "benchmark" to track progress and consistently push yourself to improve. A service specific fitness evaluation and regular reassessments are certainly great litmus tests for gauging success and progress.

The University of North Carolina sports medicine department offers these suggestions when starting a personal fitness program:

- Check with your doctor and find out if it is okay if you begin exercising regularly. Be sure to find out how any medication you

are taking may affect you while exercising.

- Don't try equipment that is not familiar to you. Ask recreation staff to teach you how to use equipment safely. If you forget later, ask staff for refresher training.

- Drink plenty of water before, during and after exercising — especially relevant here in Cuba!

- If you haven't exercised for



a while, begin slowly. At first only exercise for 5-15 minutes and, then gradually increase your exercise sessions to 30-45 minutes, 3-5 days per week.

- Warm up your muscles and joints before exercising. You can do this by walking slowly for 2-5 minutes and stretching your muscles thoroughly.

- Also, warm down after exercising. You can walk slowly for 5 minutes until your pulse rate has slowed.

Know your limits. If you are restarting an exercise regimen after some lapse, remember that you will have to build back up to the level of fitness that you may have been at before. This is critical to avoiding sports injuries!

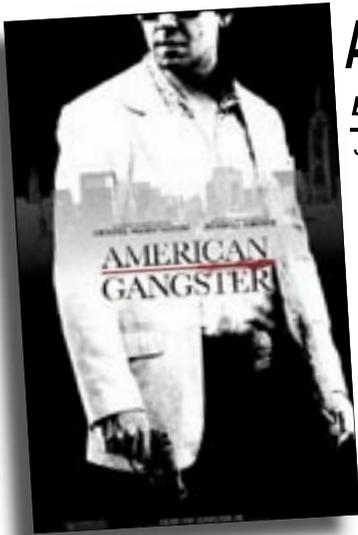
Hydration is key. As mentioned above, before, during and after exercise, make certain to increase water intake. If you get thirsty, you're already running the risk of dehydration. With the weather and temperatures in the Caribbean, this can occur

rapidly. Defend against this by monitoring your fluid intake and increasing water consumption.

Minimize supplement usage. While these products have purported benefits, each person will have different results and in turn, different reactions to the supplements. Supplements, as the name clearly states, are additions to a healthy diet. Plan your physical fitness program to include a well balanced diet that will help you meet your resolution goals and objectives.

Finally, listen to your body. More often than not, it will tell you if you've targeted a "bridge too far." Be patient with results. A safety conscious fitness program will take time and commitment, but the benefits will soon be apparent.

Please contact your unit safety representatives with concerns or questions. They are there to help you stay safe and maintain the excellent safety record of the Joint Task Force.



American Gangster depicts era of corruption and invincibility

By Army Sgt. Jody Metzger

Rated: R

JTF Guantanamo Public

Running Time: 157 minutes

The movie "American Gangster" brings to light the heroin drug dealing of the late '60's and early '70's. It is based upon the true story of heroin kingpin and Harlem crime boss Frank Lucas who is played by Hollywood powerhouse Denzel Washington. It also stars Russell Crowe (no lightweight either) who plays the role of Richie Roberts, a real-life New Jersey police detective.

The movie is a descendant of films like "The French Connection" and the blaxploitation films of the '70's like "Superfly." It chronicles what appear to be the desultory results of the disintegration of morale and confidence in American society following the Vietnam War. New Yorker film critic David Denby remarks in his review of the movie that a "dour, troubled Nixon" is the only visible figure of national authority in the film.

Washington does an amazing job playing this dangerous and vicious drug crime boss. He is cold and callous and kills without feeling – all qualities that fuel his rise to the top of the drug industry.

Going against the Italian drug lords prevalent in Harlem, Lucas cuts out the middleman in the drug trade and begins buying heroin directly from a source in Southeast Asia.

Meanwhile, corruption and abuse within the police department, particularly the drug unit, is making it hard for the few 'good' cops who are trying to bring order to their failing community.

Crowe's character, Roberts, is one good cop who aims to bring this heroin drug dealer to an end by infiltrating the drug underworld and dealing face to face with the notorious Lucas.

Director Ridley Scott draws from the many films that chronicled America's '70's obsession with the war, drugs and violence. The movie is careful to explain exactly how the drug business was conducted in that era and how 'mules' transported drugs from one location to another.

It also clearly shows the overwhelming corruption of the legal system and the consequences of abuse of power when being an American gangster seems to be more honorable than being an American cop.

Rating: ★★★★★

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com

Saturday, Jan. 5

Highs in the low - 80's, and lows in the high-60's.



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:37 a.m.

Sunset: 5:36 p.m.

Chance of rain: 10%

Sunday, Jan. 6

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high-60's.



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:37 a.m.

Sunset: 5:36 p.m.

Chance of rain: 40%

Monday, Jan. 7

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high-60's.



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:37 a.m.

Sunset: 5:37 p.m.

Chance of rain: 20%

Tuesday, Jan. 8

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high - 60's.



Sunrise: 6:37 a.m.

Sunset: 5:38 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 40%

Partly Cloudy

Wednesday, Jan. 9

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high - 60's.



Sunrise: 6:38 a.m.

Sunset: 5:38 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 50%

Scattered Showers

Thursday, Jan. 10

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high - 60's.



Sunrise: 6:38 a.m.

Sunset: 5:38 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 60%

Scattered T-Storms

Friday, Jan. 11

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high - 60's.



Sunrise: 6:38 a.m.

Sunset: 5:40 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 20%

Scattered Showers



Base Garden Manager Amelia Smith assists Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Kenneth W. Lann with selecting a plant from the base garden located off of Kittery Beach Road. The nursery is open to the public every first and third Saturday.

is the propagation of seeds and cuttings and replanting plants and trees so they can continue to multiply. To prevent vegetation from becoming extinct, Smith said that a sample of almost every plant on the island is grown in the base nursery. The base nursery also maintains large plants called “ceremonials” that are used for decorations during change of command ceremonies or other essential events.

There are also private gardeners who contribute to the nursery by planting vegetation at their homes and then donating their products to the base nursery. Before Troopers leave the island, they are encouraged to donate any plants they have cultivated during their deployment.

Although Smith does not hold a degree in botany, she developed a familiarity with tropical plants while living in the South Pacific. Smith co-authored a book titled “The Flora of Guantanamo” currently available for checkout in the library.

In addition to sharing her knowledge with those who visit the base garden, Smith also facilitates tours for school-aged children, hosts an Earth Day celebration and displays local plants during various public events. Troopers can also attend classes held at the base garden where they are taught how to grow and maintain plants.

Loop may plant vegetation outside as long as they do not plant anything too close, to the sidewalks or near the dwellings foundation.

Troopers can also give some of their time and skills to the base nursery by volunteering their services. The base nursery is seeking volunteers to work every Saturday, including days when the nursery is not open to the public. Interested volunteers can sign up to serve at the Red Cross office located behind

the Navy Fleet and Family Support Center. Smith said that volunteers can assist with a variety of tasks such as propagating seeds and making cuttings, tidying up the nursery, raking the grounds and watering plants. Smith said her volunteers feel a sense of pride when they are called upon to work on landscaping projects and other community-based gardening initiatives.

The primary mission of the base nursery

Boots on the Ground

What issue do you believe the Presidential candidates should focus on and why?

By Army Sgt. Jody Metzger and Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert

**Army Capt.
Domingo Cintron**



“Healthcare, it’s very important to take care of the families”

**Navy Petty Officer
3rd Class
Bethany Parker**



“Getting the Troops out of Iraq”

**Navy Petty Officer
2nd Class
Tara Williams**



“Education and helping the school system”

**Navy Petty Officer
3rd Class
Thomas Luedke**



“Immigration, because illegal immigration strains the economy”

Greet the new year ready to soar



By Army Chaplain (Maj.) Daniel Jones

JTF Guantanamo Command Chaplain

Recently I was on leave in Atlanta, for both business and pleasure, and had the opportunity one day to rest before my evening business. I found myself at sunset sitting on a bench along the Chatahoochie River watching the birds of various types overhead flying silently and effortlessly. The peacefulness of the moment, as I watched these graceful creatures soaring over the water and land, struck me as magical. Just across from this body of water, another bird was taking off. This bird was silver and had some other stripes of various colors along its body. It too was defying gravity to reach into the sky and soar. It had distinct differences from the other birds in the air. This one was made of metal, had turbine engines, blinking lights and windows along its body with people looking through them. Obviously it was an airplane taking off from a runway heading to points around the globe.

How different these two types of birds were in power and effort. The birds of feathers soared on the wind maneuvering up and down and sideways. They didn't fight the air around them, but instead they used it to

live. On the other hand, I saw the other silver birds with afterburners pushing their metal bodies into the air, defying gravity and the air currents.

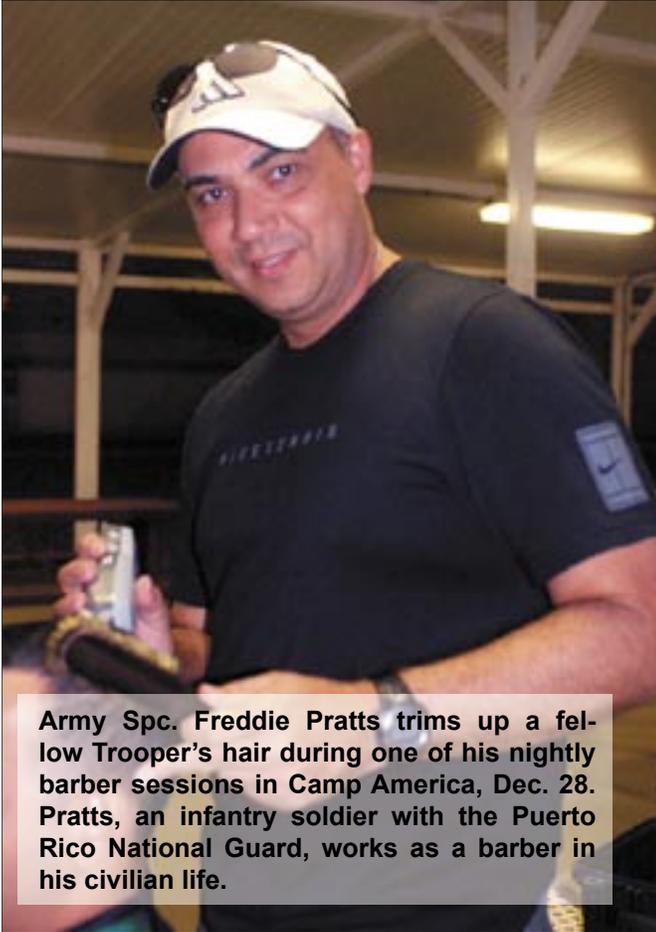
As I look back on this year already lived, I noticed I was too much like the bird of steel and not enough like the bird of feathers. My wisdom and experience told me to live with the winds of change and challenge and to face every day by maneuvering the different choices of direction.

However, I took the steel bird approach too many times – bucking my common sense and outside advice and making life much harder than intended. I chose to battle elements against which I could not win, and was often forced to pay a huge sacrifice because of my selfish and prideful attitude.

The birds of feather showed me, and hopefully you too, that this next year can give a life of promise and peace. All we have to do is allow ourselves to just fly on the winds and not against them all of the time. We all need to accept life as it comes, adjust as needed, but not defy the inevitable.

We have been given permission by the Creator to be free to live on the winds. We must greet the next year and get ready to take off and soar.

Clipping hair and manning a .50 cal. bring satisfaction



Army Spc. Freddie Pratts trims up a fellow Trooper's hair during one of his nightly barber sessions in Camp America, Dec. 28. Pratts, an infantry soldier with the Puerto Rico National Guard, works as a barber in his civilian life.

**Story and photo by
Army Sgt. Jody Metzger**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

When Army Spc. Freddie Pratts is not looking through the sights of his .50 caliber machine gun or patrolling the jagged outskirts of Guantanamo's countryside, he finds himself with clippers in hand giving haircuts to those living and working in Camp America.

Cutting hair for Pratts is a long standing activity that has guided him throughout his life. He was first drawn to the idea of becoming a barber in almost the same way he was drawn to joining the Army.

Both his father and two brothers served in the Army. His father fought in the in the Korean War and his brothers in the Vietnam War. His father, a military cook, had taken it upon himself to become a barber on top of his regular Army duties.

"When I was a child, I remember one of my brothers coming home from the war. My brother was injured; he had been shot 9 times in the side and arm," Pratts said. He doesn't remember feeling afraid, but he does remember being inspired by his brother's continued willingness to serve his country, despite nearly losing his life.

During his high school years, his father approached him with the idea of becoming a barber. His father urged him to do something that he could use anywhere.

"It's a great way to earn money," said Pratts. "I have a lot of clients back in Puerto Rico. And now in Guantanamo, I have nearly 70 percent of the guys [living and working around him] coming to me for haircuts," said Pratts.

It is easier for the guys, Pratts said, to be able to walk over to his door and ask for a haircut rather than go downtown and wait in line at the Navy Exchange barber shop.

Though it might seem like a nice amenity to have a barber living next store, the job Pratts performs is a profound staple of Puerto Rican culture. Men and their children go for more than just a haircut; they go for a chance to socialize, catch up on news and rumors, and talk sports.

Army Sgt. Major John Jenson, says that Pratts is helping to carry on this long standing tradition within the Puerto Rican community here in the Joint Task Force.

"His work is part of the rich culture of the Puerto Rico National Guard that has been brought to Gitmo," said Jenson.

Pratts is especially busy on weekends because that is the time when people tend to go to parties and family functions, and they want to look nice.

"My job, being a barber makes me feel good. I enjoy seeing them walk away feeling good about the way they look," Pratts said.

Pratt explained that he believes that he is a helpful influence on his fellow Troopers.

"I like to be able to give something back to the guys I work with here in Gitmo," he said.

Pratts joined the Puerto Rico Army National Guard in late 1998. And just like his enthusiasm of being a barber, his passion to be a great infantryman is evident. He loves his mission here as much as barbering.

There is a passion and eagerness that twinkles in his eyes as he talks of weapons and "Maverick" [armored HUMVEE] maneuvers and physical training. Speaking of the latter, his impressive physical training has been exemplary. He maintains top scores on his physical training tests.

"Some of my best experiences have been physical training. When I was in Ft. Benning, Ga., in basic training, they gave me a couple of awards for being the best runner. Here, I like to give the guys motivation. Everyone has a chance to get a 300 score. Go get it. Because when you are old, you are going to remember those accomplishments," Pratts said.

"Guantanamo is my first deployment and I like it. The mission is great. When I am training on the Mavericks and I am on top manning the .50 cal., I feel great. There is nothing better than that feeling. I love it," said Pratts.

AROUND THE JTF



▲Guantanamo Bay, Cuba- Ding Bautista, Joey Casilang and Romel Manio work to repair a sewage line in Camp America Jan. 3. Bautista, Casilang and Manio work various maintenance tasks around the base on a daily basis. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)



▲Army Sgt. Willie Lee Taylor reenlists, Dec. 26, for six years. The ceremony was held near the Sea Side Galley. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Billings)



◀Smoother roadways are closer to becoming a reality as dump trucks begin to unload gravel off of a barge located at the SCS landing. The gravel will be used to complete pavement and resurfacing projects planned throughout the Naval Station and Joint Task Force areas. (Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons)