

THE WIRED

A News Magazine



Amazing Base Race
Cmdr. Haupt bids farewell
Sexual assault intervention
Trooper tackles visitor issues

A tough, necessary job done well



**Navy Cmdr.
Rick Haupt**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs Director

After my year tour, I leave all of you here in Guantanamo with profound respect. You are from all parts of the world, of differing customs and cultures. You are part of a community that embraces the values and opportunities of contemporary society while maintaining a small-town atmosphere of decades past.

Yet while you are not underway, not wearing “battle-rattle” and many of you can phone home without a double-digit time zone calculation, your service in Guantanamo is no easy task.

Guantanamo is a battlefield. Everyday, those of you on our “front lines” walk the blocks, question our detainees and provide our enemy world-class medical care. With daily violence and threats, you suffer physical and psychological attacks, and you respond with professionalism and restraint.

Outside the camps, you weather the assaults of democracy at work. A variety of world leaders, lawyers and pundits pressure our government to close the detention facilities in Guantanamo, causing many of our nation’s leaders to acknowledge that they would like – in a perfect world – to do just that.

But we haven’t gotten that order yet. We don’t live in a perfect world. So we continue to serve, understanding these intellectual assaults while conducting and improving the performance of our mission here one day at a time.

The fact of the matter is simple: The United States is a nation at war. This is a real and long war. Our enemies continue to engage us and our allies. They are brutal and do not fight according to the laws of war – yet we do. Your mission of wartime detention:

- prevents enemy combatants from returning to the battlefield
- allows intelligence gathering to bring the war to a quicker resolution
- is internationally recognized under the laws of armed conflict
- is not punishment for a crime and does not require criminal charges
- protects the international community from attacks

So you continue to conduct safe and humane care, collect intelligence and support law enforcement and war crimes investigations and trials. You stand the watch, 24 hours a day, 365 days per year in support of the principles we hold dear. You do so with the right balance of care and vigilance, thoughtfully and deliberately.

See **HAUPT/13**

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COVER:

Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason W. Portier, a port security unit electronic technician, displays a 21-pound black grouper caught while spearfishing in Guantanamo Bay during a master diver specialty course April 12. (Photo by Army Capt. Cara Thompson)



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.



Some of the members of the 112th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment from Madison, Wis. following a mobilization training exercise at Fort Lewis, Wash, from left to right: Staff Sgt. James Wagner, Spc. Megan Burnham, Spc. Erica Isaacson, 1st Sgt. James Venske, 1st Lt. Sarah Cleveland, and Staff Sgt. Brian Jopek, April. Photo courtesy 112th MPAD

Storming the beach

■ Incoming Troopers to take over public affairs mission at JTF GITMO

Story by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

There's a new set of eyes in Joint Task Force Guantanamo – the Wisconsin Army National Guard 112th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. The 112th replaces the 241st MPAD out of Carville, La.

"We're here to tell the Joint Task Force story," 1st Sgt. James Venske said. "We're trained in various specialties to provide accurate information in a timely fashion."

Based out of Madison, the 112th is specialized in all of the complex roles necessary for successfully telling the story

of the JTF.

"The 112th brings with it a variety of talent to include a newspaper editor (and cartoonist), an Armed Forces Korea television news anchor, and a DJ to name a few," said 112th commander, Maj. Richard Morehouse. "The whole unit is trained and very motivated to be here at Guantanamo. They will continue the great job that Louisiana's 241st MPAD has been doing over the past year while prepping for the excitement that the commissions will bring to the JTF."

That training breaks the MPAD down into three sections comprising multiple responsibilities. Media Operations is



exactly what it sounds like – they're the people who bring the media in and provide them with access to the JTF. Media Ops clears civilian media from all over the world for access then provides tours of the facilities. They also coordinate all of the civilian media for the historic commissions.

Public Information interacts with another critical audience – the average person, the guy reading the paper at home, even your family.

"It's critically important that the average citizen gets a good understanding of all the operations within the JTF – not just what

See **MPAD/13**

Providing the things we take for granted

Story by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Cheryl Dilgard
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

If you run out of paper, need a new computer, or need bottled water then you are familiar with J-4. J-4 is made up of multiple segments, but two of the segments that impact our lives on a daily basis are the supply office and the property book office. These two segments play an integral part in how JTF Guantanamo gets its job done.

“Our job is to process customer request for items, then ship them to the JTF customers,” said 1st Lt. Frank Klug of the Oregon National Guard, the officer in charge of J-4 supply.

One officer, two warrant officers and five enlisted personnel make up the military staff of the J-4 supply and property book office. The military personnel are assisted by five third-country nationals provided by Burns & Roe.

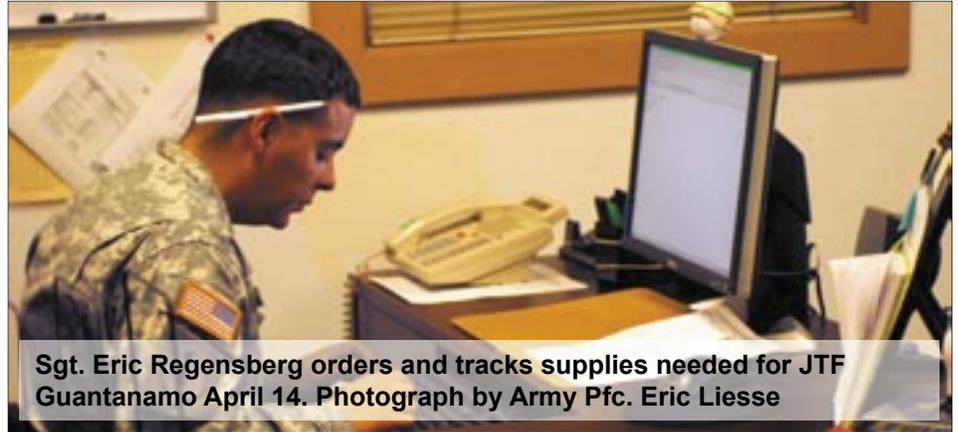
“We couldn’t do this without them.” Klug said of the TCN assistants. “They are a big help.”

Supply doesn’t maintain a big warehouse full of goods; rather they keep approximately 20 daily use items on hand at all times, as well as destructive weather kits and items for migrant operations. All other items are ordered as needed and processed through the supply or property book office.

The supply side of J-4 orders and maintains items that are commonly used and not necessarily ‘accountable’ items. The property book office orders and issues reusable items, such as furniture, computers, and weapons. Property book items are tracked from the time the item arrives in the warehouse until the item is returned for redistribution or to be discarded.

“We track items such as furniture, computers, weapons, anything that is reusable, we track them from the cradle to the grave,” said Chief Warrant Officer Karl Trujillo of the New Mexico Army National Guard.

The NMARNG, who make up most of



Sgt. Eric Regensberg orders and tracks supplies needed for JTF Guantanamo April 14. Photograph by Army Pfc. Eric Liesse

the staff had a big job ahead of them when they arrived. The supply and property book staff jumped in full speed ahead and began cleaning out the warehouse. They began with sorting through stocked items and discarding unusable items. Many items were redistributed throughout JTF, Southern Command and even to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. Items that had been stored in the warehouse were deemed unsalvageable and were properly accounted for and discarded. Cleaning out the warehouse and redistributing the inventory allowed the staff to work more efficiently with the items they have, and accurately order the items needed.

One of the biggest accomplishments of the new staff of the property book office has been updating their inventory and tracking system to the Property Book Unit Supply Enhanced system. The PBUSE system although new to Guantanamo has been around for a number of years. The NMARNG has been using the system for years and is well trained in the process. PBUSE tracks all accountable items through a National Stock Number. When the NMARNG took over the supply and property book office they had to update all NSN’s so PBUSE would recognize the numbers. Currently the property book manages approximately \$89 million worth of assets here at JTF Guantanamo alone.

“Now that we have the PBUSE system up and running properly we have to make sure all of the hand receipt holders are trained to use the system. The problem

is that just about the time someone gets comfortable with the system it is time for them to rotate out and we start the process all over again,” said Sgt. Khanhtho Intong.

Sgt. Ceasar Ceja tracks all consumable products ordered through his office from the time they are ordered until they arrive in the customer’s hands. The items he tracks are the everyday items that support our lives and the JTF function, toilet paper, printer paper, and trash bags.

“One of my challenges is maintaining an \$185,000 monthly budget. Its like balancing a huge checking account every month.” Ceja continued. “Another challenge we faced when coming to Guantanamo was the procedures for procuring items. In the states, most units will just order what they need. Here it is a six-step process of getting approval and placing an order.”

The supply office is constantly moving products and ordering operational necessities. Due to demand, the supply and property book office has minimal down time.

“Everyday is a challenge just trying to keep everything running smoothly and efficiently,” said Sgt. 1st Class David Borrego, the supply administration chief.

The NMARNG’s motto is “*beyond the standard.*” The members of the NMANG in the J-4 supply and property book office are truly going beyond and creating a more efficient and effective supply office.

JPRC: Accounting for JTF, one person at a time

Story and photos by Navy Petty Officer
2nd Class Nat Moger
and Army Spc. Megan Burnham
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

It's midmorning on a Saturday. Most residents of U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba are just waking up, making plans to scuba dive or barbecue. Meanwhile, four Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers are at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Air Station Air Mobility Command Terminal, ready to welcome new JTF personnel to the island. It's their eighth straight Saturday working and their second straight seven-day workweek.

And next week will be no different.

The four members of the JTF's Joint Personnel Reception Center handle all JTF personnel in-processing and out-processing for accountability and casualty reporting purposes.

"We meet all of the planes," said Air



Air Force Senior Airman Mike Hites, from JTF's Joint Personnel Reception Center, arranges a welcome-aboard package for incoming JTF personnel in the Guantanamo Bay Naval Air Station Air Mobility Command Terminal, April 15.



Air Force Master Sgt. Neely Jo Harrington and Air Force Senior Airman Mike Hites inspect a passenger manifest prior to in-processing JTF personnel, April 15.

Force Master Sgt. Neely Jo Harrington, JPRC superintendent. "We process everybody when they get off the plane, and make sure everybody's out-processed when they get on the plane."

When personnel arrive the first faces they see are those of JPRC's. They begin by filling out information and receiving necessary briefings. Essentially, the administrative side of their JTF career begins with JPRC.

"We'll take a projected record for reporting personnel and fill in any missing information," said Harrington. "Then we flip the record to active which means they're actually here."

JPRC also helps administer in-briefs that prepare new JTF Troopers

for working in Guantanamo.

"We make sure everyone gets an operational security brief and a safety brief," said Harrington.

By putting eyes on every arrival and departure, JPRC is able to keep an accurate accountability log of who's on island and who's not.

"In the military, accountability is extremely important," said Air Force Senior Airman Mike Hites, in-processing clerk.

In the case of a natural disaster, JPRC is able to identify exactly who is on-island and ensure that leaders know who to muster. On the flip side, knowing who is off island ensures that search parties aren't sent into dangerous situations looking for personnel who are safe-and-sound in the continental U.S.

"During a hurricane, we can say, 'Wait a minute! Where's Spc. John Doe?' By combining JTF accountability, we should be able to alert people that we need to look for someone in a very short period of time," said Harrington.

See **JPRC/11**

A spring peek at the ...

**Army Staff Sgt.
Jerry Rushing**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Now that all the division winners and wild cards have been selected from both the American League and National League, it is time for the fun to begin. Here is how I see the playoff race shaping up.

In the American League Division Series, the Boston Red Sox take on the Los Angeles Angels and the Detroit Tigers will face the Toronto Blue Jays in the best-three-out-of-five series.

The Red Sox have problems early on against the pitching staff of the Angels, splitting the first two games at Boston's Fenway Park. In the third game, the Angels will jump all over the Red Sox for a big win to go up 2-1. In game four, Red Sox pitcher Josh Beckett throws a four-hitter to even the series. In the fifth and deciding game, the Red Sox bats finally figure out the Angels pitchers by hitting five home runs in a rout as the Sox escape elimination.

In the other AL first-round game, the Toronto Blue Jays will use superior pitching by Roy Halladay for a 1-0 series lead over the Detroit Tigers. The Tigers then roll to a 2-1 series lead with easy victories by shutting down the Jays' bats. In game four, the Blue Jays put Halladay back on the mound, but the Tigers figure him out and win the series, 3-1.

In the first round of the National League Division Series, the Los Angeles Dodgers (with the best record in the NL) will face the Chicago Cubs, and the Houston Astros square off against the New York Mets.

The Cubs again prove that lady luck is not on their side. Cubs pitcher Carlos Zambrano pitches a two-hitter into the bottom of the ninth inning, when he is yanked for closer Kerry Woods. With two outs and no one on base, Woods proceeds to walk the bases loaded, then gives up a pinch-hit grand slam to James Looney. The Cubs manager sticks with his guy, and sees Woods walk the tying run. After a long conference on the mound, Dodger shortstop Rafael Furcal sends the first pitch by Woods over the leftfield fence for a thrilling 6-5 win. The demoralized Cubs will not win a single game in the series.

In a rematch of the 1986 National League Championship Series, the Astros take on the Mets. In what will be called one of the highest scoring series of all time, the Mets squeeze out a 3-2 series win, finishing off the Astros in Minute Maid Park. All the games be notable for logging at least 120-plus hits and at least three homers per game. It will go down as the most entertaining series ever.

The AL Championship Series is a match-up of Boston against heavily favored Detroit; however, Boston will prove the critics wrong in the first game. Beckett pitches the Sox to a 5-1 win, throwing eight innings and allowing only four hits. After that, the Tigers will show why they are heavily favored by winning the next three games to take a commanding 3-1 lead. In game five, Beckett tries to come back, but the mighty Tiger bats will prove too strong, powering Detroit back to the World Series.

The NL Championship Series is a matchup of the Dodgers, led by manager Joe Torre, against the heavily favored Mets. Torre showed why the N.Y. Yankees stood by him for 12 seasons as he makes an interesting move, starting Derek Lowe over ace pitcher Brad Penny in game one. The move pays off as Lowe throws a complete game three-hitter and keeps their ace fresh for game two. The Mets, spending all their hits against Houston, cannot keep up with L.A., falling in the series, 4-0.

The World Series will pit the Dodgers against the Tigers in L.A., since the NL All-Stars finally win the mid-season classic against the AL. The Tigers come out early against the Dodgers and skip out of L.A. with a 2-0 lead. The Dodgers will not just lay down and give it to the Tigers; instead, they fight back and tie the series at two games apiece. However, the Tigers' bullpen will be too strong, and catcher Ivan Rodriguez' will wake up and lead the Tigers to a 4-2 Series win. Tigers win it all, and Rodriguez will be the MVP.

Well, there you have it in a nutshell. Honestly, I really don't care if I'm right or wrong about what happens this season. All I know is that I just want to watch it happen.

Los Angeles Dodgers shortstop Rafael Furcal (above) and Detroit Tigers pitcher Jeremy Bonderman (right) may face each other in this year's World Series.
(AP photos)

FALL CLASSIC



The first-place winners of the Amazing Base race, April 12. From left: Clessie Simmons, Mathew Vollner and Paul Lafrain. (JTF Guantanamo photos by Army Sgt. Gretel Sharpee)

Amazing Base races through GTMO

Story by Army Sgt.
Gretel Sharpee

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

More than 60 Amazing Base participants raced over Gitmo Saturday, launching water balloons at Iguana Park or playing horse shoes at Kittery Beach. The event, organized through the 1st Class Petty Officer's Association, challenged each team of four to complete various tasks at stations around Gitmo to receive a clue that would move them on to the next station.

"Considering this is the 'Mecca' of MWR activities, you have to be creative," said Dean Paraskeva, one of the main organizers of the Amazing Base. "And, why not take advantage of what the base has to offer?"

The Amazing Base started with all of the teams gathered at the Downtown Lyceum for a brief reminder of the rules of the race and issuing the first clue. Once the teams had their clue, they started solving it and driving to the station it revealed.

The clues themselves challenged each team. Some clues were written in Latin, some were rhymed after the location they stated and some were pictures cut apart into a puzzle.

Stations were scattered throughout Guantanamo and varied from the statue outside the Physical Therapy clinic to Windmill Beach, forcing participants to spend the time traveling from one station



The third place winners of the April 12 Amazing Base race. From left: Nigel Kissoon, Jacques Rock, Christopher Wagner and Genena Palacios.

to the next.

At each station an event had to be completed before the team could receive its next clue. Events included everything from completing a hand-held trivia game or spinning a hula hoop for one minute to going down the slide at the Windjammer pool and swimming one lap.

"Having to make up an impromptu song was my favorite event," commented Tony Vader, from team Haad-Yeses. "But everything was well put together and we just had a blast."

The Amazing Base event took most of the morning Saturday. The final clue

led competitors to Cable Beach where a cookout awaited.

"Our biggest concern in planning this event was safety, and my main concern was everyone having fun," said Paraskeva. "We made sure teams wouldn't have to drive through neighborhoods to get to each station."

The Amazing Base race could only accommodate 15 teams of four and coordinators had to turn away almost five teams.

"Another Amazing Base will be coming very soon and we definitely plan on making it just a little bit tougher," said Paraskeva.

THE AMAZING BASE

A RACE FOR CLUES AROUND GITMO

Photos by Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing and Army Sgt. Gretel Sharpee

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Amazing Base race held Saturday challenged the 60 participants to complete 15 tasks and decipher 15 clues before racing to the finish at Cable Beach. The clues were sometimes written in Latin or were rhymed after their location somewhere around Gitmo while the tasks varied in everything from launching a water balloon to playing a hand-held trivia game. In the end the participants agreed that the race had been one of the most fun events they had competed in since coming to Gitmo and hoped that another Amazing Base would be held again soon.



Ask! Act! Intervene!

Story and Photo by Army Staff Sgt.
Emily J. Russell

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Have you intervened in a situation when you thought someone might be in jeopardy and had the courage to stand up for a friend or stranger when something wasn't right?

If your answer is yes, be proud. You are part of a minority who possess the courage to intervene in a situation that may be uncomfortable for you or others involved.

According to the Department of Defense, research shows that people often have a tough time not only intervening in difficult situations but also identifying them. Often, it takes one voice to initiate a response, but without that voice, a difficult situation can lead to violence and sometimes sexual assault.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the theme for this year is "Ask! Act! Intervene!" In an effort to drive home the importance of taking responsibility for your actions and promote the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, the Fleet and Family Support Center is sponsoring a three on three basketball tournament, April 26. Representatives from the Sexual Assault Victim Intervention program will be available to talk about the importance of sexual assault prevention and hand out information to educate and encourage service members to take an active role in sexual assault prevention.

"The problem of sexual assault has always been an issue in our military services," said James Mandley, the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for Guantanamo. "Although we are seeing a decrease in the number of reported sexual assault incidents, it is important to continue to make sexual assault prevention an all-hands mission."

The number of sexual assaults reported from October 2005 through September 2006 was 14. Since then, reported sexual assaults has significantly decreased to four from October 2006 until September 2007. Currently, only one incident has been reported during this training year.

Mandley runs the SAPI program which is intended to raise awareness about sexual assault and encourage people to be more vigilant, especially in social settings where alcohol is a factor.

"The majority of incidents I've dealt with here involved alcohol. They could have been prevented. We should be able to go out and have a good time without worrying about people doing things to us...because we can't, we need to step up to the plate and take responsibility on our own," said Mandley.

The SAVI program is based on three



Army Staff Sgt. Angela Dominguez receives a brochure about sexual assault awareness from Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Valerie Z. Wilson at the NEX. The SAVI program set up a booth to promote sexual assault awareness month and provide interested individuals with information about prevention, April 15.

If you have been a victim of sexual assault call the SAVI phone line at 42273 (I CARE) and speak to a victim advocate. It is never too late to report a sexual assault.

If you would like to get involved and be a Victim Advocate to support the Sexual Assault Victim Intervention program, call James Mandley at the Fleet and Family Support Center at ext. 4141 or email him at: james.mandley1@jftgmo.southcom.mil

basic elements: prevention and education awareness, data collection and victim advocacy.

Prevention and education awareness is conducted through mandatory briefings and training conducted at unit level in coordination with the SARP. The goal is to teach military personnel the importance of being responsible, not only for your own actions but maintaining an awareness of the actions of those around you, and having the courage to intervene if you think someone needs help.

Data collection is a critical element of the program. It is the tracking of all the information that is produced as a result of medical exams, investigations or legal proceedings. The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator tracks all the data which may be used to support the incident.

The victim advocacy program focuses on giving sexual assault victims someone

to help them. All victim advocates go through a 30-hour course where they learn the responsibilities and basic knowledge of procedures they may encounter while assisting the victim through medical, legal or other necessary services.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Valerie Z. Wilson, a newly trained Victim Advocate, found the training useful in helping her listen and watch for key things in conversations as well as taught her that it is OK to intervene when a situation doesn't seem safe.

"It is important for young military members just coming in to learn about the program and to encourage older military members to help educate younger members," said Wilson. "I just wanted to be able to help in some way and this was an opportunity for me to give back."

It is important for individuals to be mindful of their actions and safety and stay vigilant in certain situations, especially when alcohol is involved. It is OK to speak up and help someone if you think they might need it.

"We're not going to stop sexual assault, but we can make it very difficult for those who plan to do bad things," said Mandley. "We can minimize our risk. Don't just walk away and do nothing. Ask, Act and Intervene."

Earth Day base-wide cleanup April 25

Story by Army Pfc.
Eric Liesse

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Earth Day will be observed here April 25 with a volunteer base-wide cleanup, followed by an eco-friendly command picnic at Ferry Landing.

The event begins at 7 a.m. and trash bags will be provided for volunteers to clean their designated area.

At noon, all volunteers will return to Ferry Landing to weigh their trash bags to see how much refuse they gathered. All trash will be separated into recyclables, burnable wood and refuse, and then taken to the dump by BREMCOR, so there is no need for volunteers to transport it.

After the cleanup, volunteers will provide food and beverages for a picnic at Ferry Landing, along with information on being eco-friendly and what “green” activities are available at Guantanamo.

Earth Day, officially celebrated April 22, the spring equinox, was started in 1970 by Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin. He said he began the holiday “to shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda.”

The first Earth Day had a large political impact sparking the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and passing Congressional acts such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act.

Earth Day Network, the non-profit network which organizes Earth Day, has over 500 million volunteers each year in 174 countries, according to its website, www.earthday.net.



Accounting for Joint Task Force, one person at a time

JPRC from 5

Recently, JPRC has implemented a system of tracking duty status, as well. This means personnel attached to the JTF are continually tracked, even when traveling on temporary duty orders or on leave.

“Say there’s been an earthquake in California. Higher headquarters could come down and ask, ‘how many people are TDY [temporarily assigned duty] to California?’” said Harrington. “We can just go into our database and say, ‘Oh, we’ve got two people that may be in that area.’ This way local commands can account for people in a particular area.”

Just as important, JPRC is the final check for out-processing individuals.

By holding JTF personnel accountable for providing a completely filled out checkout sheet, JPRC ensures that people aren’t leaving the island with business left unfinished.

“People might still have unpaid bills on the island,” said Army Spc. Chris Kutyreff, out-processing clerk. “We want to make sure that situations like that don’t happen.”

Checkout accountability also ensures that JTF personnel aren’t forgetting critical documents when changing commands.

“We also make sure they’ve gone to medical, dental, personnel and have their records,” added Kutyreff.

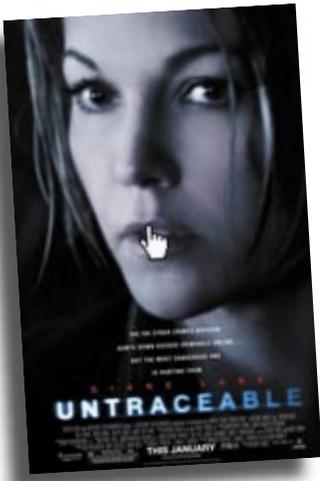
The fact that JPRC is just four people means the hours are long,

and sometimes yields seven-day workweeks.

“Whenever a plane lands or takes off, we’re there,” said Kutyreff. “It’s a lot of work, but we’ve got a job to do.”

JPRC plays a vital role to the unseen side of the JTF, and provides the administrative support that allows the operational arm to perform its mission.

“We have to know how many people are on the island, who is on the island and how to find people on the island,” said JTF administration, or J-1, manpower officer and interim deputy director Air Force Capt. Tommy Wyatt. “From the personnel accountability, JPRC is the building block of the rest of J-1.”



Untraceable... Unwatchable... Unforgivable

By Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Rated: R

Running Time: 101 minutes of monotony

Too many times now I have walked out of the lyceum with my head hung low, tears brimming on the edge of my eyes. Too often I have wondered aloud “Why, why, why does my editor make me see such films?!?” Yesterday he told me it was because he thinks it’s funny. Don’t laugh. It’s kind of mean.

For I have seen a thoroughly awful film, worse even than “Good Luck Chuck.” Not as bad as “The Eye,” but still pretty horrid.

“Untraceable” stars Diane Lane in a really terrible role. Diane Lane lives with her mother. Diane Lane’s mother wears comfortable shoes. Diane Lane works nights on the internet for the feds. Diane Lane has cats. Not the most sympathetic protagonist for a film. Heck, even her daughter is only there as a red herring target.

Anyway, Lane gets tied up in the investigation of a basement dweller who’s using the internet to commit torture killings for revenge. Everyone who clicks on the website becomes an accomplice to murder. A clever commentary on voyeurism? I think not.

Directed by Gregory Hoblit (“Fracture” – never seen it), “Untraceable” suffers the same ‘homartia’ (it’s Greek – Google it) as every other movie about web geekery: throw in suspense, throw

in gore, heck, throw in sex if you want – this is still about a couple of mouth-breathers in their mother’s basement screwing around with computers. They’re nerds. NERDS! These are not a people of great threat and terror. They’re more like misanthropes of poor hygiene and social discomfort.

Trust me on this. I’m a comic book geek and the nerds are the only ones we’re socially capable of mocking.

“Untraceable” makes a meek effort at relevance by attempting to combine “Se7en” with “Saw.” The American voyeur is an accomplice to torture porn. The problem is that everyone knows it already. “Se7en” already hit us over the head with that bat and opened our eyes to it. “Saw” was simply the drooling slackjaw in the corner sweeping up the detritus. “Untraceable” can’t compete in social-commentary or overall gore.

Oh, and having a victim named Griffin? Not cool, Mr. Hoblit. Not cool at all.

Lastly, this is the most slowly building, monotonously paced film I’ve seen in years. The Ritalin kids sitting behind us popping jujubes came down from their sugar rush because they were so bored. Hitchcock once said that suspense was telling the audience there was a bomb under their chair . . . and then making them wait. This adage is true, but the execution of it in “Untraceable” is unforgivable. I heard snoring by the time the audio went south in the third reel.

I didn’t complain.

Rating: ★★★★★

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com

Saturday, April 19

Highs in the high - 80’s, and lows in the low - 70’s.



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:45 a.m.

Sunset: 7:18 p.m.

Chance of rain: 20%

Sunday, April 20

Highs in the high - 80’s, and lows in the low - 70’s.



Isolated T-Storms

Sunrise: 6:44 a.m.

Sunset: 7:19 p.m.

Chance of rain: 30%

Monday, April 21

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the low - 70’s.



Isolated T-Storms

Sunrise: 6:43 a.m.

Sunset: 7:19 p.m.

Chance of rain: 30%

Tuesday, April 22

Highs in the high - 80’s, and lows in the low - 70’s.



Sunrise: 6:42 a.m.

Sunset: 7:19 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 30%

Isolated T-Storms

Wednesday, April 23

Highs in the high - 80’s, and lows in the low - 70’s.



Sunrise: 6:42 a.m.

Sunset: 7:20 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 10%

Partly Cloudy

Thursday, April 24

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the low - 70’s.



Sunrise: 6:41 a.m.

Sunset: 7:20 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 20%

Partly Cloudy

Friday, April 25

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the low - 70’s.



Sunrise: 6:40 a.m.

Sunset: 7:20 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 10%

Partly Cloudy

New public affairs unit launches mission here

MPAD from 3

they might see on the news,” said PI Staff Sgt. Jim Wagner. “It’s our job to get that information out to them.”

PI provides photo coverage of visits by distinguished visitors; they maintain the JTF website and market stories to outside, non-military venues to increase awareness; they send releases to your hometown to let your family and friends know what you’re doing.

The third section is Command Information – you’re holding their product in your hand and reading it right now. CI is responsible for internal information for the JTF via print, broadcast and radio stories. “*The Wire*” has been a JTF publication since 2002. Tune into the local radio and you’ll hear the sound of JTF productions. Check out defenselink.mil or the Pentagon Channel and you’ll see examples of broadcast packages. All handled expertly by the mighty arm that is Command Information.

“*The Wire*” itself will be getting a minor facelift over the coming weeks, according to editor Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn Larson. “We plan a stronger emphasis on photos and a slight format change that we hope the readers will find to their liking,” he explained.

Many of the members of the 112th are no strangers to deployment. The majority of the officers have deployed in various roles and some of the enlisted deployed with their predecessor unit, the 139th MPAD. The 139th was a “split-unit,” with the parent half based out of Illinois and the detachment in Madison.

“Having that previous deployment

experience by so many in the unit truly was a great benefit,” Venske said. “That really got us started on the right foot with the right attitude.”

“Our unit collectively has a great deal of deployment experience, either to Iraq or Afghanistan,” said Sgt. Gretel Sharpee, assistant editor/page designer for “*The Wire*,” Guantanamo’s finest news source. “Regardless of experience, every member has something valuable to offer to the unit and the JTF.”

In spring 2007, the 139th was moved entirely to Illinois and Wisconsin gained the 112th MPAD. The unit quickly started recruiting to fill their new openings and began training for deployment. The Wisconsin PA specialists mobilized at Ft. Lewis, Wash., to prepare for their tour to Guantanamo.

“The evaluators at the mobilization station had nothing but positive remarks on the unit’s abilities, and I feel one hundred percent confident of their journalistic, photographic and video talents,” Morehouse said.

The 112th is looking forward to the challenges of the next year and the many

opportunities for success. They’re also looking forward to taking advantage of the wide variety of Morale, Welfare and Recreation opportunities made available.

“I’d really like to get scuba certified as soon as I can,” said Pfc. Eric Liesse, a staff writer for “*The Wire*.” “I’m also looking forward to enjoying the beaches and the round-the-clock weather.”

“This will be a good year for all,” Morehouse said.

For his part, the commander of the outgoing 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Lt. Col. Edward M. Bush, said this past year has surpassed his expectations.

“As a Public Affairs Officer, I can’t imagine a more challenging environment,” Bush said. “As a soldier, it has been an amazing experience. I will never forget the men and women I have met here and served alongside. As a Commander, I am so very proud of what we were able to accomplish during our time here.”

“I say goodbye to Gitmo with mixed emotions,” he continued. “Certainly, this last year will be a lasting memory for me.”

Appreciation for a job well done

HAUPT from 2

War is a terrible thing. You on the battlefield of Guantanamo, along with our brothers and sisters in arms around the world, endeavor to bring it to its most timely conclusion. Those of you joining me in the ever-growing group of Guantanamo veterans know this truth

firsthand.

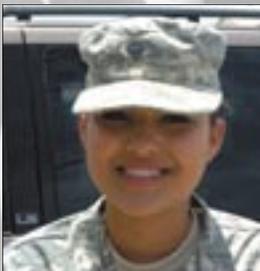
To those of you just now joining the JTF team, stand tall, serve humbly and leave Guantanamo a better place that those of us preceding you have attempted to make it. We are proud of you, and while we may have stood before you in history, we stand with you now in spirit.

Boots on the Ground

What are your plans for this weekend?

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard

**Army Pvt. 1st Class
Amanda Leal**



“Midterms - I have midterms in human biology and world religion.”

**Army Sgt. 1st Class
Anthony Romero**



“I’m leaving this weekend going TDY. I am heading to San Juan, Puerto Rico.”

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd
Class
Brandon Roland**



“I am going fishing this weekend for anything I can catch.”

**Army Spc.
Nestor Lopez**



“I am going to spend my weekend working.”

CRITICISM

Story by Navy Lt. Cmdr.
Daniel McKay

JTF Command Chaplain/NEGB Chaplain

No doubt, we've all heard that criticism has two categories: positive and negative. The truth is that criticism is not positive or negative. Criticism is just that – criticism. What determines its outcome is how we choose to view it and apply it.

In his book, *Lincoln on Leadership: Executive Strategies for Tough Times*, Donald Phillips reminds us that few in life have had to endure the level of criticism that President Lincoln received. He “was slandered, libeled, and hated more intensely than any man ever to run for the nation’s highest office.” President Lincoln, Phillips continues, “was publicly called just about every name imaginable by the press of the day, including a grotesque baboon, a third-rate country lawyer who once split rails and now splits the Union, a coarse vulgar joker, a dictator, an ape, a buffoon, and others.” Then, as if these criticisms were not enough, one of the papers from his home state of Illinois added that Mr. Lincoln is “the craftiest and most dishonest politician that ever disgraced an office in America.” Interestingly, President Lincoln is now widely considered one of our nation’s best leaders. There are many reasons why this is so, but one of them has to do with the manner in which he handled both his critics and their criticism.

First, President Lincoln had become a good listener over the course of his life. While there were times early in his life where he demonstrated impatience with both himself and others, by the time he ran for our nation’s highest office he had developed masterful listening skills. Where early on he would have matched critical heart, attitude and comments with his critics, later in life he had become less critical and judgmental – exhibiting a willingness to listen to all sides and learn equally from his foes and friends alike. Thus, if the criticism or any portion

How we handle it makes all the difference

thereof rang true, in humility and wisdom, he made the necessary adjustment.

Second, he kept things in proper perspective and balance. That is to say, President Lincoln realized he could only control his own thoughts, words and actions. While others chose to go down the path of jealousy, envy, or hate he chose instead to possess “malice toward none.” He often wrote out his angry thoughts and emotions in letters that never got sent to his foes or co-workers, utilizing the writing process as a means to vent and bring himself back to a right frame of heart and mind. While others chose to possess a critical spirit he chose to go in the opposite direction. In fact, he often encouraged others on his staff to handle daily events or situations with “a cool head.”

Third, President Lincoln rarely missed an opportunity to enjoy a good laugh. He embraced humor as a means to diffuse tense situations and to help both himself and others take an honest look in the mirror. For example, when asked by a reporter

one time why he would not respond to the harsh and very public criticism of a certain U. S. Senator President Lincoln responded by recounting a story from his youth. He shared how on nights when the full moon was present the hound dog would sit out front of the family’s cabin and howl at the moon all night. The reporter interrupted and asked, “Yes, Mr. President, that’s an interesting story, but what’s that got to do with you and the Senator?” President Lincoln, we’re told, smiled and responded, “You miss the point. You see, no matter how long or loud that ol’ dog howled, the moon just kept on shining. I know of no other way to respond to the Senator than just keep on shining.”

Fourth, President Lincoln relied on his faith in God, the strong support of family and friends, and helping others to see him through. Though sometimes given to bouts of depression and melancholy, he would turn to prayer, reading God’s Word, spending time with family and friends, or helping the less fortunate to reinvigorate his heart, mind and spirit. In other words, he knew when it was time to turn away from the critics and draw from the well that restored his own sense of inner peace and purpose.

Lastly, President Lincoln viewed criticism, especially that of the unjust variety, as a source of encouragement. Possessing a strong confidence in his ability to know right from wrong, he knew when to dig in, stand his ground and fight the good fight. As he once said to Horace Greeley, “Truth is the best vindication against slander,” and once he was convinced of the truth, President Lincoln would not back down.

Whether criticism has a positive or negative outcome in our life, then, depends on how we receive and respond to it. It’s as God’s Word says, “Correct a wise man and he will love you, instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning.” (*Proverbs 9:7b-9*).

Trooper helps pave way to discovery

**Story by Army Sgt. 1st Class
Vaughn R. Larson**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

If Army Staff Sgt. Drew Neal does his job right, you won't see him much – but you'll know he was there.

“A lot of what I do is NCO business,” the 53-year-old Neal explained, “behind the scenes.”

Neal is the noncommissioned officer in charge for the five-man Joint Visitors Bureau, and clears the path for distinguished visitors – generally referred to as DV's – to Joint Task Force Guantanamo. He arranges for meals, transportation and other logistical support, either directly or indirectly. He has been known to play traffic cop to allow the visitor bus to cross the road, and even stoops to pick up litter along the route.

“[Rear] Adm. Mark Buzby [JTF commander] picks up trash,” Neal explained, shrugging. “I can certainly do it.”

Distinguished visitors vary from high-ranking military officials and elected officials to celebrities and civilians. Members of the rock band Foreigner, for example, received the JVB special treatment during a recent Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored performance at the naval station.

Visitors typically are given a briefing – the content is usually tailored to the audience – and visit a detention camp, where they are given a general overview of conditions and even served the same meals made for detainees. Other points of interest can be added – for example, a medical officer also toured medical facilities and learned about the health care program here.

“When [members of the U.S. Senate] Appropriations Committee visit, we make sure they see everything they bought – housing, the gymnasium, and so on,” Neal said.

The days can be long, usually starting at 6:30 a.m. and rarely ending before 7 p.m., arranging visits for as few as one and as many as 67 guests at one time. He said he takes great satisfaction in making several moving parts work together and appreciates that he is not micromanaged in how he executes the mission.

“Being busy is a good thing,” Neal reasoned, noting that his office averages three to four visits per week. “It doesn't allow you to worry about things you can't control. In a war zone, you're on 24/7. This war zone is different – it's a blessing to be in that zone where people aren't shooting at you.”

This particular mission is far different from the New Mexico Army National Guardsman's regular role as a combat



Army Staff Sgt. Drew Neal, non-commissioned officer for the Joint Visitors Bureau at Joint Task Force-Guantanamo, coordinates for an upcoming distinguished visitor event.
-- Photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson

engineer operations NCO in the 111th Movement Enhanced Brigade, but is similar in some ways to his civilian jobs – adjunct faculty member for Columbia College, and a former trial attorney with experience dealing with the media. The 23-year military veteran also holds a Master's Degree in clinical psychology and worked as a psychologist. Once upon a time, Neal was employed in the Illinois State Senate.

“I think part of the reason we have DVs come down here is so we can tell them what's going on,” he observed, “so they can go out and be goodwill ambassadors. They can now say, ‘I was there – I know what's going on, and it's not how some people portray it.’”

For his part, the former attorney – who has argued civil rights cases – said he had

no doubt the United States is doing the right thing in Guantanamo.

“If I had any doubt, I don't know if I would have wanted to come here,” Neal said. “Some people say we're coddling these detainees, but I think we're doing just about the right thing to ensure they get a humane and culturally sensitive environment while at the same time keeping them off the battlefield.”

Neal is married and has two daughters – one in pre-med school – and a son. Despite being separated by a year-long deployment and having only six days off in the past two and one-half months, he said he enjoys the mission.

“It's great to meet as many people as I have,” he explained. “To see how the Navy works, the Marines, the Coast Guard – to see the whole JTF picture.”

AROUND THE

JTF

◀ Comedian Robert Hawkins kept the crowd loud with laughter during his stand-up routine at the Windjammer on April 11. Hawkins was part of a comedy tour sponsored by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program. (JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell)



Spc. Keith Norman, a medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 525th Military Police, applies a suture to a Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper at the Kittery Beach Joint Aid Station here April 15, 2008. The 525th provides much of the guard staff inside the JTF's detention facilities. (JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jim Wagner)

A construction worker measures out a section of wood flooring, April 15 at McCalla Air Field here. The flooring will be used in the additions to Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Cuzco Barracks enlisted living quarters. (JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jim Wagner) ▶

