



JTF GTMO looks back over first year

JTF Anniversary Story
By Patrick Cloward

Four days from now marks the anniversary when task forces 160 and 170 combined their skill power to create Joint Task Force Guantanamo, part of a nationally recognized effort to address the United States' new focus on the war on terror in the world today.

“It affects not just these two officers but the entire command,” said Gen. James T. Hill, U.S. Army Southern Command commander, during the change of command ceremony that welcomed MG Geoffrey Miller as the new JTF Guantanamo commander in November 2002. “It’s time to recognize the accomplishments of the past and a time to renew our commitment to the challenges of the future.”



Photo courtesy of JTF archives
Military Police watch over Camp Delta which opened April 28, 2003.

Challenges have not been few for members of the JTF as well as its leadership. When MG Michael Dunlavey handed over command, he recounted how the logistical obstacles alone were

worthy of special attention.

“I leave a command that as of March 1 [2002], when I formally arrived here, we had 28 people, a folding table and a laptop computer. Today we are

a robust task force of over 2,000 personnel representing all the services as we contain over 600 detainees, many of whom are the most dangerous men in the world,” he said. “We’ve completed over 4,000 interrogations, produced over 1,000 intelligence reports ... all while continuing to march forward and ever continuing to grow.”

And grow we have. During four deployment rotations and eight Live Fire Exercises, more than 41 different active, reserve and National Guard units have arrived in Guantanamo Bay as part of the joint task force effort here. Brig. Gen. Rick Baccus, commander of JTF-160, told of the adjustments troopers made in the initial stages of development back in 2002.

See JTF on Page 4

Inside the Wire ...

EXERCISE INVOLVES ENTIRE JTF



SOUL SURVIVOR



FEEDING THE TROOPERS



Trooper to Trooper

With the approaching anniversary of JTF-Guantanamo, we as troopers have a great opportunity to reflect on the changes of the past year. Since we combined JTF 160 with JTF 170 in November, 2002, we have made great strides in improving our operations, and in improving the quality of life of each trooper.

On the operations side, we have implemented many ideas to help with our efforts to help with our primary mission, which is to gather intelligence. Over the past year, we have opened a medium-security facility to reward those detainees who cooperate with us during questioning. We continue to work hard in ensuring the data we gather is analyzed and used in the manner that best serves our country. We have worked to improve the mobilization process, so the troopers who come down here in the future are better trained, and are ready to get to work right away.

However, we've really made good strides in improving the quality of life for each trooper. Over the past year, work has been completed on the Tierra Kay housing area, and will soon be complete on Camp America Two. We have opened Club Survivor, which provides off-duty troopers a wonderful environment to relax after their shifts. We have made considerable improvements to the gym at Camp Bulkeley, so troopers can continue working on their physical fitness. Finally, just this month, the new NEX opened at Camp America with more than ten times the floor space as the previous store.

With all that we've done, more work still lies ahead. We must continue to seek improvement in all that we do as a Task Force. This includes our detention and interrogation operations, our physical security procedures, and our support functions. While we've done a good job in all of these areas, we can't be satisfied with what we've done in the past. The world continues to change, and we must change with it. If we stand still, we're losing ground.

It was a year ago that I took command of the new JTF-Guantanamo. At that time, I



MG Geoffrey D. Miller
Commander
JTF Guantanamo

shared some of my leadership philosophy. However, since that time we've had a complete turn-over in personnel; so I'll take just a moment to share it again. The most valuable commodity leaders exchange is unvarnished truth. Do not gloss over problems, as they will not go away. Seek ways to be innovative; stretch yourself and your subordinates. Take time and have the leader integrity to tell a subordinate where he or she needs to improve. Finally, be a good listener to your subordinates. The greatest compliment you can give is to listen to their thoughts and issues.

Your welfare and the welfare of JTF-Guantanamo will always be my top priority. I am pleased with your past performance and feel fortunate to have the opportunity to lead you into the future. I rest easy at night knowing the quality of troopers serving in this JTF. I know I can count on you to carry out the mission, at the right time, in the right manner. Together, we will continue to make the difference for our nation.

HONOR BOUND!

DID YOU KNOW? AN INTERESTING GTMO FACT

"How many people serve with the JTF in Guantanamo?"

More than 41 different active, reserve and National Guard units have deployed to Guantanamo Bay to support and oversee the detention operations here. These units come from all five military branches, serving anywhere from three months to one year. Thank you, troopers!

JTF-GTMO Command

Commander:
MG Geoffrey D. Miller
Joint Task Force CSM:
CSM George L. Nieves
Public Affairs Officer:
Lt. Col. Pamela L. Hart
Deputy PAO
Lt. Cmdr. Robert W. Mulac
70th MPAD Commander:
Maj. Jonathan P. Dolan
Command Information Officer / Editor:
1st Lt. Tracy L. Saucy
Circulation: 2,100 copies

The Wire Staff

The Wire NCOIC / Editor
Staff Sgt. Patrick Cloward

Layout Editor
Spc. Tommi Meyer

Sports Editor:
Spc. Rick Fahr

Staff writers and design team:
Sgt. Jolene Staker
Spc. Katherine L. Collins

Contact us:
From Guantanamo:
5239/5241 (Local phone)
5426 (Local fax)
From CONUS:
Com: 011-53-99-5239
DSN: 660-5239
Public Affairs Office
Online:
<http://www.nsgtmo.navy.mil/jtfgtmo>

The Wire is produced by the 70th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment assigned to the Joint Information Bureau at Joint Task Force Guantanamo. This publication is printed under the provisions provided in Army Regulation 360-1 and does not reflect the views of the Department of Defense or the personnel within.

Serving as an "Army of One"

By Spc. Katherine L. Collins

1st Bn. 65th Inf. Bde. experiences a new mission in Guantanamo, serving through a developed appreciation for its fellow comrades.

Close to home but far from their usual mission, 1-65th infantrymen defend freedom in Guantanamo Bay while gaining a newfound appreciation for the Army they serve.

Augmenting each of the military police (MP) units serving in the JTF, these foot soldiers of the Puerto Rico National Guard perform the skills of their fellow MP soldiers. These infantrymen conduct such tasks as escorting the detainees and assisting them with eating and showering.

"This is a great mission," said Sgt. Miguel Ramirez, of the 1-65th. "As we learn the mission of some of our counterparts, in this case the MPs, we gain a greater appreciation for their service. And as we serve right beside them, we see we have many things in common, including our ideas and customs."

According to Sgt. 1st Class Arnaldo Rodriguez, senior NCO for the 1-65th soldiers serving in Guantanamo, the unit's experience of training together in Kuwait for a short time strengthened the soldiers' teamwork, preparing them for their JTF mission. With this prized skill

in hand, the unit's next goal was to acquire proficiency in performing the MP detention facility skills. The 1-65th soldiers trained alongside the 216th MP Co. at Fort Dix, N.J., prior to arriving in Guantanamo Bay. Since then, all JTF MPs have continually mentored the infantry soldiers, answering any questions they may ask and commending their performance as they learn.

216th MP Co. members agree that the 1-65th Infantry's teamwork and military police training have proven effective to the JTF mission. "They came in and quickly picked up the task," said Spc. Beau Stevens, who daily works along side the infantry soldiers escorting detainees.

"Yes, they've been a great asset to us, and it's been excellent just working and living alongside them," added Spc. Mark Suffield, who also works hand in hand with the 1-65th troopers. "They've melted well with us."

Capt. Betty Anderson, commander of the 216th MP Co. added her own praise, "They've been excellent to work with. I wish I could take them back to Arkansas with me."

The 1-65th Infantry's Guantanamo experience serves as a fine example of the cross-training the military provides and the professional growth opportunities found in deployments.

"It has been great working with the MPs and learning their mission," said Rodriguez.



Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Shawn McDonald, Camera Pfc. Bruno Vega and Spc. Saidah Cowan, with the 1st Bn. 65th Infantry Bde., Puerto Rico National Guard, patrol Camp Delta. 1-65th members serving in Guantanamo are attached to JTF MP units, performing military police work.

"All we've experienced clarifies that however we serve, as infantry, military police or in some other capacity, we are all an 'Army of One.' We each bear a specific mission toward a greater common goal. It's great to experience that first hand," added Ramirez. "We will depart Guantanamo better able to serve our nation in whatever way it calls us to, because we will have gained a better understanding and appreciation for our fellow service members."

Trooper on the Street

Interview and photos by Spc. Katherine L. Collins

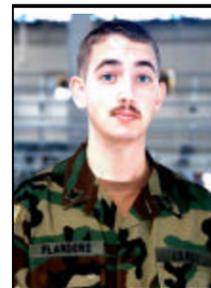
This week's question:

How do you envision the success of the JTF in a year?



Spc. Maverick Kelly,
216th MP Co.

"I think we'll have better living and working conditions. Also, we'll have a larger work force, which will make taking leave and passes a whole lot easier."



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class David Flanders,
Security Badge Office

"The operation will run smoother, because the majority of the JTF will then live and work out of Camp America, uniting us as a whole."



Spc. Hamid Manneh,
273rd MP Bn.

"Terrorism will have decreased and peace will have grown world-wide, especially for the U.S."



Army Sgt. Anita Wilks,
216th MP Co.

"It will be a whole lot better. We are working out all the kinks now."



Marine Capt. Vance Sewell,
J3 Plans

"Solid intelligence will have been gained and put to use to thwart terrorism against the U.S. and its allies."

*JTF GTMO Then and now ...
from tents to air conditioned quarters*



Left-Inside a newly constructed paneled dorm at Camp America North.
Above-Members of JTF 160 and 170 disassemble tents of Freedom Heights, the home to military police units tasked to handle Camp X-Ray detainees, in July 2002.

JTF from Page 1

“It was very ... confusing, trying to understand all the aspects that are involved in this mission. I had to try to understand all the pieces and try to coordinate them,” he said.

“We have had our bumps in the road,” Dunlavey acknowledged last year. “But due to the incredible professionalism of this truly joint command, we have a synergy and level of cooperation that I’ve never experienced in over 35 years in America’s military.”

This kind of cooperation has been exemplified in the easy transitioning seen since the beginning.

“When the two task forces were combined, the goal was to be the nation’s center of excellence for counter-intelligence in defeating terrorism,” Miller said. “Due to the incredible commitment of leaders and members of the JTF, we’ve made enormous progress in every facet of this mission.”

In January 2002, Marine forces established Camp X-Ray. In March of that same year Army reservists arrived to

initiate the building of Camp Delta and the dividing of JTF-160 and JTF-170, between detention and interrogation. Then, the two missions became officially one, consolidated under an active-duty, permanent-party commander with an eye toward the future.

Even in the beginning, quality of life and morale were priorities for Miller. His first words as new JTF Guantanamo commander were, “OK, everybody in this formation, g’head and flex your knees a little bit and we’ll get this ceremony over.”

As an example of his own flexing, Miller dipped into the resources available to begin the slow, steady change that the JTF has undergone since the former 8th Army deputy commander took the helm at this base.

Quality of life improvements became a high priority over the previous conditions troopers lived in. In the beginning, tent villages housed the service members, then improvements were made through plywood structures that gave troopers shelter from the heat and humidity.



Army Sgt. Steve C. Andronis (below) of the 342nd MP Co. phones home from the former MWR phone bank. Phones have since been upgraded.

See JTF on Page 5

JTF from Page 4

Only recently have such leaps in quality of life improvements been made, to include a separated dining facility at Seaside Galley, modular housing and updated computer networks to give more soldiers easier access to internet computer usage. A fully functional Mini-NEX now located at Camp America gives all troopers the types of products they would like during their stay here.

CSM George Nieves, JTF command sergeant major, gave an example of the improvements made in training operations under the new leadership. “When I first came on board here. I noticed we could have done better at the mobilization site getting troopers prepared for this mission,” he said. Trainers who worked on site here at Guantanamo were sent to the United States to assist in the process.

“For example, Fort Dix now has Camp Lightning that simulated Camp Delta,” he said. “Now we can show the next

units the right way. They have a better understanding and they’re ready to start interrogation immediately.”

Another example was Miller’s focus on proper training. Even in the beginning, his focus was to make sure the knowledge of those serving would be kept in the minds of those arriving.

“As your replacements arrive, share your wisdom with them,” he said in a November column to the troopers in The Wire. “Tell them what has gone wrong here in the past, as well as what has gone right. They will come here with the enthusiasm to work hard — you must supply them with the direction to work smart.”

Smart, fast, adaptable and flexible. This has been reflective in the substantial improvements in JTF Guantanamo.

“It’s almost indescribable the change that has been made here; the change for the better,” Hill said during a recent visit. “There’s a phrase I like to use for improvements such as these and it is ‘exponentially.’ We’ve seen improvements in interroga-



Photo by courtesy of JTF archives
Army Staff Sgt. Sam Brown and Staff Sgt. Shane A. Kirkpatrick, both of the 29th MP Co., lift weights at the gymnasium at Camp Bulkeley.

tions and training, but most importantly, taking care of the soldiers and making sure soldiers needs are met.”

“The troopers of the JTF recognized the need to be the best at helping deter terrorism.” said

Miller. “We have been gaining five times the intelligence each month as we did last year and we’re winning the war on terror. JTF is about leaders and troopers committing to make a difference for the nation.”



Photo courtesy of JTF archives
Workers complete the old Naval Fleet Hospital at Camp X-Ray in early 2002. A number of new joint aid stations around the base have made medical care more accessible. The current detention hospital is a comprehensive hardened facility comparable to a full-service, modern medical facility.

Entire JTF involved in live fire exercise, alert

By Staff Sgt. Patrick Cloward, Sgt. Jolene Staker, Spc. Rick Fahr and Spc. Tommi Meyer

It started out as a peaceful afternoon.

Intelligence reports came into the Joint Operation Center that a hijacked plane in the Caribbean, remained at the end of the runway. Suddenly, all mock hell broke loose.

Starting with a simulated attack on troops at Camp Delta and ending with full infantry defense maneuvers on the Windward and Leeward sides, members of JTF Guantanamo completed Rotation Four's first live fire exercise last weekend.

Pfc. Bernardino Coelko of the 1-181st Inf. Regt., A Co. a machine gunner, was thrilled to actually be able to use his knowledge in defense of his position. "I just wish we could do more of it to be honest," he said.

From a strategic firing point, members of 1-181st Inf. Regt., B Co. readied an automatic weapon against a target boat about 1,100 meters away. When Spc. Brian Tivnan began firing, his shots were short. Spotters helped him adjust fire until he was able to strafe the target consistently.

"It was a good exercise," he said. "The guys did a good job of helping me put metal on the target."

For Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Lisa Griffith, it was also her first mission to be coxswain of her patrol vessel during a live fire. "It gives us scenarios so I think it helps me become more comfortable," she said. "Because if anything were to happen we've already done it."

Even for the Marines, it was all about hitting the mark. Up and on mission as the sun rose



Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Cloward



Photo by Spc. Rick Fahr

over the bay, Marines from the Marine Corps Security Force, set up their position, fired machine guns out into the bay and took out a target barely visible to most, and they liked it.

"I love it," said Cpl. Kevin Henry of the Marine Corp Security Force here at Guantanamo Bay. "I get to shoot free ammo."

"I wasn't expecting the target to be so far out," said Gunnery Sgt. Carlos McFarland of the same unit. "But once they were on it, rounds were impacting on the target and all around the target."

CSM George Nieves, JTF command sergeant major, found a lot to be positive about

from the trooper's performance. "There was a lot of motivation," he said. "There were well-aimed shots, and everyone wasn't shooting at the same time." Even though his objective eye saw need for improvements, he expressed his pleasure in their general performance. "Everything comes through the JOC (Joint Operations Center)," he said. "They did a good job disseminating information and gave a good picture of the enemy to friendly forces."

Marines of the Marine Corps Security Forces, Guantanamo Bay (right), zero a machine gun on a target during Saturday's live fire exercise.



Photo by Spc. Tommi Meyer

Pfc. Bernardino Coelko (above) of the 1-181st Inf. Regt., readies his machine gun during his first Live Fire Exercise here at Guantanamo Bay.

Just up the coastline, Spc. Brian Tivnan (at left) of B Company fires an squad automatic weapon at a target 1,100 meters away.



Photo by Spc. Tommi Meyer



Photo by Spc. Katherine Collins



Photo by Sgt. Jolene Staker

Marine Cpl. Kevin Henry (upper left) fires at a target in Guantanamo Bay on Saturday.

Seaman Christopher Renois of the Coast Guard Port Security Unit Detachment (top right) observes the target during live fire exercises Saturday.

Part of the weekend's exercises involved a mass-casualty evacuation (above right) Spc. Daniel Green of C Co. 1-181st Inf. Regt., is lifted into an ambulance by Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Bagley, naval base search and rescue corpsman.

Gunnery Sgt. Carlos McFarland (right) offers congratulations to shooters, saying that he saw some "good shootin'."

Mortar rounds fired from shore pummel a target boat (bottom right) during Rotation Four's first live fire exercise.

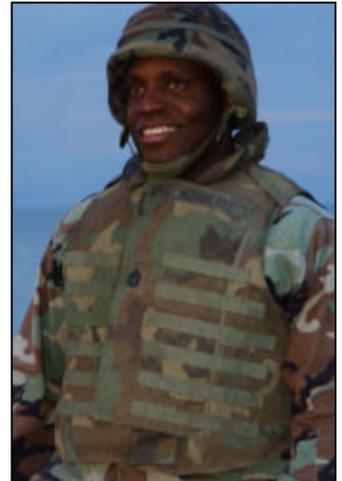


Photo by Spc. Tommi Meyer



Photo by Spc. Staff Sgt. Patrick Cloward

Odean: Preaching and living the simple truth



"Putting on the armor of God"-Chaplain Daniel Odean, JTF deputy staff chaplain, offers a message during the Soul Survivor meeting on Wednesday at the Survivor club.

Photos by Spc. Katherine L. Collins

By Spc. Tommi Meyer

"I have a calling to preach the hard truth," said Chaplain Daniel Odean, JTF deputy staff chaplain.

A calling that surely helps him in his civilian career, as the supervisory chaplain at a penitentiary in Indiana and one that offers JTF troopers a valuable opportunity to take an honest look at the message he shares here.

He preaches a simple message, one he said he tries to associate with real life situations and current times.

Odean joined the active Army in 1980 as a purification specialist, went on to become a truck driver with the Louisiana National Guard and became a chaplain in the reserves in 1990. But, he has a simple statement for who he is now.

"I am a preacher ... called to preach," he said.

And he said, he is a family man, married for over 20 years and a father of three. Even there, he said his goal is to "pour truth into my kids' lives that they will never depart from."



"I am a preacher ... called to preach."

Chaplain Daniel Odean

Odean sees his future including improvement and learning. He wants to apply his self more to study and he said he wants to "Give more, love more, pray more, mentor more and inspire more."

"I have some rough edges," he said. "But God is still working on me."

Worship Services

Catholic

Main Chapel

Wed. 5 p.m. R.C.I.A. (Cobre Chapel)
 Fri. 5 p.m. Rosary
 Sat. 4:30 p.m. Confession
 5:30 p.m. Mass
 Sun. 9 a.m. Mass
 10:15 a.m. Spanish Mass (Sanct. B)
 M-Fri. 11:30 a.m. Mass (Cobre Chapel)

Camp America

Sun. 5 p.m. Mass
 Wooden Chapel

Protestant

Main Chapel

Mon. 7 p.m. Prayer Group Fellowship*
 Wed. 7 p.m. Men's Bible Study*
 7 p.m. Spanish Group
 390-Evan's Pt
 Thurs. 6:30 p.m. Home Group
 Nob Hill 5B
 Sun. 7:15 p.m. Youth 7-12 Fellowship*
 6:30 a.m. Praise and
 Worship Service
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 11 a.m. Service/Sunday School
 5 p.m. Bible Study*

* Fellowship Hall located in Chapel Complex

Camp America

Wed. 7 p.m. Service
 Sun. 9 a.m. Seaside Galley
 (Temporary location until further notice)
 7 p.m. Service
 Wooden Chapel

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day

Saints

Sun. 9 a.m. Sanctuary A

Islamic

Fri. 1 p.m. Classroom 12
 Chapel Complex

Jewish

Fri. 8 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Camp America Church Bus schedule:

Sun. 8 a.m. Windward Loop
 8:15 a.m. Tierra Kay

The bus will return following worship.

Soul Survivor



Join the JTF Unit Ministry Team at Survivor Club on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. This weekly program features contemporary Christian praise music, preaching, and fellowship.

RECREATION & LEISURE

MWR Outdoor Recreation to hold Xtreme Adventure race

Looking for a challenge? Sign up for the MWR Outdoor Recreation Xtreme Adventure race on Nov. 22.

The GTMO Xtreme Adventure race is a combination of multiple human-powered distance sports completed by teams in the rugged backcountry areas of the Naval Base. The race is designed for fun and physical fitness, to test one's limits using outdoor skills and introduce the team dynamic.

Teams must start and finish together.

Registration: Nov. 1-19

Late Registration: None

Start Time: 6 a.m.

Start/Finish Location: MWR Sailing Center

Categories: 4-person Co-ed team, no age categories

Disciplines: Mountain Bike - 15.3 Miles, Kayaking - 8 miles, Cross Country Run - 8 miles

All distances are approximate and may increase or decrease before the race starts.

Transition areas are at the Sailing Center.

Competitors must carry their own water, first aid kits and any other substance they deem necessary to complete the race.

Course maps will be available no later than Nov. 5.

All participants will receive tee shirts and other prizes. All competitors finishing the race as a team will receive a completion award. Team awards will be given to first, second and third place teams.

No Entry Fee! Bikes are available, all other equipment will be provided by MWR (compasses, kayaks and climbing equipment).

Sign up at the Marina or Gym or call 2345.

Coming events mix fitness, fun

Step Aerobics

Marine Hill Multi-Fitness Center
 Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Yoga

G.J. Denich Gymnasium

Beginning Yoga

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays
 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

Power Yoga

Saturdays
 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

Cardio kickboxing

Marine Hill Multi-Fitness Center
 Tuesdays, Thursdays
 5-6 p.m.

TAI cardio

Marine Hill Multi-Fitness Center
 Mondays, Wednesday, Fridays
 5-6 p.m.

Spinning

G.J. Denich Gymnasium
 Monday through Friday
 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Martial art programs

kanagawa bushido

Marine Hill Multi-Fitness Center
 Tuesdays and Thursdays
 6-7 p.m.

Call Caesar Garcia ext. 7482 or 3419

Taekwondo

Marine Hill Multi-Fitness Center
 Monday through Friday
 7-9 p.m.

Call Matt Brittle ext. 2156 or 2369

Upcoming Events

Power lifting meet

Nov. 8
 Sign-up: Nov. 6
 sandstromka@usnbgtno.navy.mil

FASE Challenge

Nov. 14
 Sign-up: Nov. 12
 Sign up as a team of four
 Call Karissa ext. 2193 or email
 sandstromka@usnbgtno.navy.mil



Movie Schedule

Camp Bulkeley

Fri., Oct. 31

8 p.m. *The Fast and the Furious*
 PG13 - 107 min

10 p.m. 2 Fast 2 Furious

PG13 - 108 min

Sat., Nov. 1

8 p.m. *Clueless*
 PG13 - 97 min

10 p.m. Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines

R - 109 min

Sun., Nov. 2

8 p.m. *Lara Croft: The Cradle of Life*
 PG13 - 91 min

Mon., Nov. 3

8 p.m. *Raiders of the Lost Ark*
 PG - 115 min

Tues., Nov. 4

8 p.m. *The Hulk*
 PG13 - 138 min

Wed., Nov. 5

8 p.m. *Bruce Almighty*
 PG13 - 101 min

Thurs., Nov. 6

8 p.m. *Basic Instinct*
 R - 122 min

Downtown Lyceum

Fri., Oct. 31

8 p.m. *My Boss's Daughter*
 PG13 - 97 min

10 p.m. Runaway Jury

PG13 - 128 min

Sat., Nov. 1

8 p.m. *Dickie Roberts*
 PG13 - 92 min

10 p.m. Jeepers Creepers 2

R - 106 min

Sun., Nov. 2

8 p.m. *Mystic River*
 R - 130 min

Mon., Nov. 3

8 p.m. *Intolerable Cruelty*
 PG13 - 95 min

Tues., Nov. 4

8 p.m. *My Boss's Daughter*
 PG13 - 86 min

Wed., Nov. 5

8 p.m. *Dickie Roberts*
 PG13 - 92 min

Thurs., Nov. 6

8 p.m. *Jeepers Creepers 2*
 R - 106 min

Postal Reminder:

All inbound and outbound mail (to and from Guantanamo Bay) should be postmarked by the following dates for Christmas:

Standard mail - Nov. 6

First-class mail -- Nov. 25

Priority Mail - Dec. 1

JTF hosts beach picnic

Spc. Walter Moore loads up a hamburger plate during Sunday's JTF picnic at Windmill Beach. The event included lots of food, music and activities. Staff Sgt. Edwin Padilla, MWR NCOIC, said about 300 troopers attended.



Photo by Spc. Rick Fahr

FAHR GAME

Keep safety in mind on Halloween, and hide the great big kitchen knives

By Spc. Rick Fahr

Halloween is a great time for kids of all ages to have some fun. What's not to like about costume parties and candy corn? Most JTF troopers will only spend one Halloween at Guantanamo. So, there's a good reason to enjoy this quirky holiday.

There are important safety rules that trick-or-treaters and party-goers should keep in mind in Windward Loop, Tierra Kay, Camp America and points in between:

Bright, reflective costumes are more easily seen by motorists. Keep a flashlight handy when walking along a roadway.

Make sure that costumes are fire resistant.

Keep jack-o-lanterns or other fire hazards away from children, pets and clumsy party-goers.

Be aware that masks can hinder vision. Remove any mask before walking into a roadway.

Walk on a sidewalk if possible. If walking along a roadway, walk at the farthest edge, facing traffic.

Remember that pets can't recognize a face obscured by a mask.

Halloween isn't all fun, though. This is the night when crazy things happen. Spirits roam the earth, looking for victims. Monsters come up out of the swamps. Phyllis Diller fits right in. To be on the safe side, remember:

Watch out for Mike Myers. No, not the "Saturday Night

Live" guy, the other Mike Myers, the one who keeps trying to kill Jamie Lee Curtis.

Just to be on the safe side, lock up all those great big kitchen knives. It's a documented fact that homicidal maniacs prefer great big kitchen knives. Have you ever tried to stab somebody with a spork?

Sharks often use Halloween to fool unsuspecting victims, who think that the big fish are just fellow troopers in costume. So, if a big shark dares you to see if your head will fit in its mouth tonight, don't do it.

If you get in a dark vehicle and it won't start, don't look in the backseat.

Don't assume that the guy wearing a skirt, blouse and heels is dressed up for Halloween.

Volleyball play in full swing

After several weeks of Captain's Cup volleyball play, standings in men's and women's leagues remain tight.

The men's NEX team stands at 3-0, leading the Hospital Dos team by a game (2-0). MCSF has posted a 1-0 record, while the 661st MP Co. stands at 2-1.

JTF MP 384th is at 0-2, and Hospital Uno and W.T. Sampson both stand at 0-1.

In women's play, Hospital is the only unbeaten team, with a record of 3-0.

W.T. Sampson is 2-1, while 661st MP Co. stands at 1-2. P.W.D. is 0-2.

A number of forfeits are not included in the won-loss standings.

Power-lift set

Lifting will be on Nov. 8 and will include the bench press, squat and dead lift. The deadline to sign up is Nov. 6.

Trooper picks

JTF personnel's predictions for this week's games



1st Sgt. Sandra Adams-Jones
273rd MP Co.



Craig Basel
MWR director



Staff Sgt. Deon Lee
216th MP Co.



Staff Sgt. Stephanie Nielsen
384th MP Bn.

Games

Tulane at Navy
Miami at Virginia Tech
Georgia at Florida
Nebraska at Texas
Washington State at USC
Giants at Jets
Rams at 49ers
Redskins at Cowboys
Packers at Vikings
Colts at Dolphins
Last week's record
Overall record

Navy
Virginia Tech
Georgia
Nebraska
Washington St.
Giants
Rams
Redskins
Vikings
Colts
7-3
30-16

Tulane
Miami
Florida
Nebraska
Washington St.
Giants
Rams
Redskins
Packers
Dolphins
6-4
31-15

Navy
Miami
Georgia
Texas
USC
Giants
Rams
Cowboys
Vikings
Colts
7-3
31-15

Navy
Miami
Florida
Nebraska
USC
Giants
Rams
Cowboys
Packers
Colts
8-2
29-17

Sports highlights

Marlins catch World Series in six games

Compiled by Spc. Rick Fahr

For the second time in their short Major League history, the Florida Marlins are champions of the baseball world.

Behind MVP Josh Beckett, the Marlins beat the New York Yankees to win the World Series in six games. Beckett won the finale 2-0 Saturday in the Bronx.

Both times the Marlins won the Series, they were the National League's wild card team.

Along the same out-of-the-blue vein, the Kansas City Chiefs stand atop the NFL halfway through the regular season.

The surprise team of the season, the Chiefs thumped the Buffalo Bills on Sunday night, 38-5. Priest Holmes scored three times and Dante Hall

caught a touchdown pass for the 8-0 Chiefs, the only unbeaten team in the league.

Other division leaders are the Dallas Cowboys, Minnesota Vikings, Carolina Panthers, St. Louis Rams, New England Patriots, Baltimore Ravens and Indianapolis Colts.

On the college gridiron, most of the top teams stayed on their Bowl Championship Series track.

Virginia Tech, though, saw its national title hopes fade. West Virginia spanked the Hokies, 28-7.

After the weekend, the top five teams were Oklahoma, Miami, Southern California, Georgia and Florida State.

Next weekend will tell which teams are contenders and which are pretenders. Sixteen of the top 25 teams play each other.

As if Los Angeles Laker Kobe Bryant doesn't have enough headaches, he got another one when teammate Shaquille O'Neal questioned his play.

Speaking to reporters, O'Neal contended that Bryant isn't healthy enough to be an offensive power and that he is hurting the team - his team, O'Neal said. He raked the media over the coals, too, suggesting that the media have over-hyped Bryant, saying that Bryant's "been given everything" in his career.

Bryant responded by saying that his health isn't an issue.

"I definitely don't need advice on how to play my game," he said.

Bryant is awaiting trial in Colorado for an alleged rape. He could get life in prison.

Compiled from www.espn.com

Golf course to feature new hours

Yatera Seca Golf Course officials recently announced new hours for the course's office. The new hours will take effect on Monday.

The office will be closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. On Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, the office will open at 6 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

Golfers who have their own clubs, balls and other equipment may play while the office is closed.

Golfers cannot begin play after 6:30 p.m., however the driving range will remain open until 7 p.m. Golfers who use the driving range lights should turn them off after use.

For more information, contact MWR personnel at 2193.

15 Minutes of Fame...

With Pfc. Elias Valazquez

1st Bn. 65th Inf. Bde.

Credits the Army: "Made me the man I am"

Interview and photo by Sgt.
Jolene Staker

Pfc. Elias Valazquez, from Mayaguez, Puerto Rico of the 1st Bn., 65th Inf. Bde., has been in the military for two years and three months. He joined as a combat engineer (12B) and now augments the 216th MP Co.

Q: Why did you join the military?

A: I wanted to serve my country. I saw a lot of things happening in the world, and I wanted to help. I like the military and the uniform.

Q: What places have you lived?

A: I lived in Boston until I was 5 years old and then I moved to Puerto Rico.

Q: How many brothers and sisters do you have?

A: Six sisters and four brothers. I am the second oldest.

Q: Who did you live with when you joined the military?

A: My grandfather.

Q: How did he feel about you joining the military?

A: He was the one that pushed me to do it. He wanted me to be something other than someone out on the streets.

Q: Were you getting in trouble right before you joined the Army?

A: My school record wasn't that good. I was getting in trouble. So my grandfather told me if I wasn't going to study to join the Army.

Q: Do you credit the military with keeping you out of trouble?

A: Yes, they made me be the man I am right now. I was a little bit out of control. Now I calm myself. The military taught me how to talk to people, behave in front of people, and everything. They made a lot of good things for me.



Pfc. Elias Valazquez of the 1/65th Inf. Bde. emails his fiancé, Milagros, who he plans to wed in June.

Q: Has anyone else in your family served in the military?

A: Yes, my uncle is a corporal in the Massachusetts National Guard Signal Brigade. He is in communications.

Q: Did your uncle influence you wanting to join the National Guard?

A: Yes, a lot. This past summer I went to see him and he told me to go to Guantanamo, it's a good place to go.

Q: So you volunteered for this tour?

A: Yes, I was on the other mission, the Guardian Mariner, when they asked for volunteers. I raised my hand and said I want to go there, it's a good opportunity. If they give us the 95C MOS it will be even better.

Q: How did you come to be working on the Guardian Mariner mission?

A: They activated the whole 92nd SIB (Separate Infantry Brigade). I wasn't supposed to go on that mission, but one sergeant became sick. So they had to replace him.

They called my company, and my company told them they had a guy that wants to go. So I volunteered for this one and that one too.

Q: Do you feel you've had a lot of experience for no longer than you've been in?

A: Yes, I just got back from AIT in November of 2002 and in December my unit asked me if I wanted to go to North Carolina for the Guardian Mariner mission. Now I'm here.

Q: What has been your most rewarding experience since you've been at Guantanamo?

A: Working with the detainees. I have learned a lot of culture.

Q: If the people who you are serving with here at Guantanamo could remember just one thing about you, what would you want it to be?

A: How proud I am to wear the uniform and always show up to work and give the best of me.