



the Wire

“HONOR BOUND TO DEFEND FREEDOM”

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Friday, April 30, 2004

Expert Infantry Badge training completed

By SGT Jolene Staker

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment received their Expert Infantry Badge (EIB) Friday after three weeks of grueling training.

“This is a great and historic day for the 181st Infantry. You couldn’t ask for anything better than to be able to participate in the EIB training and evaluation process down here in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba,” said LTC Joseph Noonan, 1-181st Inf. Regt., battalion commander. “It is something each and every one of you should be proud of and always remember.”

Of the fifty-three soldiers who went through the EIB training, sixteen passed all stations without more than two first time no-gos. This is a 30 percent pass rate. “The average pass rate is about 10 percent,” said Noonan.

COL Steven Wickstrom, 26th Infantry Brigade commander, spoke at the EIB award ceremony.

“I want to thank the JTF for supporting the battalion, and I want to acknowledge the work of the EIB committee,” said



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

BG Jay Hood, JTF commander, pins SGT Kevin McKoon of B Company, 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment during a ceremony held last Friday for those who earned their Expert Infantry Badges (EIB) during the three weeks of EIB training.

Wickstrom. “They, more than anyone, understand the challenges the awardees have surmounted and the personal pride they are feeling. They are thrilled to be able to pass this on to you.”

Those who ran the EIB program put in many hours of hard work and showed extreme dedication to both the EIB program and the infantry.

“I want to thank the many members of the committee and this battalion’s leadership for putting on, setting up, running and adhering to the standards for an Expert Infantryman Badge event,” said BG Jay Hood, JTF commander. “That is tough work; it is tough to do; and you all did a magnificent job of it.”

Many instructors are EIB holders. This was an opportunity for them to pass the legacy on to another group of soldiers.

“I wanted to give others the same opportunity to earn the badge that I had,” said SPC Brian Cannella of A Company.

Not all instructors hold the EIB. They were asked to train based on their technical knowledge. They used the opportunity to

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CIVILIANS HELP JTF WORK



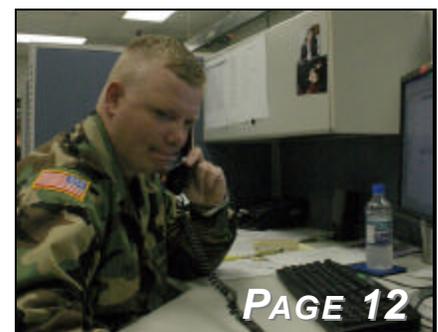
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Trooper to Trooper

Transition beginning for troopers

We are about to embark on a major transition within our Joint Task Force as we rotate from GMTO 4 to GTMO 5. You've seen some of it already-when the 119th Field Artillery arrived at the beginning of the year, and when CSM Febles and I joined the team last month.

What's yet to come is a major transition in our military personnel. For you, your GMTO 4 job ends when your replacement has been trained and you leave the island. But what you accomplish in your two-week transition sets the tone for GTMO 5 success.

During this important transition I ask you as leaders to remember the importance of developing a detailed training plan. Take the time to make a plan that imparts as much knowledge as possible to your incoming counterpart, and then follow through with your plan. Take the time to make sure each new trooper has the necessary tools to be just as successful as you are now, then give them an extra one so they will be even more successful.

Liken this phase of your deployment to a relief in place on the battlefield. It will be the single hardest time during your deployment. Expect long hours and be ready to physically demonstrate what it takes to do your job.

Saying good-bye to your GTMO 4 counterparts is OK, but take the time and make the effort to welcome your replacements. Make sure they're being taken care of: Let them know that while the transition period is stressful, things will settle down and they'll get the hang of things.

You can help by keeping things in positive perspective. Watch out for their well-being and remember sometimes it's the little things that make a big difference. Do they know the address and



BG Jay Hood
Commander
JTF Guantanamo

phone number here so they can communicate with family? Have they gotten a PIN and access code for morale calls? Do they know where to find the galley, the NEX and laundry facility?

Then, remember to take a reasonable amount of time for yourself. You need to prepare for a return to home and family, a National Guard or Reserve job and employer, or active duty station, and a life quite unlike your JTF Guantanamo one. Even though this will be a demanding phase, make time to take care of yourself.

In the coming weeks and months I want to get around to thank as many JTF troopers in person as possible. I truly appreciate your dedication and sacrifices. Thanks for what you've done, you've served your Nation well and I wish you a safe homecoming with your loved ones.

Best of luck and Honor Bound.

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JTF civilian employees – the bridge to success

By SSG Patrick Cloward

You see them walking through Camp America, driving civilian vehicles and wearing Hawaiian print shirts. They have no rank, but they are just as valuable as any trooper to the JTF.

Civilian contractors and employees span the gap that the U.S. military forces face when they need resources not provided by military specialists. Some of the needs are small, but others are critical and essential.

“For some of the needs that the JTF has, you need to have someone that has the authority to make purchases,” said Reggie Taylor, contracting officer and contract specialist working out of Puerto Rico. “You can’t just go out and ask the government to buy something.” Taylor says his job is a little hard to explain.

“I’m here on the ground to help assist with purchase contracts,” said Taylor.

Taylor explained that one aspect of his work involves researching prices on various pieces of equipment or services needed for ongoing operations.

As the contracting officer, he is one of the few people with the ability to make contracts or purchases on behalf of the JTF.

Though he’s only here for a limited time, Taylor feels his personal involvement has given him a better understanding of the importance of the JTF mission.

“The time I’ve spent here has given me some insight on the mission here,” said Tay-

lor. “I’ve been able to assist in helping to obtain those things so that when I leave I think it will continue my relationship with those I’ve worked with.”

For someone who’s developed a one-on-one relationship with the JTF, Douglas Higgs has done his best to improve on that.

“I handle all the JTF trouble calls,” said Higgs. “Everyone comes to my desk to get it accomplished by a service call or an impact call. If it exceeds a certain amount, I send it to [Art Torley]. I’m the customer liaison for the JTF. They call with requirements, go out in the field and get exactly what they want, and get the work started in the right direction.”

Some of the projects he has overseen include the remodeling of the Joint Information Group fusion room and the renovation of the latrine at the Seaside Galley.

“My job is to make sure that the troops have some place to sleep and to be sure that the galley facility stays online,” said Higgs. “They call me for anything that’s wrong with the galley. I want to make sure that the troops can accomplish their mission and not have to worry about little inconveniences that I can take care of.

“I had a 72-hour window to accomplish that,” Higgs added. “Planning was a big part in working with the JTF and the contractor. We lined up everything in advance measurements and getting things ready to be modular. It was important to look at the whole building, so being on site to handle any problems that arose was essential.”



Photo by SSG Patrick Cloward
Arthur Torley works for the JTF as the Maintenance control director. Any work that’s going to be done for the JTF goes through his office.

“I’ve learned that nothing is impossible if you keep the can-do attitude,” said Art Torley, the maintenance control director working for the JTF. “I never envisioned (various) areas the way they are today.”

For Torley, who has worked here longer than most military members, seeing a project go from the initial idea to final completion is something that he takes great satisfaction in.

“Any work that’s going to be done on the station goes through my office and I assign it where it needs to go,” said Art. “It’s assigned to me and then we have positions within public works that are funded by the JTF.”

Torley, who meets with JTF representatives on a regular basis, says they are his biggest customers.

“Whether it be engineering, planning or construction, we probably have over 300 JTF work requests in our system right now.”

From Seaside Galley to Camp Delta to the Camp America NEX, all these ideas started as a request on Torley’s desk. Though JTF gets top priority, he also has to determine if it’s a viable request.

“I make sure that the work is in the right priority number to keep as many customers happy and keep the mission a number one priority. It also includes having to tell people it’s not mission essential, so sometimes I have to say no,” Torley said.

But overall, Torley says that working with the JTF is the most challenging and most exciting tour he’s done.



Photo by SSG Patrick Cloward
Douglas Higgs works for the JTF as the facilities manager, handling all trouble calls.

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contribute to the overall readiness of the infantry by sharing their expertise.

"I feel that other soldiers need to learn what I know so that I'm passing on the standards of training I learned from training for my MOS," said SSG William Bara of A Company.

SGT Ronald Leger is attached to A Company from the 101st Field Artillery. He wanted to contribute his field artillery knowledge to the infantryman he is working with in Guantanamo.

"I love my job," said Leger. "When you put infantry and field artillery together it becomes an unbridled force."

The 16 soldiers who earned the EIB should be proud. "It's a great accomplishment to receive it, I know you will wear it proudly and be honored to have it," said Noonan.

While soldiers going through the program hoped to be wearing the badge at the end, the true emphasis on the program is training, and each soldier who participated in the program should be proud of their hard work.

"For the other 37 soldiers," said Noonan, "be proud you received some great training, worked hard every day, and there is nothing to be ashamed of. You did a great job."

"I think the EIB training was good for all the soldiers who took it," said SSG David Dion of C Company. "They grasped a lot of information in a short amount of time."

Just having the opportunity to participate in the EIB was appreciated by some soldiers.

"It was one of the best self-development things that I could do on this deployment," said SGT Jesse Vautour of B Company.

"This was the first time in my 16-year career that I have been able to participate in the EIB program," said SGT Ronald Boszar of B Company.



SGT Derek Styles (above) demonstrates how to set the headspace and timing on the .50 caliber machine gun. 2LT Joshua Romano (below, left) of B Company, 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment receives some helpful hints and instructions from SSG David Dion of C Company on how to prepare a range card for the M240B.



SPC Theodore Vrooman, of B Company knew going into the program that because of his field artillery MOS he would not be authorized to wear the EIB, but he still chose the training and passed all the requirements for the EIB. What started out as a challenge ended as a valuable training experience.

"I wanted to show everyone who is 11B that I can do everything they can do," said Vrooman. "You learn so much in four days. I have never even seen some of the things I learned about before this training."

At least one instructor volunteered his time to the EIB program as a way to give soldiers something worthwhile to

work for while away from home.

"I believe that it is a great thing they let soldiers on deployment participate in events that allow personal growth," said SSG Steven Fontes of A Company.

Soldiers who did not earn their EIB this time had valuable experience that should help them the next time they are given the opportunity to try for the badge. With only an average 10 percent pass rate for the EIB, many who proudly wear the badge now had to go through the training more than once.

"I had a platoon sergeant who said he walked 60 miles to get his EIB because he had to do it five times before he

got his badge, and he was a good soldier," said MSG Martin Litwiller, battalion intelligence sergeant and EIB NCOIC of Headquarters Company.

"Each and every soldier training for the EIB should be commended whether they earn the badge this time or not," said SGT Derek Styles of B Company. "It took me more than one time to earn mine. It's not easy, but it is great training."

Many things play into the success of EIB candidates. Hard work and dedication to the program are required, but some feel that much of it is determined by whether they are having a good day or an off day.

"It's 50 percent karma and 50 percent skill," said 1LT Jason Scangas of A Company.

Regardless of whether they walked away with their EIB, all soldiers participating in the program should be proud of their hard work and willingness to train to become more proficient at their job every day.

"There's a lot of dedicated guys in the infantry," said SFC David Parella of Headquarters Company.

"Remember the hard work, the sacrifice and the sweat that you put into it," said Noonan. "You are a special group of infantry soldiers, be proud of what you accomplished today and carry on the legacy of the EIB for the next group who will receive it."

"I am extraordinarily proud and would like to congratulate each and every one of the winners of this year's EIB," said Hood. "You should be extremely proud of what you've done, and you take what you've learned, not only the individual skills but discipline and attention to detail those things that make for an exceptional soldier. Take these back to your squads this is where they will make a difference."



Photo by AF Staff Sgt. Joshua Gorman

Inspector general awarded

BG LeClaire awards Air Force Lt. Col. Bruce Medaugh, JTF Inspector General's office, the Defense Meritorius Service Medal in a recent ceremony.

Trooper on the street

By AF Staff Sgt. Joshua C. Gorman

This week's question:

What accomplishment are you most proud of during your time here at JTF GTMO?



Senior Airman
Christopher Heller
J-6 Future Operations

I was impressed at my ability to learn a new job, even though my career field within the Air Force is something totally different.



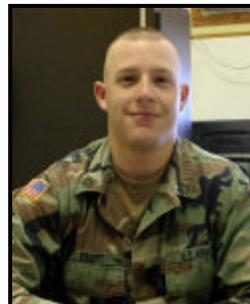
Army
SGT Andrew Acker
JDOG Supply

I am most proud of continuing my military education and saving some of my money since I've been here.



Senior Airman
David Magee
J-3 Joint Operations

The 6 mile ruck march. I didn't give up and realized I had a higher limit than I had previously thought.



PFC Brendan Ebert
J-8
Finance

My proudest accomplishment while I've been here would have to be the skills and knowledge I've learned about my job. I've learned to have a lot of patience in dealing with day to day complications that can show up.



Navy OS1
Matthew Cannon
J-3 JOC

I am most proud of my accomplishment of being a team member with the Army as far as the 6 mile ruck march and qualifying sharpshooter on the 9 mm at the Army course. Most of all I'm proud of being the Joint Operations Center watch chief for JTF GTMO. I am proud and a better man.

181st Infantry completes final week of EIB training



Clockwise left to right: SPC Joel Morgan of C Company, 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment puts a splint on a leg during EIB training. SGT Johnny Saldana of C Company looks through binoculars while looking at his target on the estimate range. SSG Daniel Reilly of the 181st Infantry Regiment puts together the M240B Machine Gun. SGT Craig Guertin of C Company trains on giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. SGT Michael O'Neill of C Company fires the M240B Machine Gun.

Photos by SGT Jolene Staker



Chaplain's Corner



Catholic Mass

(Above) Petty Officer 2nd Class Steve Freese assists in the service with the lighting of candles Sunday.

(Right) Members of the Joint Task Force Guantanamo community join together in worship at a Catholic service Sunday evening at the Trooper's Chapel.



Photos by AF Staff. Sgt. Joshua Gorman

Worship services and programs:

Alpha Course

A discussion forum designed to answer questions about Christianity. Held at Camp America North, room L001, every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Soul Survivor

Listen to contemporary Christian music and dynamic preaching. Held at the Club Survivor deck every Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Thursday Ticket

Each week a contemporary movie is played and afterwards, viewers discuss the moral and ethics introduced in the film. Held at Camp America North, room L001, every Thursday at 7 p.m.

Prayer Breakfast

There will be a National Day of Prayer on Prayer Breakfast Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. at Seaside Galley. Please arrive in time to go through the serving line. The guest speaker will be Chaplain (Rear Adm.) Robert Burt.

Family and Friends Day Celebration

There will be a celebration Sunday following a 1 p.m. service from 4 to 8 p.m. at the main chapel complex. Food, music, games and fellowship will be provided. All that is required is your presence.

Just Do It - NOW

By CH (LTC) Steve
Feehan

The most valuable day in your life is today. Yesterday is gone, not a lot you can do about yesterday.

Tomorrow is not promised to any of us. Today is the time for action.

Whatever good thing you have in your mind to do or to say. Do it now.

As the words of a popular Garth Brooks song say:

If tomorrow never comes
Will she know how much

I love her

Did I try in every way

to show her every day

That she's my only one

And if my time on earth

were through

And she must face the world

without me

Is the love I gave her

in the past

Gonna be enough to last

If tomorrow never comes?

Heavenly Bits and Pieces

By CH (MAJ) Daniel Odean
The world uses duct tape to fix things. Jesus used nails.

Man can fix a lot of things. He can get by like MacGyver, if need be. But when it comes to spiritual matters, eternal matters, man cannot patch it up.

The only thing that can "fix it" is what Jesus did on the cross for you and me.

Colossians 2:13, 14 - "God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, NAILING it to the cross."



Top left: (left to right) The film crew tapes SFC Ernesto Ramos of the 14th Finance Detachment and SGT Cindy Singer of the 384th Military Police Battalion. Top right: Dow Tomlin on the bass, Carly Goodwin singing and Steve Holland on the drums at the Windjammer. Center: (left to right) SGT Jamie Bourgault of B Co., 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment and SGT Christina Kowalski of the 177th Military Police Brigade dance while Vaughn Lofstead plays the guitar and Carly Goodwin sings "Baby Come Back Home" as an encore at Club Survivor. Bottom: Max Elman, Gail Goodwin, Carly Goodwin, SGT Chris Brown of the 463rd Military Police Company and Scott MacKinnon stand on the Club Survivor deck. Brown was the one who contacted Carly Goodwin on her website and requested that she come to Guantanamo.

Photos by SGT Jolene Staker

The Dreaming Bear Music recording label paid the expenses for Carly Goodwin and her band to travel to Jacksonville, Fla., where she flew to Guantanamo to perform for military members.

She sang at Club Survivor on April 21st and at the Windjammer on April 22nd. Besides her family and band she also had a film crew taping for "Country Across America" which will air on Great American Country on May 4th at 9 p.m.

Goodwin performed the song "Baby Come Back Home" which she wrote with her mother and well-known Nashville songwriter Gerald Smith.

The song was inspired when a radio show in Nashville had family members of deployed military members telling their loved ones to make it home safely.

Goodwin began her music career at the young age of 7 when she asked for music lessons for her birthday.

Her resume includes Hallmark commercials, the Wonder Years television show, NBA Jazz games and ski cups at Park City, Utah.

She has sang for the military at Fort Polk, La., Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Campbell, Ky. "Everywhere I can go that I can do this, I will," said Goodwin.

Goodwin is currently seeing if she can work through the red tape to perform for the troops in Iraq.

Goodwin said that her experience in Guantanamo was rewarding.

"I'm happy to be here and thanks for welcoming me," she said.

Goodwin now calls Nashville home as she pursues her dream of a music career that will ultimately get her inducted into the Grand Ole Opry someday.

Goodwin expects her CD to be released in June. More information about Goodwin is available at www.carlygoodwin.com.

Sports highlights

Manning completes behind-the-scenes deal

Compiled by SPC Rick Fahr

In the end, quarterback **Eli Manning** got what he wanted – a new home anywhere but San Diego.

Peyton's little brother and **Archie's** son was the top choice in the weekend's NFL draft, taken by the same **San Diego Chargers** he had spurned earlier in the week.

The saga began with Manning's representatives telling the Chargers he wouldn't play for them and ended with a behind-the-scenes trade involving the **New York Giants** and their top choice, quarterback **Philip Rivers**.

Other top 10 draft picks were: **Oakland, Robert Gallery; Arizona, Larry Fitzgerald; Washington, Sean**

Taylor; Cleveland, Kellen Winslow; Detroit, Roy Williams; Atlanta, Deangelo Hall; Jacksonville, Reggie Williams; and Houston, Dunta Robinson.

The draft was the first in history to see seven wide receivers taken in the first round.

Experts crowned the **Detroit Lions** as having the best group of draftees. The Lions took receiver **Roy Williams** and runningback **Kevin Jones**, a tandem that should mesh with with franchise quarterback **Joey Harrington**.

A late caution flag cost **Dale Earnhardt Jr.** his fifth Talladega win.

Junior's No. 8 had been slow off the cautions all day

but had been strong enough to fight back to the lead, but when a yellow flag came with just 10 laps remaining in Sunday's **Aaron's 499**, Earnhardt couldn't hold off **Jeff Gordon**, who took the lead and held it for five laps before another wreck effectively ended the race.

Junior retained his Nextel Cup points lead, though, staying ahead of **Jimmie Johnson** and Gordon.

Three weeks into the baseball season, the numbers tell the storylines.

Three. That's the difference in win totals from **Alex Rodriguez's** team from last year, the **Texas Rangers**, and his team this year, the **New York Yankees**. The Rangers were 11-8 without A-Rod, and the Yan-

kees were 8-11 with him.

Nine. That's the number of home runs **Barry Bonds** hit through 18 games.

Twenty-seven. That's Bonds' walks total, leading to an on-base percentage of .700.

Less than one. That's the earned-run average for **Dontrelle Willis** of the **Florida Marlins** through 25 innings. **New York Met Tom Glavine** is sitting at 1.00 through his first four starts.

Five. That's the number of hitters batting at least .400. They are Bonds, **Paul Lo Duca, Sean Casey, Rafael Belliard** and **Kevin Harvey**.

Four and zero. That's **Roger Clemens'** record in his first four starts.

Compiled from www.espn.com

Finned 'augmentees' can be hazardous to your health

By SPC Rick Fahr

Years ago, a group of Californians made a documentary film about sharks.

The production brought to brutal life the finned killing machines. I've seen the piece, "Jaws," many times since, and it always reaffirms my belief that sharks pose a significant threat to my life -- no matter if I live near an ocean or not.

I've been thinking a lot about sharks ever since I arrived on this island.

As we flew over the ocean on our way to Guantanamo Bay, I paid careful attention to every nuance of the jet's engine noises. Each time I thought I detected a hiccup, I began to scan the water below for telltale dorsals, hoping that if it came to it I'd be able to direct the predators toward a better.

When we go out on the water, I try to keep a sharp eye out. "Jaws" and its subsequent installments clearly pointed out that a shark won't think twice about attacking a boat. So, I know that we're not safe just because we're out of the water. I try to keep someone between myself and the water. That way, one strategic push might be all I need to occupy the shark while I'm getting away.

FAHR GAME

Some people may think that sharks are only real threats if you're in or on the ocean. That's not true. Jimmy Buffet sang about "sharks that feed on the land." He lives on the ocean, and I'm sure he knows what he's talking about. I'm not exactly sure how sharks have managed to evolve to such a level that they can roam terra firma, but I'm gonna err on the safe side and be alert at all times.

I know. I know. I think about the dangers of sharks more than most people. Hey, I'm a careful person, and I see sharks for what they are - a big-time threat to keeping all my innards in place. I don't even know what my spleen does, but I want to keep it inside and in working order.

Understanding that not everyone will put enough thought into their own personal shark safety plan, I'll offer a few tips to avoid being gnawed on by a great white.

10. If the pizza delivery man says the bill is three snappers and one grouper, don't open the door.

9. Keep your M-16 handy while showering.

8. Stay away from gray, black-eyed salesmen at the NEX who have fishy breath and keep trying to get you to lie down on a surfboard.

7. Don't pick up a hitchhiker that sticks out a fin instead of a thumb.

6. If the thing daring you to try to snatch an apple out of its mouth has more teeth than Donny Osmond, run away. Quickly.

5. Don't water ski while wearing salami-scented trunks.

4. If you're fishing and a Big Mac suddenly appears in front of you dangling from a string and a salty voice starts singing the Big Mac theme song, don't reach out over the water.

3. Don't open any big parcels left on your doorstep that have a return address of "Out in the Bay."

2. Be wary if a new "augmentee" in your unit wears two conch shells instead of combat boots and a sea turtle shell instead of a kevlar.

And my No. 1 tip: Don't swim with a leaky bag of pig blood.

Redeploying? Time to learn rules for mailing

By SPC Rick Fahr

As troopers near the end of their deployments, they may find themselves staring at a problem – getting a mountain of accumulated stuff from here back home.

According to SSG Michael Andersen of the JTF postal facility, troopers have several options.

He said that sending personal items through the mail includes three options – priority, first class and space available. Priority mail, the most expensive option, and first-class mail usually arrive at their destination within the United States in less than two weeks. Space-available mail is less expensive, but it is also slower, too, with packages arriving up to about 30 days after mailing. With any of the options, the Postal Service does not guarantee delivery times from overseas.

Troopers may use various types of shipping containers. Navy Petty Officer Keesha Craig noted that boxes (except those advertising alcohol, tobacco or hazardous products), plastic containers and duffel bags are acceptable. She said that securing the packages cannot include “masking” or “scotch” tape.

The cost for shipping items depends on two factors.

“The difference in cost depends on the zone it’s going to and the amount that it weighs. If they can estimate the pounds it weighs, we can estimate a price,” Craig said.

When mailing a duffel bag, troopers should follow several guidelines:

- leave one end accessible to affix postage;
- fill out customs form 2976-A;
- bag cannot exceed 70 pounds;
- secure all straps;
- if locked, have a spare key or combination and a spare address in the side pocket;
- use the address form provided by Postal Service.

Andersen added that troopers should not order items to be delivered to Guantanamo Bay within 30 days of their departure date. When troopers leave, they will have an opportunity to update their mailing address, and any mail received after they leave will be forwarded to that address.

“Everyone should fill out one of these forms,” he encouraged, noting that troopers should contact publishers to have any printed materials sent to their new address.

Troopers are aware of the operational security issues involved with mailing and/or leaving the island. All media must go through the J-6 office.

“No unexposed film is the biggie,” Andersen said. “Mailing does require a customs form. So, trying to ship undeclared, unauthorized stuff could cause even more trouble for an individual.”

Craig said that troopers may mail seashells or conch shells that are properly packaged.

For more information, call 5396, 2156 or 2369.



Photo by SPC Rick Fahr

SPC Kyle Mostad of the JTF J-1 staff reads mailing labels to ensure proper delivery of incoming mail. As troopers prepare for redeployment, many of them may be soon using the base's postal facilities to ship personal items home or to another duty station.

J-6 personnel do more than fix your computer

By SSG Patrick Cloward

So you're at your office and your computer freezes up. You've learned to call that familiar number to the J-6 help desk to get a work order started.

Believe it or not, J-6 personnel do more than just fix your computer. They do a lot more.

"This is a constantly dynamic and changing environment," said MAJ Scott Horning, deputy director of the JTF J-6 and member of the 177th Military Police Bde. "We're doing everything from providing data to analysts across the world to providing a telephone for your office. It's a whole complete infrastructure." Horning explained that every time a person comes on the island, the J-6 is involved in one way, shape or form. "We're all about leveraging information technology to enable the Soldier, Airman and Marine to be fighting more effectively."

"It is amazing the technology they have down here," said SSG Larry Pugh, a JTF augmentee of the 93rd Signal Bde. of Fort Gordon, Ga. "Working with guys here has been a learning experience."

Of all the communications needs the JTF requires, it all involves operational security.

"We oversee operations for communications of the JTF Guantanamo on all sides,"



Photo by SSG Patrick Cloward

TSGT William Aquino from Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz. works for the JTF J-6 department as a telephone technician. Recently, he's been assigned to start the new Joint Command and Control Center



Photo by SSG Patrick Cloward

SPC Vernon Flemister of the 258th MP Co. works at the J-6 help desk resolving JTF customers computer problems.

said MSG Donald Wallace, J-6 operations NCOIC of the 177th MP Bde. "That includes pagers, cell phones, radios and computers, including the MWR computers."

"I feel like I'm building a city," said Horning "Upon arriving, I went from being overwhelmed by the sheer number of targets to only being less overwhelmed." Some of the projects include moving people ... to other locations on the base and providing a dot com solution to the MWR computer need.

The J-6 recently turned over MWR computers to a commercial vendor so they aren't restricted in regulation as much as a military network. This makes it easier to use services like Dialpad for troops wanting to call home.

"Since I've been here the scale of growth has increased dramatically," said Horning, citing an increase of about 400 computers and 150 palm pilots.

"The demand for communication is 100 percent," said Wallace. "Meaning they always have to be up. You have to have good communications and it has to work. We're working on building it to what it needs to be."

"They want to start up a new focal point for communications in GTMO and needed someone to set it up," said Tech. Sgt. William Aquino, an augmentee from Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz. "So far we're setting up daily communications status reports to SOUTHCOM." The JCCC spe-

cialized in telephone trouble calls and requests. So if there's a problem, JTF members know who to call. "We'll have a point of contact and phone numbers to know who to contact to get the ball rolling. If anyone has a communication question they can come straight to us. We have the operating instructions for everything. Besides computer and telephone help desk we are the go-to guys."

Of course, the go-to guys aren't the only ones to help in an emergency.

"Every day I support the JTF's computer needs fixing problems, running trouble tickets, doing anything I can," said SPC Vernon Flemister of the 258th MP Co. "It could be many things. I could be fixing a computer problem, fixing accounts or working on the inside of computers. Out of the office, I work on computers." Flemister says he loves what he does. "I'm learning the new equipment and things in the ever-changing world of computers and adapting to the world of technology so I can be there for the customer."

"We cover all pieces of the pie," said Horning. "It takes a lot of coordination and it's given me an appreciation for working with so many professionals. It's made me grow as a professional."

He added that working for the JTF has given him a sense of accomplishment in making a difference in the global war on terrorism. "It's the right information to the right people at the right time."

15 Minutes of Fame...

With Staff Sgt. Larry Pugh, J-6

By AF Staff Sgt. Joshua Gorman

SSG Pugh arrived at JTF Guantanamo from Fort Gordon, just outside of Augusta, Ga. He works in the J-6 department as the noncommissioned officer in charge of communications security.

Q: What inspired you to join the Army?

A: My grandfather was a 33 year career combat veteran of World War II, the Korean conflict, and he also did three tours in Vietnam. Seeing what he gave and the sacrifice he made inspired me to follow in his footsteps. He was my one true hero who inspired me.

Q: What did you initially plan to do when you first joined?

A: When I initially joined the Army I wanted to be just like my grandfather and be a tanker, but my recruiter wouldn't let me. He insisted that I go signal and get the wonderful sign-on bonus.

Q: What do you consider your best military experience?

A: Getting promoted and becoming a noncommissioned officer. It is a great feeling to know that I am shaping and helping with forming the future generation of the Army.

Q: What has your family done to cope with your absence?

A: This is my fifth time being away. They have almost become used to me being away. My children have been learning to do more activities while I'm away. It is hard for me because on my last trip out of country my son had his first football game. I missed the whole season actually. I would get an e-mail from him and he was always excited telling me about the kid he knocked down or the quarterback he tackled.

Q: Have you served in any other deployments?

A: I have been on dependent restricted tours, which is almost like a deployment,



SSG Larry Pugh works for the J-6 as the Communications Security NCOIC.

and I have been to Saudi Arabia, along with Thailand. I would say though that being here in the Joint Task Force is the best place I have been so far.

Q: What have you valued the most from the deployments you've been on?

A: The pride knowing that you are a member of an elite group and you have made a difference in the end. You are part of a wheel that can not roll along without you. There are people back home where I am from, and some of them have never made it beyond South Carolina or Alabama. While I am in the Army I am going to different countries. I am always glad to go. I get to experience something that some people only dream about.

Q: What significant military contribution have you been especially proud of?

A: That is hard, but when you go to

the Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course at Fort Gordon, Ga, you always contribute back to the local area. You have to do something for the Augusta area. I remember helping the local school during my time. The whole BNCOC class went out on a field trip with this first grade class and it was our job to help escort them. It was an honor for me, because each one of those children was saluting us and thanking us. A wonderful day for me.

Q: What has your family done to show their support of you?

A: Well I think that I am on at least three prayer lists back home, so I am pretty sure that God is watching over me. Two of my brothers and my sister are very vigilant in that. They want to ensure that I'm watched over by God. As for my wife, she is wonderful. She gets our son and daughter off to school every day. She gets them around to whatever practice they need to make. While she does this she is also going to college, taking care of the house, paying bills, and making sure the children send me a card or letter every week. It's just amazing. I don't know how she does it. I know if I were there I would have gone crazy by now.

Q: What were your expectations about Guantanamo?

A: My one expectation was to come to Guantanamo and not get fired. I wanted to come here and do my job and make it home. I have one of the most low profile, but highest, demanding jobs. I am the one responsible for making sure everything that needs to have communications security gets it.

Q: Have there been any challenges in your duty here?

A: I will be honest, when I left my unit at Fort Gordon, I was told I would be working with Reservists and National Guard. I did not know what to expect at all. So far I have been really impressed with the troopers I work with here. They

The GTMO Guide: Answers to Your Questions

Who can help me? What's for lunch? What movie's playing? Where can I find that? How does this work?

Groups announce plans for upcoming events

Ongoing and upcoming activities around the base include:

■ Pilates. Three fitness instructors – Karissa Sandstrom, Everton Hylton and Carl Heron – will teach the course that focuses on improving core strength, which highlights the lower back and abdomen. The course is at Marine Hill Cardio Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. For more information, contact Sandstrom at 2193 or 5576.

■ Cardio kickboxing. The fast-paced program includes movements to work out little-used muscles. It is at the Marine Hill Aerobics Room on

Your guide to ...

Activities

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-6 p.m.

■ Car wash/dunk tank. Beginning at 9 a.m., personnel with the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society will be sponsoring a dunking booth. The cost will be \$1 for three balls, and troopers may vote on who they want to see in the dunking booth by donating \$1 per vote. For more information, call 6766, 4232 or 4099. The car wash is by donation.

Siren tones indicate different types of threats

The base's warning siren system includes five types of tones, and each has a specific meaning.

■ Wail. This is the general, non-emergency alert signal. A condition that could prompt the warning would include potential inclement weather. When officials sound the wail, troopers receive information on television or radio.

■ Alternate wail. This signal means take cover, return to quarters and remain there until further notice. Officials use this tone when they require all non-essential personnel to return to quarters and remain

Your guide to ...

Siren tests

there until they sound the all clear.

■ Pulse wail. This emergency signal indicates an immediate threat. Personnel should take the closet cover immediately.

■ Pulse steady. This signal tells the base recovery disaster teams to report to duty. Non-essential personnel should remain in quarters.

■ Steady. All clear.

Your guide to ...

Movies

Camp Bulkeley

Downtown Lyceum

Fri., April 30

8 p.m. Agent Cody Banks 2

PG13 - 108 min

10 p.m. The Alamo

PG13 - 137 min

Sat., May 1

8 p.m. Secret Window

PG13 - 117 min

10 p.m. Twisted

R - 97 min

Sun., May 2

8 p.m. Hidalgo

PG13 - 136 min

Mon., May 3

8 p.m. Starsky & Hutch

PG13 - 100 min

Tues., May 4

8 p.m. Agent Cody Banks 2

PG13 - 108 min

Wed., May 5

8 p.m. Twisted

R - 97 min

Thurs., May 6

8 p.m. Hidalgo

PG13 - 136 min

**Notice:
The Bulkeley
Lyceum
will be closed
this week to
make repairs
on the
projector.
Check with us
next week for
updates.**

Decompression training

scheduled for May

May dates for decompression training are 4-6, 18-20 and 24-26.

For more information, contact
A1C Markeyla Bunton, 5040.

IG team offers assistance to troopers on many issues

The main way that the Inspector General team provides service to Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay personnel is in the IG category called "assistance."

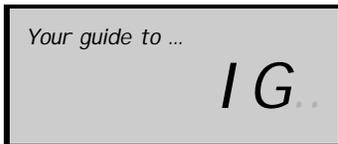
A trooper who is not able to solve a problem using their chain of command often comes to the Inspector General for help.

A trooper who contacts the IG office can expect an IG team member to listen carefully to their concern. The trooper's responsibility is to be accurate and truthful when they present their problem. The job of the IG is to find and analyze the facts that relate to a trooper's concern.

Fact-finding requires the IG to gather pertinent documents, research regulations, and/or conduct interviews. The fact-finding process is time-consuming and the IG team member working with the trooper will explain that they should not expect a quick answer.

The main concern of the IG is learning as much as possible about the problem.

Teamwork in the IG office contributes to the fact-finding quality. Throughout the fact-finding process the IG team discusses each case. This means that four experienced military members share thoughts and perspectives to properly examine all the facts. The IG is not an advocate for any of the persons connected to the problem. This means that



the IG must be neutral and unbiased while gathering and analyzing the facts. We do not take sides.

When the IG completes the fact-finding process the trooper will receive a final answer about their concern. It is not uncommon for the fact-finding process to determine that the trooper's original concern did not yield the answer the trooper wanted, but because of the thoroughness of fact finding and attention to detail, the IG is able to give the trooper information that will help him or her. The Joe Friday and IG connection goes like this, "The facts ma'am, just the facts." We look for facts.

If you have a question about any matter that you can't solve in your chain of command, please feel free to contact the inspector general. Each IG team member is ready to assist you with issues you may be experiencing during this deployment.

The IG phone number is 5399. You may visit the IG office in Room 204 of the Commissions building Monday - Saturday during regular business hours. The Camp America IG office is in Building 7200 and is staffed Tuesday 9-10 a.m. and Friday 3-4 p.m. IG assistance is available anytime by appointment.

Hispanic Heritage Association

will meet Thursday at the Marina Point Community Center at 6 p.m. to elect officers and review bylaws. For more information, call 7138 or 4420



Catholic Main Chapel

Wed.	5 p.m.	Holy Hour and Rosary
	6:00-6:25 p.m.	Confessions
	6:30 p.m.	RCIA (Chaplain's office)
Sat.	4:15 p.m.	Confession
	5:30 p.m.	Vigil Mass
Sun.	9 a.m.	Mass
	7:30 p.m.	Mass (Troopers Chapel)
M-Fri.	11:30 a.m.	Mass (Cobre Chapel)

Protestant Main Chapel

Mon.	7 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship*
Tue.	7 p.m.	Men's Bible Study*
Wed.	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
Thurs.	11 a.m.	Service/Sunday School
	6:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study*

* Fellowship Hall located in Chapel Complex Camp America

Tues	7 p.m.	Alpha
Wed.	7 p.m.	Soul Survivor (Club Survivor)
Thurs.	7 p.m.	Thursday Ticket (L001)
Sun.	9 a.m.	Protestant

New Life Fellowship

Sun.	1 p.m.	Service (Main Chapel)
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Pentecostal Gospel

Sun.	9 a.m.	Service (Sanc C)
	5 p.m.	Service (Sanc C)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Sun.	9 a.m.	Sanctuary A
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Islamic

Fri.	1 p.m.	Classroom 12, Chapel Complex
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Jewish

Call 2323 for more information

Camp America Church Bus schedule:

Sun.	8:15 a.m.	Tierra Kay
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The bus will return following worship.



Today: Lunch - cod amandine; Dinner - prime rib/shrimp.

Saturday: Lunch - creole pork chops;

Dinner - beef ravioli.

Sunday: Lunch - chicken cordon bleu;

Dinner - roast turkey.

Monday: Lunch - roast beef;

Dinner - roast pork.

Tuesday: Lunch - baked chicken;

Dinner - stuffed flounder.

Wednesday: Lunch - beef pot pie;

Dinner - oriental pepper steak.

Thursday: Lunch - baked chicken; Dinner - meat loaf.

Friday: Lunch - BBQ beef cubes; Dinner - crab legs.

