



New housing for JTF Troopers



Photo by Army 1st Lt. Anthony John

Contractors continue to work hard building the newest billeting being constructed at Gold Hill for JTF Troopers. The new housing is planned to be ready in the near future.

By Army Pfc. Philip Regina
JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

New housing is being built at Gold Hill for Joint Task Force Troopers here.

The housing is scheduled to be finished May 30.

The personnel scheduled to move into the new facilities include an incoming Coast Guard element, married couples and junior officers. The new facilities will also accommodate visiting military personnel who take part in the military commissions.

The housing is currently being pre-constructed at McCalla Hangar. The walls and interiors are built separately and will be pieced together

on the foundation laid at Gold Hill.

The houses are modular living facilities, similar to the third country national housing next to the Cuban Club. They are, however, considerably larger. They consist of two bedrooms, separated by a bathroom. Each individual will have approximately 270 square feet of living space. The housing facility can accommodate up to 200 personnel.

“In conjunction with the facility construction, we are installing three laundry trailers for the convenience of the personnel who will be living in the new living spaces. Each room will have communications (phone and

internet) capability and cable TV hookups,” said Navy Capt. William E. Vaughn, the Director of JTF Engineering.

The company in charge of constructing the facilities is Prime Projects International.

“The advantage of having this new facility constructed at Gold Hill is that it’s near some of the key places on base, like the Navy Exchange, McDonalds and Gold Hill Galley. It is also considerably closer to the Coast Guardsmen’s base of operations. This allows a much faster reaction time for them,” explained Army Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Febles, the command sergeant major of JTF-Guantanamo.

“The facilities were built to support the JTF Troopers. The Naval Station could not accommodate for the growing number of Troopers who support the JTF. So, we are building proper housing that is sufficient for each service standard,” explained Febles.

“The JTF has come a long way in the short time it has been here. In the four years we’ve been here, we’ve gone from living in canvas tents, to today, where the Troopers live in semi-permanent living structures and other housing like Tierra Kay and Kittery Beach. There’s a lot to look forward to for Troopers stationed here now and in the very near future,” added Febles. ■

Love them, lead them, give a damn

By Army Lt. Col. Stephen Parke

Commander, Staff Judge Advocate

I have been a part of the United States Army for 21 years. As I prepare to retire, I realize how much a of a privilege it has been to serve this great nation of ours and to lead and mentor the great men and women who make up the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Marines. This is the second Joint Task Force that I have been part of and both were commanded by outstanding leaders and staffed with outstanding Troopers.

Serving in a JTF will become more and more frequent in the future. As I have an opportunity to offer words of advice for the current and next generation, I can reduce those words to two short succinct statements. The first general officer who I served with provided me with two adages, those sayings have served me well and I leave them to you: "Love them and lead them," and "Give a damn."

The two adages are interrelated. You cannot do one very well without doing the other. "Love them and lead them." Most of us are leaders. Whether you are an officer, non-commissioned officer, or a section leader, you are all leaders. If you are not a leader yet, you are working toward becoming one.

As leaders we are entrusted with the future of our nation. Take care of the troops under your charge. Each and every one of them is worth your time. Take time to get to know their birthdates, their family issues, their dreams and desires. Sometimes leadership will require "tough love." When you have to hand out discipline make sure it is fair, firm, and consistent. It is true that a small percentage of the troops under your charge will require much of your time. Care for them anyway. The "silent majority" of troops under your charge will notice how you handle "the challenges".

As a leader, you have to like being around the servicemembers you lead. Set the example and your troops will see it and follow. Often when you set the example you will have to sacrifice something. It may be getting up a little earlier to help someone with physical training or staying a little later to help someone prepare for a promotion board. Leaders, make those sacrifices because your subordinates are worth it.



Photo by Army Pfc. Philip Regina

"Give a damn." It goes along with loving and leading troops. Give a damn about your troops. You will have troops who have a death in their family, who are going through a divorce, who have a child who is sick. You don't have to fix the problem, but you do have to care about the problem. And when you do care, that troop is more likely to stay in the military and continue to serve. They will remember you for years afterward. It doesn't matter what rank you are, give a damn about your ranger buddy, shipmate, wingman, your roommate or your friends.

You can usually see when someone is going to get into trouble or do something stupid. Stop them. Offer a listening ear or a shoulder to cry on. Again, you don't have to fix the problem, but you do have to care about the problem. And when you do, they will be there for you. The old timers used to say, "Make your foxhole a little better than what it was when you dug it or found it." Pick up trash you see lying on the ground; even if it is not yours. Take a class, learn a new skill, compete for soldier of the quarter - do something to make yourself better. The military is a profession. It is not a job. People who work at a job only have to do what is required of them. People who are part of a profession want to do more than what is required of them. The American public holds the profession of arms in high esteem. They recognize the time, effort, courage, and commitment it takes to be a soldier, sailor, airman, Marine, or coastguardsman. And they recognize we make a difference because we give a damn. ■

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Troopers gain opportunity to reach out and touch someone

By Army Pfc. Philip Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

When friends and family are an ocean away, the isolation can sometimes be too tumultuous of a storm to weather. For most, all we ever need is to hear a familiar voice, to take in that essence of home through our ears. Often times, phones are more than a medium of communication - they are in many ways a lifeline, a relief from the storm.

Whether it's through the use of the newly installed phone jacks in Camp America or by the cell phone services provided here, Troopers have the opportunity to call home.

Phone jacks have recently been installed in each of the rooms at Camp America. Troopers will no longer have to wait in line at the phone room to use the phones to call home. The Base Communication Office provides this convenient link to a familiar voice.

Troopers can choose to call home or may opt to have their friends and family members contact them from the states. Long distance calling can be achieved through the use of the many Satellite

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Danny Buccat, a phone technician at the Base Communication Office here, diligently checks each phone line to make sure there's a proper dial tone.



Photo by Army Pfc. Philip Regina

Communication Systems Incorporated phone cards offered here. The rate of the SCSI phone cards is nine cents a minute, with a 50-cent connection fee.

The phone numbers in all of the resident areas, including Camp America, are to be changed from four-digit to five-digit numbers. Residential numbers will now have a seven added to their original four digits. This change will start in early May and is scheduled to finish by mid-May.

"The Joint Task Force is truly trying to make the standard of living at Guantanamo better. I think it's great that these services will be available for the Troopers who live in Camp America," added Guy Bunkley, the BCO manager.

Cell phones are also available for

any Trooper serving here. The service is provided through SCSI. Troopers can either purchase a cell phone at the SCSI office for approximately \$200 (including activation) or opt to bring their own unlocked tri-band Global System for Mobile Communications phone and have it activated for \$50. The only stipulation is that it cannot be a camera phone. The monthly costs are \$49 a month for unlimited local calls and \$2 a month extra if you want to include voice mail.

When it feels as if you're too far from family to bear, often times you need only a simple phone call to pull you from the depths. With the new phone service available to Troopers here, the rough seas will be much easier to endure. ■

Avoiding identity theft and credit card fraud

By James Parker

JTF-GTMO Special Security Office

Several JTF-GTMO individuals have been victims of credit theft in the past year. Credit fraud and identity theft is becoming increasingly common. A credit thief can use your social security number to acquire goods and services in your name without your knowledge. This can cause undue hardship on military and government personnel, especially since it can adversely affect your security clearance.

A way to protect yourself from these activities is to contact the three national credit-reporting organizations and place a fraud alert on your name and social security number. If anybody tries to open an account, get a credit card, or apply for a loan using your personal information, a red flag will come up on your record and the person processing the application will call you to verify that you are, in fact, the person applying for credit.

You initiate a fraud alert telephonically. Equifax and Experian use telephone numeric prompts. Trans Union requires you to pro-

vide the information verbally. An added benefit of the fraud alert process is the companies will provide you a free copy of your credit report. The national credit reporting organizations are:

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

Experian: 1-888-397-3742

Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289

If you are the victim of fraud, you should also contact the Social Security Administration fraud line: 1-800-269-0271.

The Federal Trade Commission has an excellent site offering a one-stop national resource to learn about the crime of identity theft. It provides detailed information to help you protect yourself from identity theft, and the steps to take if it occurs. It is also a comprehensive reference center for consumers, businesses, law enforcement, and the media, with access to specific laws, contact information, and resources from state and federal government agencies. (<http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>)

For more information, contact James Parker at ext. 9757.

Remember, mission first, security always. ■

Sixty-four years ago on the Coral Sea



Photo courtesy of Naval Historical Center

By Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Bob Hiatt

JTF-GTMO Historical Analyst

We as a nation are now engaged in the Global War on Terror and the phrase “freedom isn’t free” is often stated in connection with this effort. Being caught up in this and our daily lives we often forget the past and the efforts the generations before put forth so we could have the lives we live today. It is fading into the past and to our grandchildren’s children it will be as far back as the Civil War is to me. Yet taking a little time to remember an event that took place 64 years ago this coming month is a fitting thing to do.

The Coral Sea, that body of water southwest of the Solomon Islands and east of Australia, is now peaceful, but 64 years ago another type of terror was threatening our way of life. A large naval force was drawn up to attack the lifeline to Australia and the U.S. Navy was there to make sure that did not happen. The odds were against us and as usual, back in those days, the Navy would have to fight a larger, well-trained force of seasoned sailors and airmen of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

May 7th marks the main battle day when the Japanese first line aircraft carriers, Shokaku and Zuikaku, with the escort carrier Shoho, were eager to put an end to the American carriers, Lexington and Yorktown, once and for all. That day saw the first blood when the American planes spotted the Shoho and bombed it, along with over 600 of her crew trapped below decks. The Americans also got bloodied that day with the loss of the destroyer, Simms, and the oiler Neosho. The capsized hull of the Neosho remained afloat for several days, serving as a large lifeboat for the survivors of the Simms and the crew of the Neosho, but that’s another story.

The next day both sides were trying to locate each other’s carriers, the Americans and Japanese found each other about the same time at a distance of about 175 miles. Just before noon, the American planes badly damaged the Shokaku, a point that would play out later in the Battle of Midway when she could not be available for battle. In fact she was so damaged she almost

capsized on her way back to Japan for repairs. At the same time, the Lexington was under heavy attack and she had to be scuttled later that day. A Medal of Honor was later given to a Marine who continued to feed ammunition to the anti-aircraft gun he was servicing. The young Marine passed badly needed ammunition to the gun until he died at his post, refusing medical evacuation to the aid station. The Yorktown was later also badly damaged, but by a miracle and good damage control, it was able to make it back to “Peral”. The carrier, Zuikaku, was slightly damaged but it was enough to keep her out of the fight at Midway a month later. With two front line carriers put out of action here in the battle, it kept the Navy from facing six carriers at Midway instead of the four that the Japanese sent.

With the loss of the Shoho and the Shokaku, the Japanese withdrew from the area. In combat power lost, it was a defeat for the U.S. Navy, one first line carrier for an escort carrier and the damage to the Yorktown. Yet it was a bigger defeat for the Imperial Japanese Navy in terms of carriers put out of action and not available for the upcoming Midway operation. Also, the lifeline to Australia was now secure and would remain so for the rest of the war in the Pacific.

The Shokaku was later sunk 19 June 19, 1944 taking with her 1,272 of her crew by the American submarine USS Cavalla. The Zuikaku was later sunk Oct. 25, 1944 by bombs and torpedoes off Cape Engano taking along with it over 900 of its crew. The USS Yorktown was sunk at the Battle of Midway a month after the Coral Sea fight.

For those of you who ever have a chance to sail this sea, it has a certain feeling about it, like a visit to Gettysburg or Vicksburg. As someone once said about Gettysburg, “something remains”, well, that is true about the Coral Sea, and something remains.

So this month, perhaps you can take a few minutes to remember the Troopers who fought and died in that far away battle in a time that is fast fading from first hand memory and will soon only be recalled by written history. So yes, the phrase “freedom isn’t free” was as true back then as it is today. ■

Soldiers join the ranks of legendary NCOs

By Army Sgt. Christina Douglas

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Army Staff Sgt. Travis Hodge from the 525 Military Police Battalion, 193rd Military Police Company and Army Sgt. Ivan J. Vasquez of the Joint Medical Group were inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club April 28 here at Trooper's Chapel.

The SAMC is an unparalleled organization of Army non-commissioned officers whose demonstrated performance, inherent leadership qualities and abilities are characterized by those of Sgt. Audie Leon Murphy (1924-1971). Murphy was the most highly decorated war hero in American history for his acts of valor, gallantry and selfless service to his fellow soldiers.

Induction and membership into the SAMC is a reward for NCOs whose leadership achievements and performance merit special recognition.

"Only the soldiers who strive to be the elite go for such an honor because it's not a requirement; it's an extra event that non-commissioned officers go through in their career if they want to be the best," said Army 1st Sgt. Jeff S. Fewell, a prior president of the Fort Leavenworth SAMC chapter and first sergeant of the Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment of the 525.

To become one of the unrivaled members of this club, soldiers, corporal through sergeant first class, must go through a four-phase selection process including a commander's evaluation, a performance test, an initial selection board, and a final selection board.

"It's a long process," said Vasquez. "I literally studied every day for two months straight; it was

Army Staff Sgt. Travis Hodge of the 525 Military Police Battalion was inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. Entry into this exclusive club is reserved for only the best non-commissioned officers the U.S. Army has to offer.



Photo by Army Spc. Jamieson Pond



Photo by Army Spc. Jamieson Pond

Army Sgt. Ivan J. Vasquez of the Joint Medical Group receives an Army Commendation medal for his recent induction into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club by JTF-GTMO Commander, Navy Rear Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr.

non-stop studying."

Induction into the SAMC requires more than just preparation; it embodies the whole soldier concept.

"Staff Sgt. Hodge has been a leader and a mentor for me on and off duty. He has had many different roles and responsibilities, but he has never forgotten to place his soldiers' needs above everything else," said Army Sgt. James Farish, one of Hodge's proud soldiers.

Hodge and Vasquez were each presented with an Army Commendation Medal, a certificate of achievement, a SAMC certificate of membership, a SAMC membership card and an Audie Murphy medallion.

For soldiers who are interested in striving to be the best, Fewell had words of advice.

"Get with your supervisors. Become the best leader you can possibly be because that is the criteria. In doing so, you're taking care of soldiers," said Fewell.

Hodge also had final words of advice. "Never forget where you came from as a soldier. Learn every task you can as a soldier and a leader so that if the situation arises, you can handle the mission with your soldiers following you, not for the rank, but because you are a true leader."

As the ceremony came to a close, the mission for the newly inducted SAMC members began. Hodge and Vasquez, fueled with pride and honor, will continue to mentor other soldiers to become the best leaders they can be and as the SAMC motto demands, they will "lead from the front!" ■



TAKING AIM



Story and photos by Army Spc. Jamieson Pond

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

A Trooper stands patiently with his hand fixed on his military-issued M-9 Beretta 9 mm pistol as it sits in its holster. His eyes are focused on the target 15 yards in front of him. He waits for the whistle. The whistle blows and immediately he draws his weapon and quickly fires two rounds downrange, hitting the target dead center.

Troopers here have the opportunity to go to a range to qualify with an M-16 or an M-9 on a weekly basis.

The Joint Detention Group S-3 training section runs the weapon qualification ranges. If Troopers, with approval from their chain of command, are interested in qualifying, they can contact the training section at ext. 3580.

The Windward Range, which can be found off of Kittery Beach Road, is open every Friday for M-9 qualifications. It opens at 4:30 a.m. and stays open until about noon.

There are three courses of fire conducted for the Navy M-9 qualification. The first is a night fire, the second is the Navy Handgun Qualification Course, and the third is a shoot and move Practical Weapons Course. Troopers who want to shoot just for ribbons or marksmanship badges need to qualify on the NHQC. The other courses are required if the Trooper is going to carry a weapon on duty.

Almost every Tuesday, Troopers can qualify with an M-16 at the Grenadillo range, said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Johnathan C. McCord, a master at arms and range safety officer for the range. The day starts at 5:45 a.m. and goes until

about 5 p.m.

Military personnel from any branch are allowed to participate in the weapon qualifications.

The range can be adjusted to meet Army, Marine, Air Force, Navy or Coast Guard standards. In order to change the qualification standards to a specific unit's branch of service, the unit's training team needs to contact the JDG S-3 training section at ext. 3580.

After qualifications, Troopers are taught how to disassemble the weapons, how to clean them, reassemble them and how to conduct a function check, added McCord.

Being able to qualify regularly with the M-9 or M-16 is a great way to maintain proficiency with our weapons, said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Talib S. Abdullah, a Trooper with the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, who qualified as an expert with the M-9.

Close to 1,000 Troopers have qualified at the ranges since January 17, 2006, when the range opened up for weekly qualifications, said McCord.

Whether you're at the range for weapon qualification or just for practice, know that you have a unique opportunity many servicemembers stationed around the world are not privileged to have.

The Trooper walks away knowing that he qualified expert on the qualification course. He confidently knows that if he ever sees combat, he has nothing to worry about thanks to all the practice he was able to get at GTMO. ■

Six Packs dominate 4-on-4 beach volleyball tournament

By Army Sgt. Christina Douglas

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Sand flew and egos were bruised as GTMO residents contended in a four-on-four beach volleyball tournament April 29 here at Windmill Beach.

The double-elimination style tournament was played with rally point scoring. In rally point scoring, a point is awarded on every rally regardless of which team is serving. The games were played to 15 points in the best two out of three format with the last game played to 11 points.

In the first round, the Spartans got off to a slow start with a 5-15 loss to the Six Packs. Off Constantly barely skimmed the surface in the winners' bracket with a 15-12 victory over J-JAS. Finally PSU-305 knocked PCOLA into the losers' bracket and Team 6 was given a bye to the next round. A bye is the position of a team who draws no opponent for a round in a tournament and by doing so, advances to the next round.

Just as Team 6 thought they had it easy with the first-round bye, they were met in the second round by the ever-so-talented Six Packs. Team 6's consistent returns could not match the fire on the ball from Six Packs' star player, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Russell Simmons, or the remarkable recoveries by Army Sgt. Bradley Raupp,

so Team 6 joined the others in the losers' bracket.

In the second round of the winners' bracket, Off Constantly's diverse team crushed the PSU-305 with spikes by Army Sgt. Jason McMahan, unvarying sets by Army Spc. Joe Asuncion, and digs by Army Pfc. Matt Nilsen and Army Pfc. Zach Gallegos.

In the losers' bracket, despite their first round win over J-JAS, PCOLA was sent home for the day by Team 6 in the second round. Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Patrick Crawford's digs and Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Dean Dillingham's monumental spikes couldn't match the Spartan's flair in the second round as Spartan members, Army Spc. Brandon Potter, Army Spc. Joshua Perez, Army Spc. Steve Deitchman, and Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Mike Conley took over the court.

As the heat began to rise, so did the competition in the third round. The tournament was now down to four teams. In the winners' bracket the Six Packs faced the undefeated Off Constantly. Off Constantly's Asuncion, McMahan, Nilsen and Gallegos were determined not to go down without a fight. In the end, the tired Off Constantly joined the

ranks in the losers' bracket.

Team 6's efforts by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason Drummond, Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class John Carswell, and Jon Espig couldn't match the determination of the Spartans in the final match of the third round, leaving three teams to compete for the title.

In the fourth round, the only undefeated team, Six Packs, was given a bye to the final round. Off Constantly and the Spartans were left to battle it out for second place. Despite picture perfect sets by Asuncion, and blocks by McMahan, Off Constantly met defeat for the final time as Potter, Perez, Deitchman and Conley served it to them on a silver platter.

It was now time for the final round. The underdog spirit consumed the crowd as the Spartans took their position on the court. They would now face the Six Packs for glory, honor and

bragging rights, of course.

The four games played by the Spartans, and the four hours in the GTMO sun began to take its toll. The Spartans' exhaustion showed as the Six Packs dominated the court. The Six Packs' combination of Raupp's side-arm serve and effortless digs and spikes; Simmons' dominating presence, known for his authoritative spikes and consistent sets; Army 1st Lt. Martin Graczyk's towering frame, amassed with unfailing returns and dominating spikes; and Army Sgt. Dwight Louey's powerhouse serves rocked the final match on the court.

The Six Packs each received a coupon for a one-hour boat rental for first place and the Spartans each received a coupon for a free pizza for second place, but neither of the prizes mattered more than the pride they took home with them that day. ■



Photo by Army Spc. Allen Roche

The Six Packs, from left to right: Army 1st Lt. Martin Graczyk, Army Sgt. Bradley Raupp, Army Sgt. Dwight Louey, and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Russell Simmons stand tall as the first place winners of the four-on-four beach volleyball tournament held April 29 at Windmill Beach.

This week's guest feature writer's page...

Good eats at GTMO

By Army Capt. Bill Harper

JTF-GTMO Joint Detention Group

"Tell Them I Didn't Cry", is Jackie Spinner's memoir from her duty as an embedded reporter for the Washington Post. In the book, she talks about Friday night dinner parties that she hosted. Her meals became quite popular with the journalists and contractors in Iraq and featured a wide range of cuisine. The Friday night menu depended on what was available at the supermarket that she would go to in Baghdad.

Spinner described the problems with keeping a supermarket stocked in a war zone. She explained that markets in Iraq rely on vendors from a wide range of countries and a store could sell food from Mexico one week and the following week, the stock could come from the Philippines.

That being said, an important ingredient on my Friday night menu could not be found at the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay commissary.

After completing my first week of duty with Joint Task Force-Guantanamo, I took on Spinner's ideal, promising my housemates that I would cook Bulgogi for Sunday dinner.

Bulgogi is a traditional Korean meal consisting of strips of marinated rib eye steak cooked on a tabletop grill, and is usually served with lettuce, rice, and kimchi. I have never served in Korea, but I learned how to cook it after my first

deployment for Operation Noble Eagle in 2002.

The commissary provides the essential ingredients for making Bulgogi. Although deli sliced rib eye from an Asian market is preferred, the Navy Exchange Commissary offered flank steak. The meat is best cooked sliced and is available at most Asian supermarkets. The garlic, green onions and Asian pears were plentiful and I got several hot peppers to grill with the meat.

There are plenty of rice and lettuce available at the commissary. While kimchi was not in stock, a large Papaya from the produce section was fine.

Although bean paste and a bottle of Sochu are important for a traditional Korean meal, not having those items was not a problem.

Sake, a Japanese rice wine, is blended with the onions, garlic and pear to add additional flavor to the marinade. After searching the wine aisle for few minutes, I realized that a bottle of Sake that could not be found in the commissary.

When cooking with wine, price is not important. With this thought in mind, I looked through the wine section for a cheap bottle of wine.

The wine selection was very impressive with Australian chardonnays, Chianti's and California wines. Searching further, the less expensive wines were closer to the floor. And on the bottom row, I found a bottle for \$2.99 that would work. ■

BULGOGI

- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 scallion, white part only, trimmed and minced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 1/2 cup sake or wine substitute
- 1 teaspoon Ginger, minced
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 4 scallions (green parts only)
- 2 tablespoons toasted sesame seeds
- 1 small or 1/2 large Asian pear, peeled, cored, and cut into the finest dice possible

Combine the sugar, scallion whites, garlic, and pepper in a bowl and mash to a smooth paste with the back of a spoon. Add the soy sauce, sake, and honey and stir until the sugar and honey are dissolved. Stir in the scallion greens, sesame seeds, and pear. Correct the seasoning, adding honey for sweetness or soy sauce for salt. Serve within a few hours of making.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

By Army Chaplain (Capt.) Ed Yurus

525 Military Police Battalion

On Thursday, May 4th, the United States once again solemnly and prayerfully recognized a National Day of Prayer. As a nation, we collectively reflected upon God's historical and unprecedented benevolence toward our country and we rightfully continued to seek his divine favor for our beloved nation. We lifted up in prayer our national and military leaders and the young men and women who courageously defend the liberties that have been graciously bestowed upon us. The venues for early morning prayers were school flagpoles, work place cafeterias, office cubicles and partially filled churches. As the day progressed, simple heartfelt devotionals gave way to elaborate prayer breakfasts and luncheons, often motives may have been questioned as uneasy politicians publicly called upon God's blessing for America. Throughout the day church doors opened and closed as parishioners meditated and prayerfully knelt before the altar of God seeking his blessing for you and me. As night fell, congregations gathered as our nation came together to seek God's forgiveness and continued blessings.

America has always been and continues to be a prayerful nation. In 1988, the first Thursday in May was officially designated and set aside as our National Day of Prayer. However, national days of prayer, Thanksgiving and fasting have always been a part of our nation's rich religious heritage. President Reagan thoughtfully reflected, "No one can hold this office without noticing that prayer is something that is deeply woven onto the fabric of our history."

On January 1, 1795 the president's National Proclamation stated, "I, George Washington, President of the United States, do recommend to all religious societies and denominations to set apart and observe Thursday the 19th day of February as a day of Thanksgiving and prayer, and on that day meet together and render sincere and hearty thanks to the great ruler of nations for the mercies which distinguishes our lot as a nation."

On March 30, 1863 President Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for a day of national fasting and prayer, "I do, by this proclamation designate and set apart the 30th day of April as a day of national humiliation, fasting and prayer ... all this being done in sincerity and truth."

Last year during the National Day of Prayer

celebration at the White House, President Bush reminded his invited guests of our nation's prayerful past and concluded his speech with the following comments, "We pray, as Americans have always prayed, with hope in God's purposes, hope in the future and with the humility to ask God's help to do what is right."

I encourage all of us to set apart a portion of our day to pray for our military personnel and their devoted families who honorably support them with very little recognition. ■

JTF Prayer Breakfast



Speaker

Mr. Mujahid Abdullah

Seaside Galley

11 May 2006

Breakfast will be from 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. and the program will be from 8:00a.m. - 8:30 a.m. This program is for all regardless of faith group or religious preference.

CAMP AMERICA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Troopers' Chapel
	6:00 p.m.	Confessions	Troopers' Chapel
	6:30 p.m.	Catholic Mass	Troopers' Chapel
	7:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Troopers' Chapel
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Soul Survivor	Camp America North Pavilion

NAVAL BASE CHAPEL

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	9:00 a.m.	Catholic Mass	Main Chapel
	9:00 a.m.	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Sanctuary A
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Protestant Sun. School	Main Chapel
	10:00 a.m.	Protestant Liturgical	Sanctuary B
	11:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	Gospel Service	Main Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
Tues. to Fri.	7:00 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
Wednesday	12:00 p.m.	Daily Mass	Cobre Chapel
Friday	7:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
Saturday	12:30 p.m.	Islamic Prayer	Sanctuary C
	4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Main Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	Vigil Mass	Main Chapel

Jewish Shabbat Services held every second Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Naval Base Chapel complex Room 11.

15 Minutes of Fame

with Army Sgt. Taavon Purdie

By Army Pfc. Philip Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Army Sgt. Taavon Purdie wears his talents on his sleeve. He also wears it on his chest and back. While some Troopers here spend their free time scuba diving, trail riding and boating, Purdie stays in his room, creating wearable works of art.

Purdie is the 629th Military Intelligence Battalion, 29th Infantry Division resident Picasso. He hand draws unique designs on plain white t-shirts, creating a personalized, one-of-a-kind masterpiece on each t-shirt.

"I've always enjoyed drawing. Drawing was my biggest hobby growing up. I drew all through elementary and middle school, but when I went to high school, I stopped," said Purdie. "When I got deployed here I just started up again."

Although Purdie stopped drawing through high school, you wouldn't be able to tell from the t-shirts he makes. Each t-shirt is painstakingly hand drawn, each letter drawn free hand, each design made with nothing more than a Sharpie marker and imagination.

"It takes me about 45 minutes to an hour and a half to make each t-shirt. First I trace the outline first with a grease pen, and then I go in with the Sharpie," explained Purdie.

"The time frame for each t-shirt varies, it all depends on how complicated the design of the t-shirt is. Sometimes it takes a really long time," added Purdie.



Photo by Army Pfc. Philip Regina

With talent and grace, Army Sgt. Taavon Purdie puts the final touches on another piece of wearable artwork.

"Most of the time the inspiration for the designs I make come to me when I'm in my room relaxing. All the designs for the t-shirts I make are original," explained Purdie.

Purdie draws what inspires him and he proudly wears his own works, but what's more phenomenal is the fact that his fellow Troopers ask him to make t-shirts for them.

"It feels good to see people wearing the t-shirts I make. I mean, I always enjoyed wearing my shirts, but I never thought so many other people would want to. People come to me with all kinds of designs and sometimes it may be a challenge to do it, but it feels real good to finish each shirt and to see my buddies wearing them," said Purdie.

So what's in the future for Purdie? With several months ahead of him, he has a long time

to perfect his craft and at the rate he's going, by the time the next unit relieves the 629th, everyone at GTMO will be wearing a "Purdie Special".

"I think if people keep asking me to make t-shirts like this, I'm going to have to charge, just kidding. But seriously, I'm glad that I picked up my old hobby and I'm also glad that people other than myself are appreciating my efforts. Being at GTMO can be trying at times, but if you pick up a constructive hobby like me, it makes being here just a little better," added Purdie. ■

15 Minutes of Fame

Know a Trooper worthy of being highlighted in "15 Minutes of Fame?" Call Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Lacy Hicks at ext. 3593.

AROUND THE JTF

► Members of the BRDC build a playground for the West Iguana and Iguana Terrace communities to be opened later this month. Mariano Ganzon points to Jesus Jamolin and Joatam Recayo to make adjustments as Renato Pascual stands on the ladder.



Photo by Army 1st Lt. Anthony John



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Timm Duckworth

◀ Navy Exchange Military Car Sales agent, Daniel Busby, and Camp America Commandant, Army Sgt. Maj. David Hare, display the Grand Opening banner that will bring new car and motorcycle sales to Camp America May 10th through June 10th.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Timm Duckworth

▲ The top three finalists of the Spring Half Marathon were (from left to right): Second Place Navy Seaman John Miklas (1:28:44); first place, Army Sgt. Gustavo Plombero of the 525 Military Police Battalion (1:28:25); third place Army Staff Sgt. Tyler Thomas of the 629th Military Intelligence Battalion, 29th Infantry Division (1:30:26).

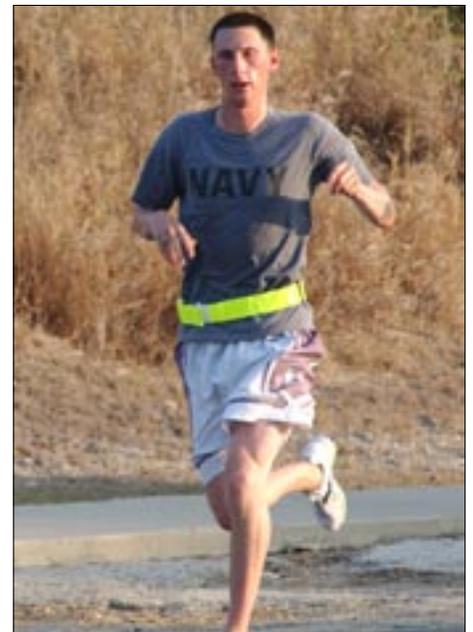


Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Timm Duckworth

▲ Navy Seaman John Miklas runs the Spring Half Marathon April 29th.

Trooper of the Quarter Board

The JTF-GTMO Servicemember and NCO of the Quarter Boards are scheduled for May 17, 2006. All Troopers, regardless of service are encouraged to compete. Interested individuals should notify your chain of command.

What day is Mother's Day?

Heads up Troopers! May 14 (Mother's Day) is fast approaching. It's now time to call home, order the flowers, and send those cards priority mail! For the mothers on post, there will be a Mother's Day brunch May 14 at the Bayview Club from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. For more information call ext. 5604. There will also be a Mother's Day Craft Fair May 13 at the Windjammer from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. For more information, call Scott Ross at ext. 4795.

Hot Molina Band coming

Hot Molina Band, providing an energizing Latin, Pop and top 40 music, scheduled to perform Wed., May 10 at Club Survivor, Thu., May 11 at the Bayview Patio and Fri., May 12 at the Windjammer. For more information call ext. 5225.

Photo of the Week

The Wire is continuing to display a "Photo of the Week" in each issue. All JTF personnel are eligible to participate. Photos must be submitted by Monday night and should be digital format. For more information, call Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Watterworth at ext. 3589.

Sudoku Puzzle

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9. There is only one solution to the puzzle.



Sound off!

The Wire welcomes letters from Troopers. Letters must be less than 350 words and include name, unit and contact information. The Wire reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Bring your letter to The Wire office at building 4106, the SEA hut next to the Chaplain's Office in Camp America or e-mail pao@jftgtno.southcom.mil.

1 3	4 3	8	1	6 2	5	1 3	123
7 9	7 9		89			4 9	4 8
1	23 45	12 45 7 9	7	8	1 3 45	6	4 23 9
456 7	23 456 789	4 6 7 9	1 5 9	3 5 9	1 3 45	23 4 6 7 8	123 4 8
2 4 7 8	2 4 7 8	3	6 4 7	9	1	5	2 6 7 8 9
2 8	12 6 8	5	3	4	123 5 7 8	2	2 5 6 7 9
9	1	2 6 7	2 4 5 8	3 5 7 9	1 5 7 8	23 8	23 5 6 4
2	5 6 7 8 9	1 5 6 7 9	5 8 9	5 7 9	3 5 6 7 8 9	4 7 9	1 3 4 6 7 9 123 5 6
4	5 6 7 9	6 7 9	4 5 8 9	1	3 5 6 7 9	23 7 9	8 23 5 6 7
3	5 6 7 8 9	1 5 6 7 9	4	2	1 5 6 7 8	1 3 7 9	1 6 1 5 6

Accuracy

The Wire strives for accuracy. When we fail, we accept responsibility for our errors and correct them. If you see an error in The Wire, call Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Lacy Hicks at ext. 3593 or e-mail at pao@jftgtno.southcom.mil.

Hometown news release program

Troopers, be a star in your own hometown. Fill out an electronic home town news release today. The release can be done for anything from promotions, awards, college degrees, etc. To fill out the release go on the intranet, click on JTF Staff, then PAO, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on "Submit a hometown news release." Not all information must be included, but name, hometown and event of the release are required.

Guest writers

The Wire is continuing to display a "Feature Writers' Page" in next week's issue. All Joint Task Force personnel are eligible to participate. Articles must be submitted by Monday night and should be 400 words or less. For more information, call Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Lacy Hicks at ext. 3593.



Illustration by Spc. Eric Tagayuna

Movies

DOWNTOWN LYCEUM

FRIDAY

8 p.m. **The Shaggy Dog**

PG 99 min

10 p.m. **16 Blocks**

PG13 102 min

SATURDAY

8 p.m. **Aquamarine**

PG 104 min

10 p.m. **The Hills Have Eyes**

R 107 min

SUNDAY

8 p.m. **Failure to Launch**

PG 97 min

MONDAY

8 p.m. **The Shaggy Dog**

PG 99 min

TUESDAY

8 p.m. **16 Blocks**

PG13 102 min

WEDNESDAY

8 p.m. **The Hills Have Eyes**

R 107 min

THURSDAY

8 p.m. **Aquamarine**

PG 104 min

CAMP BULKELEY

FRIDAY

8 p.m. **Medea's Fam. Re.**

PG13 107 min

10 p.m. **Running Scared**

R 119 min

SATURDAY

8 p.m. **The Shaggy Dog**

PG 99 min

10 p.m. **16 Blocks**

PG13 102 min

SUNDAY

8 p.m. **The Hills Have Eyes**

R 107 min

MONDAY

8 p.m. **Aquamarine**

PG 104 min

TUESDAY

8 p.m. **Failure to Launch**

PG 97 min

WEDNESDAY

8 p.m. **16 Blocks**

PG13 102 min

THURSDAY

8 p.m. **The Hills Have Eyes**

R 107 min

MWR

- **Sat, May 6** BBQ & Chess Tournament @ Marine Hill 5 p.m.
- **Sun, May 7** 9-Ball Pool Tournament @ Deer Point 7 p.m.
- **Mon, May 8** PS2 Soccer Challenge @ Marine Hill 7 p.m.
- **Tue, May 9** Dart Tournament @ Deer Point 7 p.m.
- **Wed May 10** PS2 Soccer Challenge @ Marine Hill 7 p.m.
- **Thu May 11** May Birthday Bash @ Marine Hill 7 p.m.
- **Fri, May 12** Night Paintball @ Paintball Range 7 p.m.

Seaside Galley

Today*	Lunch	Roast Porkloin
	Dinner	Baked Lasagna
Saturday	Lunch	Fried Catfish
	Dinner	Grilled Steaks
Sunday	Lunch	Chicken Cordon Bleu
	Dinner	Roast Turkey
Monday	Lunch	Roast Beef
	Dinner	Five Spice Chicken
Tuesday	Lunch	Fried Pork Chops
	Dinner	Stuffed Flounder
Wednesday	Lunch	Fried Chicken
	Dinner	Seafood Platter
Thursday	Lunch	Herbed Baked Chicken
	Dinner	Cajun Meat Loaf
Friday*	Lunch	Braised Beef
	Dinner	Tempura Fish

*Friday's Subject to Change

Ferry Schedule

Monday - Friday		Saturday		Sundays & Holidays	
Windward	6:30	Windward	6:30	Windward	7:30
Leeward	7:00	Leeward	7:00	Leeward	8:00
Windward	7:30	Windward	7:30	Windward	9:30
Leeward	8:00	Leeward	8:00	Leeward	10:00
Windward	8:30	Windward	8:30	Windward	11:30
Leeward	9:00	Leeward	9:00	Leeward	12:00
Windward	9:30	Windward	9:30	Windward	1:30
Leeward	10:00	Leeward	10:00	Leeward	2:00
Windward	11:30	Windward	11:30	Windward*	3:30
Leeward	12:00	Leeward	12:00	Leeward*	4:00
Windward	12:30	Windward	12:30	Windward*	5:30
Leeward	1:00	Leeward	1:00	Leeward*	6:00
Windward	2:30	Windward	2:30	Windward*	6:30
Leeward	3:00	Leeward	3:00	Leeward*	7:00
Windward	3:30	Windward	3:30	Windward*	8:00
Leeward	4:00	Leeward	4:00	Leeward*	8:30
Windward	4:30	Windward*	4:30	Windward*	10:30
Leeward	5:00	Leeward*	5:00	Leeward*	11:00
Windward	5:30	Windward*	6:30		
Leeward	6:00	Leeward*	7:00	Shown are <i>departure</i>	
Windward	6:30	Windward*	8:00	times. Bold listings	
Leeward	7:00	Leeward*	8:30	indicate the departures	
Windward*	8:00	Windward*	9:30	following breaks longer	
Leeward*	8:30	Leeward*	10:00	than 30 minutes.	
Windward*	10:30	Windward*	10:30	*U-Boats	
Leeward*	11:00	Leeward*	11:00		
Fri. Wind.*	:30	Windward*	:30		
Fri. Leew.*	:45	Leeward*	:45		

Bus Schedule

All buses run on the hour, 7 days/week 5 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Camp America	:00	:20	:40
Gazebo	:02	:22	:42
NEX Trailer	:03	:23	:43
Camp Delta 2	:06	:26	:46
KB 373	:10	:30	:50
TK 4	:12	:32	:52
JAS	:13	:33	:53
TK 3	:14	:34	:54
TK 2	:15	:35	:55
TK 1	:16	:36	:56
West Iguana	:18	:38	:58
Windjammer / Gym	:21	:41	:01
Gold Hill Galley	:24	:44	:04
NEX	:26	:46	:16
96 Man Camp	:31	:51	:11
NEX	:33	:53	:13
Gold Hill Galley	:37	:57	:17
Windjammer / Gym	:36	:56	:16
West Iguana	:39	:59	:19
TK 1	:40	:00	:20
TK 2	:43	:03	:23
TK 3	:45	:05	:25
TK 4	:47	:07	:27
KB 373	:50	:10	:30
Camp Delta 1	:54	:14	:32
IOF	:54	:14	:34
NEX Trailer	:57	:17	:37
Gazebo	:58	:18	:38
Camp America	:00	:20	:40