



525 MP BN welcomes new commander

By Army Spc. Philip Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

A change-of-command ceremony for the 525th Military Police Battalion occurred at Troopers' Chapel here Saturday.

Army Lt. Col. William S. Wozniak assumed command of the 525th from Army Lt. Col. Kevin Burk.

Navy Adm. Timothy J. Keating, commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command, attended the event, offering his thanks to the Troopers of the 525th for a job well done.

Burk will go on to serve with the J-34, U.S. Northern Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colo.

"It has been a privilege to witness the way you operate here. The Troopers of the 525th are performing an essential duty for the safety of the U.S. It's a duty that offers very little glory and very little glamour. This past year your Troopers have had the opportunity to work with an amazing individual, Lt. Col. Burk. Kevin has performed at a very high level and this performance has given him the opportunity to serve in his future position over at Colorado Springs," said Keating.

Keating also offered his fond welcome to the new commander of the 525th.

"I've looked over Wozniak's credentials and they are impressive. He is the



Photo by Navy Chief Petty Officer (Select) Timm Duckworth

525th Military Police Battalion incoming commander, Army Lt. Col. William Wozniak, passes the guidon to 525th Army Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur Vanwyngarden, during a change-of-command ceremony here Saturday.

right MP (military policeman), at the right place and at the right time," explained Keating.

After Keating's words of congratulations, Burk offered his thanks to the diligent Troopers who served under him, as well as a heartfelt goodbye to Guantanamo Bay.

"There's nothing like having the honor and privilege to command soldiers. I'm so very proud to have led the 525th. It has been a challenge and I would like to thank my family for having the patience to be out here with me. To my soldiers, officers, and non-commissioned officers, it has been such an honor to serve

with you. I have truly been blessed with some of the finest Troopers I could have imagined," explained Burk.

Burk then offered a few words of advice to Wozniak.

"Take this battalion and take care of them. Lead them. That's what they need. That's what they want, and Bill, I know you're up to the task," added Burk.

After Burk's tearful goodbye, Wozniak offered his thanks and appreciation to Burk.

"I appreciate what you have done and I am honored to receive this battalion from you. I am extremely proud to lead the 525th," said Wozniak. ■

Admiral remembers past and says thank you

By Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Lacy Hicks

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Navy Adm. Timothy J. Keating visited Joint Task Force-Guantanamo, Saturday. As he toured the detention camps, he continually thanked Troopers for their service. He reminded them that what they are doing here plays an important role in the Global War on Terror.

As the commander of U.S. Northern Command, Adm. Keating is in charge of the continental United States, Alaska, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Combating terror threats on U.S. soil is one of his top priorities.

“Troopers here serve in a function where there is no margin for error,” said Keating. “At the same time, the eyes of the world are upon them and they handle themselves absolutely flawlessly.”

Sept. 11 was a day most Americans won't forget, but for many, the horror of that day fades with time. This is not the case for Keating; he thinks about the faces of those lost at the Pentagon daily.

“I had just left the command center of the pentagon where I met with some of my junior Sailors and civilian advisors when American Flight 77 hit that area of the Pentagon,” said Keating.

“I lost 26 Sailors, officers and civilians who I had just spent the first two hours of the morning with. Their names and faces I will never forget. I think about them every day and it is for them and the others who lost their lives that we fight this war.”

As Keating toured the facilities here, he recalled Sept. 11 and the days that followed. He reminded Troopers how important their jobs are here.



Photo by Navy Chief Petty Officer (Select) Timm Duckworth

“Each and every one of you honor their memory every day that you walk in those camps,” said Keating. “I am immensely proud of what you are doing.”

As Keating walked around the camps he was greeted by Troopers who showed their respect with the time-honored hand salute and the words “Honor Bound.”

“‘Honor Bound’ are very powerful words the Troopers here say and I hope that everyone here believes it.”

Keating acknowledges this assignment is dangerous and reminded Troopers to be safe.

“I want Troopers here to continue to be careful. The job you have here is treacherous. You detain vowed terrorists and keep the United States safe, and at the same time you treat the detainees with dignity and respect.”

Keating discussed with Troopers how this war is different from other wars the U.S. has fought.

“This war is an asymmetric war. It is not a force on force fight,” said Keating. “It requires dedication and commitment from Troopers and their family members stationed all over the world. It could be a long war, but we will win.” ■

JTF-GTMO Command

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Sgt. Maj. of the Army visits GTMO

By Army Spc. Jason Kaneshiro

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston, the highest ranking enlisted soldier and 13th sergeant major of the Army, visited Joint Task Force-Guantanamo, Sunday. The visit included a tour of the detention facilities and having lunch at Seaside Galley with a select number of junior and senior enlisted soldiers assigned to JTF-GTMO.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to come here and say 'thanks' to the soldiers serving here," said Preston.

Preston went further to comment on how he was impressed with the positive and great attitudes he had seen from the soldiers serving at JTF-GTMO.

"All of the Troopers here are doing a magnificent job," said Preston. ■



Photo by Army Spc. Dustin Robbins

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston (second from the right) has lunch at Seaside Galley and talks with Joint Task Force-Guantanamo Troopers during his visit here.

Security bulletin: polygraph testing

By Frank Perkins

JTF-GTMO Special Security Office

Polygraphs and security clearances are two separate actions used to assess one's character and trustworthiness. Polygraph exams are most often associated with criminal investigations, but are also used in other instances. While limited in their use in the private sector, the U.S. government frequently uses them. Some examples of institutions and occasions that may call for the use of a polygraph include national security (CIA, FBI, NSA, etc), criminal investigation, pre-employment screening, law enforcement internal-affairs investigation and the banking industry. Many positions that require a security clearance also require a polygraph.

You may one day be subject to a polygraph exam before being hired for a job or assigned to a position. Some government entities, private-sector employers, and DoD contractor organizations will require or ask you to undergo a polygraph exam prior to employment. This examination may be a Counter-Intelligence, Lifestyle or Full Scope polygraph.

A **Counter Intelligence Polygraph** asks questions

limited to the subject's allegiance to the U.S. The questions are based on foreign contacts, foreign associations, etc. A Counter Intelligence Polygraph is the most common polygraph.

A **Lifestyle Polygraph** asks questions that concern the subject's personal life and conduct and can involve all aspects of present and past behavior. Questions might concern involvement with illegal drugs, involvement in serious criminal activity, and falsification of security forms. A Lifestyle Polygraph attempts to look for issues in a person's private life for that which he or she might be coerced or blackmailed.

A **Full Scope Polygraph** is a combination of both the Counter Intelligence and Lifestyle polygraphs.

A trained examiner administers and interprets the polygraph, looking for abnormal fluctuation in respiratory rates, blood pressure rates and galvanic skin resistances.

If you are fortunate enough to undergo a polygraph exam, relax, breathe evenly and don't sweat it!

The point of contact for this information is Theresa Walpole at ext. 9835.

Remember, mission first, security always! ■

Navy chief selects begin “Season of Pride”

**By Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Lacy Hicks**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

For many, rising to the rank of chief petty officer is the biggest promotion in an enlisted Sailor’s career, even though it is not the highest enlisted promotion. Khaki uniforms replace blue utilities, greater authority is given, and responsibilities are doubled almost overnight.

Chief petty officers are said to be the backbone of a command, and their years of experience make them invaluable to their junior officers. Chiefs are instrumental in helping junior Sailors understand Navy policy.

Sixteen first class petty officers from Naval Station-Guantanamo and Joint Task Force-Guantanamo were notified of their selection for promotion to chief

SEE CHIEF, PAGE 5



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jim Brown

The Navy’s newest chief selects gather in Camp Delta with Command Master Chief William Conley. The chief selects recently began the rigorous initiation process all Navy E-6s must go through prior to their promotion.

Network News

GTMO hosts assessment team

By Air Force Capt. Troy Townsend

JTF-GTMO Information Assurance Officer

Today marked the end of a two-week assessment visit conducted by the Army Test and Evaluation Command in conjunction with the 1st Information Operations Command. During the two week visit, the assessment team, better known as the “Red Team,” conducted a series of exercises to evaluate security practices and procedures both on the JTF-GTMO network and around the base. Their findings were presented to the leadership to highlight the strengths and suggest some ways that GTMO can further enhance its security posture.

The assessment visit also provided the network technicians an opportunity to receive one-on-one instruction from the ATEC training team. As a result, J-6 (Command, Control, Communications and Computers) personnel are better able to identify network anomalies and respond to them in a timely manner. As an added bonus, the Information Assurance office received hands-on training with a wireless detection device. This device locates wireless transmitters, which have the potential to compromise network security if

not used properly.

Along with the training and exercises, the Red Team also had some lessons to pass on to the JTF-GTMO community about network security. The first is to never open an e-mail from an unknown source, especially if it contains an attachment. Also, beware of e-mail addresses that look official but do not follow normal naming conventions. These are common tricks that hackers use to try to find out information about the network. Opening these e-mails and executing the attachments can potentially affect the security of the network. Instead, notify the Help Desk at ext. 3582 of the suspicious e-mail and follow their instructions on handling it.

Another good bit of advice from the Red Team is to be suspicious of anything that asks you to change the settings on your computer. At some point in your deployment you could encounter a file that asks you to enable macros, or change some other security setting. These changes could expose your computer to some unintended consequences and pose a risk to network security. Again, if it looks suspicious, ask the Help Desk. If you are unsure about a file or a webpage, a quick phone call can make a big difference when it comes to keeping the network safe.

If you have a topic that you’d like us to address in an upcoming column of Network News, send your request to: j6-ia@jftgmo.southcom.mil. ■

Sending holiday cheer across the miles

By Army Spc. Dustin Robbins

JTF-GTMO Special Security Office

The JTF Public Affairs Office will be video taping holiday greetings by Troopers this Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Seaside Galley.

The JTF-GTMO Holiday Greetings program produces short video messages for the servicemembers stationed overseas who will not be home during the holiday season.

The greetings are sent to Army and Air Force Hometown News Service in San Antonio, Texas. The news service will

distribute them to commercial TV stations all over the 50 states and four territories. Stations will receive the message just prior to Thanksgiving and use them, in many cases, on through the New Year's holiday. Troopers are recommended to call their families and friends and tell them to keep an eye on the news. Ultimately it will be up to each individual news station on if and when they will air the greetings.

"It was nice to send a smile home to my family," said Army Spc. Miranda Gonzalez, the executive administrator for the JTF command sergeant major, who has participated in the

holiday greetings program.

"The Holiday Greetings program is a great way to let your family and friends know that you are thinking about them," said Army Staff Sgt. Brian Scott, the JTF-PAO broadcast non-commissioned officer in charge. "Unlike a telephone call, video lets your loved ones actually see that you're doing ok."

If you would like additional information about how you can schedule your group's holiday greetings, contact Army Maj. Cheryl Johnson, public information officer in charge, at ext. 3658. ■

CHIEF, FROM PAGE 4

Friday. The chief selects will officially put on their khakis and anchors at a pinning ceremony here, Sept. 15.

The history of the chief petty officer dates back to 1893, when Congress authorized the enlisted rank of E-7. Before that date, the term "chief" was given to the most senior and experienced enlisted personnel assigned to the command. When the E-7 rank was developed, the term "chief" went to that pay grade.

The season of transition came about with the implementation of the "charge book." The commanding officer would give a charge book to the first class petty officers whom they felt deserving of advancement. The petty officers were directed to take the book to all of their superiors to have those individuals sign them off as being ready for the next pay grade. Many times the selects were given tasks to perform, or told to research some information to learn some valued level of knowledge they would need in order to be successful as a chief. After the tasks had been completed and all their superiors had signed the charge book, the selects would return to the commanding officer, demonstrating they were ready for advancement.

Today the basic principles are the same. This process is done during the "Season of Pride."

"All selects will have to complete a charge book by completing assigned tasks and going through training," said NAVSTA Command Master Chief Larry Cairo. "The training and all the assigned tasks are for the sole purpose of preparing the new chief selectees for the job ahead."

The transition to chief is different than any other rank transition according to Cairo. "The newly selected chiefs will be learning what they need to know to transition from the tactical side to the operational side of the Navy," said Cairo.

Their training here is designed to be very extensive. It consists of training on Navy programs and policies, ensuring they have all the tools necessary to properly lead their junior Sailors, and train their division officers.

In the Navy there is an old adage, "Ask the chief." Cairo said it is his and other chiefs' mission to teach the new selects what they need to know to answer the questions of their Sailors when they are told, "Ask the chief." ■

Navy chief petty officer select list:

DCC (SEL) Timothy Chrockrem
 MCC (SEL) Timothy Duckworth
 MAC (SEL) James Henley
 HMC (SEL) Jessie Karstedt
 HMC (SEL) Larry Law
 NDC (SEL) Nick Luoto
 AEC (SEL) Jim McDonald
 CTIC (SEL) Andrew Meyer
 MAC (SEL) Patrick Otis
 GSMC (SEL) Garrion Street
 GMC (SEL) Joshua Tolleson
 MAC (SEL) Jerry Tullos
 BMC (SEL) Dexter Williams
 HTC (SEL) Christopher Wills

* Also participating in the Season of Pride with Navy chief selects are HMC Don Jeffers and PSC Billy Randall (USCG).

JAMAICAN INDEPENDENCE



Photos by Army 1st Lt. Anthony John and Story by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jim Brown

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

On Saturday, local Jamaican citizens, Troopers and GTMO residents from countries throughout the world celebrated Jamaica's 44th Independence Day. Attendees enjoyed entertainment, which included musicians, dancers, and fire-eaters, between mouthfuls of curried goat, yams and ackee. The event was a celebration of how the diverse Jamaican people are striving to become a democratic powerhouse of the Caribbean. ■

INCE DAY CELEBRATION



Bump, set, spike, game!

By Army Sgt. Christina Douglas

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

A loud whistle pierces the gym prompting an authoritative serve. The ball glides over the net toward the court floor; its journey is interrupted as the ball is bumped to the setter. The setter then gracefully passes the ball, positioning it directly in front of a hitter. The ball's position demands a fierce spike, thus ending the point.

This week marks the half-way point of the Co-ed Summer Volleyball League, which began July 17th.

After four grueling weeks, DHS-PPI, led by Lupe Beltran, is the only remaining undefeated team. Bubble Gang is currently in second place, but they will face stiff competition Sunday when they compete against the number one team in the league.

Ironically, there are four teams tied for third place: GTMO Sharks, NEX Striker, The Unreliable and Six Pack. This upcoming week should weed out the tie as Six Pack will compete against NEX Striker and The Unreliable.

The match that you really don't want to miss will be tonight at 6 p.m. when the GTMO Sharks face DHS-PPI. These two teams are easily the most talented in the league, regardless of whatever place they are in. Both teams have skill, strength, consistency and down-right great moves, so it's all going to boil down to who is having the best night on the court.

If you're interested in checking out any upcoming games, come out to Denich Gym any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday starting at 6 p.m., or Sunday starting at 5 p.m.

Games begin every hour on the hour until 9 p.m. during the weekdays and until 8 p.m. Sundays. The league is scheduled to end August 30. ■



Photo by Army Sgt. Christina Douglas

Army Sgt. 1st Class Jody Meyers, a member of The Unreliable, spikes the ball during a game at Denich Gym Monday night against his team's opponent, Thunder Chicken.

Sports standings as of Tuesday:

Co-ed volleyball

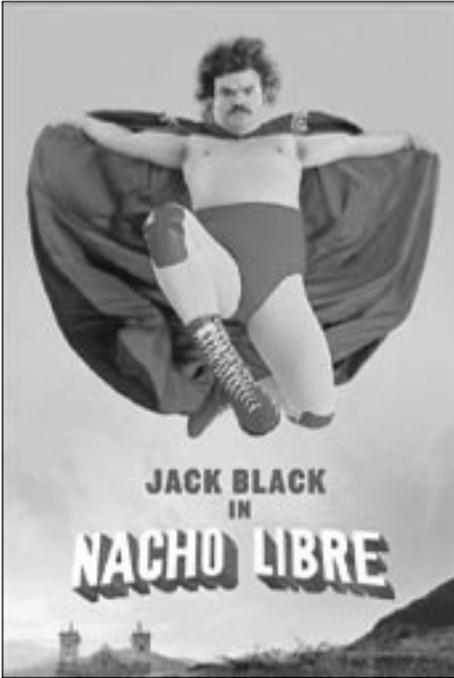
Place/Team	Won	Lost
1) DHS-PPI	8	0
2) Bubble Gang	6	1
3) GTMO Sharks	4	1
NEX Striker	4	1
The Unreliable	4	1
Six Pack	4	1
4) JIG Is Up	4	3
5) GTMO Packers	4	4
6) ARB Lords	3	4
7) Devils	2	3
8) Waa Gawn	1	4
9) JMG	1	5
10) Just 4 Fun	1	6
11) Pirates	0	5
12) Thunder CKN	0	7

Co-ed softball

Place/Team	Won	Lost
1) Untouchables	5	1
Covert Crabs	5	1
2) JTF	4	1
3) Security	4	2
4) Rocking Anchors	3	3
5) Vigilant Warriors	3	4
NEX Strikers	3	4
6) Devils	2	4
7) Eight Women Out	1	5
8) Dee-Duh-Dee	1	6

Sports standings were provided by Jessica Hulgán, MWR sports coordinator.

Movie Summaries



“Nacho Libre”

“Nacho Libre”: This comedy features Jack Black as “Nacho,” a cook at a Mexican monastery who enters a wrestling tournament to raise money for better food for the monastery’s children. The plot develops as Nacho attempts to win the approval of a young nun while competing for greater rewards for the orphans. Starring: Jack Black and Ana de la Reguera. Rated PG. 91 min. ■



“The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift”

“The Fast & The Furious: Tokyo Drift”: In this action feature, a young man moves in with his military father who lives in Japan in order to prevent going to jail after wrecking his car. He begins “drift street racing,” (racing cars with dangerous turns) there and eventually improves to the point where he takes on the local champion. Starring: Lucas Black, Zachery Ty Bryan and Bow Wow. Rated PG13. 104 min. ■

Phil and Louie’s movie review will return in a future issue. In the meantime, enjoy some brief summaries of current and upcoming feature films showing at the MWR theaters.

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT VARIOUS JTF SERVICEMEMBERS

1. When the Boogieman goes to sleep every night, he checks his closet for Army Capt. Bryan Hughes.
2. When Army Cpt. Kirk Black does a push-up, he isn’t lifting himself up, he’s pushing the earth down.
3. Some people wear Superman pajamas. Superman wears Army Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Plemmons pajamas.
4. Army Capt. Matthew Shanks can touch MC Hammer.
5. Marine Cpt. Shannon Sims counted to infinity – twice.
6. When Bruce Banner gets mad, he turns into the Hulk. When the Hulk gets mad, he turns into Army 1st Sgt. Charles Brubaker.
7. It takes Air Force Capt. Esther Green 20 minutes to watch 60 Minutes.
8. Army Sgt. 1st Class Duane Diven once went skydiving, but promised never to do it again. One Grand Canyon is enough.
9. Army 1st Sgt. Stephen Hansen can lead a horse to water, AND make it drink.
10. Navy Cmdr. Robert Durand’s moped is manufactured by MI6. It can fly, run on water and has its own laser.

PROVIDING FOR CHILDREN: THE RIGHT THING TO DO

By Army Chaplain (Maj.) Joseph Evans, Ph.D.

JTF-GTMO Joint Medical Group Chaplain

Once, a young man I knew said that he enlisted in military service because during a paternity procedure, a judge told him that he would feed the child until he looked like him, a long-term obligation and the right thing to do. Whether true or not, the writer cannot determine, but what is indisputably true is, that sexual relations always present risks for unintended pregnancies.

Often unintended pregnancies occur. According to a 1994 study, "Unintended Pregnancy in the United States," Stanley K. Henshaw writes, "... 49 percent of the pregnancies concluding in 1994 were unintended ... The unintended pregnancy rate was highest among women who were aged 18-24, unmarried, low-income ..." As a result, historical data suggests that too many children are exposed to potential poverty and lack of social opportunity partly because of a lack of financial support.

Contraceptive methods are not necessarily reliably preventive. Accordingly, "Forty-eight percent of the women who had an unplanned birth had been using a contraceptive method during the month they became pregnant." This seems to indicate that abstinence is the surest method to practice. However, some will not choose this preventive method. Unintended pregnancies are particularly highest with young people. "Teenagers younger than 18 have the highest percentage (82-83 percent)," the study concludes. The number of unintended pregnancies varies with age, but proportionately decreases with rising age groups. For woman aged 18-19, unintended pregnancies were 46 percent, still alarmingly high for risk of pregnancy.

A more recent study suggests that teen pregnancies are declining. The study, "A National Strategy to Prevent Teen Pregnancy: 1997-98 Annual Report," affirms falling rates: "Birth rates for teenagers 15-19 years declined between 1991 and 1996 in all states and the District of Columbia ..." Several citations have been noted as factors for these trends.

Significantly, social and political support, and assertive education by subject matter experts are namely among the results. Additional good news is that subject matter experts are at Guantanamo Bay, within the Joint Aid Station and Naval Station Hospital. Commanders and their staffs have access to caring professionals who will volunteer to provide timely briefs for all Troopers.

As Henshaw says, "Unintended pregnancies come at a cost to the individuals involved and to the larger society." Like the young man I once knew, his cost was feeding the child until he looked like him. That was more than 20 years ago. The child, now a young man, probably looks like him. By the way, financially providing for the unintended and planned children is always the right thing to do. ■

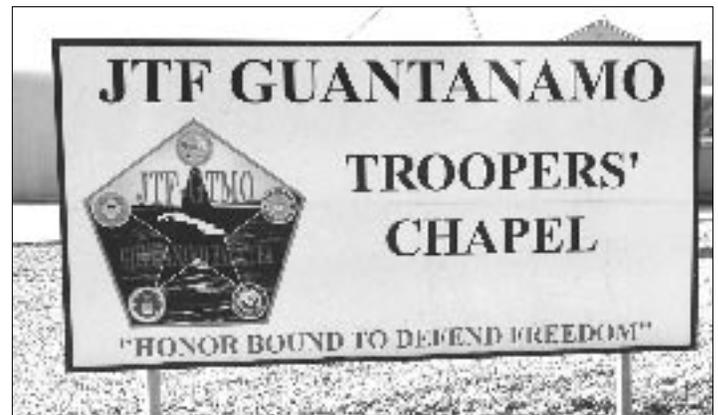


Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Watterworth

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
	9:30 a.m.	Protestant Sun. School	Main Chapel
	10:00 a.m.	Protestant Liturgical	Sanctuary B
Monday	11:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	Gospel Service	Main Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	7:00 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
Tues. to Fri.	12:00 p.m.	Daily Mass	Cobre Chapel
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
Friday	12:30 p.m.	Islamic Prayer	Sanctuary C
Saturday	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. Osvaldo Vazquez

By Army Spc. Philip Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Zapotlanejo is the quintessential small town in Mexico, the people are friendly, doors remain unlocked and everyone seems to know your name. While Zapotlanejo may be abundant in friendly faces, it lacks the ample opportunity of the U.S. and for some, this proves enough to leave everything they know and start anew.

With only \$200 in his pocket and a head full of hope for the future, Army Sgt. Osvaldo Vazquez left behind the small town of Zapotlanejo and started over in the land of opportunity.

Vazquez was born in the city of Guadalajara, Mexico, but was raised in the small town of Zapotlanejo. At the age of 18 he packed up his belongings and moved in with his grandparents in Dallas.

"I came to a big city with little more

than \$200 and a dream. It was a big change, Zapotlanejo is just a small town and everybody knows each other. I didn't even know how to speak English when I moved to the states. I learned English from watching TV and listening to American music," explained Vazquez.

After living in Dallas for 11 months his grandparents decided to move back to Mexico. He was left with the decision to either stay in the states and make it on his own, or move back to Mexico.

"I decided it'd be better if I stayed in the states and tried to make it. I don't think people realize just how many opportunities the U.S has to offer," added Vazquez.

Vazquez was alone in a big city and for his survival he was wholly dependent on himself. Vazquez had to learn to fend for himself, pay his own bills and survive. It was during this time of self-discovery that Vazquez decided to join the Army.

"I worked hard for two years, working in restaurants and such. During those two years I earned more money than in the 18 years I spent growing up in Mexico. It was for this reason that I decided to join the Army. I wanted to give back to the U.S for giving me that opportunity to succeed," explained Vazquez.

Vazquez has served nearly four and a half years in the Army so far. During this time he served a total of 16 months in Baghdad as a health care specialist, attached to the 136th Infantry Battalion out of Friedberg, Germany.

"Being a health care specialist in the Army has been the most rewarding thing I've ever experienced. When you're attached to an infantry platoon, having the soldiers call you "doc", taking care of them while they're hurt and having those soldiers take care of you on dangerous missions is amazing," added Vazquez.

Vazquez continues to serve Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coastguardsmen alike at the Kittery Beach Joint Aid Station. Although far removed from the battlefields of Iraq, he finds just as much satisfaction in the job he performs here.

"Serving in the Joint Task Force has been a unique experience, but also strangely familiar. Guantanamo Bay is a lot like the town I grew up in, it's small and just like Zapotlanejo everyone knows each other. I enjoy working in the JTF because I'm allowed the opportunity to work with and take care of Troopers from all of the different services," concluded Vazquez. ■



Photo by Army Spc. Philip Regina

Army Sgt. Osvaldo Vazquez tends to the health care needs of JTF-GTMO Troopers, doing his part to maintain a force that's fit to fight.

15 Minutes of Fame

Know a Trooper worthy of being highlighted in "15 Minutes of Fame?" Call Army Sgt. Christina Douglas at ext. 3593.

AROUND THE JTF



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Watterworth

▲ In the spirit of a having a Joint Task Force and expressing solidarity between services, Navy Seaman Anthony Widner of the Joint Detention Group makes the first cut in the birthday cake celebrating the 216th birthday of the U.S. Coast Guard August 4th.

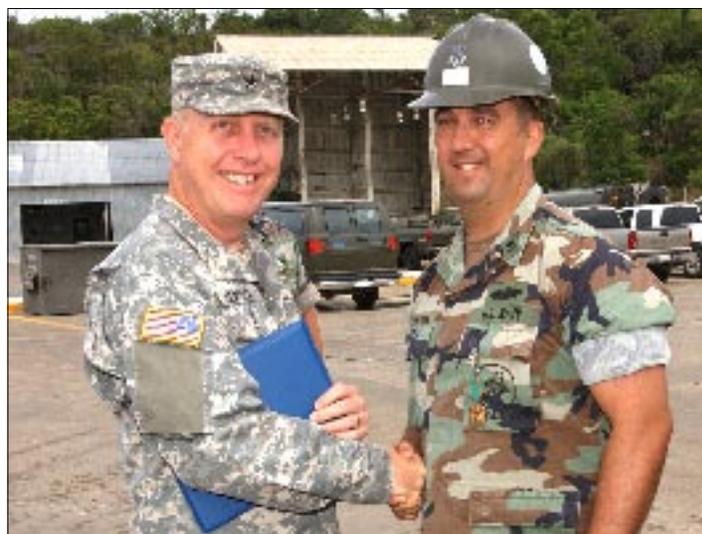


Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Watterworth

▲ JTF-GTMO deputy commander, Army Brig. Gen. Edward Leacock, awards Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Bennie D. Morgan his fourth Navy and Marine Corps achievement medal at the Seabee compound.



Photo by Navy Chief Petty Officer (Select) Timm Duckworth

▲ JTF Army Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Febles, shows Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston around Camp Delta, Sunday.



Photo by Army Spc. Philip Regina

▲ The Filipino American Guantanamo Association held a car wash and bake sale at the Navy Exchange Parking lot here August 2. The fundraising events were held in order to raise money for the upcoming visit of a FIL-AM representative from the Continental U.S. The FAGA enthusiastically washed vehicles for those in need and served lumpia, chicken adobo, pancit and rice to eager customers.