

# Taking care of our beautiful GTMO reef

**By Army Lt. Col Lora Tucker**

Commander, 305th Press Camp  
Headquarters

I cannot accurately describe the beauty that lies under the ocean here at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. What I can share with you as a new diver and amateur underwater photographer is that there are times when I am so amazed at the unique diversity of life under the water that I forget to breathe (a big, no-no for a diver).

Whether you dive, fish, snorkel, shell hunt, spearfish, or take underwater photographs, we all have a responsibility to take care of this fragile and unique ecosystem here at GTMO so that those who follow in our footsteps or flutter kicks can enjoy this reef for years to come.

The Caribbean that meets the Guantanamo shores is an ecosystem where corals flourish and sea-sculptures paint an incredible picture with a myriad of different colored sponges, waving gardens of whips and plumes and reefs that are home to a spectacular assortment of fish and sea-life. For those of us who enjoy these waters, GTMO is the underwater experience of a lifetime.



Photo by Army Lt. Col. Lora Tucker

**A damaged specimen of Elliptical Star Coral found in Guantanamo Bay. Following the published rules and regulations will prevent damaging the reefs here.**

Having come to love this underwater reef life as I do, it breaks my heart to see the needless destruction of fragile life forms and to witness the aquatic uneducated taking things they shouldn't out of the ocean; dropping anchors on top of living reefs; shooting or catching undersize fish or shooting or catching fish that should not be

taken; taking multiple living creatures out of the ocean on the same day; taking baby-size Queen Conchs out of the ocean; standing on or touching coral; taking starfish; the list goes on. Many of these things are happening due to the fact that most of us are not educated on the Guantanamo Bay

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# Make the right decisions

By Navy Cmdr. Kris Winter

Joint Detention Group

It's truly an honor to be Commander of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion. In my short time here I've been impressed with the dedication, patriotism, and professionalism of those I am working with. One of the keys to our continued success will be maintaining the highest standards of professionalism.

Webster's Dictionary defines "professional" as, "characterized by or conforming to the technical or ethical standards of a profession." The standard operating procedure gives us our technical standards to follow in everything we do. If we are consistent in applying the S.O.P. to each situation whether it is shackling, use of force, serving chow, etc., the technical standards of your job will be met. The JTF-GTMO mission statement discusses the safe and humane care and custody of detainees. That provides us an ethical basis for our decision-making. When applying the S.O.P. you need to ask yourself, "Am I being consistent, impartial and humane? Are my actions going to diffuse a potentially dangerous situation or ignite the block?"

NEGB Sailors must be ever-vigilant to force protection issues. Look around your area every day and ask yourself, "are there potential weapons lying out?" Pay attention to your shipmates. Is someone distracted by a personal issue that is keeping him or her from maintaining good situational awareness? Does a practice in the S.O.P. need to be changed to make carrying out the mission safer? You can make a difference in how we operate. If you can't fix an issue, report it up your chain of command to be resolved.

There has been a long-honored



Photo by Army Sgt. Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs

**Navy Cmdr. Kris Winter tours one of the detainee camps with visitors.**

tradition in the Navy where Sailors take care of Sailors. If you have a Shipmate in trouble, intervene. That applies both on and off duty. Tell your chain of command if that is the best way to get help.

I've always thought that success is a journey of choices. Your tour in GTMO is part of that journey. I encourage you to make choices that will make your time here a rewarding one. Set personal and professional goals while you are here. Maintaining a balance in your life is important. Any job can and will consume you if you let it. As much as we miss our families and friends, being away from them allows us time to do things we either don't do or struggle to accomplish back in the States. Professionally study for advancement or work on your college degree. Personally take part in the numerous MWR offerings and start a new hobby such as scuba diving, boating, golfing, ceramics, etc. Vow to lose those 10 pounds you've been talking about, or run a 10 K or write to your children every week.

As a member of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion you are entrusted with the safeguarding of our Nation and protection of those we love back home. Our fellow Americans are counting on us. Honor Bound! ■

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# New travel rules and regulations apply to GTMO

**By Army Sgt. Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

A passenger's luggage is laid out covering a row of seats. T-shirts, socks, and toiletries occasionally roll away from him as he tries to wrestle his valuables into his check-in luggage. As the line behind him grows, he wishes that he had remembered the new rules regarding carry-on luggage.

This sight is now becoming more common in airports across this country as the Transportation Security Administration implemented new rules regarding personal carry-on luggage. The new rules are in response to the recently uncovered London plot to use liquids as explosives aboard flights there.

Regulations banning all liquids and gels from carry-on bags and the security checkpoint quickly followed the London incident. This includes shampoo, toothpaste, perfume, hair gel, sun-tan lotion and all other items with similar consistency.

Though, as of Wednesday, passen-

gers may now carry travel size toiletries through the security checkpoint. The items must contain 3-ounces or less and fit into a quart size zip-top bag. Passengers will be asked to remove the zip-top bag from their carry-on bag at the security checkpoint, place it into a bin, and then send it through the x-ray machine.

There are a few other exceptions to these rules, including baby formula and juices if a child is traveling. Prescription medicine is allowed if the name matches the passenger's ticket, along with essential items such as insulin. Other non-prescription medicine is allowed if in its original packaging.

Items purchased in the boarding area may be taken on your next immediate flight. Though if you exit the secure portion of the terminal, the 3-ounce rule will apply again.

"These rules apply to anyone flying Commercial or DOD," said Mark Veditz, The Director of Operations for the Air Terminal. "We follow the guidelines here in GTMO", Veditz added.

"Another thing to remember about baggage is that if you're moving to a new duty location; make sure your orders specify that you be allowed excess baggage," said Veditz.

Without excess baggage on the orders, Troopers will have to absorb the cost since changes cannot be made to the orders at the terminal, Veditz added.

Next time you're preparing to travel and your bags are packed, lying at your door, instead of kicking back and counting down the minutes before you make your journey, think about those passengers who will have to throw their luggage over the floor, and check your carry on bags one more time. ■



## Security bulletin: Intercepting Your Communications

**By Frank Perkins**

JTF-GTMO Special Security Office

Many foreign governments, including friendly countries allied with the United States, have sophisticated programs to collect economic, political and military intelligence by intercepting U.S. communications. Most U.S. long distance telephone and fax communications travel via the airwaves -- and any signals in the air can be and frequently are intercepted.

Many of the technological advances designed for our convenience can easily be used against us. Cellular telephones are especially vulnerable, but cordless phones, e-mail, answering machines and voice mail can all be exploited. Are you a potential target? If eavesdropping on anything you say or write could increase someone else's wealth or influence, then the answer must be yes, you are a potential target. In most cases, there is no way to know whether an individual communication is being monitored. Because it is so easy to monitor communications

and happens so often, it is best to assume that any communication, which contains information of great potential value to another person, organization, or country, may be monitored.

Sensitive information should not be discussed by phone or sent by fax on any unencrypted line. Many people using a phone think they are being secure by using double-talk, or talking around a sensitive subject. This may fool a casual eavesdropper who hears only that one conversation, but it is generally ineffective when someone is monitoring all your calls. Communications monitors can identify encrypted lines, so these phone numbers may be more likely to be monitored than another line that never carries encrypted communications. A defector from one of the foreign intelligence services reports that while STE encryption is unbreakable, the chitchat that occurs before the STE is switched to secure mode and after it is switched off of secure mode is a bonanza of valuable information.

The point of contact for this information is Frank Perkins at ext. 9824. Remember, mission first, security always! ■

## You grab a line and I'll grab a pole and we'll go down to fishing hole

By Army Spc. Philip Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation Liberty Center is offering night fishing excursions every other Friday for active duty military personnel here.

The excursions leave the Marina promptly at 5:30 p.m. Attendees are asked to be at least fifteen minutes early to the Marina. The excursion lasts until 12 a.m.

Equipment is provided exclusively by the MWR Liberty Center. This includes poles, bait and even chips and soda for late night fishers.

Those interested should contact the Liberty Center at ext. 2010. Seats are limited and it is recommended to reserve your seats a month in advance.

The next night fishing excursion will take place October 6th.

Night fishing is a Liberty Center sponsored event, so alcohol is prohibited.



Photo by Army Spc. Eric Tagayuna

**The silhouette of Army Sgt. Brian Gruspe as the sun sets before him while he angles in the waters of Guantanamo Bay.**

Also, attendance is unauthorized for all non-active duty military personnel, civilians and military dependents.

Also, the Liberty Center is looking for a few volunteer skippers to drive the

boats. All you need is a night boating license and a desire to fish.

With free snacks, a free boat and equipment provided, there's really no reason to not go fishing. ■

## Network News

### The DoD Computer System Logon Banner

By Air Force 1st Lt. Jim Northamer

JTF-GTMO Information Assurance Officer

"Private Eyes. They're watching you. They see your every move." These are lyrics from a 1980s song by Daryl Hall and John Oates. It would be nice if we could play this song every time a user logs onto the network. We can't. Instead, we display the DoD Logon Banner. While this banner doesn't exactly say private eyes are watching you, it's important to understand what it does say.

When you log on to any DoD computer system, you'll see the DoD Logon Banner that explains the terms and conditions for accessing the system. You can't access the system unless you click "Accept," "OK," or a similar acknowledgement. Knowing that they cannot access the system without clicking on the appropriate button, most people simply click away without paying attention to what this banner says. While clicking the correct button is the only way to get you onto the system, it's important to understand what clicking on the button means.

You're acknowledging that the computer system and all its parts (including Internet access) are DoD-owned and are to be used only for authorized, official U.S. Government use. If you are going to use this system, you acknowledge that you will only use it for official business.

You're also providing your consent to being monitored while using the computer system. This is a very important part of the logon banner's statements. Quite simply, everything that happens on a government computer system is actively monitored. Really. For the most part, this monitoring is to ensure our computer systems are secure. However, monitoring also includes ensuring the system is used for lawful (authorized and official) purposes. Information on user activities is collected, stored, and analyzed to ensure the compliance with DoD policies. In short, if you're doing something on a government computer system, somebody knows about it. And if you're doing something that you should not be doing, the DoD Logon Banner reminds you that this collected information can be used for administrative, criminal or adverse action. Like everything else, unscrupulous users may get away with unauthorized activities in the short term, but in the long term, these unauthorized activities will catch the eye of one of us checking system logs.

Next time you log onto the government computer system, think about what clicking that "OK" button means. For the vast majority of people who use government resources appropriately, it's simply one more click on the mouse button prior to getting to your work. For those misguided few who wish to press their luck, it's fair warning that private eyes are watching you, watching you...

If you ever have any questions or concerns about a computer security issue, please feel free to contact the JTF-GTMO IA Office at j6-ia@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil or ext. 3333. ■

# Don't get burned: fire safety tips

By Navy Petty Office 2nd Class  
Jim Brown

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Following a small fire in a room in Camp America, a fire/safety inspection occurred last week. Several things were noted that can improve the safety for camp residents as well as residents throughout other housing areas.

\*Do not overload electrical adapters. The use of adapters that convert a standard two plug outlet into a six plug outlet must have overload protection. An adapter with overload protection will have a reset button. Those without a reset button are considered a fire hazard. This applies to multi-tap extension cords also.

\*Insure lamps have lamp shades and that the wattage does not exceed the recommend wattage for the device.

\*Make sure there is a clear visual path to room exits. Keep phone and electrical cords from becoming trip hazards.

\*Repair cracked or broken outlets and electrical switch covers.

\*Cooking in rooms at Camp America is prohibited per JTF-GTMO policy #23.

\*Non appropriate materials such as plastic shower curtains should not be used as curtains and room dividers.

\*Do not hang anything from sprinkler systems.

\*Candles, incense, or open flames of any kind are not permitted within rooms.

Following these basic guidelines and using common sense goes a long way to making deployment at JTF-GTMO more safe. ■



## REEF, FROM PAGE 1

Fishing and Natural Resources Related Instruction 11015.1.

Instruction 11015.1 basics:

- Enclosure (2) identifies fish that may be legally taken, limits on size and number.
- Chumming for sharks is prohibited
- Lobster may be taken by hand or snare; use of a "tickle stick" is permitted. Immature lobster (with a carapace of less than 3 1/4", as measured from directly in front of the horns to where the tail joins the body) will not be taken. Egg-bearing lobster (as evident from gold or orange clusters on underside of tail) will not be taken. To be considered a legal take, the lobster must remain whole until landed ashore.
- Spear fishing, if the target cannot be positively identified as a legal take, the shot shall not be taken. It is the responsibility of persons engaged in spear fishing to positively ID the legal fish as a safe shot.
- Spear guns shall not be cocked and must have a tip protector installed while out of the water or while within 50 feet of swimmers/snorklers/divers not

engaged in spear fishing.

- The taking of Nassau Grouper and Goliath Grouper (Jewfish) is strictly prohibited!
- You may take only one live Queen Conch per person per day. The lip of the shell (measured at the thinnest part) cannot be less than 1/8 inch in thickness. However, this rule doesn't apply if the total length of the shell is over 9 inches.
- You may take a total of two live shells per person per day. A live shell is one that is occupied by the original animal (hermit crabs don't count as live shells).
- You may take only one live Atlantic Triton Trumpet per person, per day.
- The taking of live starfish, coral, black coral, fans, or sponges is strictly prohibited.

It is each individual's responsibility who enjoys the reef and takes things out of the ocean to read and understand this Instruction and to help enforce the Instruction by helping to educate those who don't know the rules. Enjoy this underwater paradise and let's ensure that it is protected and preserved for generations to come. ■

# DALLAS C CHEERL



Photo by Navy Chief Petty Officer  
Timm Duckworth



Photo by Navy

**By Navy Cmdr. Robert Durand**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Director

The Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders entertained Troopers at Guantanamo Bay this week. The group of 12 first performed at Camp Bulkeley Sunday night before moving on to the Lyceum Monday night. This was the group's 60th USO tour and the second time the cheerleaders have been to GTMO.

USO celebrity entertainment tours bring volunteer celebrities to entertain, lift morale, and express the gratitude and support of the American people.

The Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders generously donate their time and talent to the USO, which brings their high-energy show to U.S. troops worldwide.

In existence since before the United States entered World War II, the USO (United Service Organizations) has been the bridge between the American public and the U.S. military. In times of peace and war, the USO has consistently delivered its special brand of comfort, morale and recreational services to the military. The USO, a congressionally chartered, private, nonprofit organization, relies on the generosity of individuals and corporations to support USO activities. ■



# COWBOYS LEADERS



Photo by Navy Chief Petty Officer Timm Duckworth



Photo by Navy Chief Petty Officer Timm Duckworth



Chief Petty Officer Timm Duckworth

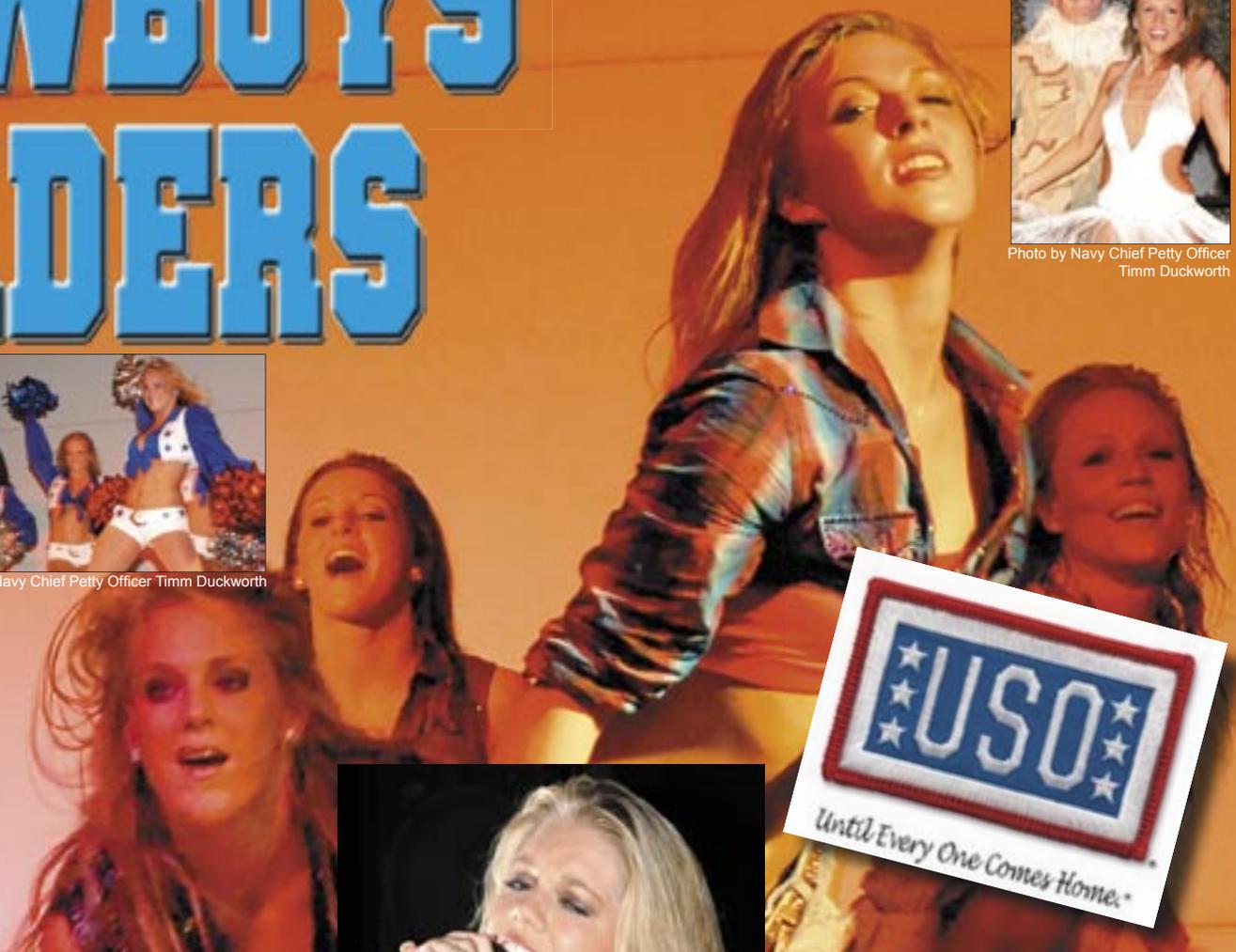


Photo by Army 1st Lt. Anthony John



Photo by Navy Chief Petty Officer Timm Duckworth



Photo by Army 1st Lt. Anthony John

Background photo by Army 1st Lt. Anthony John

# JTF-Trooper wins big at bodybuilding



Image courtesy of Bodybuilding.com

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Norman V. Reyes (far left) stands next to his trophy along with other overall competition winners of the Armed Forces Bodybuilding Competition held in Anaheim, Calif.**

**By Army Spc. Dustin Robbins**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

One of Joint Task Force-Guantanamo's former Troopers has gone on to win several bodybuilding awards thanks in part to his tough training while deployed here.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Norman V. Reyes, currently working at California, as an instructor, was stationed here from Nov. 2003, to May 2006. Reyes was assigned to the JTF Detention Hospital from April 2005, to Oct. 2005.

Reyes' won six bodybuilding awards including Overall Novice Armed Forces Champion, Overall Novice USA Pacific Natural Champion, 1st place in the All Forces Men's Novice Lightweight Division and the Pacific USA Natural Men's Novice Middleweight Division, 3rd place in the All Forces Men's Middleweight Division, 5th place in the USA Pacific Natural Middleweight Division.

Training in GTMO has helped Reyes achieve these accomplishments.

"I love the gym facilities offered in GTMO because they helped me win this year's armed forces competition by having new gym equipment and services readily available," said Reyes. "I mentally focused on trying to gain lean mass while I was in Cuba, and when I got to California, I shifted to getting my body fat down to five percent."

Reyes also remarked about the ability to eat healthier GTMO.

"It was tough trying to eat clean because there are a lot of restaurants here in California versus GTMO, where I can refrain from eating fast food."

Reyes has been a personal trainer for over nine years and trained 65 Troopers, Department of Defense personnel, dependants and civilians during his stay in GTMO.

"During my time off I tried to find the time to help others to reach their physical fitness goals," said Reyes. "No matter if they are looking to lose weight and tone up, gain lean mass or improve their overall physical health, I offered my services for free."

Reyes gives thanks to those who supported him here in his efforts in attaining his award winning physique.

"I would like to thank all those who supported and believed in me throughout my training.

"I'd also like to thank Karissa Sandstrom, the MWR fitness director, for getting the latest new gym equipment for all GTMO residents to utilize," said Reyes.

Reyes is busy training for upcoming competitions.

"My next goal is to gain a little more mass and compete in three all natural bodybuilding competitions here in California," explain Reyes. "And especially the All Armed Forces competition next year in August." ■

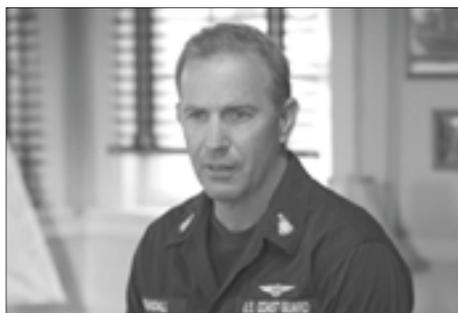
# Movie Summary

By Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

## “The Guardian”



“When lives are on the line, sacrifice everything.” That’s the mantra for a new film depicting the tough, life-or-death choices a U.S. Coast Guard rescue swimmer must make. In this new movie starring Kevin Costner (Ben Randall) and Ashton Kutcher (Jake Fischer) the audience is given an up-close and personal view of what it means to put everything on the line for someone else’s life. Ben Randall, a renowned rescue swimmer who’s hardened by the loss of his team from an accident years back, takes in a troubled, young Jake Fischer who is searching for his place in life and runs into the arms of the Coast Guard. In an effort to show the talented Jake Fischer what it takes to become a member of his team the characters are swarmed in conflict as danger looms in the distance when the team sets off on a rescue trip to Alaska. Starring Kevin Costner, Ashton Kutcher. Rated PG13. 136 mins. ■



	<b>Army Col. Wade Dennis</b> <b>Army Command Sgt Maj.</b> <b>Jeffrey Plemmons</b> Joint Detention Group	<b>Army Maj. Guenther Pearson</b> <b>Army Command Sgt Maj.</b> <b>Arthur Vanwygaarden</b> 525th Military Police Battalion	<b>Navy Cmdr. Kris Winter</b> <b>Navy Command Master</b> <b>Chief William Conley</b> Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion	<b>Army Lt. Col. Lora Tucker</b> <b>Army Sgt. Maj. Oscar Diaz</b> Joint Task Force Public Affairs	<b>Army Capt. Bryan Hughes</b> <b>Army 1st Sgt.</b> <b>William Fitzgerald</b> Headquarters, Headquarters Company
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>8-5</b>	<b>7-6</b>	<b>7-6</b>	<b>8-5</b>	<b>6-7</b>
<b>Season</b>	<b>25-14</b>	<b>26-13</b>	<b>25-14</b>	<b>25-14</b>	<b>26-13</b>
Navy at Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut	Navy	Navy	Connecticut
Rice at Army	Army	Army	Army	Army	Army
Oregon at Arizona State	Oregon	Arizona State	Oregon	Oregon	Arizona State
Eastern Illinois at Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii
Indianapolis at New York Jets	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Jets	Jets	Indianapolis
Miami at Houston	Miami	Miami	Houston	Miami	Miami
Minnesota at Buffalo	Buffalo	Minnesota	Minnesota	Buffalo	Buffalo
New Orleans at Carolina	Carolina	Carolina	New Orleans	Carolina	Carolina
San Diego at Baltimore	San Diego	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore
Cleveland at Oakland	Cleveland	Cleveland	Cleveland	Cleveland	Cleveland
Jacksonville at Washington	Jacksonville	Jacksonville	Jacksonville	Washington	Jacksonville
New England at Cincinnati	Cincinnati	Cincinnati	Cincinnati	Cincinnati	Cincinnati
Seattle at Chicago	Chicago	Chicago	Chicago	Chicago	Chicago

# WHO ARE YOU STRAIGHTENING OUT?

By Navy Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Tim Johns

JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain

Have you ever called someone a “snob” or “unfriendly” when they didn’t speak to you and later found out they had just received some news of a tragedy? They weren’t being a jerk, they were just in shock. We don’t know where people start, but we have a plan where people ought to be. We don’t know their motives or their background, so we make a judgment and get into trouble.

Like the old man who took his ugly dog for his regular Sunday walk in the park. The little old man sat on the park bench while his dog played at his feet. They weren’t bothering anyone. Soon another man appeared with his dog. Both the man and his dog had a mean, bulldog-type look on their faces. They were looking for a fight. The man and his bulldog began taunting the little old man and his ugly dog. The younger man commanded his dog, “Spike!” and pointed in the ugly dog’s direction. The little old man calmly addressed the aggressor, “I wouldn’t do that if I were you.” Irritated by the passive old man’s comment, the other man commanded Spike to attack the ugly dog. The old man reiterated, “I wouldn’t have done that.” As the battle raged in cartoon fashion, the result was unexpected. Spike lay defeated, torn to pieces by the ugly canine. His humbled master said to the old man, “What kind of dog is that?” to which the old man replied, “Well, before I cut off his tail and painted him yellow, he was an alligator!”

Because we see things from our point of view, we tend to antagonize instead of harmonize. This can lead to disaster because everyone has a little alligator in us. It’s all in our perspective. If we are not careful, we see things only from our point of view.

It’s like the chicken and the elephant that were locked in a cage together. The chicken turned to the elephant and said, “We need to set a few ground rules. First, let’s don’t step on each other.” The chicken was looking at it from his point of view. Our chicken point of view affects our relationships with others. Our tendency is to want to straighten people out for our benefit. If you think straightening people out is your job, I suggest you become a funeral director. That way when you straighten them

out they will stay. Otherwise, you’ll have a life of frustration because if you straighten someone out today, they won’t stay that way.

Remember, God is the construction manager of people’s lives, not you. Have you ever gone through a construction area with a sign that says, “Slow, Men Working?” I thought about that sign the other day. We should put up a sign that says, “Slow, God Working.” God is slow sometimes. I don’t think He wears a watch. So let us give God time to work in other people’s lives, as well as our own life.

The truth is we are all like the chicken, no one wants to get stepped on but often we’re not careful about whom we step on. So the next time you feel like straightening someone out, go ahead act like an alligator and straighten someone out, YOURSELF.

If you need a little guidance or help then come and see your JTF Chaplain. We will leave the light on for you. ■

## CAMP AMERICA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Troopers’ Chapel
	5:45 p.m.	Confessions	Troopers’ Chapel
	6:30 p.m.	Catholic Mass	Troopers’ Chapel
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:30 p.m.	Bible Study	Camp America North Pavilion

## NAVAL BASE CHAPEL

<b>Sunday</b>	8:00 a.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	8:15 a.m.	Confession	Main Chapel
	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
<b>Monday</b>	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
	7:00 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
<b>Mon. to Fri.</b>	5:15 p.m.	Confessions	Main Chapel
	6:00 p.m.	Mass	Main Chapel
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:30 p.m.	Men’s Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
<b>Friday</b>	1:15 p.m.	Islamic Prayer	Sanctuary C
<b>Saturday</b>	4:15 p.m.	Confessions	Main Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	Vigil Mass	Main Chapel
	6:15 p.m.	Confessions	PPI Chapel
	7:00 p.m.	Mass	PPI Chapel

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

*For more information, call ext. 3202 or ext. 2323.*

# 15 Minutes of Fame

## with Army Staff Sgt. Bruce Alexander

**By Army Spc. Philip Regina**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Palms calloused from countless pushups, heels made raw from facing movements and the impossible struggle of conscious classroom attendance. Although the setting may bring to mind the quintessential basic training experience, this is the same setting for the Maryland Freestate Challenge Academy.

Army Staff Sgt. Bruce Alexander, the J-3 Detainee Operations non-commissioned officer in charge, has been an instructor for the program since 1998.

“The program was intended for at-risk youth. More specifically, high school students who were having trouble focusing in a high school environment, or for students who wanted to finish high school earlier,” explained Alexander.

The program is an intense regiment of discipline and schooling.

“When the cadets first arrive, we put a lot of pressure on them. It can be compared to the first few weeks of basic training. We teach the cadets how to perform drill and ceremony and then we put them through an intense physical training regiment and give them strict rules and guidelines to adhere to. The first few weeks weed out the individuals who aren’t up to the task,” added Alexander.

The intense nature of the academy and the amount of stress placed on the cadets ensures an immense feeling of accomplishment amongst both the cadets as well as the cadre. Alexander feels a great deal of pride as each cadet graduates.

“I love working with the kids. It’s like being a proud parent. These kids get to the academy raw, untested and a



By Army Spc. Philip Regina

**Army Staff Sgt. Bruce Alexander (right), who helps at-risk students in the civilian world, stands together in service with one of his former cadets from the Maryland Freestate Challenge Academy, Army Spc. Julien Husselbaugh.**

lot of the times, completely unsure of themselves. But you get to see these kids grow and start becoming stronger individuals,” said Alexander.

This feeling of pride manifests itself, ironically, here in Guantanamo, as well for Alexander. While his civilian job may be working at the academy and he may only spend one weekend a month with the Army, this deployment has reunited him with two of his former cadets.

Army Spc. Julien Husselbaugh and Army Pfc. David Newer are stationed

here with the 629 Military Intelligence Battalion.

“Those two have come a long way from when I first met them and it’s very rewarding to see them out here. It’s like they’ve come full circle,” explained Alexander. ■

### 15 Minutes of Fame

Know a Trooper worthy of being highlighted in “15 Minutes of Fame?” Call Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jim Brown at ext. 3594.



Photo by Army 1st Lt. Anthony John

◀ First place finisher of the Fence Line Bike/Run, Joseph Cassone, a Master at Arms for Naval Station Security here, finished the run with a time of 2 hours 35 minutes and 21 seconds.

# AROUND THE JTF



Photo by Army 1st Lt. Anthony John

▲ Army Spc. Markelle Hemingway of the 525th Military Police Battalion cuts the cake in celebration of the 65th birthday of the U.S. Army Military Police Corps as Army Maj. Guenther Pearson, the 525 MP Battalion executive officer looks on.



Photo by Lupe Beltran

▲ The first place winners of the co-ed volleyball league, the "DHS-PPI" are (from left to right) Anu Kuriakose, Dileep Divakaran, Jay Sivadhan, Lupe Beltran (captain), Raku Madhavan, Jibi Joseph, Shijo Chacko, Somadas Prabhakaran and Rai Sikandar.



By Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

▲ Army Pvt. Calvin Blair of the 525th Military Police Battalion, washes a truck as part of vehicle maintenance, Wednesday.



Photo by Army Sgt. Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs

▲ The Under Secretary of the U.S. Army, Pete Geren, talks with JTF Troopers about their experience in GTMO during lunch at Seaside Galley.