



THE WIRE



Honor Bound To Defend Freedom

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15 Minutes of Fame, Pg. 11

Keeping the JTF supplied

By Army Spc. Philip Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Joint Task Force is a well-oiled machine where every day goes by like clockwork. However, the JTF machine does not run itself - it takes a lot to keep the JTF motor running and it is the JTF supply Troopers who provide the oil... and everything else the JTF requires.

All of that "stuff" - from beans to bandages and beyond - is processed through the J-4 (logistics) warehouse. Army Capt. Patricia Jones-Johnson, the J-4 officer-in-charge and Army Sgt. 1st Class Duvowel Peaker, the J-4 warehouse non-commissioned officer in charge lead a dedicated, hard-working staff of supply Soldiers.

Army Staff Sgt. Russell Staten, Army Staff Sgt. Kevin Wallace and Army Sgt. Michelle Harrison are the Soldiers responsible for getting the rest of the JTF the supplies they need to accomplish their JTF mission. Providing all of the supplies needed for the JTF is a big job for such a small staff.

"The job my Soldiers do here is easily enough work for eight soldiers. They are in charge of processing supply requests, making the purchases for the requests, making sure that each item requested gets properly distributed and that each of these items are accounted for," explained Peaker.

In addition to getting people what they need when they need it, the job



Photo by Army Spc. Philip Regina

Army Sgt. Michelle Harrison (left) and Army Sgt. 1st Class Duvowel Peaker inventory supplies at the J-4 supply warehouse here.

requires accuracy and accountability to ensure that funds are used efficiently and properly.

"Our office has processed approximately \$10 million worth of supplies for the JTF since our rotations started," added Jones-Johnson. "Without the service that the hardy supply Soldiers perform here, the JTF would not be able to run properly. We not only provide the items that facilitate the JTF mission, we also provide all items within the detention camps. The J-4 supply office here is the backbone of the JTF," said Peaker.

Being in a critical customer service role can be challenging, but these Troopers do it with enthusiasm. "I'm glad to be doing the job I do out here," said Staten. "I make sure that the JTF is well equipped to complete the mission here."

The job has also allowed the supply Soldiers to grow both their leadership and management skills, "This is also my first time being in charge of a J-4 warehouse and it has given me the opportunity to fully experience this aspect of my job," said Staten. ■

Leadership focuses on four points

By Navy Adm. James G. Stavridis

Commander, U.S. SOUTHCOM

Last week, I shared with JTF GTMO the character traits that I hope each member of SOUTHCOM will embody: Civility, Quiet Confidence, Creativity, Teamwork & Collaboration, Determination, Honesty and Integrity. This week, I'd like to discuss my "Top Four" focus areas.

My "Top Four" focus areas are the framework by which I envision and evaluate everything we do - they will be our foundation. These tools are fundamental to my approach, and I do not anticipate changing them.

Everything I do personally will be measured against these top four command focus areas. I will be developing assessment metrics and clear goals that align with them, and my intention is to divide my time equally between the four areas. Constantly evaluate how everything you do relates to these spheres.

Serve our People. Leadership at every level must focus on caring for and empowering our people. In particular, think about recruitment, retention and advancements. By carefully managing them, we can do the most to contribute to the quality of life and service of our people.

Innovate to Improve. An organization that is stagnant and accepts the "status quo" approach is doomed. In our business, this can literally be a lethal failure. Our Combatant Command will strive to constantly invent new approaches in every area: from tactical execution to strategic engagement, from more efficient training methodologies to creative ways to improve resources. I intend to solicit ideas constantly from each of you that



we can turn into actionable initiatives.

Conduct Operations. There is no accurate way to predict exactly where or when we will be called upon to undertake operations in our geographic area of responsibility. We must always be ready to conduct prompt and sustained operations as directed by national authorities -wherever and whenever needed. We must be truly ready when called.

Plan for Contingencies. Our ability to coherently plan for contingencies is fundamental to our ability to succeed. We must think through what is needed for potential crises in our area of responsibility and then be ready to execute on order, continuously adapting plans to address actual conditions. An excellent planning process should be central to our organizational ethos.

Our mission is critical. I will work hard for you and alongside you in fulfilling it. I believe in a conversational style of command, and I will be actively soliciting your ideas on how we can best contribute to the security of our nation.

Let's get underway! ■

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Duckworth: 3596

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Editor:

Army Staff Sgt. Vince Oliver: 3594

Assistant Editor:

Army Spc. Jason Kaneshiro: 2171

Layout Editor:

Army Spc. Dustin Robbins: 3589

Photo Editor:

Army Sgt. Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs: 3592

Staff Writers & Design Team:

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class

Stephen Watterworth: 3499

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class

Trevor Andersen: 3499

Army Spc. Philip Regina: 3499

Contact us:

Base Information: 2000

Public Affairs Office: 3651 or 3594

From the continental United States:

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Stress management for the JTF warrior

By Navy Lt. Cmdr. Mary Vieten

JSMART Officer in Charge

No one can deny that Joint Task Force-Guantanamo can be a stressful work environment. Stress may be a fact of life, but too much stress can cause problems in our relationships and be detrimental to our mental and physical health. It is important to take steps to recognize excessive stress and to reduce the tensions that build up as a result.

Symptoms of stress can be categorized three ways. Physical symptoms include changes in appetite, increased pain, fatigue, headache, muscle tension, disrupted sleep or a sense of restlessness. Emotional symptoms may be irritability, anxiety, feeling blue, poor concentration, worry or tearfulness. Behavioral symptoms can include increased use of alcohol and tobacco, neglecting appearance, arguing, avoiding responsibilities, decreased professional commitment or social withdrawal. It's important to analyze how you as an individual experience stress overload.

Most people want a quick fix. Some stress reducers are quick and easy, but the stress management tools with the most



Photo by Army Pfc. Eric Tagayuna

Being deployed can be challenging. Going through it alone can be even more so. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Mary Vieten and her JSMART team are ready to help you with your stress management needs.

bang for your buck do require commitment. Here are some suggestions.

- Exercise, exercise, exercise
- Eat a balanced diet
- Reduce alcohol consumption
- Get the proper amount of sleep
- Get organized
- Set goals
- Be flexible

In addition to one-on-one counseling,

we currently provide classes for relaxation, anger management, stress management, and sleep management.

If you would like additional assistance in developing your personal stress management plan, stop by the Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team (JSMART) office or call ext. 3566. Our psychiatric technicians are always ready and willing to answer your questions. ■

Security bulletin: Un-wired

By Frank Perkins

JTF-GTMO Special Security Office

A new wireless communication and devices policy went into effect November 1, 2006. This policy prohibits all wireless communication devices being brought into Joint Task Force Guantanamo operational spaces and facilities where sensitive but unclassified information and classified information is processed, stored, transmitted, received or displayed. This policy applies to all military, civilian, and contractor personnel assigned, attached, or visiting JTF operational spaces and facilities. JTF personnel should advise visitors of this policy in advance of their visit.

Wireless communications devices include, but are not limited to, wireless access devices, cellular phones, personal digital assistants, Blackberry devices, two-way pagers, audio/video recording devices, devices with photographic capabilities and laptop computers with wireless capability enabled.

This policy does not apply to emergency and security forces land mobile and tactical radios, receive-only pagers, global positioning system receivers, hearing aids, pacemakers, and other implanted medical devices.

Do not bring wireless devices into JTF sensitive but unclassified or classified processing facilities or knowingly allow others to do so. If authorized by exception, ensure that government-owned personal electronic devices and cell phones are stored in an approved shielded pouch. If a wireless device is discovered in the facility (without approved exception), JTF personnel will advise the violator to power off and remove the device from the sensitive but unclassified or classified space and immediately notify the security manager of the infraction.

The designated approving authority, U.S. SOUTHERN command, may grant written exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis. Contact the JTF J2 for additional information and requirements.

The point of contact for this announcement is Mr. Tony Camera at ext. 9757 or Mr. Frank Perkins, at ext. 9824. Remember, mission first, security always. ■

Behind the Radio

By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class
Trevor Andersen

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

If you live at Guantanamo Bay, you've probably heard them. In fact, you probably hear them every day on your way to and from work. They do radio shows, commercial spots and even video stories for the Naval Media Center (NMC).

"We've got local and satellite radio with spots inserted all through the day," said Navy Petty Officer First Class Pete Robertson, the leading petty officer for NMC GTMO broadcast detachment. "We have six satellite sources rotated throughout the day," he said.

On top of that, they have three radio stations with everything from talk and sports, to the top hits from home. Troopers can also listen to National Public Radio on television channel four.

The radio programming may be a touch



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Trevor Andersen

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Courtney Dock and Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Pete Robertson discuss a new sport involving darts and a baseball bat on their morning show on FM 103.1 the Blitz.

of home for the troopers, but there is a deeper purpose to it all.

"We're here to provide radio services for island residents for entertainment and important command and DoD (Department of Defense) information," said Navy Chief Petty Officer Joe Clark, NMC broadcast detachment officer-in-charge.

One of the ways the media center gets out important information is through

commercial spots.

"We try to make the spots as informative and entertaining as possible, but their purpose is to provide information. Otherwise we wouldn't do them," said Robertson.

They also provide Troopers with local and satellite news and, in some cases, even broadcast live from events.

"Doing a 'live remote' gives people one last chance to get to the event. We say 'this is what's going on, you need to get down here'," he said.

But radio is only part of what they do.

"We also provide AFN (American Forces Network) channels here and we just added the AFN program guide on channel 99," said Clark.

Troopers can check the AFN programming schedule there or on www.myafn.net by entering their time zone, he said.

With all the services the media center provides, it's up to the Troopers to take advantage of it all. ■

Network News

Defending our Computer Network

By Air Force 1st Lt. Jim Northamer

JTF-GTMO Information Assurance Officer

Every day at Guantanamo Bay, we see a dedicated security force team standing guard and patrolling the installation to ensure it is safe and secure from potential adversaries. They prevent attacks on the installation and stand ready to defeat any adversary. Similarly, there's a team of computer security professionals on the installation that are charged with preventing attacks against our computer network resources. I use this analogy to illustrate the point that there's a silent battle being fought at GTMO that many Troopers are unaware of. This battle for the security of our computer network is constant and the consequences of losing the battle are potentially severe.

Hackers relentlessly probe Department of Defense computer systems looking for vulnerable devices that could provide access to the sensitive information stored on these networks. This happens throughout the DoD, including here at GTMO. Literally every day, our computer networks are attacked and probed. While we often hear about hackers' successes, we seldom hear about their failures. Fortunately, they fail much more often than they succeed in penetrating our defenses. We defeat these hacker attacks by using a combination of many defense mechanisms.

One of these mechanisms is the "patching" of computer systems. As new hardware and software vulnerabilities are identified, a near daily occurrence, the Joint Task Force-GTMO Information Assur-

ance (IA) Office is tasked with resolving these vulnerabilities as soon as possible. Typically, we do so by sending a software patch across the network to load on each vulnerable device. Because many patches require workstations to reboot, we usually schedule this dissemination during the overnight hours to have minimal mission and user impact. Sometimes, however, the severity of the vulnerability is such that waiting for a convenient time makes the network too susceptible to attack and the patch must be deployed ASAP. While this is sometimes an inconvenience to those on the network, it is a necessary step to secure our computer systems. Closing known vulnerabilities by pushing patches across the network is the primary tool the IA team uses to defend our networks.

Another, equally important defense is vigilant users. Everybody on the network plays a key role in its defense. You help defend our network in many ways: by recognizing and deleting phishing attempts, by avoiding visiting inappropriate websites that could have hidden scripts on them, by keeping your passwords secure, by virus scanning files before downloading to your computer, by ensuring your computer is available for patching by logging off the system but leaving it powered on, etc. The network can only be successfully defended with the support and action of cooperative, informed network users.

Understanding that we are in a continuous battle to secure our networks and employing appropriate tools to mitigate constant threats is one step towards successfully defending our information resources.

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@jftgtmo.southcom.mil or ext. 3333. ■

Columbia College offers online MBA

By Sarah Stillfield

Coordinator of Public Relations

Columbia College will launch its online Master of Business Administration degree program in January of 2007, making it the first online graduate degree offered by the college.

More than 125,000 students are earning MBAs online from institutions nationwide. "Working adults appreciate the convenience and flexibility of online education," said Dr. Gerald Brouder, president of Columbia College. "Our online campus is well respected and successful. With the online MBA, the college will build on its long tradition of excellence by offering students another venue to earn an advanced degree."

Columbia College launched the online campus in 2000 with 10 classes and 180 students. Today, the online campus offers more than 400 classes and 16 degrees with more than 12,000 students taking at least one online course each year.

As with all online and on-campus degree programs at Columbia College, the online MBA is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission. In addition, few accredited online MBA programs in the country, much less private institutions, can match Columbia College's tuition at \$290 per credit hour.

Eight-week online MBA classes are offered in January, March, June, August and October. Currently, the MBA also is offered on campus at six Columbia College campuses. Students living near those campuses may take MBA classes online, on location or both.

"Students in the online MBA program at Columbia College can complete the degree at their own pace," said Ellen Soucy, Columbia

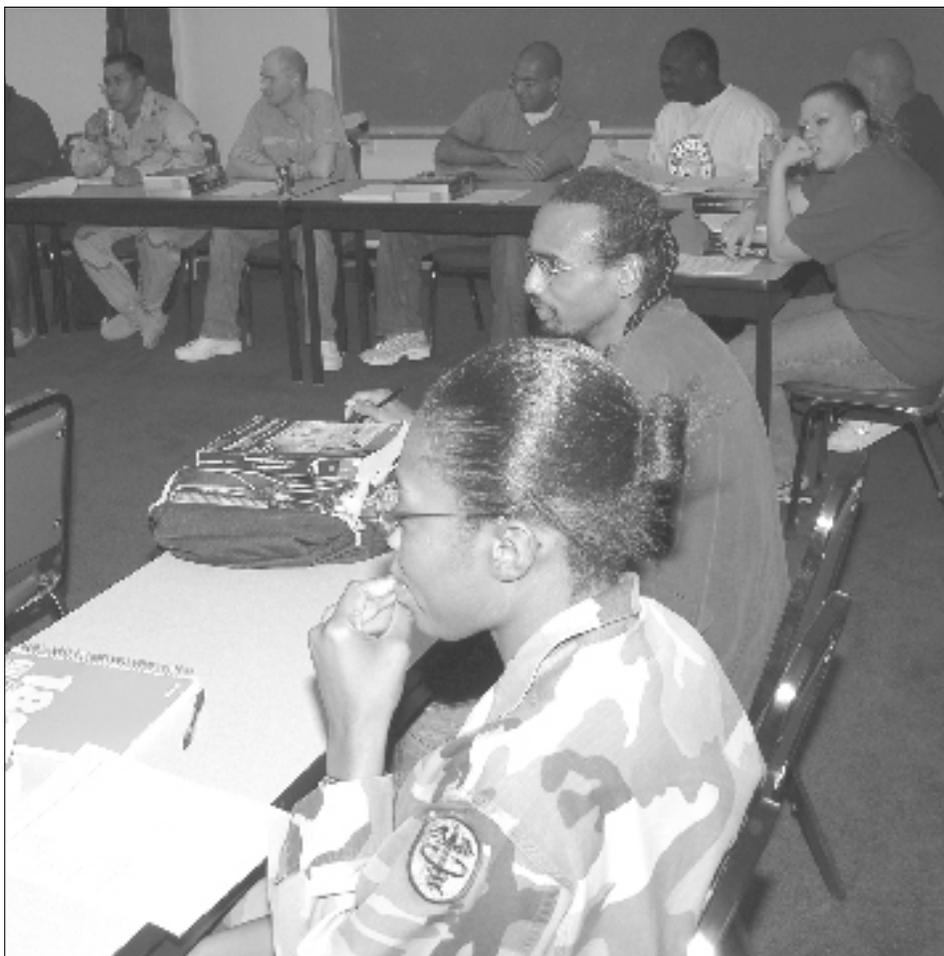


Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Honey Nixon

Troopers and GTMO residents alike attend classes offered by the Guantanamo Bay campus of Columbia College.

College—Guantanamo Bay campus director. "They aren't locked into attending classes with one student group or cohort. This gives them the flexibility to attend all five sessions per year or just one."

While students can earn an online MBA in 15 months, most people average about two years to complete the degree. Students can transfer in nine of the 36 credit hours needed to graduate, making it possible for them to earn an MBA in less than one year.

To be considered for admission to the online MBA program at Columbia College, students must have completed an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited institution with at least a 3.0

undergraduate cumulative GPA and have two to three years of substantive work experience.

Columbia College, Guantanamo Bay was founded in 2004 on Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. Today, it continues to serve military students and working adults in the area.

Columbia College serves nearly 25,000 students each year at its Day Campus, 32 Nationwide Campuses, Online Campus and Graduate Studies Program.

For more information about the online MBA program at Columbia College, contact Columbia College—Guantanamo Bay at 5555, visit www.ccis.edu/onlineMBA or call the online campus at (800) 231-2391, ext. 7246. ■

THROUGH THE THE PHOTO



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Watterworth

▲ Coast Guard Lt. Jason Morgan conducts checks on his assigned helicopter.



Photo by Navy Chief Petty Officer Timm Duckworth

▲ A Trooper pays solemn respect during the Memorial Day ceremony.



Photo by Navy Chief Petty Officer Timm Duckworth

▲ The full moon rises above Gitmo with a cactus plant in the foreground.



Photo by Army Sgt. Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs

▲ A frog climbs the walls and pays a visit to the Troopers at Cuzco Barracks.



Photo by Army Spc. Jamieson Pond

▲ Palm tree at Windmill Beach.



Photo by Army Spc. Philip Reg

▲ A professional with the Urban Street Bike Warriors Black Sheep Squadron executes one of his stunts at the Downtown Lyceum in September.

Guantanamo Bay offers a variety of unique sights for the Joint Task Force Trooper stationed or deployed here. The photographers assigned to the JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office share a few of their favorite photos taken during their tour here. ■

THE EYES OF PHOTOGRAPHER



Photo by Army Spc. Jamieson Pond

▲ Now serving as the courthouse for military commissions, the former headquarters building sits atop a hill at the Guantanamo Bay.



Photo by Army Spc. Jamieson Pond

▲ Soldiers from the 525 Military Police Battalion climb through obstacle courses to earn a spot on the team that will go on to compete in the Warfighter Competition.



Photo by Army Spc. Dustin Robbins

▲ A Cuban Rock Iguana lunges at the camera in a close up shot.



Photo by Army Spc. Philip Regina

▲ J Lewis, guitarist for the band JAGSTAR, plays during the Fourth of July celebration held at Bayview.

GTMO volleyball finals champs

By Army Spc. Jason Kaneshiro

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Friday saw the final games for both the Men's and Women's Volleyball leagues in a showdown between the top teams from both sides of the gender fence.

First up for the night was the female league final game. The Gitmo 10s, led by team captain Lupe Beltran, proved their mettle and was awarded with both the coveted first place



Photo by Army Sgt. Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs

Gus Lombero spikes the ball over the net as his team-mates (front to rear) Junior Mamea, Dwight Louey, and Jason McMahan look on.



Photo by James Toth

The female volleyball team the "GTMO 10s" are not only the champions for the 2006 Women's Captain's Cup, but also champions in the 2006 Women's Tournament.

for the 2006 Women's Tournament and 2006 Women's Captain's Cup trophies.

The Men's Volleyball league held their final game following the awarding of the first place and Captain's Cup trophies to the female champions.

The final game of the Men's League pitted the GTMO Six-Packs against the Bubble Gang. The competition between the two teams

was fierce. While there was some miscommunication between players on both teams during the course of the matches, each played with undisguised determination to win.

With both teams slugging it out on the court, only one could emerge victorious. In the end, it was the Six-Packs who proved that they had what it took to clinch the tourney and take home the glory and pride that comes with winning the first place trophy. ■

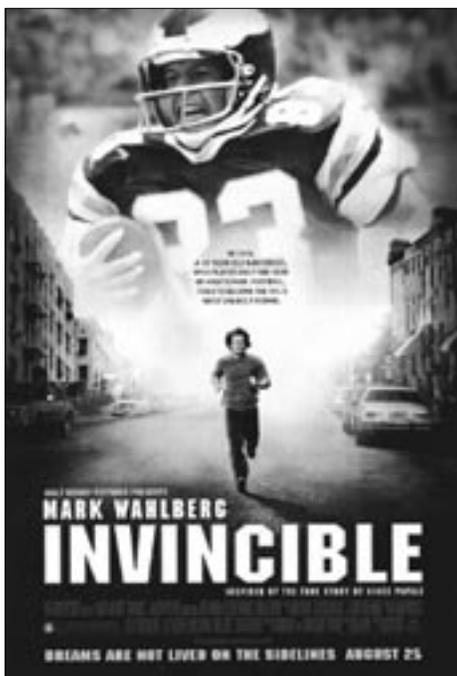
Pigskin Picks	Army Col. Dennis Army Command Sgt Maj. Plemmons Joint Detention Group	Army Maj. Pearson Army Command Sgt. Maj. Vanwyngarden Joint Detention Group	Navy Cmdr. Winter Navy Command Master Chief Conley Joint Detention Group	Army Lt. Col. Tucker Army Sgt. Maj. Diaz Joint Task Force Public Affairs	Army Capt. Hughes Army 1st Sgt. Fitzgerald Headquarters, Headquarters Company
Last Week	6-7	6-7	6-7	9-4	9-4
Season	56-35	64-40	60-44	70-34	65-39
Navy at Duke	Navy	Navy	Navy	Navy	Navy
Air Force at Army	Army	Air Force	Air Force	Army	Air Force
Maryland at Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson
Hawaii at Utah State	Utah State	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii
Atlanta at Detroit	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Detroit	Atlanta
Cincinnati at Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Cincinnati	Baltimore
Dallas at Washington	Dallas	Washington	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas
Green Bay at Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Green Bay	Green Bay	Buffalo
Kansas City at St. Louis	Kansas City	Kansas City	St. Louis	St. Louis	St. Louis
New Orleans at Tampa Bay	New Orleans	New Orleans	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	New Orleans
Cleveland at San Diego	San Diego	San Diego	San Diego	San Diego	San Diego
Denver at Pittsburgh	Denver	Pittsburgh	Denver	Denver	Pittsburgh
Indianapolis at New England	New England	New Orleans	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	New England

Movie Summary

By Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

“Invincible”

From the producers of “The Rookie”, this inspirational sports movie stars Mark Wahlberg as a Philadelphia Eagles fan who has just lost his wife and his teaching position. In a retrospective view of his life he decides one day to show up for an open tryout for his favorite NFL team, only to see his wildest dreams come true. Based on a true story. Rated PG 105min. ■



Thank You From Adm. Stavridis

Thank you for hosting my visit to Guantanamo Bay! I was deeply impressed with your dedication, motivation, and hard work, which is all clearly evident throughout the Naval Station and the Joint Task Force.

The work you are doing and supporting -- in detaining and interrogating enemy combatants in the Global War on Terrorism -- is crucial to the security of the United States. You stand the watch in a dangerous place. The vast majority of you are far from family, and we are grateful. You are “Honor Bound” indeed, and I am very, very proud of you.

I will come back and see you again every few months, and U.S. SOUTHERN Command is committed to your support and welfare. Thank you again for a most interesting and inspirational visit. ■



Photo by Army Sgt. Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs

Navy Adm. James G. Stavridis listens to JTF-GTMO Troopers at lunch during his first visit to Guantanamo Naval Base as the new commander U.S. Southern Command, JTF-GTMO’s Combatant Commander.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

By Navy Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Tim Johns

JTF-GTMO Deputy Command/NEGB Chaplain

It's amazing how much our thinking influences how we feel. If it rains on Saturday, the farmers are happy and the golfers are sad. It's the silly rain, but they're thinking different thoughts about the rain. I know when it is cloudy and rainy, I get down and depressed. My wife told me one time that we are never accepting orders to the Northwest where it rains a lot.

How many of us are letting our thoughts stress us out? You see, in one way, the body is incredibly dumb. It just does what the brain tells it to do. It doesn't have to be true, the body just has to think it's true. For example, I once had a headache and I told my wife that I was going to take a Tylenol. Later, she asked how my headache was, to which I told her, "It's a lot better, and that Tylenol sure works." She said, "Good, because you got the pills out, then you left them on the counter." You see, I didn't have to take a Tylenol for my headache; I just had to think I had taken a Tylenol for my headache.

Let me illustrate how thinking can mean the difference between work and play. A man came home from work every day, sat in his recliner and enjoyed a little peace and quiet. But one day, the neighborhood boys discovered that the man's backyard was a natural ball field. So they started playing ball there every afternoon, making lots of noise and disturbing this gentleman.

He finally called the sheriff who ran them off, but the next day they were back. Then he had an idea. He went outside and called the kids. He apologized to them for running them off. He said he'd really learned to enjoy the noise they made and asked if they would come back and play in his yard. If they would, he would pay each of them a quarter. They were all excited and showed up the next day and made lots of noise. He asked them to come back the following day and make noise and he would pay them again. He said this every day but kept lowering their pay a nickel until he was down to paying them just one nickel. He told them, "I really want you to come back tomorrow and make noise, but I can only pay you a penny. Will you come?" They got mad and never came back to play and our gentleman is enjoying his peace and quiet.

What happened? The gentleman was able to change their thinking. At first, playing ball was fun, but when they were paid, they started thinking of it

as work, and, of course, if you don't get paid for your work you quit.

Thinking... WOW! It really is important. No wonder Yogi Berra said, "Baseball is 90 percent mental and the other half is physical."

Now, before you go and buy the newest positive thinking book or compact disc, let me tell you that just changing your thinking is not the total answer. Thinking, especially positive thinking, has to be based on reality and truth. You may be able to convince yourself the "E" on your gas gauge stands for "Enough", but your car is going to be much harder to convince.

Now, that's something to think about. ■

CAMP AMERICA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

NAVAL BASE CHAPEL

Sunday	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
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Protestant Liturgical	Sanctuary B
	11:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	Gospel Service	Main Chapel
Monday	5:00 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	7:00 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
Mon. to Fri.	5:15 p.m.	Confessions	Main Chapel
	6:00 p.m.	Mass	Main Chapel
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Men's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
Friday	1:15 p.m.	Islamic Prayer	Sanctuary C
Saturday	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 Sgt. 1st Class Charles Collins

By Army Staff Sgt. Vince Oliver

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

In 1991 when Charles Collins walked into the U.S. Army recruiting station in his home town, he had no idea where that decision would take him.

The recruiter he spoke to that day, Sgt. 1st Class Cleveland Aultmon, says that he was a recruiter's dream. Collins was a prior service Marine and, because of a 10 year break in service, at 32 years of age, he was a little old for a private first class, but he knew exactly what he wanted to do in the Army. He wanted to be an infantryman.

"Besides his physical and passing the ASVAB, we had nothing to worry about," said Aultmon when asked about any hurdles to getting Collins into the Army.

Once Collins was found "fit to fight" he was welcomed as a member of the Maryland Army National Guard with the 29th Infantry Division.

With the exception of being in the same convoy together where Aultmon was in a near fatal auto accident in the winter of 1994, the two Soldiers had very little contact with each other.

Fast forward 15 years into the future – both Collins and Aultmon were deployed along with the 29th ID in late 2005 to Guantanamo Bay. Today, Collins is an E-7 and works as both a platoon sergeant as well as the Detention Operations noncommissioned-officer-in-charge here at GTMO and Aultmon works just a few doors away from him as the Joint Detention Group Personnel noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

Ironically, it was Operation Desert Storm that brought the two together, professionally, and it is their current deployment here at GTMO where they will serve their final months of service together. Collins will retire in the summer of 2007.



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Vince Oliver

Army Sgt. 1st Class Charles Collins (left) matches wits during a chess match with Army Sgt. 1st Class Cleveland Aultmon.

Aultmon says that Collins is the consummate professional, and even though others in the unit may have more experience than Collins, he is the right man for the duty he is currently performing.

"The biggest thing you need in any leadership role is sincerity, and he definitely has it. He's good at sticking it out and exhausting all possibilities. I haven't seen him leave anybody hanging," said Aultmon.

Being deployed to GTMO is just the kind of mission Collins needed for a last "hurrah" according to Aultmon. "Sgt. 1st Class Collins has led admirably in this environment under a lot of adversity and I think he's handled the stress very well," he said.

Of Aultmon, Collins says, "I know how he treated me as a recruiter and he's always been straight with me." Collins went on to say that he knows Aultmon is the kind of guy who knows where to find the answers you need and is always willing to help.

Since joining the Army, Collins, an engineering supervisor for a major telephone company, has earned a

bachelor's degree and is now working on a master's degree.

Collins credits the support of his wife throughout his career for helping him enjoy the successes he has had.

"I never thought that I would come this far. I knew I would make sergeant, but I didn't think I would become an E-7," says Collins. "It's been rewarding and it's been frustrating, but I'm proud to have served my country. It's been a great experience."

Collins says he wants to concentrate on earning his master's degree and spending more time with his family after retirement.

In a classic example of coming full circle in his Army career, it's both ironic and fitting for Collins to have begun his career with Aultmon, as well as ending it alongside him deployed and serving proudly here at Guantanamo Bay. ■

15 Minutes of Fame

Know a Trooper worthy of being highlighted in "15 Minutes of Fame?" Call Army Staff Sgt. Vince Oliver at ext. 3594.

AROUND THE JTF



Photo by Army Spc. Philip Regina

◀ Army Brig. Gen. Edward Leacock removes Army Staff Sgt. Russell Staten's sergeant ranks in a promotion ceremony at the J-4 supply warehouse here.

★ ★ ★ PHOTO OF THE WEEK ★ ★ ★



Photo by Army Spc. Matthew Eckard

This Puffer fish warded off Army Spc. Matthew Eckard beneath the waters of Windmill Beach only to get a cameo appearance in this issue's Photo of the Week.



Photo by Army Spc. Philip Regina

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Edward Polk, Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Delrie and Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis enjoy a birthday lunch at Seaside Galley.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Watterworth

From left to right, Army Spc. Robert Davis, Army Sgt. Ivan Keene and Army Spc. Pablo "Michael" Andrews show off their catch of the day, a yellow snapper, last weekend after returning to the Marina.



Photo by Army Sgt. Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Joshua Pool forces Coast Guard Master Chief Petty officer David McCallum off the "plank" (Officer's Landing) with a plastic sword during "kangaroo Court", a fundraising event for future Port Security Detachment morale events.