

THE WIRE

**Joint Task Force
Guantanamo's
Finest News Source**

A News Magazine

HONOR BOUND TO DEFEND FREEDOM

Special Year End Edition:

2006, The Year in Review

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visits GTMO**

RESPECT

By Army Sgt. Maj. Oscar Diaz

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Sgt. Maj.

Respect – it is a core value all branches of service share and place great emphasis on. Your attitudes about the worth of people, concepts, and other things describe your values. Everything begins there. We will focus on people, who without a doubt, are our greatest resource. My question to you is what must you do and have in order to influence the values of your Troopers? You must respect your Troopers and have their respect, which brings up another important question that has been around for ages - is respect earned or demanded?

When dealing with people and relationships, one should be mindful that respect is earned. In professional or authoritarian positions, (military) respect is demanded, but may not be fully given if not also earned. Passive/aggressive behavior could be evidence of full respect not given to someone who just demands respect. Rank does have its privileges, but when abused, you can rest assured you will not gain the respect of your fellow Troopers. If you choose to depend on your rank to gain the respect of those you lead and work with, you will be fighting a losing battle throughout your career.

At the end of the day, we all take off the uniform, at least I hope we do. This is who we really are. Social learning and life's experiences contribute to what we believe to be important. Our parents and upbringing also contribute significantly to how we relate to other people. Those of us with long military careers have also been influenced by our former leaders. Nothing is more encouraging than a young officer



acknowledging the importance of being mentored by a respectful, professional, seasoned, enlisted member.

One common theme among all of the core values of the different branches, in reference to respect is we are to give it. Not one mentions that we demand respect. Air Force: Respect for others. "Service before self," tells us also that a good leader places the troops ahead of his/her personal comfort. We must always act in the certain knowledge that all persons possess a fundamental worth as human beings. Army: Treat people as they should be treated. Coast Guard: We value our diverse work force. We treat each other with fairness, dignity, and compassion. Marines: In the Marines, honesty, honor, and respect for oneself and others are built into Troopers' very foundation. Navy: Show respect toward all people without regard to race, religion, or gender; treat each individual with human dignity.

I would like to leave you with one last thought to ponder, approach determines response. How you approach a person, will determine how they respond to you! ■

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HARRIS TAKES THE HELM



Photo by Army Spc. Phil Regina



Photo by Army Spc. Phil Regina



Photo by Army Spc. Phil Regina



Photo by Army Spc. Phil Regina

Excerpt by Army Spc. Phil Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Navy Rear Adm. Harry B. Harris, Jr., took command of the Joint Task Force-Guantanamo in a change-of-command ceremony at Phillips Park in March 2006.

Harris succeeded Army Maj. Gen. Jay W. Hood, who is now the special assistant to the Commander, United States Armed Forces Command at Fort Meade, Md.

"I am deeply honored to follow Maj. Gen. Hood in commanding this JTF," said Harris at the change-of-command ceremony.

"Our mission here is clear; to maintain the safe and humane treatment of detainees, the gathering of intelligence in support of the Global War on Terrorism and ensuring the protection of our fellow Troopers who are serving their country during this trying time," said Rear Adm. Harris.

"To the members of the JTF, what you do here on a daily basis is of fundamental importance to our nation's defense. I am proud to be your commander. That being said, the War on Terrorism did not pause for this ceremony; we have work to do," added Harris. ■

NAVY PROVES ITS PERMANENCE

Excerpt by Army Sgt. Christina Douglas

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Navy Provisional Guard Battalion-Guantanamo officially changed their name to Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion-Guantanamo in support of the Global War on Terrorism in early 2006.

The name change holds much significance for the Sailors of the guard battalion stationed here now and for sailors stationed here in the future, said Navy Lt. Cmdr. William K. Hommerbocker, the executive officer of the NEGB.

“We are hoping that by changing the Guard’s name from provisional to expeditionary that we will instill a sense of belonging within the sailors who are a part of the Guard...”

Although the Navy will now play a more permanent and vital role here in detainee operations, it doesn’t necessarily mean the Navy will take over the operation. Troopers must remember that it is a Joint Task Force and it is the role of every Trooper to work cohesively to achieve the mission, explained Hommerbocker.

“Ultimately, the main reason behind the name and tour of duty change is that the Navy wants to emphasize its commitment to the mission here. The mission cannot be sustained properly with a ‘band-aid’ solution of temporary duty. In order to properly sustain the mission, we had to make the operation here a permanent one,” said Hommerbocker. ■



Photo by Army Spc. Jamieson Pond

◀ **Outgoing Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion commander, Navy Cmdr. Catherine Hanft, and incoming NEGB commander, Navy Cmdr. Kris Winter, cut the celebratory cake after their change-of-command ceremony, which was held at the Windjammer Club August 14.**



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Brien Aho

A detainee is escorted to recreation activities by Troopers of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion at Camp Delta.

Background photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Brien Aho

TAKING AIM



Photo by Army Spc. Jamieson Pond



Photo by Army Spc. Jamieson Pond



Photo by Army Spc. Jamieson Pond

Excerpt by Army Spc. Jamieson Pond

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

A Trooper stands patiently with his hand fixed on his military-issued M-9 Beretta 9 mm pistol as it sits in its holster. His eyes are focused on the target 15 yards in front of him. He waits for the whistle.

The whistle blows and immediately he draws his weapon and quickly fires two rounds downrange, hitting the target dead center. Troopers here have the opportunity to go to a range to qualify with an M-16 or an M-9. ■

Hollow Men clench the win

Excerpt by Army Spc. Dustin Robbins

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Seven teams endured a double elimination, best-of-three paintball tournament. Each round, two teams of five competitors huddled on opposite ends of a field fenced off with nylon mesh and peppered with inflatable bunkers.

As soon as the head referee yelled, "Go!" each team member sprinted toward a bunker to evade incoming fire and lay down their own devastating volley of paint across the field. When a member was hit, he was eliminated from that round.

The objective of each round was to capture the other team's flag by stealth or by eliminating the entire opposing team leaving their flag unprotected. ■



Photo by Army Pfc. Eric Tagayuna



Photo by Army Spc. Dustin Robbins



Photo by Army Spc. Dustin Robbins



Photo by Army Spc. Dustin Robbins



Photo by Army Spc. Dustin Robbins

ARMY DEFENSE IMPENETRABLE NAVY UNABLE TO MUSTER AN OFFENSE

Excerpt by Army Spc. Phil Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Both the men's and women's Joint Task Force football teams showed impenetrable defenses and explosive offenses in the annual Army versus Navy flag football games at Cooper Field Friday night.

Both games were edge-of-your-seat thrillers, with a capacity crowd of both Army and Navy fans showing their support.

In the women's game, an Army 5-yard touchdown run and a reception in the end zone, clinched a 13-0 win against the Navy women's team.

In the men's game, with both offenses being stunted by each other's defense, it seemed fitting that the only touchdown of the game was a defensive one, scored by the Army team. A failed extra point attempt locked the score in at 6-0 at the end of regulation play with Army winning the game. ■



Photo by Army Spc. Phil Regina

Photo by Army Spc. Phil Regina

JTF-GTMO TEAM RUNS ARMY TEN MILER

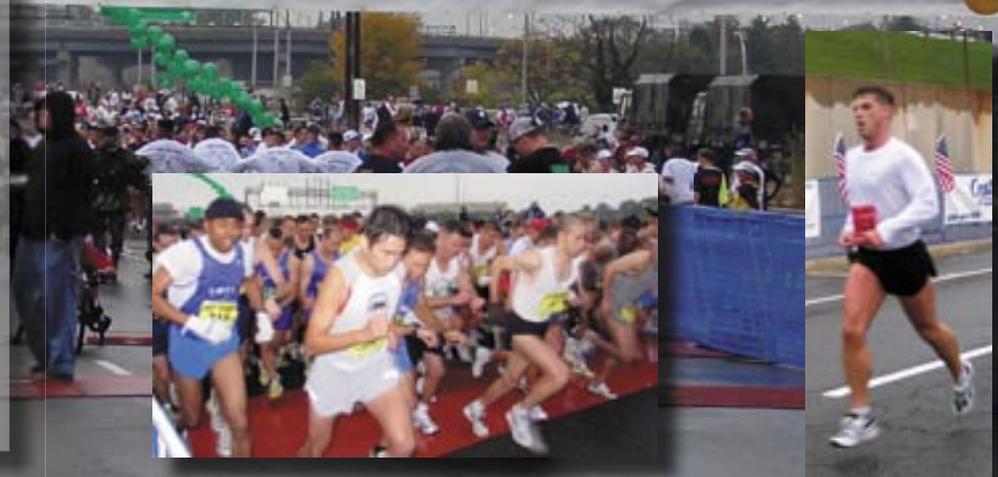
Excerpt by Army Sgt. Christina Douglas

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Troopers from the Joint Task Force competed in the annual Army Ten-Miler Oct. 8 held in Washington, DC.

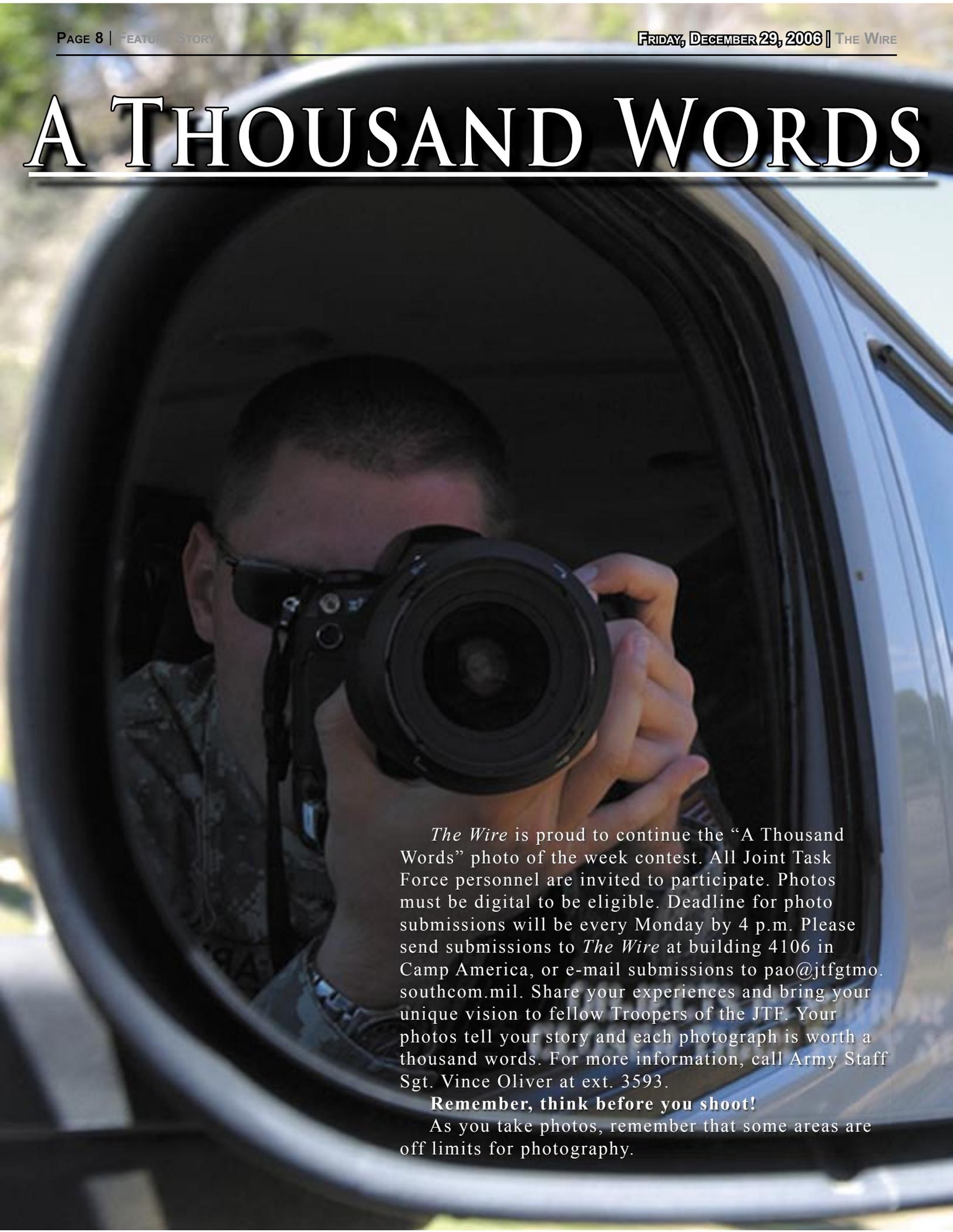
Army Sgt. Gus Lombera, Navy Seaman John Miklas, Army Spc. Alan Roche and Army Staff Sgt. Tyler Thomas represented the JTF in the Open Men's Division, which was open to servicemembers and civilians. Army 1st Sgt. William Fitzgerald was selected to attend as the team captain as well as an alternate runner.

To qualify for the JTF Ten-Miler team, Troopers competed in the GTMO Ten-Miler April 15. ■



Photos courtesy of the World Wide Web

A THOUSAND WORDS

A man in a military uniform is seen through a circular opening in a vehicle, holding a large camera and taking a photograph. The scene is framed by the dark interior of the vehicle, with the man's face and hands visible as he focuses on his shot. The background outside the vehicle is bright and slightly out of focus, suggesting an outdoor setting.

The Wire is proud to continue the “A Thousand Words” photo of the week contest. All Joint Task Force personnel are invited to participate. Photos must be digital to be eligible. Deadline for photo submissions will be every Monday by 4 p.m. Please send submissions to *The Wire* at building 4106 in Camp America, or e-mail submissions to pao@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil. Share your experiences and bring your unique vision to fellow Troopers of the JTF. Your photos tell your story and each photograph is worth a thousand words. For more information, call Army Staff Sgt. Vince Oliver at ext. 3593.

Remember, think before you shoot!

As you take photos, remember that some areas are off limits for photography.



Photos by Navy Chief Petty Officer Timm Duckworth



Photos by Army Spc. Jamieson Pond



Photos by Army Pfc. Phil Ragolia



Photos by Army Spc. Dustin Robbins



Photos by Army Pfc. Eric Tagayuna

Background photo by Army Spc. Jamieson Pond

HERITAGE AND INDEPENDENCE



Photo by Army Spc. Phil Regina

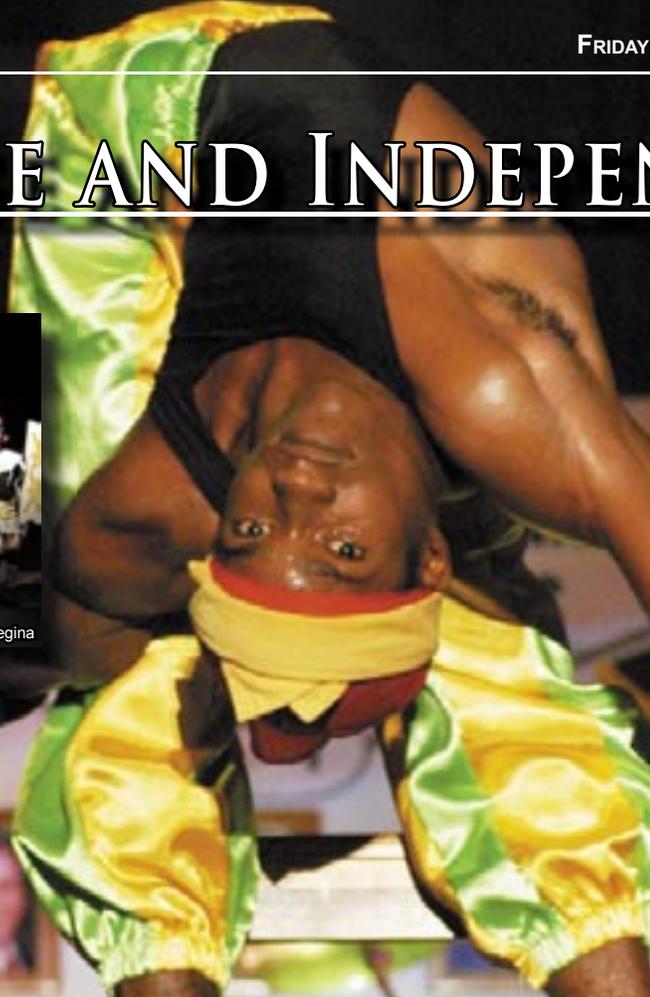


Photo by Army Spc. Phil Regina



Photo by Army Spc. Phil Regina

**By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Trevor Andersen**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba celebrates its highly diverse population of Troopers, civilians and contractors from countries throughout the world. This year GTMO residents participated in cultural celebrations including the Philippines and Jamaican independence days as well as a dance organized by the Hispanic-American Heritage Association during Hispanic-American heritage month.

Each of the celebrations showcased some of their culture's customs with music and dance as well as art and food. Troopers showed their support and participated in the multicultural events by dancing and enjoying the performances. ■



Photo by Army 1st Lt. Anthony John



Photo by Army Spc. Phil Regina

New SOUTHCOM commander visits GTMO

Excerpt by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Trevor Andersen

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Navy Adm. James G. Stavridis became the first naval officer at the helm of U.S. Southern Command in a change-of-command ceremony Oct. 19.

The new SOUTHCOM commander visited Guantanamo Bay Naval Station to look Troopers in the eye and to say thank you. His visit here was his first visit as SOUTHCOM commander.

"I chose to come here first because this is the front-line in the Global War on Terrorism. You are on the front-lines in the same way your shipmates in Iraq and Afghanistan are," said Navy Adm. James Stavridis, U.S. SOUTHCOM commander.

Speaking about his plans as SOUTHCOM commander, Stavridis said, "Life is full of changes, but I have nothing up my sleeve. I'm just getting good ideas from listening to everyone."

Trying to adapt and change is always part of taking a new command, he said. ■



Photo by Army Sgt. Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs



Photo by Army Spc. Timothy Book

29th ID hits the ground running

Excerpt by Army Sgt. Seth Myers

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The 29th Infantry Division took over Guantanamo Bay's Cavalry mission in March. Formed in August, 1917, as a National Guard Division from the District of Columbia, Virginia, New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania, the unit is represented by a half blue, half-gray Yin-Yang symbol, which was approved December, 1917. The blue and gray merging together symbolized the merging of regiments from Virginia and Maryland, which had fought on opposing sides during the American Civil War. The unit fought in both world wars and was among the first assault wave to hit the beaches on D-day, Jun. 6, 1944 at Normandy. Today they serve honorably, furthering the mission at GTMO. ■

NAVY BIRTHDAY/BALL

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Trevor Andersen

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The United States Navy celebrated its 231st birthday October 13. In celebration of that anniversary, GTMO held a Navy Ball at the Windjammer Club.

There was food, prizes, dancing and a live band.

Due to the size of GTMO's facilities, an informal Navy Beach-Ball was held to allow those who couldn't get in to the formal ball to celebrate the Navy's birthday as well. ■



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Trevor Andersen



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Trevor Andersen



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Trevor Andersen



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Trevor Andersen



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Trevor Andersen



U.S. Marine Corps Ball at Guantanamo

By Army Sgt.
Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Marine Corps Security Force Company, Guantanamo Bay, held their annual Marine Corps Ball in GTMO, 231 years to the day they were founded. The ceremonies started with an invocation by the chaplain. The colors were marched in soon after by color guard. A three layer cake was wheeled in during the ceremonies and cut by Marine Maj. George Nunez. Remarks by Nunez and Guest of honor Rear Adm. Harry B. Harris shortly followed. Prizes were given away to the lucky ticket holders during a raffle. iPod Nano MP3 players, an X-Box 360 video game console and television set were some of the prizes awarded to the lucky winners. After dinner the attendees enjoyed live music and danced the night away. ■

USMC Ball



Photo by Army Sgt. Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs



Photo by Army Sgt. Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs

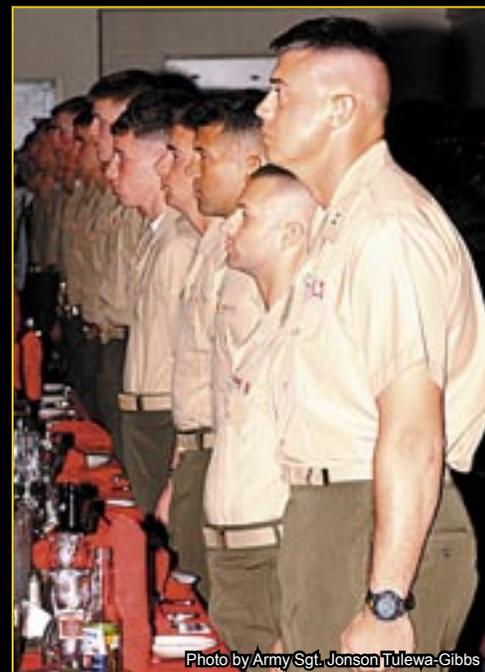


Photo by Army Sgt. Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs



Photo by Army Sgt. Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs

HANUKKAH BURNS BRIGHTLY

By Army Spc. Phil Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Members of the Joint Task Force and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay celebrated the final day of Hanukkah, Friday at the Naval Station Community Center.

Navy Rear Adm. Harold L. Robinson, Director of Programs for the Navy, Marine and Coast Guard Reserve led the celebration.

The ceremony began with the traditional lighting of the Hanukkah candles.

After the lighting of the candles Robinson blessed the Challah, traditional Jewish bread that is eaten during the Shabbat, the Jewish day of rest.

With Robinson's blessing, attendees were treated to a full spread of prime rib, baked chicken and the more traditional dishes of latkes and Challah.

Robinson was enthused to be able to celebrate Hanukkah amongst the Troopers stationed here.

"The holidays can be the best or the loneliest of times and chaplains deployed to places like this have a true responsibility to bring people together and make the holidays the best of times rather than the loneliest," explained Robinson.

"The JTF and NAVSTA personnel here did a great job with this ceremony. It's good to know that Troopers away from friends and family have the opportunity to celebrate their traditions here," added Robinson. ■

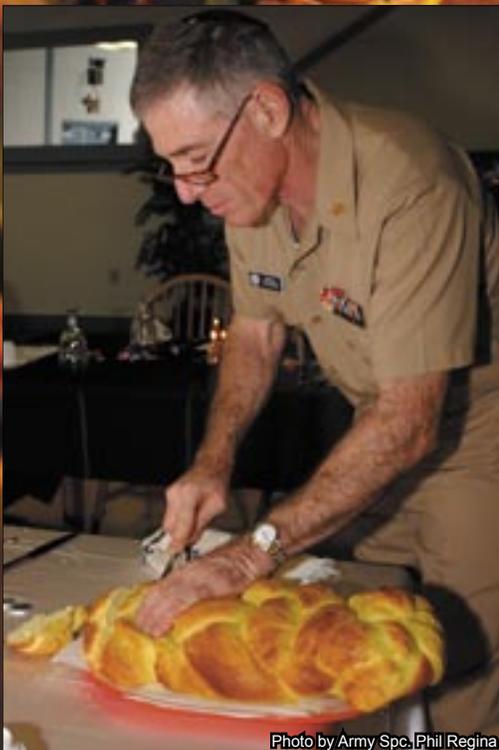


Photo by Army Spc. Phil Regina



Photo by Army Spc. Phil Regina



Photo illustration by Army Staff Sgt. Vince Oliver

15 MINUTES OF FAME

WITH ARMY SGT. 1ST CLASS ANTONIO DATES

By Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

For months now, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay Troopers have been reading “15 Minutes of Fame” articles on the many different people featured.

From teachers who have recently become Soldiers, to traveling musicians, The Wire’s “15 Minutes of Fame” has given Troopers a chance to tell their story. And now, once again, The Wire is proud to bring such a noteworthy person a little well-earned recognition.

Sgt. 1st Class Antonio M. Dates, Sr. is a well-known chaplain’s assistant working for the JTF in Camp America. However, that is hardly the end of the story for this friendly, charismatic individual. When asked to describe his start as a chaplain’s assistant, Dates did not begin with the recruitment office or the paperwork associated. Rather, he began with a captivating story of what he describes as his “awakening.”

“Back in 1979, I had a motorcycle accident and died . . . I mean I literally died,” explained Dates without even a hint of hesitation in his voice. Dates would later learn from a bystander, who witnessed the accident, that his motorcycle had struck a moving vehicle and sent him flying. After tumbling several feet, Dates’ motorcycle, now airborne, came crashing down directly on top of him crushing his face and shattering his jaw into nine pieces. A man, who is still unknown to Dates, administered medical care on the scene and was able to save his life.

That was a life-changing experience, Dates reminisced days later as he lay in his hospital bed broken and battered. He realized that his life had been spared, and that for some reason, he had momentarily passed away but been brought back and given a second chance.

“I knew it was time to change my life and live for others now; not that the old me was a loser, but the new me is definitely a winner,” said Dates.

He began attending church six times a week and did so for three years.

His view on life and on his role as a senior Non-Commissioned Officer is one in the same.

“It’s all about service; you have to lead in a manner that drives your Soldiers to follow you instead of one that forces them,” said Dates. As Dates went on, he explained how it’s much better that Troopers are motivated to work for their leaders out of respect and admiration rather than fear of punishment.

“Soldiers won’t charge a hill and put their lives on the line for you because you have the power to give them an Article 15,” he explained.

“It’s important to realize that as NCOs we have the responsibility to lead by example,” said Dates.

Dates is the true embodiment of what it means to serve. From offering his time in nursing homes back in the states, to ministering to others throughout the week; Dates shows the rest of us how much joy can be derived from a simple life of servitude. ■

AROUND THE JTF



◀ Koppel Group front man, Ted Koppel, tours Camp Delta during his visit to GTMO July 2006.

Photo by Army Spc. Jamieson Pond

★★★ PHOTO OF THE YEAR ★★★



Army Sgt. 1st Class Sean J. Leuenberger wins this year's Photo of the Year contest with this entry which shows the sunset over the bay here at GTMO May 11.



Photo by Army Sgt. Michael Guhl

Army 2nd Lt. John J. Bennett reenlisted SSG Michael D. Mills at Wind Mill Beach on November 2, 2006 for six more years of service.



Photo by Army Col. Lora Tucker

Army Brig. Gen. Edward Leacock, deputy commander of Joint Task Force-Guantanamo, swims with a green sea turtle while diving in the waters of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



Photo by Navy Chief Petty Officer Timm Duckworth

◀ Coast Guard Port Security Unit 312 provides an armed escort to distinguished visitors enroute between the Windward and Leeward sides of GTMO.