

THE WARRIOR

Magazine

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Leaders only get one shot to do it right

By Army Command Sgt. Maj.

Ted Trahan

Joint Detention Group
Command Sergeant Major

Field Manual 7-1, appendix A (Battle Focused Training) discusses the three phases of Leader Development. My thought is to introduce the three phases separately, so with that being said, I will start with the first, Reception and Integration.

Reception and Integration applies to all ranks and at all levels. Everything begins for every Trooper with this concept. Out of the three phases of the leader development process to me, Reception and Integration is the most important part of that process. Let me explain why...

When a new Trooper arrives to a unit, how well was the Trooper received? Was the Trooper sponsored prior to arriving to his/her new duty station? Was the Trooper welcomed with open arms and right away was made to feel as part of the team? Or, did none of the above happen at all? Keep in mind you get one chance to make a good first impression to a new Trooper (and in some situations to the Trooper's family as well). There is no REDO button once the process starts, so let me tell you a 'war story' to hammer the point home!

It was June of 1987 and Pvt. Ted Trahan had just landed at Rhein Main Air Base, Germany. I stepped off the plane carrying two duffle bags – in full dress uniform – and marched over to the 21st Replacement Detachment to find out where in Germany I was to be assigned. After being there for a few hours I was finally called in to an office and a sergeant told me I was being assigned to Frankfurt. He handed me some orders and said "Welcome to Germany." Being a 19 year old kid from Minnesota and fresh out of training, I knew exactly what to do next...

Actually, I had no idea at all. I asked the kind sergeant, "How do I get to Frankfurt from here"? He told me in kind fashion that, "You're a @#\$% MP, figure it out." After I thanked him for his answer, I then asked a Soldier who worked there if I could use the phone to call my unit. A sergeant answered the phone and told me that they were too busy to drive all the way out to the airport to



come pick me up and instructed me to take the train.

After riding on a bus to the S-Ban station (a train above ground), then to the U-Ban station (a train below ground) and then a taxi cab ride, I finally made it to my unit – minus \$40.00 in bus, train and cab fare. At this point I had been in my dress uniform for about 12 hours and it was beginning to become a part of me.

I signed into my unit and was turned over to my platoon sergeant who showed me to my room and told me to change into BDUs and to report back to him ASAP. While changing there was a knock on the door. I opened it and in came my squad leader with a hand full of law enforcement gear. He told me to make sure everything fit because I was working shift, tonight. I finished dressing and reported to the platoon sergeant's office as instructed.

My platoon sergeant asked me if I had any questions. I informed him that I had not slept or ate anything in some time and was wondering if I could do both. He told me to pick one or the other because I was going to work in about 45 minutes! After eating I went on to work the 12-hour midnight shift at a static post for the next 45 days in a row, without a day off. Oh, if you're wondering: I in-processed after shift the following morning. I was the new guy, so I was left to figure out everything on my own.

I wish I could say I just made this story up but unfortunately I cannot. If anyone tells you that Reception and Integration is not important to a new Trooper – at all levels – I will be more than happy to explain the importance of it in greater detail. You get one shot to do it right, so don't miss. More to follow...

JTF GUANTANAMO

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The Wire

Executive Editor:

Army 1st Lt. Kevin Cowan: 3596

Editor:

Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker: 3651

Assistant Editor:

Army Sgt. Scott Griffin: 3594

Layout and Design:

Army Sgt. Jody Metzger: 2171

Staff Writers:

Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard: 3589

Army Spc. Shanita Simmons: 3589

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class

William Weinert: 3592

Contact us:

Base Information: 2000

Public Affairs Office: 3651 or 3596

From the continental United States:

Commercial: 011-53-99-3651

DSN: 660-3651

Email: TheWIRE@jftgmo.southcom.mil

ONLINE: www.jftgmo.southcom.mil

ON THE COVER:

Navy Lt. Steven Bernick, a doctor at the Naval Station Hospital, scours the Cuzco Well Battlefield for metal remnants during an archeological study on Saturday, Sept. 20. (Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Bill Weinert)



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OARDEC provides recommendations to Deputy Secretary of Defense



Navy Capt. Ted Fessel
OARDEC OIC

Story and Photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Over-sized black leather chairs seem in stark contrast with the large American flag that frames them. Peering out from behind the three members of a military tribunal panel, the flag serves as a reminder of the American Servicemembers and civilians who have given their lives – fighting an ambiguous enemy – in the U.S. Global War on Terror. It also reminds other Servicemembers of the values – duty, respect and integrity – to which they all must subscribe.

The Guantanamo Bay tribunal rooms, which house both Combatant Status Review Tribunals (CSRT) and Administrative Review Boards (ARB), are an important tool for Guantanamo's Office of the Administrative Review of the Detention of Enemy Combatants

(OARDEC). It is in these rooms that three field grade officers convene to examine both classified and unclassified evidence regarding the detention of enemy combatants, intercepted on the battlefield and detained by Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

Both processes are administrative. Though it is not technically a legal proceeding, a CSRT board requires one member to be a judge advocate general. Likewise, an ARB will seat one officer whose specialty is in intelligence.

The set processes by which CSRTs are conducted were established July 7, 2004 out of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*. Based on *Hamdi*, the court ruled that upon initial arrival of a detainee to Guantanamo Bay, individuals would be given an opportunity to be heard by military tribunal.

"This process is a non-adversarial, administrative proceeding to determine whether each detainee in the control of the Department of Defense meets the criteria to be designated as an enemy combatant and permits the detainee an opportunity to contest such a designation," said Navy Capt. Ted Fessel, OARDEC officer-in-charge.

The ARB is designed to answer an entirely different set of questions. The ARB seeks to decide if the enemy combatant continues to pose a threat to the U.S. and its allies, and whether the enemy combatant offers any intelligence value to the

United States.

Based on the review of evidence, the board then poses one of three recommendations; the release of the enemy combatant, the transfer of the enemy combatant to his home country or a third-party nation, or the continued detention of the enemy combatant in the custody of the U.S.

Established May 11, 2004, by the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the ARB process provides detainees here an opportunity to have all evidence in their case, both classified and unclassified, reviewed each year.

Providing only a recommendation on the status of detention, the board members review the facts and offer their findings to the designated civilian official (DCO), the Hon. Gordon England, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense. England then makes the final determination whether to release, transfer or continue to detain the enemy combatant in question.

Having conducted 1,537 CSRTs and ARBs since 2004, OARDEC has recommended 209 enemy combatants for either transfer or release.

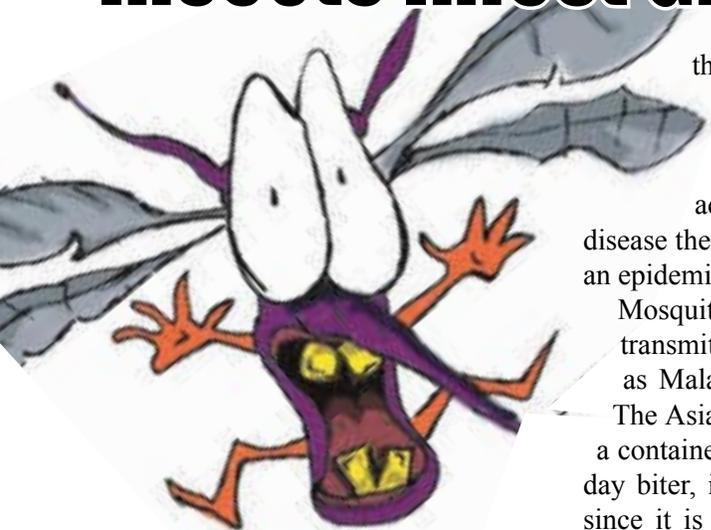
The DCO has approved 199 enemy combatants for either transfer or release based on this process.

Both of these procedures were updated by the Deputy Secretary of Defense following the passage of the Detainee Treatment Act in 2005.

The OARDEC is staffed by military members from the Navy, Air Force, Marines and Army. It allows both members of the press and designees from the International Association of the Red Cross to attend unclassified portions of proceedings.

The Department of Defense releases the unclassified summary, an audio recording of the proceeding and a written transcript.

Insects Infest Gitmo with a Vengeance



By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Anyone who has spent a little time outside in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba lately has most likely felt the bite of a pesky insect.

As Guantanamo Bay received a record 12 inches of rainfall this month, the wet soil and overflowing ditches became the perfect breeding ground for tiny insects such as mosquitoes and biting midges.

Although a number of complaints from Troopers caused the Preventative Medicine Department to investigate the extent of the problem, Army Sgt. Erik Montgomery, noncommissioned officer in charge of Preventative Medicine, said infestations were expected as large amounts of standing water began to accumulate in small areas.

“There are certain places that are considered hot spots where the mosquito population is more prevalent,” said Montgomery.

Mosquitoes and biting midges, also known as ‘noseeums,’ are the most common insects that use standing water as their breeding ground. The most common species of mosquito is the Yellow Fever and Asian Tiger, each has an average lifespan of one month. Only females bite their prey to obtain the blood needed to complete

the egg laying process. Since these insects can produce hundreds of eggs which may mature into biting adults within 10 days, any disease they carry can quickly result in an epidemic.

Mosquitoes are known for transmitting infectious diseases such as Malaria, Dengue and Filariasis.

The Asian Tiger, which is known as a container breeder and an aggressive day biter, is a threat to Troopers here since it is a carrier of Dengue Fever. These small mosquitoes, known for their black coloration and white stripes, can transmit this flu-like viral disease that may cause a severe fever as well as head and muscle aches. Although mosquitoes that breed in hot and humid environments are also carriers of Yellow Fever and the West Nile virus, Montgomery said contracting these diseases here is unlikely.

Noseeums are the smallest known blood-sucking insects here and are most active at dusk and dawn. Within a few hours of a bite, an individual will start to feel an acute itching and see redness at the spot of the bite. Although noseeums can transmit diseases, Montgomery said the risk of contracting an illness from these pests is also low.

Even though Preventative Medicine has the equipment and knowledge to monitor the growth of mosquitoes, it is also critical that Troopers do their part to reduce their ability to breed.

“Our office is constantly conducting surveillance to help determine where mosquitoes are most prevalent, so we can send pest control out to spray in specific areas,” said Montgomery. “All mosquitoes breed in water. Therefore, one way Troopers can reduce mosquito numbers is by eliminating sources of standing water around their living areas.”

He added that Preventative Medicine utilizes Centers of Disease Control light traps and mosquito magnets to gauge the amount of insects, based on captures during specific periods. The CDC light traps are usually hung from a tree, and the mosquito magnet is an apparatus that resembling an outdoor grill placed in various locations. Both the light trap and the mosquito magnet



Army Sgt. Erik Montgomery, NCOIC of the JDG Preventative Medicine Department here, uses a telescope to analyze mosquitoes recovered from one of their traps. (Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons)

include mechanisms that attract mosquitoes. Once mosquitoes fly in the vicinity of these apparatus, a fan will suck them into the mechanism and trap them in catch bags. These bags are

Continued on page 13



THE HAUNTED HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

By Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Over a thousand years ago, ghosts and faeries wandered about in a fog shrouded night. Wraiths and specters howled in dark and frigid woods, scaring pagan Celts back into the safety of their homes. Ghouls and demons walked among the living, waiting for the spirit of Samhain to take them on their journey to the afterlife.

In Great Britain and northern France, the Celts marked their New Year Nov. 1. Every year they held a festival of the dead, observing the end of the ‘season of the sun’ and preparing for the oncoming darkness and bitter cold. They also believed that on that day magic was at its most potent, and ghosts rose from their graves to wander amongst the living. To ward off mischievous or evil spirits and honor their own ancestors, the Celts gathered for sacrifices of animals and offerings of fruits and vegetables. They lit massive bonfires to aid their dear dead on the journey to the spirit world. They wore costumes made from animal pelts, adorning their heads with the skulls of animals to mimic the dead and placate them. The Celts gave the spirits – and their masked impersonators – gifts of food and drink to avoid having tricks played on their homes.

Soon, they believed, the spirit of Samhain – meaning ‘summer’s end’ in Gaelic and pronounced sah-ween – would come and take the departed to the spirit world for a final rest.

Now, almost 1,500 years later, the same celebration

goes by the name of Halloween. The root of the word is a combination of the term hallow – meaning holy – and evening. Hallow Evening, or Hallowe’en, came about by combining the Celtic-Druid New Year’s Day with the Christian holiday of All Saints Day. According to the Library of Congress, in 601 A.D., rather than try to wipe out the customs of the native Celts, Pope Gregory IV instructed his missionaries that if a group of people worshiped a tree, rather than cut it down they should consecrate it to Christ and allow its continued worship.

All Saints Day developed into All Hollows, and the Pagan holiday was consecrated to help convert native folk. Once assimilated, Halloween carried on many ancient Celtic traditions. The giving of food and mischievous games developed into trick or treating and adults adopted a more masquerade style of Halloween celebration. In the 1800s, Americans inherited the traditions from Scottish and Irish immigrants who brought their beliefs with them to the new world.

Now a wildly popular and highly commercial event, Americans continue to celebrate with trick or treating for kids and costume parties for adults. More than simply a fun tradition, the celebration of Halloween continues the very human rite of acknowledging mortality through unique rituals and beliefs. According to cms.psychologytoday.com, “Halloween, and its variations, serves to fill that specific need. In so doing, we are reaffirming death and its place as a part of life rather than suppress mankind’s deepest fears.”

Information from www.samhain.com and www.loc.gov contributed to this article.

College football still a toss-up, Colts and Pats dominate the NFL, while Gordon and Johnson lead the Nextel Cup



Ohio State tight end Jake Ballard makes a touchdown reception during the first quarter of a college football game against Michigan State, Saturday, Oct. 20, in Columbus, Ohio. (AP Photo/Kiichiro Sato)

By Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Eight weeks into the college football season and there are still no clear cut favorites to go to the Bowl Championship Series National Championship game. As it stands right now it would be No. 1 ranked Ohio State taking on No. 2 Boston College, both of which still have the roughest part of their schedules to play.

Ohio State travels to play Penn State this weekend before being at home for Illinois and Wisconsin, then closing on the road against the Michigan Wolverines – their bitter rivals.

Boston College will have its hands full on the road this weekend as they take on Virginia Tech in Blacksburg.

It doesn't get any easier for the Eagles after this weekend as they have home games against Florida State Nov. 3 and Miami Nov. 24. Road games follow against Maryland Nov. 10 and Clemson



New England Patriots wide receiver Randy Moss catches a touchdown pass in the second quarter against the Miami Dolphins, Sunday, Oct. 21. The Patriots won 49-28. (AP Photo/David Adame)

Nov. 17.

Waiting to swoop down and grab one of these top spots are No. 3 LSU, No. 4 Arizona St. and No. 5 Oregon. In a year full of upsets and surprises the College football season is far from over and could still provide several exciting changes in the final weeks ahead.

The cream has clearly risen to the top in the NFL as the defending Super Bowl Champion Indianapolis Colts and New England Patriots remain the only two undefeated teams. Not only are they undefeated, they have been dominant in all of their games. The Colts have averaged 32 points per contest while giving up 16; the Patriots have scored an unbelievable average of 39 points per contest while yielding just 17. The Patriots – only seven games into the season – have a strangle hold on the division with a five game lead and victories against all division opponents. The Colts, in a much more competitive division, have a two-game lead and



Jeff Gordon climbs out of his car after winning the pole for Sunday's Subway 500 NASCAR Nextel Cup auto race at Martinsville Speedway in Richmond, Va., Friday, Oct. 19. (AP Photo/Steve Helber)

victories over their division opponents. The teams will meet in Indianapolis in two weeks to see who will get the upper hand for home field advantage in the AFC playoffs. It's a shame these two teams are in the same conference but cannot play in the Super Bowl as they are clearly head and shoulders above the rest of the league.

With four races left in the chase for the Nextel Cup, Hendrick teammates Jeff Gordon and Jimmie Johnson are separated by only 53 points with Gordon in the lead. The two have combined to win the last three races as they have separated themselves from the pack. All drivers are mathematically still alive but only Clint Boywer (-115) has a realistic shot at catching them. Gordon and Johnson are friends off the track but have no problems rubbing paint on the track. The Chase has come down to the two best drivers.

Who will remain standing in the end? Jeff Gordon will win his fifth title in exciting fashion.

Indoor soccer invades the Gitmo Saturday night scene



By Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

There is no ‘out of bounds’ in Guantanamo Bay’s roller-hockey rink. Looking like a venue for cage fighting – complete with high-reaching chain link and bright light blaring down from above – this is not a cush, kick-your-little-round-ball-through-a-plush-meadow kind of game. Sorry ladies and gentlemen, there’s no room for your niece’s first grade soccer team here – this field is unforgiving.

The Guano Superliga and her 12 hot-blooded, high-strung, hard-fighting teams have invaded the Guantanamo Saturday night scene, promising fans a better buzz than the Windjammer and Tiki combined. Open to all military members and dependents over 16 years old, this six-week indoor soccer tournament pits both Joint Task Force and Naval Station personnel against one another

in 40 minutes of first-rate futbol frenzy – often each team bringing in tow their own ‘right-proper firm.’

The brain child of soccer enthusiast Petty Officer First Class Jerry Ramm, this round-ball ruckus is the sequel the Base’s Guano Cup, which was open to everyone (and Ramm’s equation to World Cup...because it’s open to the world).

There are only five athletes per team on the court during play, as opposed to outdoor’s typical 11, but a tighter space and goal alleviates the sometimes ridiculous distances players must cover in a game’s duration.

“The smaller field guarantees you will be involved in more action, more often, without having to run a couple of miles to do it,” Ramm said. “The walls keep the ball in play so there aren’t as many stoppages.”

Expecting to host these tournaments regularly in the future, Ramm also

reported the global soccer trend is not taking cues from August’s Hurricane Dean – passing quietly by our peaceful little outpost. Rather, the growing interest has spawned 33 percent more teams in this tournament than those in the past.

The entry fee of \$2 per person goes toward ball replacement and maintenance costs. And that’s pretty cheap.

Saturday promises to be enticing to the soccer enthusiast as Deportivo Lac of Skill takes on GTMO Diablos at 5 p.m., Project Mayhem FC meets the ANG Shocking Iguanas at 6 p.m. and J-8 and 4 prepare to rumble with the Joint Chiefs at 7 p.m. The Papercuts and the Union will do battle at 8 p.m., Cobra Kai plays the Husky Geigers at 9 p.m., followed by the 10 p.m. match up, GTMO Heat v. the Super Troopers.,

Play continues every Saturday night through Nov. 17. Be there.*

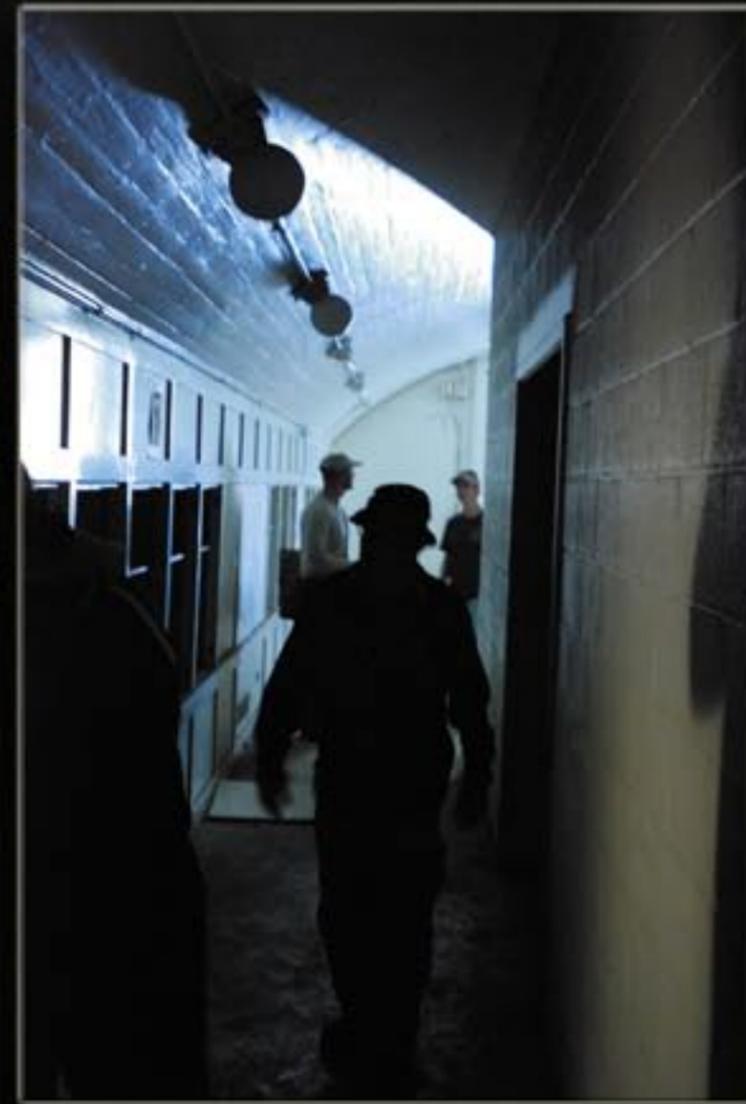
Historical Expeditions Search for the Truth of Guantanamo's Past

Story and photos by Navy Petty
Officer 3rd Class William Weinert

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Napoleon Bonaparte once said, "History is the version of the past events that people have decided to agree upon." Often the events of the past are not easily agreed upon or they may be evidence of some past event that has been long forgotten. In instances such as these, people turn to a scientific method of finding out what happened. That science is called Archaeology. Here, a few dedicated researchers have found a calling in searching for the truth.

Continued on next page



Preserving Guantanamo's Historical Integrity

At the dawn of the Spanish-American War, one of the most significant events in Guantanamo Bay's history occurred. On July 14, 1898, U.S. Marines, along with a contingent of Cuban insurrectionists – outnumbered, out of water and tired from a two mile march – climbed one of the hills near Cuzco Beach to discover a Spanish encampment below. The Spaniards had camped out near the area's only fresh water source, the Cuzco Well. Within a matter of hours, Marines had captured 18, killed 58 and injured 150 Spaniards with the loss of only two Cubans. The remainder of the Spanish force fled to nearby Guantanamo City. The events of this day established an American foothold in Guantanamo, and since that day we have held a continuous presence.

During the late 19th Century, a form of writing called 'yellow journalism' became popular. One champion of this form was Stephen Crane, who traveled with the Marines and covered the Battle of Cuzco Well. He is better known for authoring the novel, "The Red Badge of Courage." His writing was filled with sensationalism, often called scandal-mongering, and was filled with a slant that may be taken as inaccurate. His writings, and the work of other yellow journalists, helped persuade Americans to support the war effort. While his style may have been more entertaining to read and may have rallied more support for the war, it may have also led to inaccuracies in the historical record.

In questioning this historical record and looking for proof or evidence of what really happened that day, real scientific study must be done with an in-depth analysis of the area, the battlefield and the known positions of forces.

One Guantanamo man who has devoted much of his own personal time to the study of what really happened at the battle is retired Army Chief Warrant Officer Peter Becola. A 33-year Army veteran, who served in Vietnam-era and as a Green Beret, Becola has spent

much of his time over the past two years researching the historical records and studying the battlefield to investigate what happened that day. Throughout his studies, Becola is extremely cautious to leave the site as undisturbed as possible. He does not dig; he merely scans the area for artifacts that give away the positions of the Marines at the battle as well as some of the Spaniards.



Peter Becola displays a rare medal to Navy Lt. Steven Burnick in the Lighthouse Museum. (Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)

Becola has come up with some differing theories as to what happened that day and how the events transpired. They include a likely route Marines traveled and point out, accurately, the hill on which two Marines proved their bravery, leading both of them to earn the Medal of Honor.

Becola has conducted all of his studies in accordance with OPNAVINST 5090.1C. Guidance is also provided by the team at the Naval Station Environmental Office. Currently the Natural and Cultural Resources team consists of two dedicated individuals; Jose Montalvo, Natural-Cultural Resources Manager and Meghan Byrne, Natural Resources Intern. Montalvo and Byrne coordinate with outside sources to conduct studies of the area and develop a plan of how to best preserve the history and the natural beauty

of this place.

In 2004, a group of professional archeologists from across the country came to Guantanamo Bay and conducted an archeological survey and paleoenvironmental investigation. The study, which was completed September 2004, found evidence of 2,500 years of human habitation in the area and provided the Navy with an understanding of the area's use during the Pre-Columbian and Historic Eras. The project found 41 sites of interest. Nineteen of the sites were of the Pre-Columbian Era, 20 were Historic, one Historic Age Spanish colonial site and one multicomponent Pre-Columbian/Spanish colonial arch-eological site.

One of Montalvo's tasks is to continuously develop a cultural resources management plan which will instruct the Navy how to manage their property and resources so that historical sites are not disturbed and evidence is neither taken nor destroyed.

"Sometimes it's not the artifact that's important, it's the way in which it lays as it's found," said Montalvo as he stressed that people should not go searching in the hills for souvenirs. He also explained that those who are taking things are destroying the history, and people need to leave it to the professionals.

The only person who has the authority to give another permission to dig for artifacts is the Navy Federal Protection Officer.

Plans for future in-depth digs in the area have been put on hold for a while. Montalvo explained they would first like to put forth most of their effort in the restoration of the artifacts already in the museum, which takes up a large amount of funding. "It's very expensive to restore artifacts," said Montalvo.

Our area is filled with history, some events are glorious and others have more evidence. Leave the investigations to the professionals, the real researchers, the ones who know what they are doing. This is not a treasure hunt.

Security Clearance backlog to be gone by January

By Stephen Losey

Excerpted from *Federal Times*

BOYERS, Pa. — The end of the federal government's security clearance logjam is finally in sight, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management says.

Kathy Dillaman, associate director for OPM's Federal Investigative Services, said that 80 percent of OPM's initial investigations of applicants are being finished in less than 70 days. That's down from 80 percent in 121 days in fiscal 2006, and on its way to reaching the congressionally mandated goal of finishing 90 percent in 40 days or less.

Backlogged reinvestigations and initial top secret investigations that once numbered 531,000 have been cut to between 12,000 and 16,000, and Dillaman expects that even those will be brought to zero by January.

"We're finally seeing the results of years' worth of work," Dillaman told *Federal Times* in an Oct. 16 interview. "To me, it's thrilling. It's been like turning the Titanic."

But a leading lawmaker and industry officials are skeptical that OPM's reforms are having a great effect, and say that only a drastic overhaul of the system will improve matters.

"Kathy Dillaman keeps repainting the Edsel," said Larry Halloran, a spokesman for Virginia Rep. Tom Davis, the ranking Republican on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and a frequent OPM critic. "We're not getting any fewer complaints from industry. We need more fundamental changes to get there."

The slow clearance process has hamstrung the federal government's effectiveness for years. In 2003, the average Defense Department employee waited more than a year to get a top-secret clearance.

Without their clearances, thousands of employees and contractors are unable to access the information needed to do their work. Billions of dollars are wasted each year due to lost labor.

Dillaman said that OPM will meet a congressionally mandated goal of finishing 90 percent of investigations in 40 days or less by the end of 2009.

But critics say that Dillaman's numbers are incomplete and don't tell the whole story.

Dillaman's figures on the shrinking backlog only represent cases that are behind as a result of a lack of OPM resources. They don't include the 5 percent to 10 percent of cases that are held up at any given time because of complications outside of OPM's reach, such as when the FBI or local police departments don't provide information in time. The total backlog was 31,000 cases at the end of September.

OPM couldn't provide statistics showing how long it usually takes to reinvestigate someone to renew a security clearance. Dillaman said that the 52,000 reinvestigation cases now under way became a secondary priority after Congress passed the 2004 law mandating deadlines on initial investigations.

"OPM is painting a rosier picture than reality demands," said Trey Hodgkins, vice president for federal government programs at the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA). He said OPM's statistics on the length of investigations are meaningless if they do not include reinvestigation figures. And, he said, OPM is boosting its results by only finishing the easy cases.

For more accurate numbers, Hodgkins points to a July report from the National Industrial Security Program Policy Advisory Committee, a group of government and industry representatives that studies security matters such as clearances. The committee analyzed OPM data and concluded that initial top secret investigations were taking 276 days on average in March. Top secret reinvestigations were even worse — they took 335 days, the report said.

Dillaman says it's not that bad. The figures cited by Hodgkins are dragged down by the hundreds of thousands of old, backlogged cases — many of which came from the Defense Security Service when OPM took on its work in 2005 — that OPM is finally finishing, she said.

OPM's biggest customer — the Defense Department — says it's seeing some encouraging signs. Greg Torres, the Pentagon's security director, said security clearances are being turned around much faster than in previous years. And cases that have languished for years are starting to

trickle in, he said.

Torres cautions that the Pentagon is still not satisfied with the pace of investigations. About 650,000 of the 2 million cases submitted to OPM each year come from Defense, and tens of thousands of those cases are still behind schedule, even under the improved rates OPM claims.

"We're not where we want to be ultimately, but good progress is being made," Torres said.

Dillaman said she's more than doubled her investigative work force to 9,400 since 2004. But with such a large number of new workers came concerns about the quality of the investigations. So in 2006, OPM created a quality management group.

Dillaman has detailed 30 people to the FBI to push through overdue file requests, and assigned about a dozen more people to work with state and local agencies to get requested records faster.

Automation plays a big role in reducing clearance processing times, Dillaman said. More and more agencies are using the online eQIP system to submit applications. Today, 80 percent of applications are submitted online. She expects that to be up to 90 percent by early next year.

And by next September, OPM wants all of its case files to be electronic. OPM began scanning case files into computers last year so it could avoid having to mail paper documents to adjudicators.

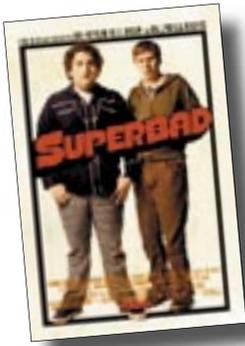
In a year, Dillaman said, all documents will be scanned at the beginning of the investigation and all processing will be done with computers.

With these improvements and some luck, she said, OPM could begin drawing down its investigations work force to about 8,000 in late 2009.

But Hodgkins of ITAA and Halloran of Rep. Davis' office said OPM's system is still essentially paper-based and is not using enough technology.

"Imaging is not automation," Hodgkins said. "They're just moving the point [where] people stand at a copy machine."

Hodgkins said that OPM must force every agency to use eQIP and digital fingerprint readers if it wants to see real efficiencies.



Three Words: "I am McLovin!"

By Army Sgt. Jody Metzger

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Rated: R

Running Time: 112 minutes

"*I am McLovin*," If there is anything you are going to take away from this movie, it will be the famous words spoken from the scrawny, self-important nerd who titles himself McLovin. Produced by Judd Apatow, this movie has all the fuel for a gut-busting, raunchy, fast-talking teen flick that has put a defined staple in the newer comedies of today. Apatow has directed "The 40-Year Old Virgin" and "Knocked Up" and produced "Anchorman" and "Talladega Nights."

The most important point in this movie — well the only point — is to 'get alcohol.' It begins as two friends set out on a life-lesson-voyage for one night to prove that they are men. Best friends Seth (Jonah Hill) and Evan (Michael Cera) are in high school and about to graduate. To their displeasure, they're about to part ways as they head off to different colleges. This long night is set in motion by one final, all-out attempt to 'get alcohol,' meaning, get the girls and make one last effort to be 'cool' before they graduate. The two team up to fathom the unknown — women.

It all seems possible when their Fogell (Christopher Mintz-Plasse,) obtains a drivers license citing his age as 25, his address as Hawaii and his name (just one) as McLovin. Seth gets invited by beautiful Jules (Emma Stone) to a party, just as Evan procures a friendly invitation from his life long crush, Becca (Martha MacIsaac). All they need to do is bring the alcohol.

McLovin attempts to use his ID to buy alcohol, but all goes awry when a couple of bumbling cops (played by "Knocked Up's" Seth Rogen and "Saturday Night Live's" Bill Hader) get in the way. Seth and Evan are left to fend for themselves and McLovinset to spend the rest of the night riding around with the police.

From one scene to the next, the foul mouthed Seth and the dorky underappreciated Evan play off each other in crude dialogue that has you grabbing your gut with one hand and covering your face with another in an attempt to stop laughing. But, what really makes the movie is the nerdy, self-proclaimed McLovin and his joyriding cop buddies.

Ultimately, the writing and performances are a dynamic combination that sets an insightful look into the teenage mind, language and relationships. The story makes a good point about teenagers growing up, the friends we meet along the way and the anguish of separation, moving on and leaving childhood behind.

Rating: ★★★★★

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com

Saturday, Oct. 27

Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the mid-70's.



Isolated T-Storms

Sunrise: 7:00 a.m.
Sunset: 6:29 p.m.
Chance of rain: 30%

Sunday, Oct. 28

Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the mid-70's.



Isolated T-Storms

Sunrise: 6:00 a.m.
Sunset: 5:29 p.m.
Chance of rain: 30%

Monday, Oct. 29

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the mid-70's.



Scattered T-storms

Sunrise: 6:01 a.m.
Sunset: 5:28 p.m.
Chance of rain: 30%

Tuesday, Oct. 30

Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.



Sunrise: 6:01 a.m.
Sunset: 5:28 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 30%

Scattered T-storms

Wednesday, Oct. 31

Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.



Sunrise: 6:02 a.m.
Sunset: 5:27 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 60%

Scattered T-storms

Thursday, Nov. 1

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.



Sunrise: 6:02 a.m.
Sunset: 5:27 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 30%

Scattered T-storms

Friday, Nov. 2

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.



Sunrise: 6:03 a.m.
Sunset: 5:26 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 20%

Partly Cloudy



Entomologist Alexandra Spring collects mosquitoes from a catch-bag that is taken back to a lab for analysis. The mosquitoes are analysed to determine their species and whether they are infected with a disease. (Photo by Army Spc. James Ray)

then collected, tagged and then used to identify the species of mosquitoes.

Montgomery mentioned that collecting mosquitoes assists entomologists with identifying a specific species and testing them for diseases.

“It’s a surveillance method. If you understand what types of mosquitoes are breeding, then you will know what is the most effective in preventing their reproduction,” said Montgomery.

In addition to identifying mosquitoes, Montgomery and his staff work with military leaders to ensure they instruct Troopers on ways to reduce their chances of being bitten. Montgomery mentioned that staying indoors between dusk and dawn is one way to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. Since many Troopers participate in physical fitness training early in the morning, this option may not be the most practical.

Therefore, chemical repellants such as Permethrin and N, N-diethyl-m-toulamide (DEET) are recommended. DEET is a vaporized repellant that wards off water and can last up to 12 hours. Although DEET is commonly found in over-the-counter insect repellants, the military also issues a cream that contains a higher concentration of DEET.

Montgomery added that Troopers attached to the security and guard forces who work in outdoor environments can also have their uniforms treated with Permethrin. This solution, which can be sprayed on a Trooper’s uniform and will last up to 50 launderings, will kill flying and biting insects. Since military uniforms are designed to guard against insects, a properly-worn uniform that covers a Troopers skin will also prevent insect bites.

Although the amount of rainfall received in October is not expected to reoccur, Montgomery said Preventative Medicine will continue to monitor changes in the mosquito population here throughout the year. Troopers can call Preventative Medicine at 72990 to get additional information on insect infestations and to request a supply of military-issued repellant.

Boots on the Ground

“What are your plans for Halloween?”

By Army Sgt. Jody Metzger

- Navy Petty
Officer 1st Class
Jason Brown



I’m going to help the 1st Class Petty Officer’s Association pass out candy to children.

- Navy Seaman
Julia A. Casper



I’ll be working on this wonderful Halloween!

-Marine Cpl.
Matthew Erbele



I’m going to dress in a surprise costume and go out with friends.

- Army Sgt.
Jesus Munoz



I’m dressing up as a hunchback and going out to party.

THE LORD IS THE STRENGTH OF MY LIFE

By Army Chaplain (Capt.)
Glenvil Gregory

Joint Detention Group Chaplain

Hours before hurricane Georges struck in 1998, my family and I were returning home from a trip. While driving through a village we saw a small wooden house, erected on concrete blocks which were placed at each of its four corners. This house was tied around with ropes and further reinforced with chains which were then securely fastened to a tree. I thought this was amusing. It occurred to me that this was the technique the owner(s) used to secure the property from the perceived wrath of the wind.

After the hurricane, I enquired about the house. I learned that it was partially toppled from the foundation blocks, but fortunately it was not blown away, neither was it severely damaged. As I reflected on what I saw it dawned on me that the owner(s) of the house thought that if the house was to be blown away, the tree would first have to be uprooted and blown away. I'm sure that it was perceived that beyond all odds the tree would remain firmly rooted, thus preventing the effect of the hurricane winds to tear the house to shambles. It appears as if the house owner(s) concluded that the survival of the house depended, not on the soundness of its construction, but on the strength of the tree to which it was attached. In that situation

the tree became the strength of the house.

In Psalm 27:1 the Psalmist confidently declares that "*The Lord is the stronghold of my life*" and then he asked, "*Of whom shall I be afraid?*" This statement, I believe, is based upon his experiences with God. On his own he was weak and prone to be blown away. However, because he attached himself to God, he was safe, strong and secure in spite of all the difficult circumstances he encountered in his life. The Psalmist had no fears, because he was tied to God.

Some of us can recall times in our lives when we were overcome by fear. Fear place the fearful person into a tail spin, introduce stress, hopelessness and compromise our ability to think clearly and logically. We doubted ourselves even in areas where we were once confident. Our trust turns to suspicion. Making firm decisions turned out to be difficult. In spite of these human responses to fear, the Psalmist stated his belief that with God as the strength of our lives then we have nothing or no one to fear.

Like the Psalmist we too can reach the stage whereby we can testify of who God is in our lives. We can get to the place where we can experience and emphatically proclaim that the Lord is the strength of my life.

In order to have this confidence we must

each first come to understand and accept our fears and weaknesses as we live daily. It is important to know that they will not go away, but they can be dealt with when we cry out to God for help and through our acceptance that God is more powerful, loving, caring and helpful than anything or anyone we will ever encounter. Apart from this we will easily fall away. Therefore, we are encouraged to accept the grace of God as the only thing sufficient for daily living. Listen carefully what God says to us: "*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*" 2 Corinthians 12: 9. Our strength begins with our union with God.

Second, we must realize that our strength to live everyday does not depend upon what we have, the people in our lives, or our status in life, although these can help in our quality of life. Our strength to live depends on our right relationship with God. It depends on our grip and our attachment to God. It depends on our trust in God. When we trust God we will find that we have a need to let go of our own strength and other earthly securities. Hence in spite of what might be happening we can boldly announce that "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*" Phil 4:13. With this in mind, we can arise to the challenges which are ahead of us and go forth in the strength of the Lord our God.

HONOR

By Army Private 1st Class Jeffrey Silva

525 Military Police Battalion

What Honor means to me:

Honor is fairness, integrity, courage, discipline and facing up to the consequences of your actions. It is speaking out when something is wrong. Honor is not letting yourself or the people around you fail. Honor in itself means nothing. If you do not have all the right qualities that give the word meaning, then you don't have it. That's why the Army defines it as, "living up to the Army values." Without the other six values, honor is just a word ... not a way to live.

The smallest team with the biggest job — morale support.

Story and photo by Army Sgt.
Jody Metzger

Joint Task Force, Guantanamo Bay
Public Affairs Office

If there is one thing that can be said for Staff Sgt. Difred Pascual, it is that he is a generous and devoted man, ready with a smile to comfort. For Pascual, this approachable image has worked for him. It has brought him full circle in his relationships with people, his country and most importantly, God.

Pascual is currently serving Joint Task Force Guantanamo as a chaplain's assistant. His energy and dynamic personality have proven to be valuable assets for those in trouble or in need. Pascual has not always been a chaplain's assistant, as he first entered into the Puerto Rico Army National Guard in 1975 in the infantry.

"Every since I was kid I wanted to be a Soldier in the United States," said Pascual, as serving his country has always been a point of pride. His motivation, Pascual explains, are the women, children and the old, that enjoy the freedom and the American way of life. "It makes me enjoy wearing the uniform," he said.

Pascual was in the infantry for eight years and it wasn't until he realized that he needed to do more for his God and religion that he chose to become a chaplain's assistant. "I was walking one day and I had a realization I could do more for my Lord, Jesus Christ. Coming to terms with this new development, Pasqual changed his job in the military.

Religion has always been a big part of Pascual's life. "It has helped me to grow, to have confidence in myself and to show me that my life has the most meaning when I am able to help other people."

"It is really nice to be chaplains assistant because I get a chance help other people and give a good first impression to those Troopers who need help."

There are a variety of people who come seeking help for their personal problems, whether the issues are at home or here, it is the chaplains and their assistants who are always there, ready to listen, Pascual explained.

As a chaplain's assistant, Pascual's mission is to bring a more welcoming presence to the lower ranking troopers who might feel uncomfortable approaching an officer. "It's unnerving," Pascual explained, "to be a lower rank and come

to an officer for your problems. This is why it is important for assistants like me, an E-6, to greet them and make them feel welcome."

Pascual believes it is important for the chaplains and their assistants to be out with the Troopers, giving them a presence of solace and identify themselves a compassionate entity in hard times as well as in the everyday life of service members. This presence allows Troopers to bond with the chaplains and their assistants.

The chaplain's assistants participate in every aspect of the Troopers life, Pascual explained, whether it is running with them at



physical training activities, talking to them or establishing a good image to look up to — ultimately building a level of trust between the chaplains and the Troops.

"You have to have that smile, it brings confidence to that person that there is someone who cares," Pascual said.

"In this JTF environment I find people who are feeling alone and lost and all they need is someone to listen. And that is why I am here; to bring some alternatives and to help them out - to let them know that they are not alone and we [the chaplains and assistants] are ready to listen."

AROUND THE

JTF



◀ Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Rebecca E. Smith repeats the oath of reenlistment given by Ensign Karl A. Michel at the North East Gate Thursday, Oct. 18. Smith, a master at arms with the Naval Expeditionary Guard Battalion, is deployed here to the Joint Task Force. (Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons)



▲ Army Spc. Elvis Alvarado records a holiday message to his loved ones Thursday, Oct. 18. Holiday greetings will be sent to television stations in Trooper's home areas for broadcast. (Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons)



◀ Army Lt. Col. Miguel Mendez sings with Orquesta 'La Puertorriquena' Saturday, Oct. 20, at the Windward Ferry Landing. The group performed Latin music for Troops as part of the Hispanic American Heritage Association's Hispanic Awareness Month close-out celebration. (Photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard)