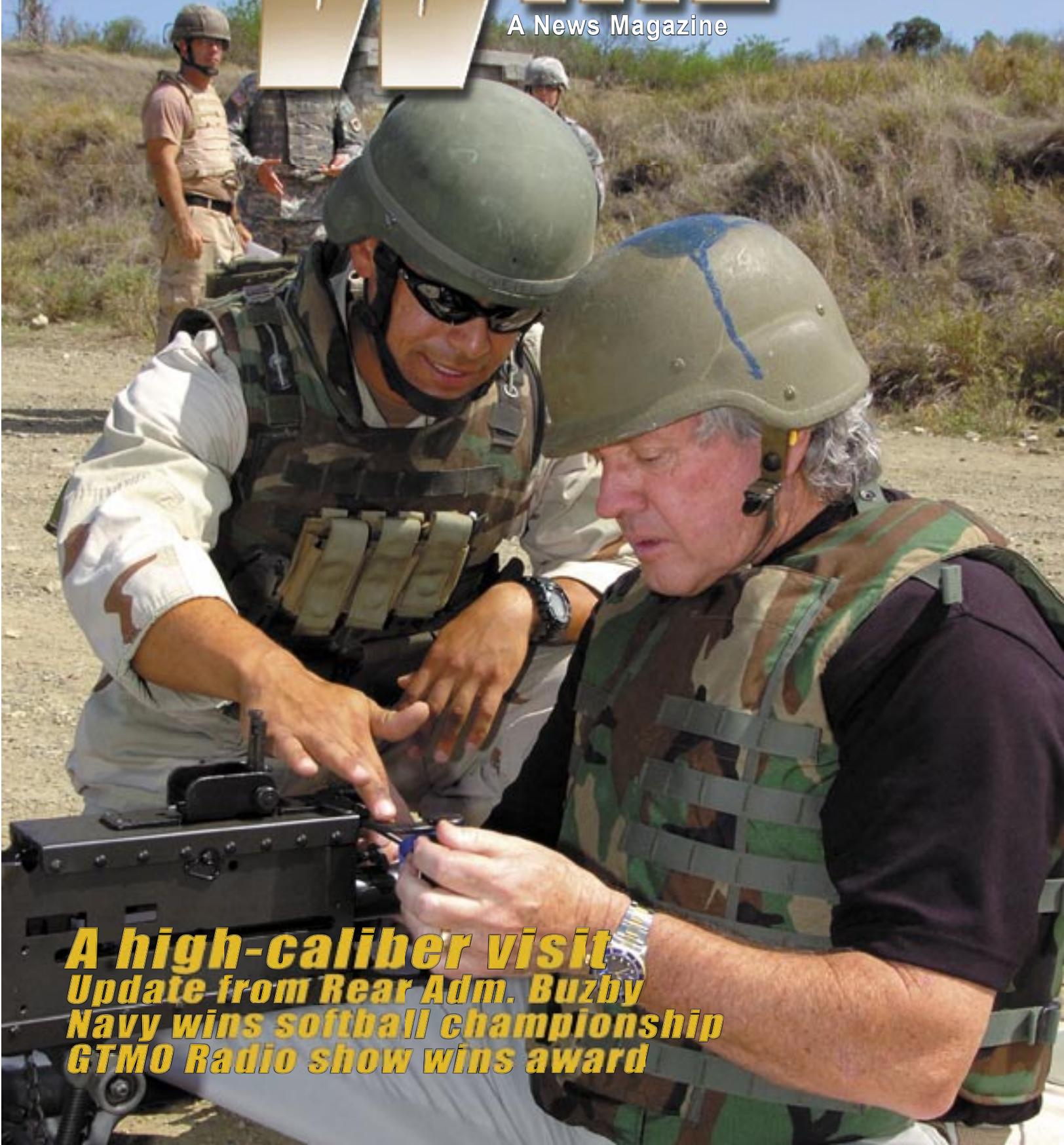


THE WIRE

A News Magazine



***A high-caliber visit
Update from Rear Adm. Buzby
Navy wins softball championship
GTMO Radio show wins award***

New equipment doesn't grow on trees

**Army Sgt. Major
Andy Maestas**

JTF Operations Sgt. Major

It's been nearly three months since my unit, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 111th Combat Support Brigade, arrived here, yet it seems like just a few weeks ago. Time here goes pretty fast because we're busy and staying focused on our day-to-day tasks.

We arrived in Joint Task Force-Guantanamo late in the afternoon Jan. 28, and we were all excited to see what type of mission we were tasked to do. As we processed through the briefings for Joint Military Operations Center, Operational Security and the J2 badging, we were hauled by buses to our billets – which were tents at Camp Justice. That same afternoon we were told that we had the next day off, so that we could rest and adjust to the time. Some of us went and explored the base, and others just slept in.

The third day we were bused to the different locations we would be working for the next year; that same day we started our “left seat/right seat” training with the unit we were replacing, the Puerto Rico Army National Guard. During the next few weeks we received a “Continuity Binder;” in that binder were all the daily tasks that the job required. Around the fourth day in Guantanamo we received a newcomers' tour/brief which was very beneficial to all of us. Finally, Feb. 12, we moved into our new billets; some of us went to the Cuzco Barracks, and others went to Windward Loop.

Let me share a couple of subjects that are important to all of us in order to complete this mission: maintenance and the NCO. As an NCO, you have a direct responsibility and influence on your unit's ability to maintain its equipment. Through your guidance and example, your soldiers will either maintain your unit's equipment or destroy it through neglect. Keep in mind that combat power is a combination of manpower, material and readiness. One cannot survive without the other. With approximately 25 percent of the defense budget being directed towards the maintenance of equipment, each leader must become fully involved in the training of soldiers on how to maintain equipment. As a member of the maintenance management team in your unit, ask yourself the following questions: Are Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS) performed on all equipment assigned to my squad/section before, during and after all periods of operation? Have I ever assessed the effectiveness of my maintenance operation? Am I personally involved in my unit's maintenance program? Do I provide training to my soldiers on maintenance techniques? Do I require my soldiers to perform maintenance to the same standards as required when performing other mission tasks?

See **MAESTAS/13**



JTF GUANTANAMO

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COVER:

A distinguished visitor taking part in the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference is instructed on how to fire an M-2 machine gun by a U.S. Coast Guard range safety on Saturday, April 19. For more information, turn to page 4 – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joshua Treadwell.



The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regards to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by the Document Automation & Production Service with a circulation of 1000.



Navy Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby addresses approximately 70 participants of the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Saturday, April 19. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Eric Liesse

Looking to the future

Navy Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby

JTF Guantanamo Commander

Fellow Members of the Task Force:

It's been some time since I last spoke with you, so I wanted to scratch a few lines to bring you up to speed on some issues that you should be aware of.

First, my thanks to all of you who included me in your thoughts and prayers during my recent illness. As some of you are aware, back on the morning of March 9, I awoke in my quarters and passed out cold as my feet hit the deck. A quick ambulance ride to the naval hospital and subsequent CAT scans revealed that I had significant internal bleeding and an unidentified mass on my outer stomach. I med-evac'ed to Bethesda Naval Hospital the following day and was operated on shortly thereafter. Thankfully, the doctors found no tumor and the source of the bleeding – a ruptured blood vessel – was easily repaired. It has taken me about a month to regain my strength and get all my systems fully functional again, but I am “back in battery” and very thankful to Brig. Gen. Gregory Zanetti and

all those who stepped up and kept Joint Task Force operations running seamlessly in my absence. And a special thanks to the doctors, nurses, and Corpsmen at the naval hospital who took such good care of me. I guess the Good Lord has other plans for me!

In a very few weeks, many of you will be moving into the new Cuzco III units that are rapidly going up across from the NEX. Thanks for being patient. Other quality of life projects that are making solid progress include the new gym to serve Camp America, a new building to house Club Survivor, a new Trooper galley (“Kittery Kafe”) across from Camps 5/6, and the ongoing rehab of TK housing. You should also see new A/C units going into the TKs here shortly too. We continue to look for ways to improve your standard of living; Command Master Chief LeVault is leading the charge.

This summer is shaping up to be a very busy one here at GTMO as the Commissions hearings finally pick up steam and the large supporting cast begins arriving – judges, attorneys, panel members, victim and defendant families, and of course the press.

Our role is a critical one, and many of you will have a part to play in moving detainees, providing security, or some other supporting function to permit the trials to move forward safely and efficiently. This of course is in addition to our regular mission of safe and humane care and custody. A challenge for us – but one that I am very confident we will tackle with all the professionalism the JTF is known for. The focus of the world will be upon us again.

Amidst all that, my time in GTMO is coming to a close. Change of Command has been set for May 27 when Rear Adm. Dave Thomas will take the helm. I'll have more to say in the coming weeks about my thoughts over this past year, but suffice to say that I am not looking forward to relinquishing command of this great outfit – not when I have the privilege of hearing the comments of last week's JCOC group who were totally blown away by the pride and dedication exhibited by every Trooper they came in contact with. And I wasn't surprised.

It is great to be back among you for at least a few more weeks. See you around the JOA. *Honor Bound!*



Participants in the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference listen to a briefing from a Camp Delta official during their visit to Guantanamo Bay Saturday, April 19. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson

Truth, up close and personal

**Army Sgt. 1st Class
Vaughn R. Larson**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Sometimes, in order to get out the message about what is really happening at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, you have to bring people to the message.

That happened in a big way Saturday, April 19 as approximately 70 people – business leaders, academics and a handful of military personnel – visited Guantanamo Bay as part of a Joint Civilian Orientation Conference.

The JCOC is a Pentagon outreach program, sponsored by the Secretary of Defense, designed to expand knowledge about the military and national defense. The program, with expenses paid by participants, has been conducted more than 74 times since 1948 and includes briefings by senior military personnel, interactions with military personnel and examples of hands-on military training experiences. This particular group focused on the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility.

The visitors' tour began with a Navy boat ride to Bulkeley Landing. At the Naval Station headquarters, Rear Adm. Mark Buzby then briefed the group about the purpose and role of the Joint Task Force – collecting strategic intelligence in support of the global war on terror, while providing safe and humane care and custody of the detained enemy combatants.

Buzby, the commander of the Joint Task Force mission, explained that the approximately 275 detainees held here, representing up to 19 different nations, are primarily al-Qaida and Taliban members taken from the Afghanistan battlefield in 2002, although some detainees have arrived since that time. These detainees are allegedly responsible for the first attack on the World Trade Center in New York City, the 1998 attacks on U.S. embassies in Africa, the attack on the U.S.S. Cole in 2000, and the Sept. 11 terror attacks. He went on to say that a full al-Qaida cell exists within the confines of the detainee camps.

“International law allows for the

detention of enemy combatants until the end of hostilities,” Buzby said. “You can hold them as long as the fighting is going on.”

The detainees held at Guantanamo include not only those who took part in combat, but bomb-makers and financiers as well, the admiral said. Most of those who have been released from Guantanamo are what Buzby described as “good behavior” detainees, leaving those enemy combatants he termed “hard-core jihadists.” Even so, he told the visitors that at least 30 repatriated detainees are known to have gone back to the fight.

Buzby suggested that the visitors might be angered at how the detainees are treated here – not for deplorable conditions, but because the treatment far exceeds the requirements of the Geneva Conventions. For example, detainees are provided three meals adding up to 5,000 calories daily.

“If you eat it all, you get fat,” Buzby said, adding that the average weight gain for detainees is 12 pounds – including those on

See **JCOC/9**

IG Office: Keeping it honest

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Nat Moger**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Troopers rely on them when they want to resolve a problem without fear of reprisal or to solve a problem when they feel nobody else can or nobody else will listen. They help Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coastguardsmen with a multitude of issues. They hold focus groups to evaluate perceived leadership effectiveness and command climate. They educate to ensure standards are understood and followed.

They do all these things and more, but if you asked any one of them they'd tell you it all boiled down to one thing.

"We're the eyes, ears, and pretty much conscience for the JTF Guantanamo commander," said Navy Cmdr. Richard Charles Boehm, Inspector General for Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay. "We report directly to him. He uses us to his advantage to get a feel for the command climate and the readiness of the JTF."

In order to effectively run a task force thousands strong, Navy Rear Adm. Mark Buzby, commander of the JTF, needs to make sure people are trained and compliant in following the procedures put in place to provide for the safe and humane care and custody of detained enemy combatants. Making sure that people are doing what they are supposed to is the job of the inspector general's office.

The IG, composed of Boehm, Army Lt. Col. Philip Fry and Army Sgt. Maj. Fatima Berry, assist Troopers in need, inspect units for procedural compliance, conduct investigations and inquiries and teach and train JTF personnel as needed to support inspections and day-to-day operations.

Given these responsibilities, it's easy to assume that the IG is feared and avoided for what they do. Boehm feels the exact opposite.

"A lot of people fear the IG, feel that we place blame or fault on people," said Boehm. "We don't get any points when we just point out faults. We only win when we find areas that need improvement and help make the improvement or give the advice needed to improve."

The IG assists Troopers in many different areas: promotion issues, fraud, waste and abuse, leadership issues and pay issues. IG personnel are ready to help on any and all fronts. After all, to complain without fear of reprisal is the right of any Trooper. However, the IG is not the first place to look.

"A lot of the issues we resolve could just as easily be resolved if people would only talk with each other instead of around each other," said Boehm. "It's best if people try to work things out within their chain of command before they come to us."



ARMY SGT. MAJ. FATIMA BERRY

"We work directly for the admiral," said Boehm. "All investigations originate with him. We'll present facts and he'll decide which course of actions he wants to take."

The IG takes express pride in making sure of impartiality and that the accused is given full protection and consideration just as the individual making the complaint.

"We'll make no claims as to whether allegations are substantiated or unsubstantiated," said Boehm. "What we do is collect evidence, interview witnesses and present these facts to admiral Buzby. We're an impartial fact finder and nothing more."

The ultimate goal of the IG is to ensure that the JTF is working at its highest level. To do this, the IG works with the various directorates to ensure that Department of Defense, U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Army South, JTF and other standards are adhered to.

"We don't make the standard, we enforce the standard," said Berry, assistant IG. "We open the SOPs [standard operating procedures] or their documents and make sure they're adhering to the principles and standards they've established for themselves."

These spot checks make sure the machine is running smoothly and can survive even the most vigorous scrutiny.

"Our inspections are done to prepare for SOUTHCOM, USARSO and Department of the Army inspections," said Berry. "We've got their checklists and we'll go through it with each section to make sure they're ready. It's a rehearsal so to speak."

In the end, the IG is oversight in an ever-adapting workplace.

"The JTF has such a high rate of turnover, that there are always new people here that might need help," said Boehm. "It's our job to make sure they get the information they might need."



NAVY CMDR. RICHARD BOEHM

If a complaint or problem cannot be resolved through a Trooper's immediate chain of command, then the IG uses its resources to help work the issue. If there is a complaint of a serious nature that involves one or more of the Troopers, then the IG evaluates the complaint to see if it should be referred to the JTF staff judge advocate or other legal organization.

"Basically an investigative inquiry is a fact finding mission to determine if there's enough evidence to open up a formal investigation," explained Boehm. "It could come from someone walking into the office and making a complaint, it could be an email or it could even be an anonymous phone call."

The complaints can range from fraternization to adultery to allegations of fraud, waste and abuse. The IG does not, however, prompt investigations.



The winning Navy softball team, front row, l-r: John Krannitz, right fielder; Cory Becherer, shortstop; Noah Uttech, third baseman; Matt Meon, right center fielder; and Shaun Crepple, second baseman. Back row, l-r: Tabron Virgin, catcher; Robert Green, pitcher; Heath Coulter, left center fielder; Dustin Kentzell, left fielder; and Robert Lamb, first baseman and coach.

Navy shines in diamond duel

**Army Sgt. 1st Class
Vaughn R. Larson**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The circuit clout was king last Friday night as Navy beat Army, 11-7, in a softball game at Zaiser Field sponsored by the Guantanamo Bay Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department.

The Navy squad powered out to a quick 2-0 lead in the first inning, but Army answered with three runs in the bottom of the frame.

The Navy team continued its barrage, building a commanding 9-4 lead. Army would not go away, chipping away at the Navy lead with base hits to bring the score to 9-6. But another home run from Navy sealed the deal, and the late heroics by Army could only narrow the margin to 11-7.

“Our left fielder had a heck of a night,” said Navy team captain Robert Lamb. “Every time he gets up, it’s either a home run or a long fly ball.”

Dustin Kentzell, left fielder, socked three home runs for Navy and was 4-for-4 on the evening. Teammate Cory Becherer, shortstop, was also 4-



Dustin Kentzell blasts one of his three home runs Friday night at Zaiser Field. His power behind the plate was key to Navy’s 11-7 win over Army.

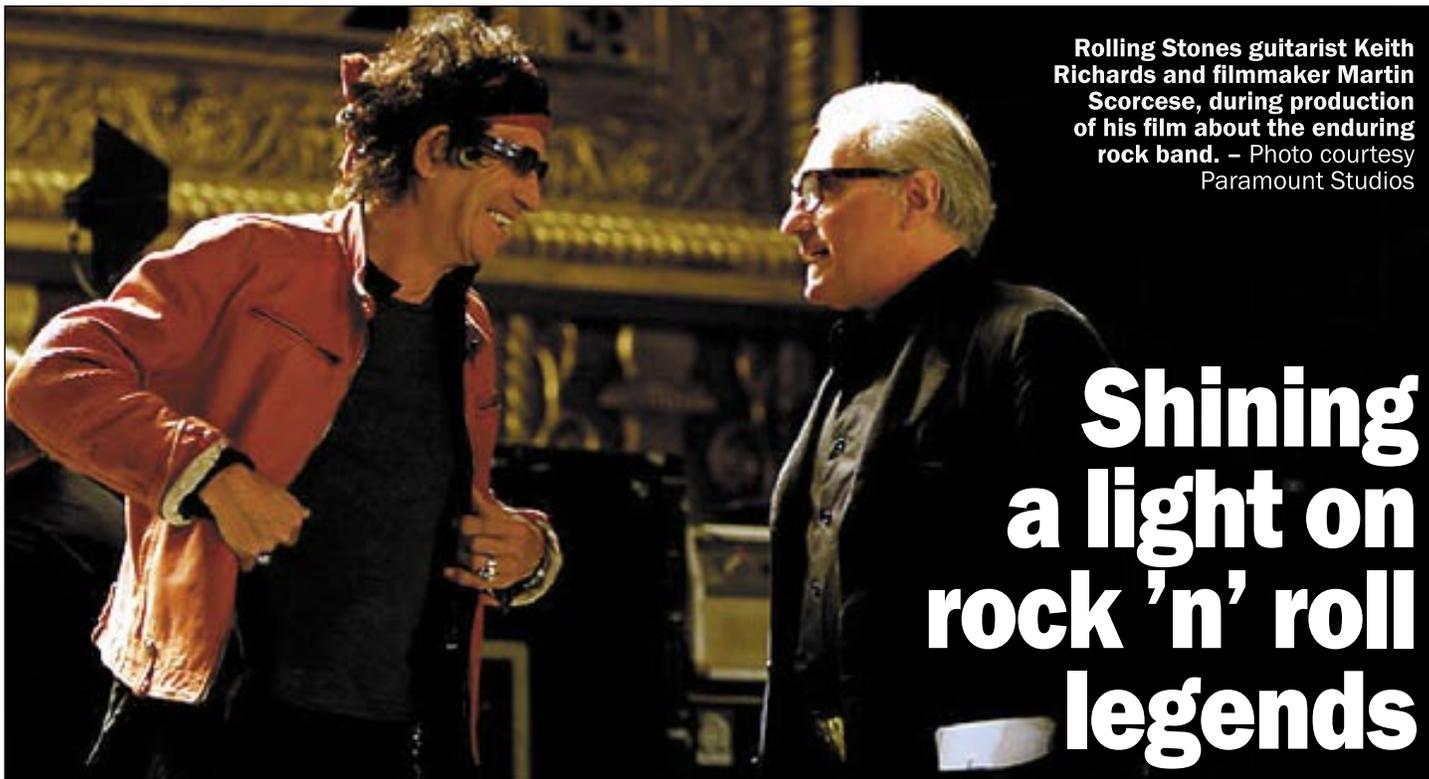
of-4 Friday night, and Shaun Creppel, second baseman, went 3-for-4.

Army team captain Christopher Ellis said his team kept coming back and tried to make the most of the few opportunities yielded by a strong-fielding Navy team.

“They hit four home runs,” Ellis said. “That

added up to seven runs. We take the long ball away from them [and] it would have ended differently.”

“They were a pretty good team,” Lamb said of the Army squad. “They kept it close.”



Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards and filmmaker Martin Scorsese, during production of his film about the enduring rock band. – Photo courtesy Paramount Studios

Shining a light on rock 'n' roll legends

Army Pfc. Eric Liesse
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

In “Shine a Light,” Martin Scorsese latest directorial release, the eternal Rolling Stones take the stage in the storied Beacon Theater in New York City for a string of classics for a high-class concert film. The concert footage was recorded over two shows in fall 2006, both benefits for President Bill Clinton’s foundation.

The film focuses almost entirely on the show. There is roughly a 20-minute making of the show vignette before the performance to get the audience up to speed about how the show came to be. There are also several excerpts from archived Stones interviews intercut throughout the rest of the film. However, they take a back seat to the Stone’s playing and performance. The old interview footage does humanize the band when juxtaposed against their modern-day selves.

The opening tells the planning of the show, with plenty of moments showing the usually control-obsessed Scorsese trying to get a set list of the show out of the band and its crew.

One of the oddest moments is when Clinton introduced himself to the band, along with his small entourage. Small talk is made, handshakes are given, and the former president makes odd comments about his nephew, age 12, being in attendance. U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton even has the band wait to meet her mother. The Stones are cordial, but don’t really seem to care.

The show itself is all about the band. With mostly close shots and plenty looking up from the front row audience, the serpentine Mick Jagger shows off his dance moves like always. The 18 different cameras also catch Jagger’s

innate ability to not sing into the microphone. However, his voice seems as crisp now as anyone could hope for after his five decades of rocking.

The modern-day pirate Keith Richards plays as well as ever. About half way through the show, his old mischievous grin and attitude really start to shine through.

Ronnie Wood, the other half of the Stones’ guitar work, keeps his presence more subdued and stately for his age, yet still plays the raunchy tunes with all the bravado expected. Charlie Watts, the quiet drummer, keeps time while playing the straight guy to the rest of the band’s rock show.

A few other big named musicians make appearances as well. Both Jack White and Christina Aguilera help Jagger with a few classic Stones tracks. However, the big cameo, and one of the highlights of the show, is blues legend Buddy Guy coming on stage to play and sing along with the band to Muddy Waters’ “Champagne and Reefer.” The back and forth with Guy and the band is a memorable jam session with great guitar and soulful vocal wails from Guy.

One of the biggest highlights of the show is when Richards puts down his guitar and takes to the microphone to sing both “You Got the Silver” and “Connection.” During “You Got the Silver,” Richards and the camera work together to display his real blues emotion and love for the music.

As for the set list, the concert is mostly what you would expect. The list included classics such as “Jumpin’ Jack Flash,” “Brown Sugar,” “Sympathy for the Devil,” and “Satisfaction.”

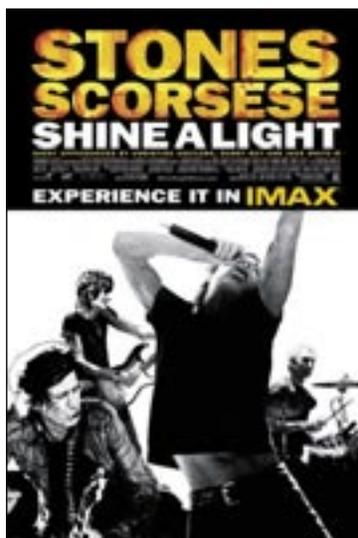
However, these signature songs aren’t the stand-out performances by the end of the night. “Champagne and Reefer,” Keith’s “You Got the Silver” and “Some Girls” are the tunes that stay with the audience as the most memorable. The Stones really get their love for these bluesy and

rocking tunes across in their stage presence.

From a film standpoint, it’s decent. “Shine a Light” is a concert film so it’s aimed at the fans of the Stones and their music rather than fans of documentaries. The snippets of past interviews give it an analytical feeling at times, but these moments are fleeting and few.

“Shine a Light” is in no way a documentary. It’s a pure concert film put on by arguably the greatest living film maker and starring one of the most successful rock bands to ever grace a stage. By default, it is going to be worth the time if you’re a fan of either.

Rating: ★★★★★



GUANTANAMO BAY - UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL



JCOC from 4

hunger strikes. Meals are made in accordance with religious dietary requirements, and meal schedules are changed in observance of religious holidays such as Ramadan, which calls for daytime fasting.

The admiral also noted the accommodations by the JTF to allow freedom of worship within the detainee camps. Each detainee is given a copy of the Koran in his native language, and an arrow pointing toward Mecca is painted on each floor used for prayer in detainee areas. Prayer rugs and beads are also available, depending upon compliance. Muslim chaplains visit periodically, and a cultural advisor is part of the JTF, he added.

But the detainees are not just being kept from the battlefield – they are providing information. Buzby estimated that the Joint Task Force averages 60 interrogations per week.

“These interrogations are done by rapport-building,” he explained. “There is no fingernail pulling.”

He shared how one detainee provided detailed information on an enemy outpost in Tora Bora, allowing U.S. forces to put ordnance on that target as a result.

Six detainees here face charges related to the Sept. 11 attacks, and a military commissions system has been established, in part, to establish the legal status of other detainees. JCOC visitors were given a glimpse inside the new Expeditionary Legal Complex – a state-of-the-art courtroom inside Camp Justice – slated to begin operations soon, which can accommodate translators for up to six detainees and their attorneys at one time. Lt. Col. Eric Judkins told visitors that the ELC is considered “as good as it gets.”

A room adjacent to the courtroom will contain members of the media, non-governmental organizations such as the American Bar Association, American Civil Liberties Union, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights First and Amnesty International. Judkins said non-governmental organizations are invited, to show the transparency of the commissions.

The JCOC visit included tours of Camps 4, 5 and 6 in Camp Delta, which are manned by Army and Navy personnel. Visitors were shown the different accommodations for “compliant” and “non-compliant” detainees – a status determined by obeying guards’ directives, and not by their conduct during interrogation. Compliant detainees are allowed more comfort items and a more communal living arrangement, and have more recreation time. Non-compliant detainees are given fewer comfort items, do not have communal lodging, and have the opportunity for at least two hours of recreation per day.

Camp 4, which houses many of the compliant detainees, also offers a classroom for language classes. The program has proven so successful that it may be introduced to camps 5 and 6.

Buzby cautioned, however, that he considers Camp 4 to be the most dangerous camp.

See JCOC/12



A VISIT FROM THE JOINT CIVILIAN ORIENTATION CONFERENCE



Participants of the 12-week Introduction to Yoga Workshop at the Marine Hill Fitness Center conduct warm-up stretches and practice mental relaxation before progressing to more complicated yoga poses. – JTF Guantanamo photos by Army Sgt. Gretel Sharpee

Yoga

Workshop stretches your limits

Army Spc.
Megan Burnham

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

For residents at Guantanamo Bay who were anticipating a new type of yoga, the Introduction to Yoga Workshop at the Marine Hill Fitness Center was created to provide just that. The workshop is a 12-week course, Saturdays from 10:30 a.m.-noon, April 12 to June 28.

The goal of the workshop is to equip the students with a better understanding of how to practice yoga effectively and to increase their health. Each session will include education of yoga, interactive demonstration by the instructor, and group practice. Charla Truesdale, health and fitness professional, created this workshop to give participants information and direction about yoga.

“I felt there was a need for more in-depth guidance for those who really had not had any experience with yoga and for them to feel more comfortable going to classes,” said Truesdale.

When asked why they were interested in this workshop and what they hoped to get from it, one yoga participant remarked, “I hope to gain an even better understanding of how to do yoga properly and be able to do it on my own on a daily basis.”

Truesdale also mentioned how she wanted to design a class where participants had the opportunity to work with her on a one-on-one basis and

the chance to ask questions.

“If I was just teaching an hour and a half of yoga I wouldn’t be able to really address everything that needed to be addressed. I wanted them to have a better experience than trial and error,” commented Truesdale.

During the first session of the workshop, Truesdale asked the participants as a group to compile a list of goals and expectations. The list included: improved flexibility, decrease in joint pain and stress, increasing in breathing, a mental and physical balance, help with weight management, posture improvement, and self-discipline.

The class consisted of a diverse crowd of participants ranging from newcomers to Guantanamo Bay to civilians on the island.

“I’m hoping to gain better technique. Even though I am experienced [as an instructor of yoga], I can always work on my technique,” said Sediqua Forrest, member of the U.S. Navy.

Truesdale finished the interview with a parting comment: “Yoga is not about how it looks but how it feels, the main thing is that you honor your body.”

The workshop, with an opening of 25 participants, was filled within record time. Nonetheless, there is a possibility of another workshop being offered in September. Currently, beginner yoga classes are offered at the Marine Hill Fitness Center by Charla Truesdale, Mondays and Wednesdays at 7-8 p.m., and Shannon Zambrano, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7-8 p.m.

Memory lane



And they're off! Runners take off from the starting point during the race portion of Saturday's Alzheimer's run/walk event. Approximately 60 people participated in the event, held to raise awareness about the disease as well as funds for the National Alzheimer's Association.

■ Student service project dedicated to combatting Alzheimer's disease

**Army Staff Sergeant
Emily J. Russell**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Approximately 60 people participated in the Alzheimer's Run/Walk Saturday, April 19 in an effort to raise awareness and money for the Alzheimer's association.

The event, organized by the W.T. Sampson National Honor Society and Junior Honor Society, began at Denich Gym with the 5-kilometer route winding past the Wind Jammer, to the top of JPJ hill and back.

Runners and walkers gathered in their respective groups at the starting line with the walkers starting about three minutes after the runners. For the runners, this was a race. The walkers enjoyed a more leisurely, yet challenging, walk up the long hill.

Hayden Kemp, a student at W.T. Sampson and member of the Honor Society, was the driving force behind organizing the 5K event. As a resident of Guantanamo Bay, she found her inspiration through some of the Cuban exiles she befriended who also live and work on the base.

During a Thanksgiving meal provided by the Red Cross, Kemp, a volunteer,



Adam Moore, math teacher and director of the W.T. Sampson National Honor Society/Junior National Honor Society briefs participants on the race route and the importance of Alzheimer's disease awareness before beginning Saturday's Alzheimer's run-walk. Moore provided support to the NHS and JNHS students who coordinated the event.

noticed a particular man whom she had not seen in about three years and didn't know where he had been.

"I was excited to see him and wanted to say hi but I realized he didn't remember me," said Kemp. "It was sad to see he had Alzheimer's."

During a NHS conference she decided the Alzheimer's walk would be her service project for the year. Participants in Guantanamo Bay could support a

national program and contribute to funding Alzheimer's research while raising awareness of the disease in their own community.

Adam Moore, a math teacher and director of the NHS/JNHS at Sampson, provided supervision and support for the students as they coordinated their first Alzheimer's event.

See **ALZHEIMER'S/13**

Guantanamo part of military orientation tour

JCOC from 9

“It’s where our only riot occurred,” he told visitors. “It’s the facility where we have our most trusted [detainees], and they took advantage of it.”

Camp 5, a \$17 million maximum-security facility which opened in 2004, holds “the worst of the worst,” or the most uncooperative detainees.

While visitors did not tour Camp 5, they were allowed inside Camp 6, a \$37.5 million maximum-security detainee center modeled after a medium-security correctional facility in Michigan, which opened in October of 2006. Here visitors saw guards walking their beats, ensuring that each detainee was observed every few minutes – like clockwork – in part to prevent detainees from trying to harm themselves. Visitors were also shown protective gear guards wear on a daily basis, as well as protective personal equipment used when detainees become non-compliant.

Army Col. Bruce Vargo, who commands the Joint Detention Group, told visitors that assaults by detainees on guards average eight per day. Assaults vary from physical contact to being struck by “cocktails” – an unpleasant mixture of body fluids and excrement. He emphasized that guards do not take retribution against detainees for these assaults.

“The guard force has a nasty job, but they do it humanely and they do it well,” Vargo said. “You should be proud of them.”

One guard said he would like the public to know that detainees are not being mistreated.

“We’re doing what we set out to do – provide humane care,” he said. “We walk the block every day. I’ve never seen a guard lose composure, and I don’t think I’ll ever see it.”

Vargo explained that detainees seek to convince an international audience that they are being abused – a tactic outlined in the “Manchester Document,” named for an al-Qaida manual discovered in a May 2000 raid in Manchester, England.

“The problem is, it’s not happening here,” Vargo said of the claims. He explained the ratio of guards to detainees, the work shift schedules, and detailed how that schedule is impacted by visits such as this one. Last year there were nearly 300 distinguished visitors, approximately 2,000 lawyers, and more than 300 media visits.

“You can’t do this,” Vargo said of accommodating visits, “and also do all that the detainees claim we are doing.”

The visit inside Camp Delta was a stark contrast with Camp X-Ray, the original holding area for detainees in 2002 – and the image still most synonymous with detainee operations. Camp X-Ray, a temporary structure identified by cyclone fencing and concertina wire, was used only a few months until camps 1, 2 and 3 were completed in early 2002. Visitors saw the abandoned camp, now overgrown with weeds, prior to entering Camp Delta.

While in Camp Delta, visitors learned about the health care provided to detainees. Each detainee receives an annual medical review, and the medical staff performs approximately 170 surgical procedures per year. Since detainee operations began, staffs there have administered more than 9,000 inoculations. Other services offered include colonoscopies, psychological treatment, dental care, pharmaceutical, anesthetics and digital radiography.

Health care is optional, meaning detainees can refuse medical care if they wish. However, at least two detainees are most likely



JCOC guests hear first-hand about the high level of medical care offered to detainees in Camp Delta. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Eric Liesse

glad they accepted. One detainee received eye surgery and had his sight restored. Another underwent neurosurgery to repair a herniated disk that caused paralysis. The surgery was performed a scant 23 hours after the symptoms were first reported. That particular detainee now walks without the aid of a walker, and wrote a letter of gratitude to Adm. Buzby.

“He told me he was wrong about Americans,” Buzby told the visitors. “He said Americans are not the bad guys.”

The medical staff strives for a slightly different relationship with detainees than what exists with the guard force, because medical treatment requires a level of trust. Even so, detainees regularly try to bite or physically harm the medical staff in addition to throwing body fluids. Guards are always on hand when detainees receive medical treatment.

The tour left a definite impression on many JCOC visitors.

“This is more than a detention center,” said Madelyn Hammond, who works for Variety Magazine in Los Angeles. “This is a first-class intelligence operation. This is as much about [fighting terrorism] as it is about detaining some of the most vicious criminals in history.”

Hammond said she expected to see a prison with inmates.

“What I saw was 100 percent commitment on the part of individuals running the facility to maintain law and order,” she said. “It’s about always staying one step ahead.”

John Galloway, president of Atlantic Media Co., said he came away with the utmost respect for the Troopers serving in the Joint Task Force every day.

“I hadn’t realized the newer camps were modeled on the best practices available today,” he said. “I still had Camp X-Ray images in mind.”

Meredith Iler, of Strategic Alliance in Texas, agreed.

“It definitely opens your eyes that what the media portrays is not reality,” she said. “What shocked me is the original camp that was only used for a few months hasn’t been operational for years.”

Jim Bowles, president of Conoco-Philips in Anchorage, Alaska, also called the tour eye-opening.

“What really struck me was the ratio of Soldiers to detainees,” he said. “I had no idea it was this complex.

“I’ve got family in Arkansas, Texas and Alabama,” he continued. “All of them will hear this story – the Gitmo story.”

5K event raises awareness, funds for Alzheimer's

ALZHEIMER'S from 11

"The kids took on coordination of the event like making arrangements with the gym, clearing the event with the JAG because of fund raising legalities, notifying base security, and the overall planning," explained Moore. "The money we receive will be sent to the national Alzheimer's association," he added.

The event brought a variety of participants, each with their own motivation for getting involved. For some, it was another race to run for fitness or to build camaraderie. For others, their reasons hit close to home.

"For me, it's a personal interest," said Navy Lt. Von Langham. "Most of my older family members suffer from Alzheimer's. I feel like doing this is my contribution to my family."

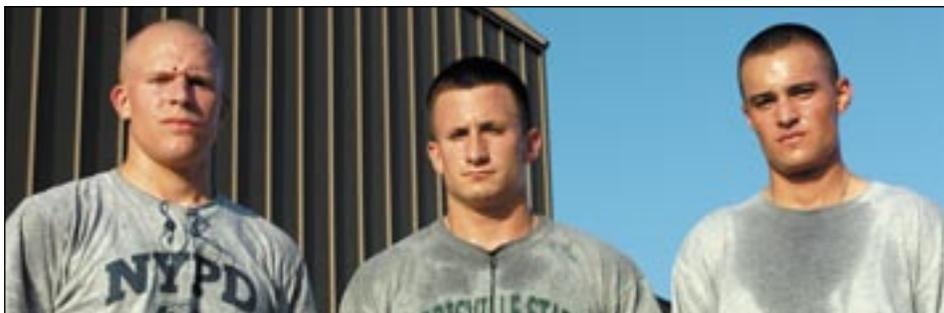
Navy Lt. Jim Compton, walked with Langham but participated in the event for another reason.

"I'm walking more for personal health," Compton explained. "I don't have a lot of family members affected but I've read that the more active and physically fit you are, the less likely you are to be affected by the disease."

A platoon of Marines stepped up to one of the many challenges their platoon sergeant put forth.

"No one had to come, but they all showed up," said Marine Staff Sgt. Rodrigo Arias, platoon sergeant for second platoon, second Fleet Anti-Terrorist Security Team. "I was happy to see all of them here – they didn't have to do it."

Whether participating to build camaraderie, improve fitness or to support a worthy cause,



Bryan Stanley (center) finished first in the race portion of Saturday's Alzheimer's run-walk event. Logan Stevens (left) finished second, followed by Brent Stevens.
– JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell

the effort and support of the community here helped raise approximately \$400.

"I was pleased with the turnout for the event," Moore said. "This was our first year doing this – it was definitely a learning experience. We're already thinking of how to improve it next year."

"I welcome any suggestions."

The NHS/JNHS will continue to accept donations until Friday, May 2. If you would like to support the Alzheimer's association in their effort to find a cure, contact Adam Moore at adam.moore@am.dodea.edu or call him at 77961.

Maintenance key to making mission

MAESTAS from 2

Supply accountability and responsibility: Accountability is the obligation of a person to keep an accurate record of property, documents, or funds. Accountability is concerned primarily with maintaining formal records that contain item identification data, quantities, values, balances and property transactions. Responsibility results from the possession of property or the command or supervision of others who have possession of property. It involves a basic obligation for the proper custody, care, use and safekeeping

of government property. Any person may incur responsibility for the care and custody of property, even if he or she has not signed a receipt for it. Responsibility is based on possession of the property or the scope of the individual's employment or duty. The assignment of duty may be by written or verbal orders of a superior. The four levels of responsibility are command, supervisory, direct, and personal. As an NCO, you may assume any or all of the levels of responsibility, depending on your position within a unit. At the least you will always have supervisory responsibility for equipment issued to your section or squad.

Boots on the Ground

How do you plan to observe Earth Day?

by Army Pfc. Eric Liesse

**Army Pfc.
Jordan Bevan**



"We clean up the Earth every day. That's our job. That, and sergeant major details."

**Army Spc.
Cliff Aubuchon**



"I'm working inside the camps, taking a trash bag and picking up trash inside the camps."

**Army Spc.
Nelson Muniz**



"Anything that is not green, we throw in the trash."

**Army Sgt.
Donald Vigil**



"We try to recycle and be greener. And as our section, we'll be cleaning around the base Friday."

Faith, Responsibility, Freedom



Image from www.anat.creativedreamers.com

Air Force Capt. Bruce Bublick, Chaplain

105th Airlift Wing (Air Mobility Command)
New York Air National Guard

The Old Testament refers to each of the five Jewish Holy Days contained therein with a unique descriptive phrase. Rosh HaShana, the Jewish New Year, is called “the day of the shofar,” referring to the ram’s horn that is sounded during the prayer service of the day. Yom Kippur, the day of atonement, is referred to as “the day of remembrance,” for on that day G-d recalls all of our individual acts of the prior year. Shavuot is noted as “the time of the Torah,” to celebrate the giving of the Torah (the Pentateuch) on Mount Sinai. Sukkot is “the time of happiness,” as we complete the annual cycle of the weekly readings in our synagogues. And Passover is described as the “*time of freedom*,” to commemorate the freeing of the nation of Israel that had been enslaved to Pharaoh in Egypt for more than 200 years.

In light of the above, how appropriate it was when I arrived in GTMO last week to conduct the Passover Seders and noticed for the first time the motto of the Joint Task Force: “Honor Bound to Defend Freedom”.

Although I only spent one week assigned to the JTF, I was incredibly impressed by the professionalism and

diversity of everyone involved in this critical mission. Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. Active duty, Guardsmen, and Reservists. Men and women. All working together as one unified and very competent force.

One of the best known parts of the Passover story – to Jews and non-Jews alike – is the splitting of the Red Sea, allowing the Children of Israel to escape from the hot pursuit of their former Egyptian taskmasters.

We read in *Exodus 14:22*, “The Children of Israel came within the sea on dry land and the water was a wall for them, on their right and on their left . . . Moses stretched out his hand over the sea . . . the water covered the chariots and the entire army of Pharaoh . . . the Children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea . . .”

In their mind’s eye, most people envision the above event as per Cecil B. DeMille, in his cinematic version of “The Ten Commandments.” 600,000 Jews approach the Red Sea, with their backs to their enemy. Moses stands at the shoreline, waves his hand and presto – the sea opens wide, allowing the Jews to cross in safety.

However, according to traditional Jewish biblical sources, it didn’t exactly happen like that. We learn in the Talmud, Tractate *Sotah 37a*, “Each of the [12] tribes [of Israel] was unwilling to be the

first to enter the sea. Then sprang forward Nachson, the son of Aminadav, the future leader of the tribe of Judah. He followed G-d’s command and descended first into the sea. When the water was up to his neck, then the sea split”.

Thus, although G-d had made an eternal covenant to protect the Jewish nation, his miracle at the Red Sea was not executed until Nachson proved that the Children of Israel were willing to obey all of His commands, and to provide the leadership necessary to do so. Not until Nachson was almost completely covered by water did G-d command the sea to split.

No occupation or profession requires leadership more than the military. Our missions cannot be successfully completed unless we have leaders at every level of command – officers, NCOs, and enlisted. Every individual service member is, in fact, a leader within his or her own sphere of responsibility. We all must be like Nachson, demonstrating faith, responsibility and leadership. We must always endure to be the first to set a good example to others. Only in that way can we reach our individual and collective goals.

(Editor’s Note: In some Jewish traditions, the Creator’s name is not completely spelled out – such as “G-d” – as a sign of awe and obedience.)



Navy Chief Petty Officer Joey Alonso stands ready at the microphone to entertain Guantanamo as the co-host of “The Blitz Morning Show” on 103.1 The Blitz. Navy Chief Petty Officer Joe Clark, the officer in charge of Guantanamo’s media center, controls the computer to run the recording session for their show.

Side gig brings high honors

**Army Pfc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

When someone has a radio show and gives themselves the on-air nickname of “Joey the Mullet,” that someone better be able to make the best darn radio show possible.

Thanks to Navy Chief Petty Officer Joey Alonso, a chief petty officer assigned to the Joint Task Force, the best darn radio show in the entire Navy has been made.

Along with Navy Chief Petty Officer Joe Clark, the officer in charge of the Guantanamo Media Center radio stations, Alonso made “Hairpower with Joe and Joey” on 103.1 The Blitz. For their 1980s-music fueled show that ran in fall 2007, the duo won the Chief of Naval Information Merit Award – also known as the CHINFO Merit Award – for the Navy’s best radio show.

“Hairpower” was a music-based radio show Clark and Alonso did where they played older mainstream hard rock. They focused on playing music of the big-name “hair-metal” or stadium rock bands of the fabled Decade of Decadence, the 1980s. Bands like Mötley Crüe, Poison, Warrant, Winger, Night Ranger, Bon Jovi and the like.

The show wasn’t all about the music – but it wasn’t all about the hosts, either.

“When you listen to our show, it wasn’t Joe and Joey talking about themselves, playing what they wanted,” Alonso said. “It was Joe and Joey having a good time and playing good music and putting out command information and doing it in their own style. We weren’t trying to sound like anybody, saying we needed to sound like Howard Stern or whomever. We weren’t trying to sound like your typical group of guys. We’re just a couple of shmoes sitting behind a microphone.”

Alonso, who has been working in the naval intelligence field for almost 22 years, was entirely new to radio. Clark had already been doing the “Hairpower” show solo, focusing more on playing music. The two chiefs happened to meet and built a good rapport, with plenty of banter. Clark recognized it and asked Alonso to try out the show.

“When I went in, it was pretty intimidating,” said Alonso. “I had never been in a radio station before, and the first time we did it, it was, ‘Yeah, that was all right.’”

Despite the intimidation, the show took off. Both the hair metal fanatics recognized how good the show was

already shaping up to be.

“I’m really good at ad-libbing it. Free styling, if you will,” said Alonso. “And he’s good at – he’s good at being funny, but he’s good at being the straight guy. So it kind of worked out well that he could throw out a little topic, and it would just blow up into things.”

From the success of the show, Clark persuaded Alonso to stick around and start a regular Monday-through-Friday morning show, starting the show in mid-January 2008. Recorded ahead of time, the show is a similar format but without the focus on the 80s music. It can currently be heard 7 to 9 a.m. weekdays on 103.1 The Blitz.

“I was nervous coming here to Gitmo,” Alonso said. “Then I got down here, and I realized what I would be doing for a job and what my people do, what we do to support the mission. And it’s amazing.”

Alonso, who plans to retire from the Navy this summer, is thankful for the job he is doing with both the JTF and the radio.

“Where else do you get to go for two hours, have fun, put out important information in your own style?” he asked. “That’s a very, very important thing. You got to like what you do.”

AROUND THE

JTF



◀ Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Mark Allen sorts mail for Troopers at the Joint Task Force Post Office, April 21, 2008. Postal workers here sort an estimated 6,000 pounds of mail per week. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson

Dan Walsh, Project Mayhem AC team captain, passes to Pat Thompson during game three of the Spring 2008 Innertube Waterpolo Tournament, April 19, 2008. Project Mayhem AC took home the championship with a 5-4 victory in the final game of the five-game series. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker ▶



The judges for Gitmo Idol Round II prepare to critique a contestant. The three judges work with the Teen Center on Guantanamo, and organized this event as a fund raiser for the volunteers who help out with the youth activities here on base. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Gretel Sharpee ▶

