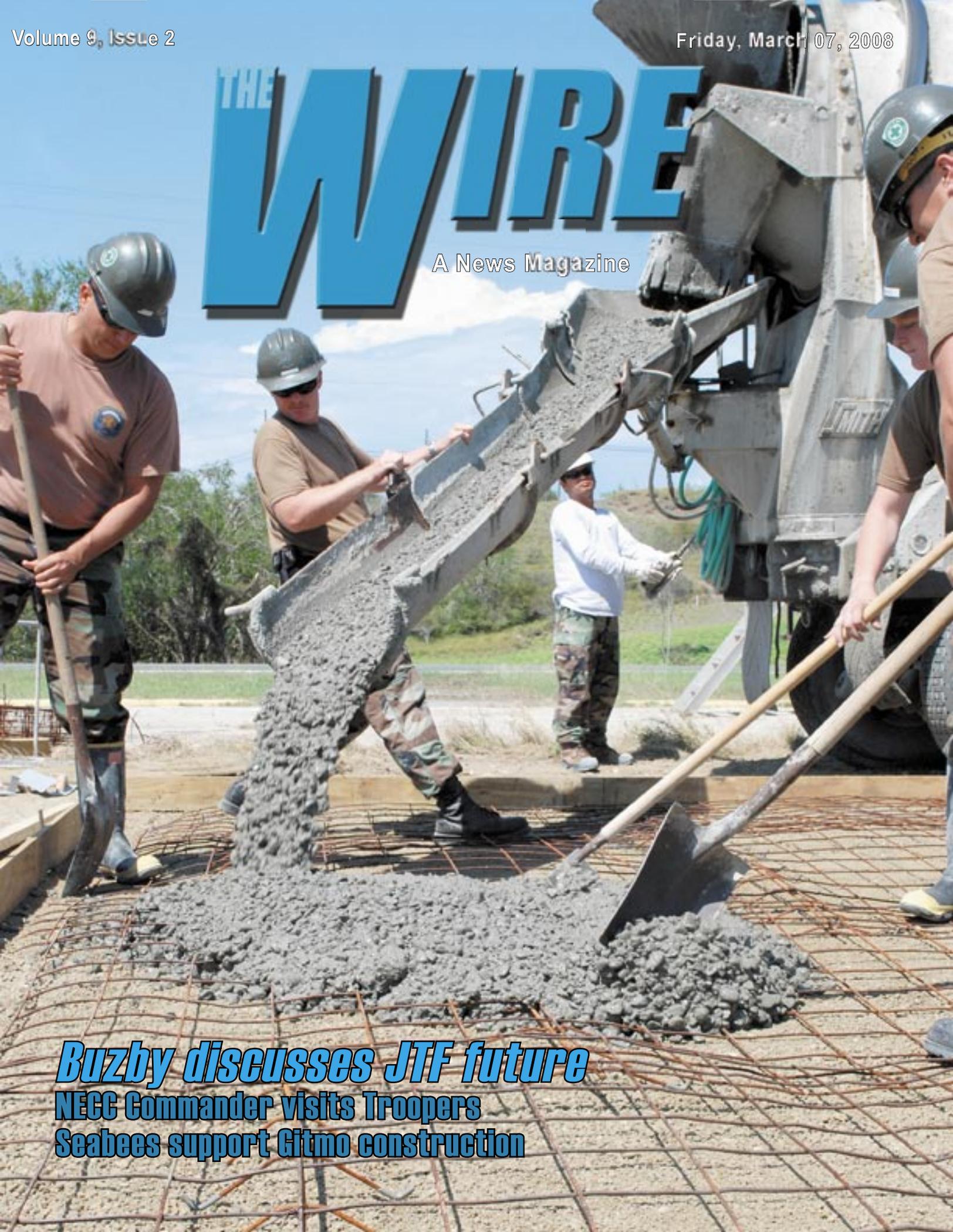


THE WIRE

A News Magazine



Buzby discusses JTF future
NECC Commander visits Troopers
Seabees support Gitmo construction

Developing basic Army leadership skills

By Army Command Sgt. Maj. Ted Trahan
JDG Command Sergeant Major

In an earlier article, I introduced the three phases of the Army's Leader Development Program which can be found in Appendix A of Field Manual 7-1 (Battle Focused Training). The three phases consist of Reception and Integration (which I discussed in detail in my earlier article), Basic Skills Development and Advanced Skills Development and Sustainment.

The second phase of the Leader Development Program is Basic Skills Development. The Basic Skills Development process begins after the end of the Reception and Integration phase (which usually lasts for about 30 days). The Basic Skills phase can last anywhere from a few weeks to several months depending on the skill set of the individual Trooper and the complexity of his/her duties. This phase will cover all the basic tasks a Trooper should know for their grade and position. Let me briefly explain an example of what this entails.

A new Trooper arrives to his/her unit. After the Trooper has completed inprocessing into his/her new unit, oriented to the surrounding environment (gym, NEX, chapel, Aid Station, etc.), settled into living quarters, received a diagnostic physical fitness test and weighed in, the Trooper is ready to transition to Basic Skills. Basic Skills are those skills Troopers need to perform day in and day out in their new duty positions.

The duty positions and the skill sets of the Troopers will determine the overall length of this phase (some pick it up quicker than others), so it is important for mentors to get to know their young Troopers and understand how they're progressing through the



Basic Skills process. If mentors are not tracking, then weeks turn into months and before you know it we have Troopers who are frustrated with learning their daily tasks.

The tools to assist in the Basic Skills process are simple but critical; constant feedback on duty performance through verbal and written counseling sessions is a must. A duty certification checklist (if properly used) is another excellent tool to assess progression of duty performance and also assists the supervisor/mentor in focusing energy in the right direction!

As the Trooper masters all the Basic Skills for his/her tasks, this is where the transition to Advanced Skills Development and Sustainment come into play. In my next article I will discuss the final phase of the Leader Development Program in detail. I've used this process for a number of years and if properly followed, I will swear by the success of this simple, yet critically effective program. Honor Bound, more to follow...

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COVER:
Seabees from Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 74 pour concrete for the foundation of a new pro shop at Yatera Seca Golf Course March 3. (Photo by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin)



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.

Rear Adm. Buzby discusses future of the JTF

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Nathaniel Moger

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Mark Buzby, Commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, sat down recently with *The Wire* to discuss the future of the JTF and the evolving nature of its mission.

With Fidel Castro having stepped down from power in Cuba and the upcoming round of military commissions, the world is once again focusing its gaze upon the work being done on the remote Naval Station on Cuba's Southeastern tip. Such scrutiny means that, despite all the accomplishments of the JTF since its inception in 2002, all hands must maintain vigilance in their day-to-day execution of the mission and it looks like that mission will be continuing through the foreseeable future.

"Is it worthwhile to keep Guantanamo open?" contemplated Buzby. "Clearly that is a policy decision for those in Washington to make. I'll say that if you look at the number and type of requests that come in from the intelligence community every week, you could make the argument that there is still a very important requirement out there that the intelligence gathering capability of Guantanamo still serves very well each week."

While the JTF's main mission is the safe and humane detention of enemy combatants, Buzby acknowledges that like all missions, JTF's is changing and growing.

"Clearly we're entering into a whole new era here," explained Buzby of the growing challenges. "We've setup a commissions support group headed up by Brig. Gen. Gregory Zanetti, my deputy. His primary focus is to ensure that we provide everything that the Office of Military Commissions needs to execute



Rear Adm. Mark Buzby inspects a fire extinguisher during a zone inspection, Feb. 21. Buzby's recent walkthrough of JTF spaces was to ensure Troopers were maintaining operational readiness and the material condition of Camp America. (Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons)

those proceedings."

It's a mission that will require a great deal of coordination.

"We're going to run the facilities: all the support, all the security, all the logistics...It's all on us to make that happen flawlessly. We do that right, all the focus will be on the trials and hearings, not on us. We don't want to be the story in this case," said Buzby.

Buzby still cautions against getting caught up in the new facets of the JTF. "Of course we can't drop our number one mission which is the safe and humane care and custody of the enemy combatants behind the wire right now. So we have to still do that exactly right, but take on this significant mission as well."

Regardless, looking back on the mission, Buzby sees monumental

improvements.

"We've gotten a lot smarter," said Buzby. "Since 2002 we've learned a lot about detention operations. We know our detainee population. We know how they act and react in many cases."

There have also been substantial infrastructure improvements.

"We've now built very modern facilities; state-of-the-art incarceration facilities that have helped reduce manpower and made it safer for our guards and more humane for the detainees," said Buzby.

On par with his commitment to the mission is Buzby's commitment to improving the quality of life for his Troopers through renovations of the Tierra Kay housing units.

"We're turning over a new housing unit every three days, which is really good," said Buzby. "All the troopers I've spoken with living in the new units really like the upgrades."

Buzby also hopes to add housing to increase privacy.

"All those cement blocks piled up outside the Nex? Hopefully we'll have new Cuzco units sitting on top of those soon," said Buzby. "Then we can get a lot of troopers into semi-private quarters which will reduce some of the loading in TK and some of Camp America West."

Lastly, Buzby urged troopers to continue exercising his personal values of people first, professionalism and being a shipmate/battle buddy.

"Most people that serve believe in these things anyway, so I'm not asking anyone to make any great leaps of faith here," said Buzby. "What I'm asking people to do is redouble it in their minds, put them in the forefront. I continue to be proud beyond words of the job JTF Troopers do on a daily basis. They are truly the unsung heroes of the Global War on Terror. I am honored to serve alongside them."

NECC commander visits with JTF Troopers

Story by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Nathaniel Moger

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The commander of the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command visited Joint Task Force Guantanamo March 1-4 to spend time with Sailors assigned to guard detainees as members of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, observe and evaluate NEGB detainee operations, and tour the facilities.

Rear Adm. Mike Tillotson left very impressed.

“It’s been an extremely valuable experience coming down here,” said Tillotson. “The mission is much more complex and much more involved than I had previously thought.”

The NEGB provides Navy manpower to the Joint Detention Group, which along with the Army’s 525th Military Police Battalion, handle the face-to-face contact with detained enemy combatants. This means being constantly vigilant in a number of different scenarios.

“These guards are required to be with those individuals whenever they come out or go into those cells, whenever they go to a medical visit or a lawyer visit,” said Tillotson. “They are in close personal contact to make sure the detainees don’t cause personal harm to themselves and that they’re adequately protected.”

Tillotson’s senior enlisted leader, Force Master Chief Tony Santino, was impressed by how aware NEGB Sailors were aware of their pivotal role in the Global War on Terror.

“Everybody I’ve talked to is locked on and understands how important the mission is and how it relates to the war,” said Santino. “Not just the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the war they’re fighting everyday here.”

Besides simply keeping enemy combatants off the battlefield, JTF Guantanamo has an intelligence gathering mission that is making a contemporary impact on theater and national levels, something both Navy and Army components of the JDG understand



Rear Adm. Mike Tillotson speaks with members of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion March 3. NEGB and the 525th Military Police Battalion comprise the Joint Detention Group which is responsible for the humane care and custody of detainees. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Sanchez)

couldn’t happen without their service.

“It has been phenomenal to witness the professionalism of the groups involved and the focus and dedication and understanding that what they do here is helping to create actionable intelligence that is saving lives on the battlefield and likely preventing terrorist attacks against the homeland,” remarked Tillotson.

The NECC’s senior leaders weren’t here to simply observe NEGB operations; they were here to evaluate them in terms of the overall NECC mission, which is to manage the readiness and deployment of approximately 40,000 expeditionary Sailors in every theater of operation, including here in Guantanamo Bay.

The NECC organizes, develops and equips the various expeditionary units being utilized by combatant commanders across the globe. This means adapting to evolving missions, such as joint services missions like the JTF.

“When we initially started the stand up for the NEGB, it was comprised of individual augmentees,” said Tillotson.

NECC recognized this as a potential problem that required a solution.

“Over time we have commissioned a unit with a separate unit identification code as a command,” explained Tillotson.

“NEGB Sailors go through training and come down here as a unit. This gives them an opportunity to form up as a team before they arrive.”

Aside from the increase in teamwork that comes from training as a unit before deployment, by making the NEGB a unique duty station, the NECC has changed the type of Sailors looking to come to Guantanamo.

“Since Sailors are now ordered to NEGB on PCS [permanent change of station] orders, you actually get people negotiating for the orders,” said Tillotson. “You’re more likely to end up with individuals who understand what the mission is and volunteer for the mission. Personnel that volunteer are going to be better prepared for what they see.”

It’s a win-win situation, as willing Sailors do a better job at their detention duties. They also come fully supported by leaders who are also team members.

“They come here with a commander and with senior enlisted leaders, so there’s a command structure that provides for the better care of the Sailors,” said Tillotson. “It also provides for a more cohesive, focused group that accomplishes the mission of safe and humane care and custody of the detainees.”

Hardworking Seabees soon to be a household name

Story and photos by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Sizzling in the mid-day heat, more than half-a-dozen Navy Seabees prepare to fill a blocked-off area with concrete.

“Concrete itself is alive,” according to Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Sean Mallory, the foreman for this project. “It gets harder for up to 50 years then begins to die between 100 and 150 years.”

So the upcoming pro shop at the Yatera Seca Golf Course has plenty of time before its foundation begins turning to dust.

A truck filled with concrete arrives and the pour begins. Mallory is looking for four-to-five inches of slump (the amount the concrete settles after it’s mixed) in the pour. The concrete is good and the Seabees go to work quickly.

“This is back-breaking work, make no mistake,” Mallory says. “A two-and-a-half gallon pail of concrete weighs about 65 pounds.”

Heaving the heavy mix about with shovels as they wade through the thick glop, they shift it around in the designated pad. Not long after, two Seabees grab a giant board and begin smoothing out the top. Newer Seabees with less experience are put to work getting hands-on experience in new skills. Nobody complains. Everybody works.

Just another hardworking day for Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 74. Based out of Gulfport, Miss., the NMCB provides contingency construction and engineering support to the Marines, first and foremost, then to any other DoD element that needs their support, like the naval station or Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

“We do horizontal construction, vertical construction, metal works, concrete works, road works, pavement and pipeline repairs,” said Navy Lt. Jason Christensen, detachment officer in charge. “You name it, we can do it.”

“Naval construction battalions are shaped so they can be task-tailored for any type of mission,” Christensen said. “We could send the entire body [of more than 500]



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Sean Mallory pours concrete for the foundation of the upcoming pro shop at the Yatera Seca Golf Course, March 3. Mallory, a builder with Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 74, is the project foreman for the mission.

to one place if the mission was big enough. We could pull off a hundred people from the main body and send them to a mission. Each one of those detachments is built on the mission in that location.”

At Guantanamo Bay, the mission is unique and varied. On the leeward side of the base, another crew is working on the fire truck garage at the airport. Donning safety rigs and hardhats, the Seabees are working to raise the openings to allow the fire trucks to pass through. Initially, the facility was built and the fire trucks fit – while filled with thousands of pounds of water. An empty fire truck, however, had issues getting through.

“We have to cut the beams down to raise the openings by two feet, six inches, so the fire trucks will fit,” said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Brandon Hardy. “We’ve been out here about two weeks.” Completion is estimated in mid-April. “We’re doing our best to get it done as quick as possible and in a safe manner,” Hardy said.

“Here, we’ve got a bridge that we’re doing; we’ve got the fire engine garage that we’re doing. We’ve got a lot of horizontal concrete and steel construction,” Christensen said. “As such, almost half our detachment is steel workers and builders – task tailored for the

Continued on page 13

NFL teams bolster lineups with free agents

Story by Army Spc. Daniel Welch

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

It seemed like 19-0 was in the bag, the T-shirts were ready to roll, someone had already copyrighted the title “19-0” for a book, and the players were starting to breathe a sigh of relief after Randy Moss caught – what was thought – the winning TD. That was of course until the New York Giants ruined New England’s perfect season driving the length of the field on the magical scoring drive.

With the 2007 season ending in ultimate failure for the Patriots, they and the rest of the 32 teams in the NFL turned their sights towards ’08 and the free agency period that began last week.

On Monday, the Pats inked Randy Moss, one of the core players that helped them to their undefeated regular season, to a three year, \$27 million dollar deal.

On the other hand, the Pats were not able to retain the services of cornerback Asante Samuel who signed with the Philadelphia Eagles to bolster their already potent secondary. Adding a shutdown corner should help aid the Eagles in what is sure to be a tough NFC East in the season to come.

New England’s hemorrhaging did not stop with Samuel as Donte’ Stallworth signed with the Cleveland Browns, giving the Browns’ strong armed quarterback Derek Anderson another deep threat receiver. The Browns were not done. They added help on the defensive line by picking up Detroit’s run stopper specialist Shaun Rogers and Green Bay’s standout Corey Williams.

The biggest surprises of this off-season have been the amount of money doled out to marginal talent. Former Chicago Bear’s wide receiver Bernard Berrian inked a deal with rival Minnesota paying him \$7 million a year. Jacksonville signed former San Diego Charger third string corner



From left, Bernard Berrian (Vikings), Donte’ Stallworth (Browns) and Asante Samuel (Eagles) made winners of their new teams in the free-agency sweepstakes. (US Presswire photo)

Drayton Florence to a deal worth \$6 million a year and the Oakland Raiders spent \$39 million for Giants linebacker Gibril Wilson-staggering money for a player that was a rotation linebacker last season.

This can be factored in a few ways. This free agent pool lacks the depth of previous years. Miami, Minnesota and others would love to fill holes at quarterback, but the lack of depth has them looking towards April’s draft to fill the void. Also, signing the most coveted free agents does not guarantee a Super Bowl or even a successful season, witness perpetual big spenders like the Redskins and Raiders whose free-agency picks blow up in their face once the season begins.

Last season’s Lombardi trophy holders, the Giants, might be the biggest losers of all in the free agent sweepstakes. Along with the loss of Wilson, linebackers Reggie Torbor signed with Miami and Kawika Mitchell heads north to Buffalo. Adding to those losses, veteran defensive end Michael Strahan is contemplating retirement.

The Atlanta Falcons bolstered their running attack by signing former Charger, Michael Turner. Turner’s career numbers are not staggering,

a shade over 1,200 yards in four seasons, but he has three of the longest touchdown runs in Chargers’ history and has played behind one of the great running backs in the league, LaDainian Tomlinson. His power running style should complement the outside speed of running back Jerious Norwood nicely.

Oddly, some players tested the market only to go back to their former teams. Along with Moss, Bear’s linebacker Lance Briggs, after standout 2005 and 2006 campaigns, looked for work elsewhere, only to find that his asking price was too high. Briggs ended up resigning with the Bears.

Even odder, Tennessee’s Albert Haynesworth, who “The Sporting News” considers the second best free agent available, is still without a contract. It is unclear if his on-field transgressions, including the stomping of an opposing player’s head in the 2006 season, are partly to blame or if his asking price is too high.

So with many of the big names off the board, the second tier of free agents now move to the forefront. Hopefully though, this flurry of activity will help whet NFL fans’ appetites until next month’s NFL draft and summer’s opening of training camps.

Lady Eagles soar to undefeated season

By Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Lady Eagles made easy work of the Morale, Welfare, & Recreation Captains Cup Women's Softball League by completing an undefeated season Feb. 28 at Zaiser Field with a convincing 12-2 win over the Rockstars in the championship game.

The Lady Eagles finished the season the same way they won most of their games this year, by the ten-run rule. The Lady Eagles outscored their opponents 138-33 en route to a 9-0 regular season record.

The W.T. Sampson Lady Pirates finished the regular season in 2nd place with a 6-3 record, followed by the Rockstars in 3rd place with a 3-6 record, and the GTMO Latinas finished fourth with an 0-9 record.

The first game of the single-elimination Captains Cup Softball Tournament pitted the two-seed Lady Pirates against the three-seed Rockstars on Feb. 26. The Rockstars pulled off a 15-8 upset against the Lady Pirates and advanced to the championship game. In the second game, the one seed Lady Eagles secured the final spot in



The Lady Eagles completed an undefeated season going 11-0 after winning the Captains Cup Women's Softball Tournament Feb. 28 at Zaiser Field. The Lady Eagles won the championship game 12-2 over the Rockstars. (Photo submitted by Karrissa Sandstrom)

the championship game with a 1-0 forfeit win over the four-seed GTMO Latinas.

"We went into the championship

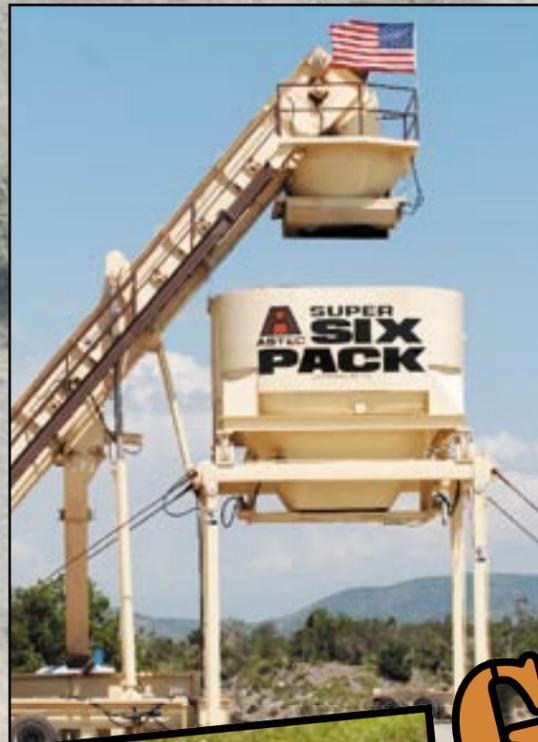
game with a lot of confidence," said Karrissa Sandstrom, Rockstars coach and player. "We knew it was going to be a battle trying to outscore the potent offense, because they are a very good team that can score a lot of runs on you in a hurry."

In the championship game the Rockstars opened up the scoring with a run in the top of the first to secure their only lead of the game, but the Lady Eagles answered with three runs in the bottom of the inning for a 3-1 lead. The Rockstars could not get any closer losing 12-2.

In other softball action, the Captain's Cup Men's Softball League officially ended Thursday with their tournament scheduled to begin Friday. The tournament will conclude with the championship game the following Wednesday night at 8 p.m. at Zaiser Field.



Donna Torley of the Rockstars hits a line drive single down the third base line in the championship game of the Captain's Cup Women's Softball Tournament Feb. 28 at Zaiser Field. (Photo submitted by Karrissa Sandstrom)



GITMO HEAVY METAL



*Photos by Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs*

The changing face of Guantanamo Bay is evident by recent construction products around the naval station and Joint Task Force Guantanamo. New Cuzco style barracks are being built for the Leeward and Windward sides. Road construction projects are springing up all over the island improving the surface and the scenery. Keep your eyes out for 'men at work' and heavy equipment as Gitmo gets a face-lift.



Never too late to quit

Story by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Cheryl Dilgard

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Each branch of service stresses health and fitness, yet a significant number of service members continue to light up. Smoking reduces lung capacity over time, making cardiovascular activity more difficult for smokers than non-smokers. In short, smoking is highly dangerous and addictive.

According to the Center for Disease Control, smoking is harmful to nearly every organ in your body. Smokers, on average, use more than twice the number of sick days than non-smokers. The CDC reports that approximately 438,000 people in the U.S. die each year from tobacco related diseases: this is more than all deaths from illegal drug use, alcohol, motor vehicle injuries, suicide, HIV, and murders combined.

“I was thinking about stopping before coming to Guantanamo, but after getting here I decided I better wait until I get home to stop smoking,” said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Richard Wolff. Many service members like Wolff who smoke, blame their habit on the stress of the military lifestyle or their particular job. Regardless, smoking is bad for your health and waiting to quit increases the likelihood of serious health problems for you and those around you.

For instance, smokers looking to have children invite a deadly partner into the family. Smoking increases the risks of infertility, preterm delivery, still birth, low birth weight, and sudden infant death syndrome.

Guantanamo Bay’s Joint Aid Station offers a popular and promising smoking cessation program featuring a new pharmaceutical, Chantix. Chantix blocks certain



receptors in the brain which prevent nicotine from reaching them. Chantix is not right for everyone; you must go through a screening process to ensure the drug is right for you. Side effects include trouble sleeping, unusual dreams, nausea, gas, and/or vomiting. If these side effects occur or persist you would want to see your provider as soon as possible.

Even if Chantix is not the cure to your smoking problem, numerous publications and websites such as www.cdc.gov/tabacco, www.surgeongeneral.gov/tabacco, www.mayoclinic.org/stop-smoking offer common sense quitting strategies.

Of course, one such method of quitting is going “cold turkey.” Toss your cigarettes in a garbage can and walk away. If cold turkey is too much of a challenge, try cutting back gradually. Set a future quit date when you will throw your remaining cigarettes away and stick to your plan. Make this goal realistic. Keep in mind it generally takes 21 days to make or break a habit. If you slip up, don’t quit. Plot your plan on a calendar and track your progress.

Identify your triggers, the points in the day that make you ‘want’ a cigarette. Once you realize what triggers your desire, try to avoid those situations. If you can’t avoid those situations, try to find a replacement to cigarettes, like a piece of sugar free hard candy, something to suck on and get your mind off of your trigger. Surround yourself non-smoking friends and let them know you are trying to quit. They will help.

Avoid places and things that making you think about smoking, for example designated smoking areas. Don’t walk into temptation. If you know you will be tempted to smoke when you drink, don’t drink. Wash your clothes and air out your home. Get the smell of smoke out of your area.

Expect physical symptoms when you stop smoking. There are stories of people who have smoked for 20 or 30 years and then one day just stop cold turkey as if they have never smoked. However most will experience some, if not all, of the following symptoms: headache, stomach ache, lack of energy, dry mouth or sore throat, increased appetite.

The symptoms will eventually pass. Keep healthy snacks around like carrots and celery to munch on to help curb and control increased appetite. Go for walks or enjoy other physical activities, and get your mind occupied with things other than smoking. Keep busy, find ways to distract yourself so that you are not thinking about the next or your last cigarette.

Quitting is not easy, but it can be done. Check out the JAS program or get with your preferred medical provider to determine the best method for you. Get started today!

Debate doesn't affect Guantanamo mission, Commander says

By Army Sgt. Sarah Moore

American Forces Press Service

The ongoing debate about the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and criticism of military operations there do not affect the troops who serve there – who know how important their mission is – the commander of the detention task force said March 3.

In a conference call with representatives from veterans' service organizations, Navy Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby, commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, said that while discussion and debate are part of a healthy democracy, he makes sure his troops stay focused on their mission, which is to humanely care for unlawful enemy combatants.

"What I tell them when I go around and talk to them all the time is that our mission is a very dangerous one, and we cannot afford to take our eye off the

ball for one second," Buzby said. "Our mission is here; it's real; it's happening every single day. All the discussions and everything else, that's part of our democratic process."

Buzby said that he tours the detention camps at least once a week, making sure to check on every detainee and talk to every guard on duty. Troops understand that debate about Guantanamo is occurring in the U.S. and elsewhere, he said, but they aren't concerned about a lack of support for their mission.

"They understand that the mission is important, and that someday Guantanamo will close," he said. "Who knows when that's going to be? Someday it will. But until then, they've got a job to do."

Buzby praised the performance of Troops at Guantanamo, emphasizing that everything they do is straightforward and transparent.

"I like to tell people that we

have two things that are kind of our foundation, our bedrock down in Guantanamo: the truth and our Troopers. There's nothing to hide," he said.

The soldiers and sailors who make up the detainee guard force do their jobs under trying conditions, often putting up with attacks from inmates ranging from verbal assaults to having "cocktails" of bodily fluids thrown at them, Buzby said. Even through these indignities, the troops maintain their composure and continue with the mission, he said.

"That level of self-control and putting up with that hostile work environment for a long period of time, without their families there, to me is unbelievable. I'm not sure whether I could do it at their age," he said. "It's just a continued source of immense pride that I have in just how professional they are and how wonderful a job they do."

Charges referred against detainee al Darbi

Department of Defense Release

The Defense Department announced Feb. 29 that charges have been referred against Guantanamo detainee Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed Haza al Darbi of Saudi Arabia.

The accused, al Darbi, is the brother-in-law of the Flight 77 hijacker al Mihdhar. Flight 77 is the plane that hit the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. The two charges are: conspiring with others to attack civilians, commit murder in violation of the law of war, destroy property in violation of the law of war, hazard a vessel and commit terrorism; and providing material support to terrorism. Al Darbi was allegedly involved in planning and procuring equipment for attacks on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and off the coast of

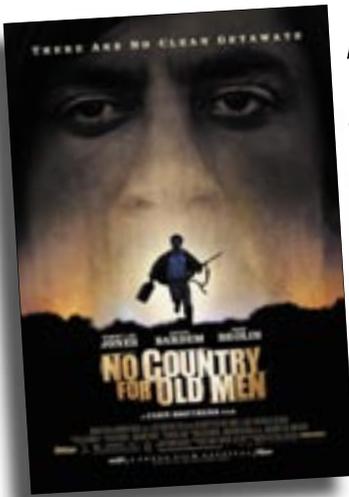
Yemen. The charges authorize a maximum sentence of confinement for life.

It is alleged that al Darbi traveled to Jalalabad and met with Osama bin Laden, trained at al Qaida's Jihad Wahl training camp and later served as a weapons instructor at another al Qaida training camp. From 2001 through 2002, it is also alleged that al Darbi moved money from al Qaida into financial institutions for expenses related to a plot to attack a vessel in the Strait of Hormuz or off the coast of Yemen.

The charge sheet further alleges that al Darbi joined in preparations for an al Qaida terrorist operation by traveling to several countries to purchase a GPS device, a boat, and other equipment in late 2000 or early 2001. The boat, named

"Adnan" would be loaded with explosives for future terrorist operations. The accused ultimately registered the boat in his name as the "al Rahal" under the Sao Tome flag and purchased a smaller boat to instruct Yemenis how to swim and pilot the boat. He is also alleged, in the spring of 2002, to have departed the United Arab Emirates on board the "al Rahal" destined for Yemen, diverted the boat to Somalia due to concerns with his own passport and to have discussed plans by satellite phone with high level al Qaida operatives.

The charges are only allegations that the accused has committed offenses under the Military Commissions Act, and the accused is innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.



No Country For Old Men is absolute perfection

By Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Rated: R

Running Time: 122 terrifying minutes

“No Country For Old Men” is perfect on two levels. Taken as a crime film, it is tense, gripping, savagely violent and beautiful to watch. Never has a film generated more terror by the flip of a coin. Never has a door lock been so pregnant with such menace.

But take another, deeper look at it. The title of the film (and the book written by Pulitzer prize winner Cormac McCarthy in 2005) is taken from the poem “Sailing To Byzantium” by William Butler Yeats, a musing on mortality and the human spirit as an elderly man pursues eternal life. The first stanza is a description of how the elder’s former country is not oriented toward the aged and how death stalks them closely.

For the film, death is personified in the form of Anton Chigurh (Javier Bardem) who is up there with Darth Vader in terms of all-time screen villains. Chigurh stalks the parched West Texas setting in a moptop haircut that creates a sense of terror as opposed to humor. Oddly and insanely principled, Chigurh appears to recover \$2 million in drug money that the taciturnly innocent Llewellyn Moss (Josh Brolin) has found after stumbling across a drug deal gone bad.

Enter Ed Tom Bell (Tommy Lee Jones). An old school sheriff,

Bell is a representation of the past in the form of manners, the love of a good wife and a sense of all things righteous. Bell is watching a wave of crime and malicious violence overwhelm his good county and finds himself less threatened by the crime and more terrified by his inability to comprehend it.

From whatever perspective one chooses to view the film, the performances are brilliant. The cast is sparse but the people are real. Every moment – from dry humor to abject terror, compassionate love to blistering violence – is played out in near silence. Never have I seen a film that has no music – NONE! – until the closing credits and been so utterly riveted.

This is the Coen Brothers (“Fargo”) at their peak. Brimming with irony, the film leaves one questioning the intransigence of fate. Roger (“Assasination of Jesse James”) Deakins’ cinematography is hypnotic, captivating the viewer into watching moments of hyperkinetic violence as they burst through the desert calm. For myself, I was left pondering the futility of righteousness in a world that now equates such values with weakness.

Whichever level you choose to view the film on, you will not be disappointed. I’ve heard many people clamor over the shocking ending of the film and have seen many a head scratched in puzzlement. Watch it again after reading Yeats. “No Country For Old Men” will leave you pondering for longer than you expect.

Rating: ★★★★★

*Editor’s note: Four Academy Awards including best picture, folks! There’s a reason for that!

Charges Referred Against Detainee Al Qosi

Department of Defense Release

The Defense Department announced March 5 that two charges have been referred against Guantanamo detainee Ibrahim Ahmed Mahmoud al Qosi of Sudan.

Al Qosi is charged with providing material support to terrorism and conspiring with Osama bin Laden and other al Qaida members to target, attack and murder civilians; attack civilian objects; commit murder and destroy property in violation of the law of war; commit terrorism; and provide material support to terrorism. If convicted, the accused could be sentenced up to life in prison.

The charges allege that between 1996 and 2001, Al Qosi personally served as an armed guard and driver for Osama bin Laden. Until about 1998, Al Qosi is alleged to have provided logistical support by obtaining supplies and provisions for Al Qaida, an international terrorist group dedicated to opposing non-Islamic governments with force and violence, at a compound near Jalalabad known as the “Star of Jihad.” It is further alleged that from 1998 through 2001, al Qosi lived at an al Qaeda compound near Kandahar, Afghanistan, with other al Qaeda members, including Osama bin Laden, where he provided security, transportation, and supply services. Between 1998 and 2001 he allegedly traveled

from the Kandahar compound to the front line near Kabul, where he fought in support of al Qaeda as part of a mortar crew.

The charge sheet sets out that in 2001, Al Qosi, armed with a Kalashnikov rifle, evacuated the Kandahar compound and traveled to Kabul, then to Jalalabad, and then into the Tora Bora Mountains to provide transportation, security and support to Usama bin Laden and other al Qaeda members.

The charges are only allegations that the accused has committed offenses under the Military Commissions Act, and the accused is innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

For more info, visit www.defenselink.mil/Releases/.

Continued from page 5

mission at hand.”

NMCB 74 has about 25 members at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, working in a joint status with some Naval Reserve members from NMCB 14. The detachment members are a mix of mostly young and eager Seabees enthusiastic for training and senior members with a wealth of experience and knowledge.

“We’ve got a very excited, pumped-up crew out here,” Christensen said. “Every Seabee goes through A School beforehand ... but they don’t really have an opportunity to do it until they come out here. You can learn about it and put up your mock wall, but until you do the real thing – there’s a huge difference.”

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay provides new Seabees with an opportunity for that hands-on experience.

“[Guantanamo Bay] is one of the last classic Seabee detachment sites,” Christensen said. With Seabees spending so much time in war zones, non-combat sites like Guantanamo provide an opportunity for training without hazardous concerns. Seabees train here to do



The Leeward Airfield fire engine garage is one of NMCB 74’s current projects. The goal is to raise the openings by two feet, six inches.

the mission and later take those skills to deployments in war zones. “This is where you show future admirals and command master chiefs what you can accomplish.”

“This is really a two-fold mission: showing the base what we can accomplish and the training value for future missions,” Christensen said. “Our biggest goal down here is to make the Seabees a household name.”

Future projects for NMCB 74 include a bridge on the perimeter road, K-spans (arched buildings

made of corrugated steel on a concrete foundation), repairs for the perimeter road for the Marines, possible habeas corpus rooms at Camp Iguana and a certain amount of discretionary projects like the pro shop at the golf course.

“Basically someone comes to us with a project and asks if it can be done,” Christensen said. “We look at it and say ‘Yeah, that’s got a good training value, that’ll work,’ or ‘You’ve got all the materials for that project, good to go, we’ll take it on.’”

Boots on the Ground

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard

Who is the most influential woman in your life, and why?

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Tamela King



“My mom instilled in me the drive to be the best at everything I do.”

Army Pfc.
Shawn Spencer



“My mom. She was always hardworking and made sure I had everything I needed.”

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Angel Delgado



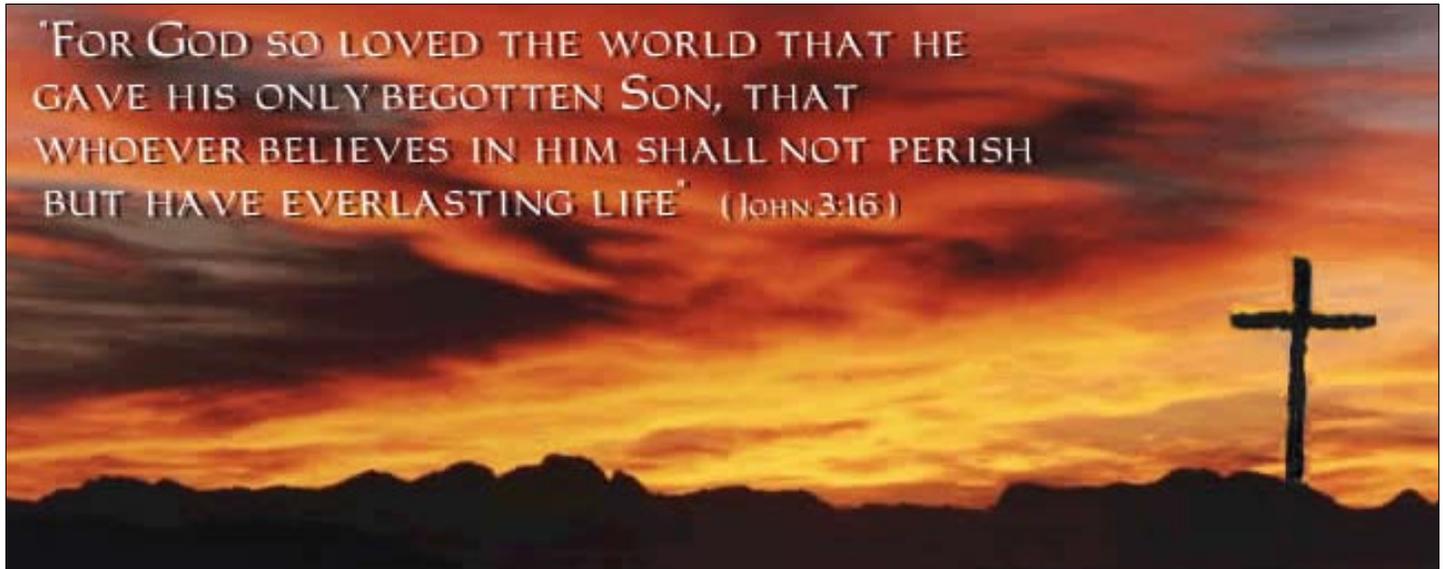
“My daughter. She helped me to settle down as a man and make better decisions in life.”

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Erica Maximin



“My little sister. She’s a single parent going to school with no help from anyone. She is motivated and focused.”

Suffering reveals God's grace



By Army Capt. Y.J. Kim

525th Military Police Battalion Chaplain

“The works of God should be displayed in him....” John 9:3

Now *that* is the question of the ages. “Why is there suffering in our lives?” Why do we live in a world of such inequality, injustice, and unfairness? Mother Theresa and Gandhi wrestled with this question. Is there a more perennial question than the question of suffering? Philosophers, poets, statesmen have attempted to answer this age old question. Through the lenses of religion, philosophy and ethics some arguments have been put forth to answer this question.

One way to try to explain suffering is to look at suffering as punishment. This is an attempt to look at suffering from an ethical standpoint. How many times have you heard of the question: “If God is both benevolent and omnipotent, why is there pain?” Why is there so much distress? To answer this, there is a notion that any suffering is equated with sin. Some hold the view that all suffering is a direct result of sin. Of course we are a fallen people, and have ultimately fallen short of the glory of God, but to see suffering as “God is punishing

me” takes such a simplistic view on the character of our great God.

Another argument that can be made is that suffering is good because of its reforming and educational value. Trials that come our way are a progression to the next level of advancement and self-improvement. That we suffer because there is a lesson to be learned is also not the perfect explanation.

Jesus did not totally deny the two arguments of suffering. In John 9, the disciples, after seeing a man blind from birth, asked whose sin—the blind man’s or his parents’—caused him to be born blind. Jesus replies that neither the blind man nor his parents sinned. The man was born blind “so that the works of God should be displayed in him...” (John 9:3).

What are the works of God displayed? God’s works are shown through our suffering. Actually, He sent his son Jesus Christ to walk the sorrow-laden journey with humanity. He was the redeemer who knows what pain is all about. He knew the pain of anguish. He knew the pain of rejection.

There is nothing more painful than

what Christ endured for us. He was deserted by his disciples, scorned and mocked by those who refused to believe he was the son of God, beaten and tortured before being crucified shamefully and slowly. Christ’s suffering and pain set us free from our own sin. Christ knew of his sufferings, was aware of what was to come, knew the gruesome details, and still endured everything. He knew it all. Thus, the suffering transmutes into love. It is the display of God’s work.

The apostle Paul wrote that we should rejoice in our sufferings for “suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope” (Romans 5:3-4). Hope is something we can definitely be rejoicing over for as Paul continues: “God has poured out his love into our hearts” (Romans 5:5). Again, this brings us back to God’s love for us.

As we prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Christ’s resurrection, let us not forget the suffering on the cross endured by Christ, and may we all the more rejoice as we look upon the cross, that great symbol of suffering, sacrifice, atonement, and of course, love.

Cuzco resident brightens lives with colorful garden

Story and photos by Army Spc.
Shanita Simmons

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

For months, one Navy petty officer has enjoyed the warm semi-arid environment that Troopers experience in Guantanamo Bay. When she got tired of gazing at the same lackluster scenery outside her room in Cuzco barracks, she decided it was time to add a little color to her life, as well as to the lives of those who live around her.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Alice Brooks, a yeoman with the Joint Task Force, managed to transform a barren area fronting H block consisting of dirt and cement into a vibrant garden of indigenous plants, twirling objects and other garden art. Brooks, who enjoys exercising, sewing, knitting and crocheting, said she hopes those who see the striking vegetation that she planted in brightly colored flower pots will feel the serenity she does on a daily basis.

“When I come out here, I enjoy just gazing at the garden, daydreaming and watching things grow,” said Brooks. “If you go into an area where there is something pretty to look at, it gives you hope and makes you feel good about life.”

Although Brook’s primary responsibility here is helping to prepare correspondence and awards for JTF personnel, anyone who notices the way she has used rocks, colored cement blocks, hanging butterflies and frogs to decorate her garden would think she has a background in landscaping.

Brooks, who appreciates the effects a beautiful garden can have on people, has been creating gardens for years and received “Yard of the Month” recognition while stationed in California and Tennessee. During her 17 year Navy career, Brooks said she uses various themes



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Alice Brooks cultivates various types of indigenous plants in the garden she created near the Cuzco Barrack where she currently resides. Brooks, a yeoman assigned to the Joint Task Force, hopes to uplift the spirits of everyone who looks at her colorful garden.

when creating her gardens. While stationed in Washington state and Hawaii, she created gardens where she planted a variety of herbs such as basal, oregano and curry. Brooks added that her most attractive gardens have included bulbs and perennials. Although she does not have a background in botany, Brooks has always had a knack for picking plants that will grow within various environments.

“Some people like to go to museums and to the city, but my husband and I like to visit botanical gardens,” said Brooks, who has served four and a half years as a Navy reservist thus far. “I believe that anyone who works well with their hands should use the gift that God has given them. No matter where I have traveled during my military career, I made sure not to stifle my gift.”

Producing a beautiful garden is not Brooks’ only accomplishment during her deployment. She has completed an associate’s degree during her 10-month stint here, and

she is looking forward to pursuing a bachelor’s degree in business management. Brooks, who resides in the San Diego area with her husband, believes that her greatest accomplishment has been her ability to successfully balance her military career and family life, which includes raising two daughters and a son.

Although the military has taken Brooks many places, she mentioned that her love for nature and her family has remained constant. She credits much of her success to her husband, a merchant mariner for the past 28 years, who has stood by her side throughout her career.

When Brooks leaves Guantanamo Bay later this year, she is looking forward to reuniting with her family. However, she will miss the exquisite serenity she discovered while living on the island. She will have to leave her beautiful garden behind, but she expects that others will continue her legacy by maintaining the plants and landscape she’s worked so diligently to cultivate.

AROUND THE JTF



◀ Army Capt. Alvin Aponte, the company commander of C Company, 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry Division, salutes, Feb. 28, with the rest of his company during the national anthem at an award ceremony recognizing their achievements upon departure from the JTF. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nathaniel Moger)

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Brooks recites the oath of enlistment with Navy Ensign Edgar Tovar, March 4. Brooks is a member of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion. (Photo by Army Sgt. Joseph Scozzari) ▶



◀ Construction workers put the final touches on the IOF parking lot after it was repaved, March 4. Construction projects are on-going all around Guantanamo Bay. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing)