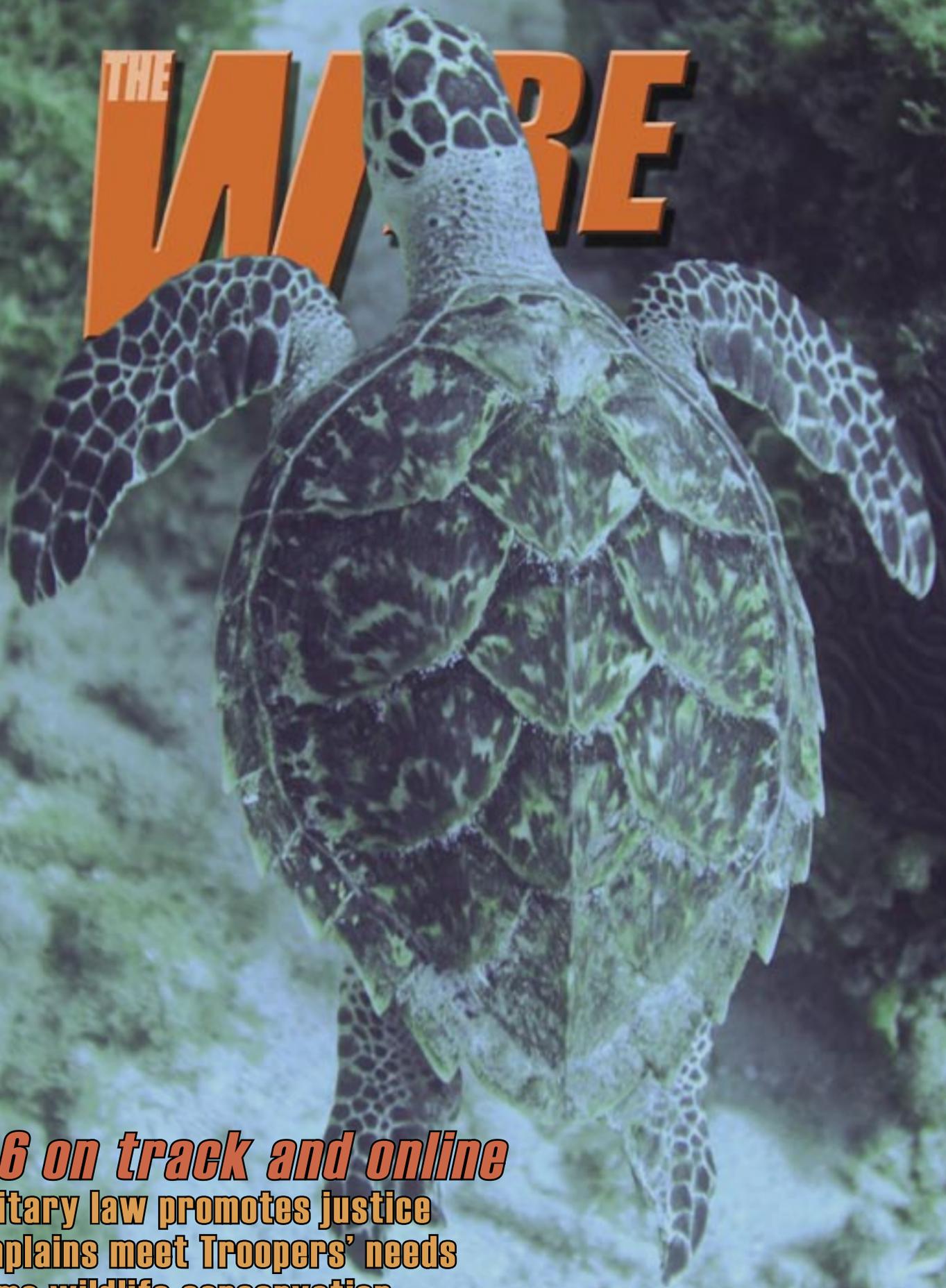


THE WARE



J-6 on track and online

**Military law promotes justice
Chaplains meet Troopers' needs
Gitmo wildlife conservation**

Never walk past a problem



**By Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer
Steven C. Estep**

Port Security Unit 313 Head Chief

OK – all those in favor of a field day please raise your hand. That’s what I thought, no takers.

For those of you that may be unfamiliar with the term “Field Day,” Webster’s defines it as “a day for military exercises or maneuvers.” Basically, it’s stopping everything, except for absolutely essential watches and repairs, to clean, shine, buff, scrub, and/or paint everything.

Long ago, when I was a Fire Controlman 2nd Class aboard the newly commissioned USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51), we were having a field day. I was shining the brass on a fire station, when my commanding officer walked by. I popped tall.

The skipper told me to carry on, then picked up my candy wrapper that I had laid on the deck while I was cleaning. I was horrified. He just smiled and told me that his philosophy was to “Never Walk by a Problem.” He would make sure the offensive candy wrapper got to its proper place.

I have tried to live by that philosophy ever since. It dawned on me how much easier field days would be if one took care of all the little jobs as one found them instead

of waiting to be forced to do them all at once. I was driving the other day and saw a Pepsi bottle on the side of the road. I stopped and picked it up. I went another quarter mile or so and there was a water bottle – I stopped and picked it up. Another little ways and there was a box – how fortuitous – something to put my trash in. About 10 yards from the box was a piece of plastic. Low and behold, it was an unused, still folded, large trash bag – uber-fortuitous. By the time I got to where I was going the bag was almost full.

Look – trash just happens. The point is that I felt good about what I’d done. It didn’t take long, I got some sun and exercise and fresh air and I had not walked by a problem. Think about how much more time we would have to prepare the readiness of our respective missions if we didn’t have to stop and field day.

Not walking by a problem doesn’t just mean picking up trash. I was driving again and saw a Trooper waiting on the bus. I asked him if he needed a ride. He wasn’t sure I was going his way. (I smiled and thought – it’s a small island, how could I not be going your way.) Anyway, I took the individual to his destination and we had a nice conversation along the way. I got to know someone new with a very interesting job and life history. That trip was more than worth the few minutes it cost me. Not to mention saving another Trooper’s time.

Looking out for one another is a great time to never walk by a problem. Be it illness, suicidal thoughts, alcohol abuse, sexual harassment/assault, jumping off a cliff or onto a motorcycle without the experience or gear: If one suspects any of the above, or other like situations – please, please, please don’t walk by that problem.

Be safe, enjoy life and take care of one another.

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COVER:

Although common in Guantanamo Bay, Sea turtles are an endangered species. After an abundance of dead sea turtle hatchlings were found on Windmill and Kittery Beaches, the Natural Resources offices takes steps towards improving the odds of survival for sea turtle hatchlings. (Photo by Army Capt. Kevin Cowan)



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.

J-6 keeps JTF communications on track and on line



Army Capt. David Maestas, director of J-6, updates Army Brig. Gen. Gregory Zanetti, JTF deputy commander, on the status of various projects currently underway within the J-6 directorate. The J-6 mission supports all the command and control, computer, and communications systems requirements for the JTF mission and provides the JTF commander and his staff with advice and recommendations.

Story and photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

One of the first things most Joint Task Force Troopers do once they arrive to work is access their network accounts by inserting their identification cards into the card readers on JTF network computers. Although accessing individual accounts is a relatively easy process, maintaining a network with more than 2,400 workstations is no simple task for the J-6 Command and Control, Computer and Communications Systems Directorate.

Army Capt. David Maestas, the J-6 director here, leads a staff that includes civilians and military personnel whose primary goal is to ensure that all information systems

are working properly.

“Our mission is to support all Troopers from the JTF unit commanders to Troopers working everywhere else within the command,” said Maestas. “We lead in identifying and resolving military aspects of information based issues that are of national and strategic importance to this mission.”

The J-6 military staff focuses on mission-based projects such as current and future operations as well as the asset management of tactical and handheld communications such as two-way radios, cellular phones and landlines. Contractors who work for J-6 perform various functions including help desk support, purchasing, network security and network and system administration. While the contractors are not

involved in planning or specific mission operations, Maestas said they do maintain the networks and possess the institutional knowledge of information systems necessary to train incoming military personnel.

“All personnel within the J-6 organization have tremendous pride in their jobs, and we work very closely together on many aspects of the jobs we do,” said Maestas, who brings over 14 years of civilian information technology experience to the mission. “With the military rotations, the contract personnel remain as the subject matter experts and are consistently helping military staff come up to speed on tasks and mission requirements.”

Continued on page 13

Military law promotes justice, maintains order and discipline

By Army Capt. Patrick Ross

JTF Chief of Military Justice

What do abusing a public animal, drinking liquor with prisoner, wrongful cohabitation, jumping from a vessel, self-injury with intent to avoid service, straggling, wrongfully refuse to testify, wearing unauthorized badges, and making disloyal statements all have in common? If you answered they are offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice you are correct.

The overall goal of the Military Justice Office is the prevention of misconduct through education, training and when needed, prosecution of offenses under the UCMJ, including Article 15s and courts-martial.

The United States military deploys worldwide with large numbers of military personnel and unique disciplinary requirements. Since most American criminal laws are not applicable outside of the United States, it is important to have a criminal justice system that applies where our troops are located. The UCMJ creates that system.

The preamble to the Manual for Courts-Martial explains that:

“The purpose of military law is to promote justice, to assist in maintaining good order and discipline in the armed forces, to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the military establishment, and thereby to strengthen the national security of the United States.”

The UCMJ includes many offenses that are punishable under civilian law, but it also punishes other conduct that affects good order and discipline in the military. It would not be wise to sit around the Tiki Bar, get drunk, complain about the President, stumble down to the Ferry Landing, get on the ferry, jump overboard, swim back to shore, recover and straggle behind on the unit march while wearing your NEX “awarded” medals. Many of these deeds are punishable under the UCMJ.

When misconduct occurs, there are several options available to commanders that range from verbal counseling to a



Army Capt. Patrick Ross gives an identity theft briefing to members of the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron here at Camp Justice, March 24. The mission of the Military Justice Office is to investigate and prosecute any violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. (Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons)

general court-martial. A general court-martial may impose punishments up to life in prison or even death for some offenses. Cases may be disposed of through administrative measures, including an Other Than Honorable discharge or via non-judicial punishment, Article 15. At Article 15 you may be “awarded” loss of pay, loss of rank, extra duties, restrictions and all sorts of other punishments that make life miserable.

Facing a court-martial is much like facing a civilian criminal trial. Both are painful propositions. The UCMJ offers unique protections for military defendants, such as a guaranteed military defense attorney provided free of charge. A military judge or court-martial panel similar but not the same as a civilian jury hears the evidence in military trials. The panel will be made of officers and enlisted personnel, but all must be the same or higher in rank than the accused. Panel members are selected from personnel assigned to JTF Guantanamo or even the naval station. You may want to consider those wisecracks about the other services and commands the next time you’re at the Windjammer.

Many Soldiers and Sailors think that having a DD214 [Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty] and a plane ticket in hand are sure signs that your military career is at an end and the UCMJ can’t touch you anymore. Think again. If you commit an offense while you were on active duty, you are subject to recall and revocation of that discharge under certain conditions. If you steal your roommate’s laptop right before catching the rotator off the island, under the UCMJ you can be ordered to hop on the return flight, be greeted by security at the terminal and like in Monopoly – go directly to jail (or the Naval Brig in our case). Nothing is more fun than being involuntarily extended on Gitmo until the investigation and possible court-martial is complete.

Many military personnel mistakenly believe that military rules don’t apply when they aren’t at work or while they are wearing civilian clothes. The UCMJ applies at all times you are on active duty, whether here, home on leave, “off duty” or on a vacation in St. Thomas or Jamaica.

It doesn’t take much to avoid meeting

Continued on page 11

JTF Chaplains strive to meet Troopers' needs



Army Chaplain (Capt.) Scott Brill dialogues with Troopers as they are transported into Camp Delta. "Rap with the Chap" is a new weekly bus ministry designed to accommodate shift workers who may not attend church services.

Story and photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Have you ever had sad and depressing thoughts? Do you find this deployment to be unbearable at times? Are you struggling with a loss within your family?

For any Trooper who can answer "yes" to one of these questions, the Joint Task Force chaplains' staff is available to speak with anyone seeking assistance with resolving such issues. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Daniel McKay, the JTF command chaplain, said his staff is available around the clock to provide pastoral care and support to all JTF personnel.

"If you need to talk about anything, we are here with 100 percent confidentiality being afforded to you on any subject," said McKay.

He added that chaplains are available for Troopers experiencing relational issues or difficulties at home, work or elsewhere. Many Troopers facing ethical choices and dilemmas need a listening ear, while others seek scriptural understanding and guidance. Some Troopers just need someone to pray with them.

Since deployments take Troopers away from their family members and their closest friends, the JTF chaplains fill that void by becoming friends and confidants to those in need.

"Troopers are daily lifted up in prayer," said McKay. "We are continually asking for God's protection, guidance and provision for them and their loved ones."

One way that Troopers can strengthen their own spiritual lives is by fellowshiping with others who attend church services.

Troopers can attend traditional services reflecting Catholic, Protestant and other faith traditions during the weekends or throughout the week at Troopers Chapel or the base chapel.

However, to better reach out to Troopers, the JTF chaplains' staff is constantly pursuing innovative ways to ensure that that Trooper's spiritual health needs are being met.

Troopers living in Tierra Kay Housing now have an opportunity to "Rap with the Chap" on a special ministry bus during their ride to and from work before the sun rises Tuesday mornings. This outreach service is designed to bring encouragement and prayer from Army Chaplain (Capt.) Scott Brill and other volunteers.

Another new service named "Troopers

Next" held Wednesday evenings at Troopers Chapel is an interfaith praise service led by Brill. The service, which is geared towards Troopers between the ages of 18 and 25, provides a casual environment for individuals to investigate the spiritual side of life or seek religious direction.

Thursday evenings, Troopers can attend a Song, Testimony and Praise service led by McKay at Troopers Chapel that focuses on developing and maintaining a Christ-like character. Troopers accustomed to liturgical services can find one Sunday mornings at the base chapel where Army Chaplain (Capt.) Yun Kim, 525th Military Police Battalion Command Chaplain, leads the congregation.

Troopers interested in programs and services at Camp America should call 3202/3203 or 2258/2323 for information programs and services at the base chapel.

McKay notes that study after study confirms that the stronger Troopers are spiritually, or the healthier their relationships are with God, the better they perform in every other area of life.

"After all, it is through our relationship with our Creator that we discover life's deeper meaning, purpose and joy, both for now and for all eternity," said McKay.

McKay emphasizes that part of the chaplains' mission here is to provide religious services and programs for all faith groups, provided they are recognized by the Department of Defense. Therefore, if an individual or particular religious group feels their religious needs are not being met, they should make his staff aware of their needs.

"I want our Troopers to know just how genuinely and immensely proud we are of each of them. Their level of dedication and professionalism in performing the challenging tasks that are entrusted to them here is superb and is truly inspirational," said McKay. "I'm grateful for those who do attend our services. I hope to reach those who do not attend through those who do attend. My fellow chaplains, I can assure you, also serve with this same understanding."

Upsets dominate the national sports scene

By Army SSG Jerry Rushing

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Want drama? This was the week for it in the sports industry. What a week indeed! College basketball ruled TV all day and night for four straight days, an NBA team's record setting win streak came to an end, a nobody dethroned the tennis champ, key NFL players switched teams and the golf world finally beat Tiger.

Unpredictability is a key part of the enjoyment the NCAA Basketball Tournament brings to millions every year. This year is no different as the original 65 teams have dwindled down to 16. The first weekend is officially over and – as usual – upsets and close games surprised some of the nation's premier teams.

Heavily touted Pittsburgh fell gently into the night when Michigan State won easily. The Stanford Cardinal survived an overtime scare to beat Marquette by one.

The perennial favorite Duke Blue Devils lost to West Virginia Saturday after nearly losing to Belmont Thursday night. Connecticut and Drake each fell to lowly-regarded teams on last second shots, while Butler fought heavily favored Tennessee to overtime, but could not quite stop the Volunteers.

Villanova – apparently the last bubble team to be selected to the tournament – beat Clemson and Siena (themselves an upset winner over Vanderbilt in the first round) to make the Sweet 16 and another No. 2 seed went down as dangerous Davidson took out Georgetown.

As for the No. 1 seeds, North Carolina showed why they were the top seed by winning both their games with ease. Kansas made easy work out of both of their games, while Memphis and UCLA showed that they were vulnerable after each survived scares in the second round.

“All good things must come to an end” defined NBA action. It took the



Davidson's Andrew Lovedale, left, battles Georgetown's Roy Hibbert, right, for the ball in the first half of a second-round NCAA Midwest Regional basketball game in Raleigh, N.C., March 23. (AP Photo)

NBA's best team, the Boston Celtics, to end the Houston Rockets' 22-game winning streak. Kevin Garnett and crew stopped the Rocket's remarkable run in grand fashion on March 18, pulling away in the second half for a 94-74 victory. The Rockets win streak was the second longest in NBA history.

Roger Federer lost again in one of the biggest pro tennis upsets of recent time. Mardy Fish, an American ranked 98 in the world, shocked the No. 1 Federer in straight sets by a lopsided score of 6-3, 6-2 in the semi-finals of the Pacific Life Open at Indian Wells, Ca. Saturday. Fish eventually lost in the finals to No. 3 Novak Djokovic 6-2, 5-7, 6-3.

In the NFL, some players got their wishes granted as they moved teams. In the biggest deal of the off season, DeAngelo Hall heads to the Bay Area. The Atlanta Falcons sent the two-time Pro Bowl cornerback to the Oakland Raiders for a second-round pick in April's draft and a fifth-round selection in 2009. Hall signed a seven-year contract with Oakland that reportedly is worth \$67-

\$70 million.

In another swap of teams, the Atlanta Falcons agreed to terms with Jason Elam. The record setting kicker is leaving the Denver Broncos after 15 seasons and will be returning home where he played high school football. The Falcons acquired the three-time Pro Bowl selection for a reported four-year \$9 million contract.

The winning streak has been snapped. Geoff Ogilvy found a way to beat the best golfer in the world...thanks to rain delays. This seemed to be the key to success for Ogilvy as he won the rain delayed CA Championship early Monday at the Doral. It was Wood's first defeat in eight events worldwide since last September and it ruined his perfect start in 2008 (three-for-three on the PGA Tour and four-for-four overall).

If that was not enough for the average sports fan, there was also spring training action in baseball and NHL teams jockeyed for positions in post-season play, which is right around the corner. What else would an avid sports fan want in one week?

Tennis tournament brings out best players

Story and photo by Army Staff Sgt.
Jerry Rushing

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The gladiators walked onto the court under the blood red Guantanamo sky Saturday night with aspirations of being the best on the island. The four met at the net staring at each other with their game faces stern. But, no blood was shed in this match-up since the only weapons wielded were tennis racquets.

Gary Belch and Prisco Masagca Jr. walked off the court as the best of the best after a thorough beating of their opponents in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Doubles Tennis Tournament at Deer Point Tennis Courts Friday and Saturday night.

“Everyone pretty much knew that Masagca won the singles tournament last month and that Belch finished second,” said Audrey Chapman, MWR Coordinator. “So coming into the tournament everyone was gunning for them as they seemed to be the favorites coming in.”

Friday, team Belch and Masagca made easy work of the first three rounds with convincing 10-0, 10-1 and 10-4 wins as they advanced to the winner’s bracket semi-finals match.

“After the first day we played great and we felt like we were in good shape



Prisco Masagca Jr. and Gary Belch and won the MWR Doubles Tennis Tournament here at Deer Point tennis courts March 22, after their 6-3, 6-2 victory in the championship match. The two-day tournament with 13 teams entered was the largest doubles tournament ever at Guantanamo Bay.

to take the tournament,” said Belch.

In the semi-finals, Belch and Masagca continued where they left off Friday with a 6-1, 6-1 trouncing of third place Dante Micalat and Robert Faurillo to advance to the finals.

The final was Belch and Masagca’s biggest challenge as they pulled off their closest match of the tourney, winning 6-3, 6-2 over runner-up Leo

Manlutac and Marcelo Barnigo.

The doubles tennis tournament was the biggest ever held here as 13 teams vied for the title, a trophy and a cruise on the GTMO Queen.

“We were very excited about the number of teams that entered this year’s tournament and hope that it keeps getting bigger and bigger,” said Chapman.

Inner child released on driving range

Story by Navy Petty Officer 2nd
Class Cheryl Dilgard

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

On your mark! – the men are told to be down on both knees – Get set! – the women are told to get on one knee – Go! The race toward the myriad brightly colored plastic eggs on the driving range fairway began. You may have thought that Easter egg hunts were only for children, but Saturday, you’d have been proved wrong.

After the children’s hunts were over, approximately fifty adults lined

up for a chance to find two special eggs, bearing gift certificates to the Navy Exchange in the amounts of \$375 and \$175 respectively. With the sun high in the sky, the adults scrambled like mad with more enthusiasm than even some of the children. In some adults you could see their inner child escape for the brief 50-yard dash to the eggs and the thrill of scavenging through the 5000 eggs to find ‘the one’.

“I wasn’t going to do it. I felt kind of silly, but when I found out there were gift certificates for so much... I thought what the heck,” said Erin Johns.

The success of the event was obvious by the turnout. Three moon walks for the children and a concession stand with everything from hot dogs to snow cones completed the experience.

“If I were here next year, I would definitely participate again. It brought back a little of my childhood,” said Johns.

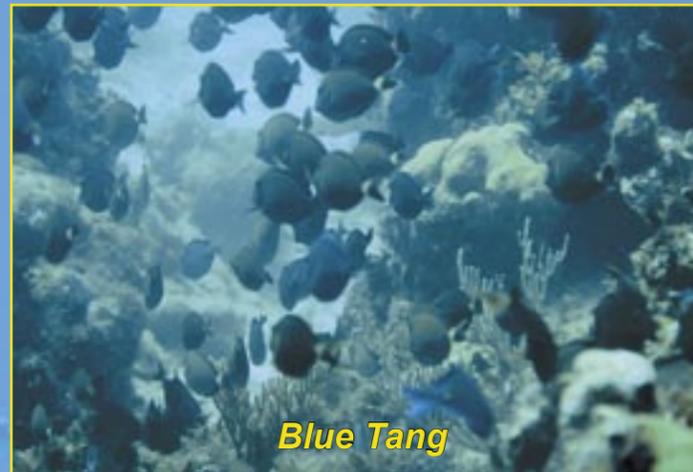
Congratulations go out to Angel Rodriquez, first place winner of the \$375 gift certificate, and Keith Carlson, who took home the second place \$175 certificate.



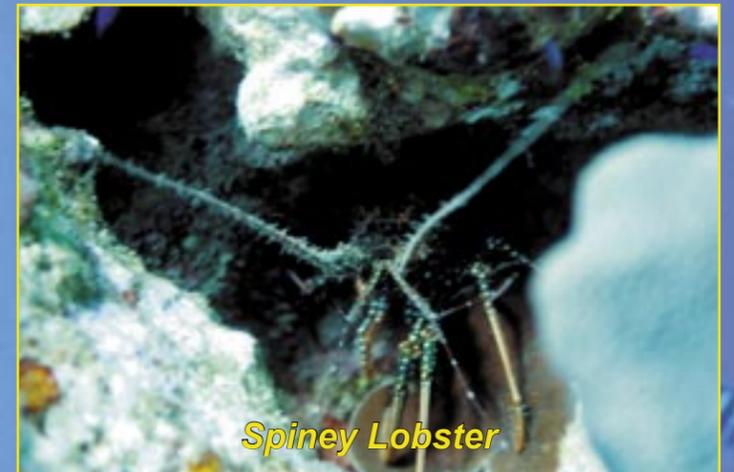
Nurse Shark



Queen Angel Fish



Blue Tang



Spiny Lobster

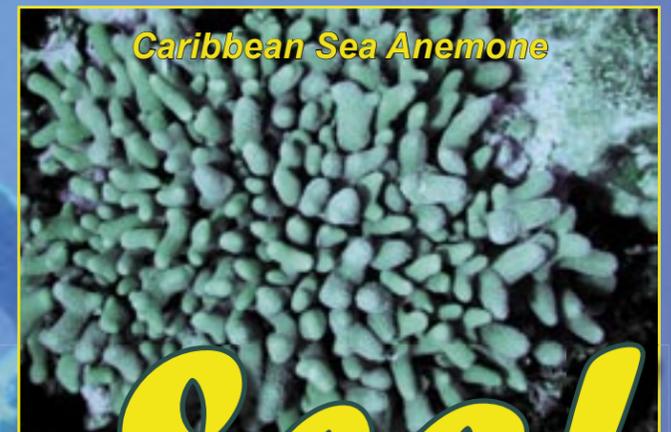
Photos by Army Capt. Kevin Cowan

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

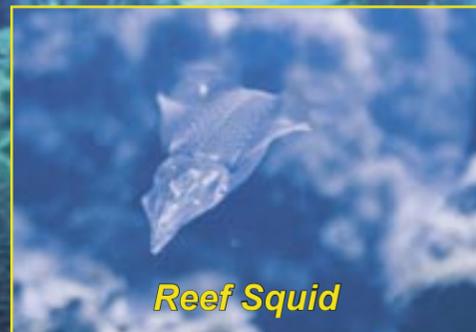
You won't find Ariel or Sponge Bob, but there is abundant life under the sea. Corals, conchs, sea turtles and a variety of fish, including lion fish, are readily available for viewing in the open waters near any of the numerous beaches of Guantanamo Bay. Seen by local divers and snorkelers, this wide variety of sea life is also monitored by the local Natural Resources Office. Before exploring the great open check out the Natural Resources Office to identify the creatures that are found in the area. Many of the creatures that appear commonplace in Gitmo – such as the sea turtle – are actually endangered, so enjoy the view, but be cautious and leave things how you found them.



Lion Fish



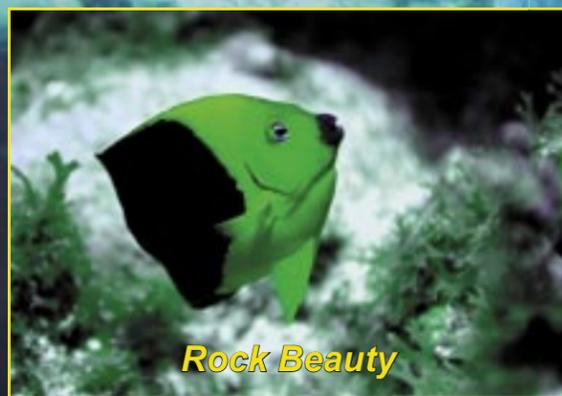
Caribbean Sea Anemone



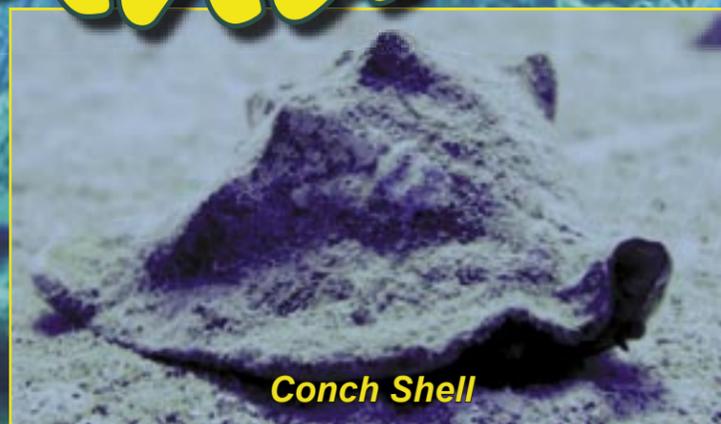
Reef Squid



Yellow Sea Cucumber

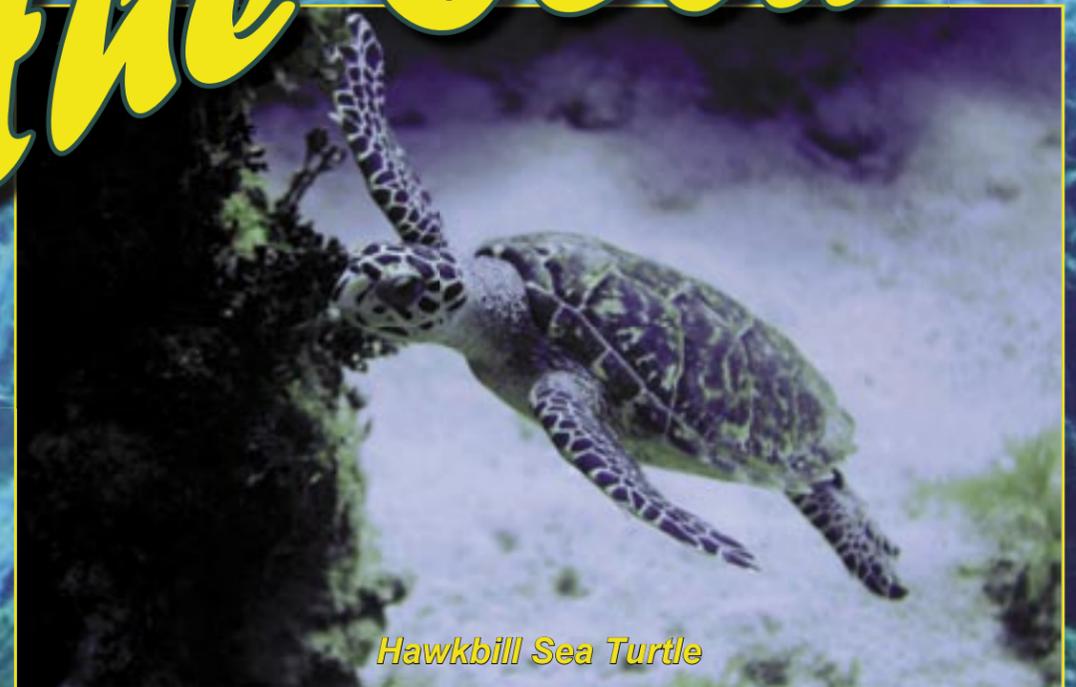


Rock Beauty



Conch Shell

Under the Sea!



Hawksbill Sea Turtle

Gitmo Gone Wild!

**Story and photo by Navy Petty Officer
2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

You may have seen the warning to be aware that lion fish have been spotted in the area. The fish, non-native to this area, have been spotted near Windmill beach by divers and snorkelers.

“Lion fish won’t kill you, but they do pack a punch,” said Michele Desrochers, a natural resource specialist in Guantanamo. Warning the public of potentially harmful wildlife, such as the Lion Fish, is just one aspect of natural resources work here.

Desrochers, a former Air Force combat photographer, used her GI Bill to go to school in wildlife biology at the University of California at Berkeley. She works for Naval Facilities Engineering in the Natural Resources Office and is here for a three month rotation.

The Natural Resources Office in Guantanamo is in a unique position because it does not have the direct supervision and support of a federal wildlife agency. There are also no regulatory agencies in Guantanamo to enforce wildlife policies and laws such as those that are typically enforced within the U.S.

“Our obligation is to enforce the Endangered Species Act. We want to leave it like we found it, and control invasive species,” said Desrochers.

The Natural Resource Office is involved in many conservation and educational activities. For instance, they enforce rules regarding conch season, such as the present ban on conch hunting that extends from March 1 to June 1.

The heart of the Natural Resources Office mission, however, involves the preservation of sea turtles and the study of the island’s hutia [banana rat] population.



A banana rat forages for food outside of Camp Delta, March 17.

Sea turtles are fairly common in Guantanamo although they are endangered. In January, a number of dead baby sea turtles were found on Windmill and Kittery Beaches.

“Sea turtle hatchlings have an inborn tendency to move in the brightest direction.” Jose Montalvo, the Natural Resources Office Manager continued, “On a natural beach, the brightest direction is most often the open view of the night sky over, and reflected by, the ocean.”

Unfortunately, after hatching from their land-based nests, the sea turtles head to the lights of the cabanas instead of the moon-lit open water. This situation inspired the Natural Resources Office to find a solution. Montalvo and Desrochers decided to request, through the Joint Task Force, the installation of low pressure sodium light bulbs in and around the cabanas.

LPS light bulbs produce yellow light waves that are less brilliant than the white light waves from the existing lights.

The new lights will still enable divers and boaters to use them as land marks. This effort will increase the

likelihood that sea turtle hatchlings will seek the moon-lit ocean rather than the cabanas.

Desrochers, with the help of eight local volunteers, is leading the effort to study the banana rat population to find out where they live, how far they roam and how many there are.

“We want to see if they are in residential areas or in the wild.” Desrochers said. “Through our efforts we have found that they have family groups and homes, meaning that they return to the same places everyday. But we know that they travel quite a distance because often they are trapped at night far from their homes.”

The hutia study team is monitoring eight areas on the island. One of their most interesting observations involves a form of recreation many humans enjoy – sun tanning.

“Often we see them on vegetation sunning themselves,” said Desrochers.

The Natural Resource Office is limited in both funding and in personnel and therefore welcomes volunteer help. Call 4493/4466 if you would like to lend a hand.

Detained terrorists reveal al Qaida recruiting process

By Navy Seaman William Selby

Special to American Forces Press Service

Information culled from 48 foreign fighters in custody of Multinational Force Iraq yields a profile for al Qaida foreign terrorists, a senior military official said March 18.

When analyzed, officials found that foreign terrorists had comparable recruitment stories, including why they joined al Qaida and what they did once they were smuggled into Iraq, said Air Force Col. Donald Bacon, chief of special operations and intelligence information for Multinational Force Iraq. Bacon spoke with online journalists and “bloggers” during a conference call.

All of the captured or surrendered foreign terrorists were single men, and they averaged 22 years of age. Most worked blue-collar jobs and had little-to-no education or military experience, Bacon said.

All the foreign terrorists came from large families, and standing out was a prime motivator for joining al Qaida. However, Bacon said, interrogators were interested to find that while foreign fighters said they joined al Qaida to “make their mark,” most were reluctant to tell their families for fear of disapproval.

Multinational Force Iraq interrogators also discovered that al Qaida misled recruits about the situation in Iraq.

“The overwhelming point from the 48 (foreign terrorists in custody) is they came to Iraq expecting to see Americans get killed, yet what they primarily saw was Iraqis getting killed, and it bothered them,” Bacon said. “They did not come to kill Iraqis.”

He said the foreign fighters were discouraged to find the expectations al Qaida instilled in them were not reality upon arriving in Iraq. They came to Iraq expecting to see al Qaida victorious instead of being defeated, he said.

Multinational Force Iraq officials learned from the foreign terrorists that al Qaida recruiters prey on young men they deem to be impressionable and lonely, Bacon said. They target recruits at mosques or at their jobs.

“In all cases, the recruiter offered friendship and also offered to teach the future foreign terrorist the basics of Islam ... and that’s how the relationship started,” he explained.

The foreign fighters revealed that they are usually flown into the airport in Damascus, Syria, and then they are smuggled into Iraq

in a process that could take months, he said.

The fighters described their treatment from fellow al Qaida members and Iraqis as harsh upon their arrival in Iraq. They felt looked down upon by the Iraqis and feared revealing their foreign identity to locals, he said.

Additionally, he said, officials found out that most of the foreign terrorists had signed up to be fighters but were pressured by al Qaida to become suicide bombers.

“They were told, ‘This is your duty. This is what we need you to do for the Jihad. You could be more useful as a suicide bomber than you could be a fighter. You’ll be a martyr and this is what we need you to do to win,’” he said.

Ninety percent of suicide bombings in Iraq are carried out by foreign terrorists, Bacon said, making them the most lethal of all insurgents.

“They produce the most destruction and cause the most civilian casualties,” he said.

Coalition forces are working with the Iraqi government to tighten border controls, and the number of foreign terrorists entering the country has been reduced to between 40 and 50 a month, compared to an estimated 120 entries in June, he explained.

Continued from page 4

“The Man.” For the younger Troopers, “The Man” is the ever present force known as the criminal justice system. It’s easy to avoid meeting The Man – all it takes is a little R-E-S-P-E-C-T. Respect others, respect the rules and most importantly, respect yourself. If you have respect for yourself and others, you will not place yourself into a position that requires the involvement of the criminal justice system. Deployments force each of us to face challenges and issues that are exciting, stressful and rewarding. This is true regardless of rank, service, component or branch. When you respect yourself, you will (1) ensure that you carry out your assigned duties in such a way as to make you, your unit, and the military proud, and (2) that you and your fellow Troopers feel safe and secure both at the work place and in the barracks.

While a court-martial or non-judicial punishment can impose many punishments, there are many secondary effects that have nothing to do with what happens during an Article 15 or at trial. Getting in trouble impacts many lives besides your own.

If you lose a stripe and get paid less – can you still make your car payment? Your house payment? Imagine going from the promotion list to facing high-year tenure and being forced out of the military. How far back does that set you? Are you prepared to lose your end of tour award or receive an adverse evaluation? What about losing your security clearance – can you still do your job? Imagine getting kicked off the island (yes, just like on Survivor) and having to explain to your friends and family why your tour is ending early. Remember all those veteran’s benefits and the GI Bill? How about retirement? Is that

fight, drink or illegal drug worth your shot at going to college, your retirement, your career, your dignity? What about your unit? How many of your friends now have to work longer and harder to make up for you not being there to do your job?

We all have issues in our lives. Many times those issues are too great to face alone. Fortunately, there are many ways to get through those times. Talk to family and friends and be sure they are part of the solution, not the problem. Your chain of command can help. The Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team, chaplains, or other professionals are provided free of charge and can also assist you. These organizations really are here to help you – just ask. So ask for help when you need it and think before you act – or risk running into “The Man.”



Daniel Day-Lewis is going to drink your milkshake.

By Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Rated: R

Running Time: 158 minutes

Believe it or not, I almost went and saw the new “Rambo” flick.

Instead, I was treated to a bizarre trip into early-20th-century America during the West Coast oil rush. I watched in awe as 15 minutes—almost 20 percent of a normal film—went by without one word spoken. I was mesmerized as I watched Daniel

Plainview grunt, gasp and snarl his way into rebirth as he discovers the blood of the Earth.

In “Rambo,” I’m told that Stallone just blows up Myanmar. So “There Will Be Blood” was probably the better choice.

Starring Daniel Day-Lewis as Daniel Plainview (lucky break there), “Blood” is the epic tale of America’s infernal birth into the petroleum era. Every character suffers through the birth in the most tactile sense: through blood and mud, toil and oil. The film is so physical as to become almost tiring to the viewer, spinning our heads with a sense of exhaustion.

Watching Day-Lewis manage a swaggering limp and sounding like a snarling John Huston is amazing to behold. Whether he’s selling his oil skills to dirt-poor farmers or heaving bowling balls at false prophets, Plainview is the one of those mean performances that is thrilling to watch. Who else can rock a moustache like that? I

submit there is no other, sir.

Except maybe Tom Selleck. Magnum P.I. always gets respect points.

Day-Lewis transcends normal convictions of acting and becomes an evolution of character. His channeling of John Huston’s greed in “Chinatown” transforms into Humphrey Bogart’s psychotic breakdown in “The Treasure of the Sierra Madre.” His story is a lifetime lived patiently—and passionately—in 158 minutes.

Paul Dano as bogus faith healer Eli Sunday (and initially as his twin brother, Paul) counters Day-Lewis with an equally impressive performance. Not content with building an empire of oil, Eli counters with an empire of the spirit and gives rise to Plainview’s long-standing ire.

Paul Thomas Anderson (“Boogie Nights,” “Punchdrunk Love”) shows us that he’s also evolved as a director. As scary and dangerous as “Blood” and Plainview can be, the film is also balanced with humor, tragedy and delirium. The soundtrack by Radiohead’s Johnny Greenwood is an eerie hiss of malicious intent reminiscent of “2001: A Space Odyssey” and just as epic. “2001” may have chronicled man’s first meeting with intelligent life, but “Blood” chronicles man’s first contact with naked ambition.

“Blood” is the ultimate in film. Much like “No Country For Old Men,” the film transcends the titillations of plot to hold a mirror up to our own very human condition.

“I’m finished.”

Rating: ★★★★★

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com

Saturday, Mar. 29

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:57 a.m.

Sunset: 7:13 p.m.

Chance of rain: 20%

Sunday, Mar. 30

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:56 a.m.

Sunset: 7:15 p.m.

Chance of rain: 20%

Monday, Mar. 31

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.



Isolated T-Storms

Sunrise: 6:55 a.m.

Sunset: 7:15 p.m.

Chance of rain: 30%

Tuesday, April 1

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.



Sunrise: 6:54 a.m.

Sunset: 7:15 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 60%

Scattered T-Storms

Wednesday, April 2

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.



Sunrise: 6:53 a.m.

Sunset: 7:15 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 60%

Scattered T-Storms

Thursday, April 3

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.



Sunrise: 6:53 a.m.

Sunset: 7:16 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 60%

Scattered Showers

Friday, April 4

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.



Sunrise: 6:52 a.m.

Sunset: 7:16 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 40%

Scattered T-Storms

Continued from page 3

Most Troopers communicate with J-6 staff members when they are having problems assessing or performing functions on the network. During such instances, a Trooper can connect with the J-6 help desk to seek assistance with their computer problems. Although J-6 personnel are willing to assist with all networking issues, Maestas urges Troopers to route all computer issues to their information technology representatives before contacting the help desk.

“Each section should have an individual designated as an Information Technology Officer who is trained to resolve basic networking issues, and is given unrestricted access to perform low-level administration on computers such as installing printer drivers,” said Maestas.

Maestas urges Troopers to channel all assistance requests through their ITO who will submit the Information Technology Requests to the help desk if they are unable to resolve the issue. In addition, ITOs are encouraged to submit any ITRs, especially those

involving installing and moving equipment, to the J-6 staff within a timely manner to make certain that his staff can efficiently respond.

“Please help us help you. I know that everybody feels that their requests are the most important; however, if we label everyone’s request as a priority then nothing becomes a priority,” said Maestas. “All network issues are reviewed by several J-6 staff members and are given priority based on the criticality of that issue. Keep in mind that we are constantly receiving very high level mission critical tasks that demand immediate attention. Not only do we deal with our daily operations such as maintaining the network and dealing with help desk issues, we may also receive requests from Congress, U.S. Southern Command or other higher headquarters.”

One way that Troopers can assist the J-6 staff is by complying with the restrictions that have been placed on JTF computers. Maestas mentioned that all Troopers signed a disclosure statement when they first arrived on island stating that they would not download personal

pictures or mp3 videos onto the network. Not only is committing such acts unauthorized and therefore punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, downloading such materials also takes up space on the network. Maestas added that many restrictions that prevent Troopers from using thumb drives or burning data to compact disks are also implemented for security reasons.

“Everything that is placed on the network is preserved and kept forever. We have over 2800 users and over 3000 systems, not including the network servers and other equipment we have to maintain,” said Maestas. “We are not trying to anger people, but many of the restrictions are mandated, and they help make the network more manageable for us.”

Keeping the network manageable and delivering customer-friendly service to the JTF keeps Maestas and his staff busy around the clock. Nevertheless, they’re available to every Trooper who uses computers or communication devices. Help them help you by routing your requests properly.

Boots on the Ground

What’s your favorite galley meal?

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Nat Moger

Army Sgt.
Jose Hernandez



“I like Asian food, so their beef teriyaki.”

Army Spc.
Crystal Wynn



“I like their meatloaf because it’s juicy and tender.”

Army Staff Sgt.
Vickie Carroll



“I love all of their Asian food because it reminds me of my time in Korea.”

Army Sgt.
Eric Smith



“Steak and shrimp. I love the seafood and steak combo.”

REJECTION CAN BE OVERCOME



By Army Chaplain (Capt.) Y.J. Kim
525th MP BN Chaplain

www.wsiwellness.com

Have you ever tried to please someone who didn't care about your opinions and didn't even bother to take the time to listen to you? No matter which way we go about pursuing the matter of trying to change their opinions, they never seem to be persuaded.

A long time ago, there was a group of children playing in the marketplace. They were soon joined by a stranger. As the children were playing weddings, the stranger said, *"That's too merry a game to play."* The children taking this into account decided instead to play funerals instead. The stranger replied, *"That's too sad to play."* There was simply no way of pleasing the stranger.

Another illustration that comes to mind occurs in the workplace. Have you ever had a co-worker or a boss that was difficult to please? No matter how hard you're working, there will always be some who are never pleased. Logic is useless at this point; no matter how strong your argument and evidence, their response is closed off to the evidence.

While we seek people's approval and

praise, keep in mind that we cannot and will not please everyone. It's natural to seek approval. No one likes to be rejected. When was the last time you felt rejected? Didn't that unpleasant and even painful feeling immediately give us a reaction whether to "improve" ourselves or a feeling of grief, and even anger?

Some people, in order to avoid the fear of rejection tend to become overly cautious. Some, while giving into other's demands are actually angry and resentful underneath. In both cases, their hearts become hardened. This is process in which the heart becomes more and more hardened. Think about the grime and lime that builds up on pipes. Without frequent cleaning, it builds up. Our hearts are much the same. We fall into trouble when our hearts become hardened. We build up walls in our hearts, ignore the problem and become slaves to the fear of rejection. Continuing to let this build up in our hearts will bring about spiritual and moral numbness. A prophet once said, *"He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes,*

nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them."

Don't concern yourself with the affairs of others not pertinent to yourself or fall into the trap of being consumed by comparing yourself to others. Focus on the task given to you. In other words: Do your job, and do it right!

We seek approval and affirmation in our relationships with our co-workers, bosses, spouses, parents, friends, etc. We live in a culture of "approval addiction" as Joyce Meyer, a popular televangelist and christian speaker would call it. But ultimately, it's only God's approval that matters. Don't be bound by the addiction of approval. Find freedom and find freedom from God alone. Much like those drainage pipes, we need cleansing. Don't fear men, fear God. Don't seek men's approval, seek God's approval. Be comforted and feel secure in God's everlasting love. His grace provides healing, cleansing, and the confidence we need to pursue our daily affairs in order.

How many times have we caved into pressure for fear of what others may think of us? Let it go, and let God work in you.

N.M. Guardsman misses family but finds meaning in mission

Story and photo by Navy Petty Officer
2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

One of the newer Soldiers deployed to Joint Task Force Guantanamo hasn't wasted time pursuing meaningful activities here in Guantanamo. He is currently preparing to participate in a local version of a national event that has a rich tradition in his home state of New Mexico, the Bataan Memorial Death March.

Army Sgt. Mitchell Ration of the New Mexico Army National Guard has been training diligently for the memorial march that will be held here Sunday. The Bataan Memorial Death March memorializes the experiences of American and Filipino prisoners-of-war who were brutally force-marched by their Japanese captors from one camp to another during World War II. Many, including New Mexico Guardsmen, lost their lives along the way due to beatings and starvation.

"Last year I did the Bataan Memorial Death March in White Sands, N.M. It took me seven hours. It's a marathon and I marched it. It was about 80 degrees and no wind. It was kind of funny because by mile 13, of the 26 mile march, I was being passed up by moms that were speed walking and kids that would run ahead of their parents then run back to them." Ration continued, "It is cool though because the New Mexico survivors of the Bataan Death March are waiting at the finish line."

Ration's motivation to get involved in this meaningful event extends to other activities that he is looking forward to on this deployment. When Ration is not running in preparation for the memorial march, he enjoys playing basketball and he is looking forward to the basketball and soccer leagues that are starting soon.

Ration enjoys another activity



New Mexico Army National Guard Sgt. Mitchell Ration holds a picture of his wife while he sits at his desk at the Joint Task Force Legal Assistance Office, March 21. A family man, Ration loves his job but misses his wife and kids back in Albuquerque.

that sets him apart from many in the modern era of email and easy telephone access: writing letters by hand.

"Anyone can email, but it is nice to sit down and write or even receive a hand-written letter," said Ration.

The majority of the letters Ration writes are to his wife back home in Albuquerque. Ration, a devoted husband and father of five, volunteered for the one-year deployment to JTF Guantanamo. Initially, he thought he was volunteering for six months, but as fate would have it, the six months soon turned into a 12-month deployment. Nevertheless, Ration was excited about the opportunity to deploy with his unit, especially since he knew would be in good company.

"When you work for a man [Brig. Gen. Gregory Zanetti] that good, it is hard to not to come on deployment. Also, I had done a short deployment

before with Capt. Morales and it was nice to know I would be here working with good people," said Ration.

He is also grateful to have found a pseudo-family in the staff judge advocate's office where he is presently assigned.

"JAG [Judge Advocate General] corps is like family; they are a good group of people and take good care of us." Ration continued, "The JAG corps here is like my family away from family. [Navy] Capt. McCarthy [the Staff Judge Advocate] does a great job at making us feel welcome. He has invited us into his home to spend time with his family. Capt. McCarthy has six kids so it reminds me of my home, filled with kids, chaos and love."

Ration is also deeply religious and believes that the spiritual support he receives here is an important factor in the success of his deployment. Ration shared that just prior to leaving New Mexico, Ration's father had to undergo heart surgery. New Mexico Army National Guard Chaplain (Capt.) Scott Brill, who is also deployed here, was at the hospital with the Ration family at 6 a.m. the morning of his father's medical crisis.

"The religious side of the house makes everything work out; it's what we base our families and work on." Ration continued, "The chaplain and assistant take good care of Troopers and their families," said Ration.

Ration began his military career as a Marine from 1985-1990. After a break in service, he spent three years in the Army Reserves before coming to the Army National Guard. Ration enjoys the National Guard. He believes his mission with the Guard and the JTF is important; his only hesitation is missing his family.

"If I could have my family here, I would volunteer to stay three or four years," said Ration.

AROUND THE JTF



◀ Navy Cmdr. Jeffrey Hayhurst, commander, Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion reads the oath of re-enlistment to Senior Chief Petty Officer David Garcia during a ceremony, March 20, at the North East Gate. Davis, a member of the NEGB, re-enlisted for four more years. (Photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Sanchez)

Constructionman Daniel Garrido, a builder with Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 74, cuts wood for flooring, March 25, that will provide a foundation for new SEA huts that will allow detainees to have private meetings with their lawyers. The seabees of NMCB 74 are utilizing pre-existing materials to build the new facilities for Joint Task Force Guantanamo. (Photo by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin) ▶



◀ Naval Station and Joint Task Force Personnel gathered for a protestant Easter Sunrise service at Windmill Beach, March 23. The group sang songs of praise and worship, read scripture, prayed and were attentive to a short devotional. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard)