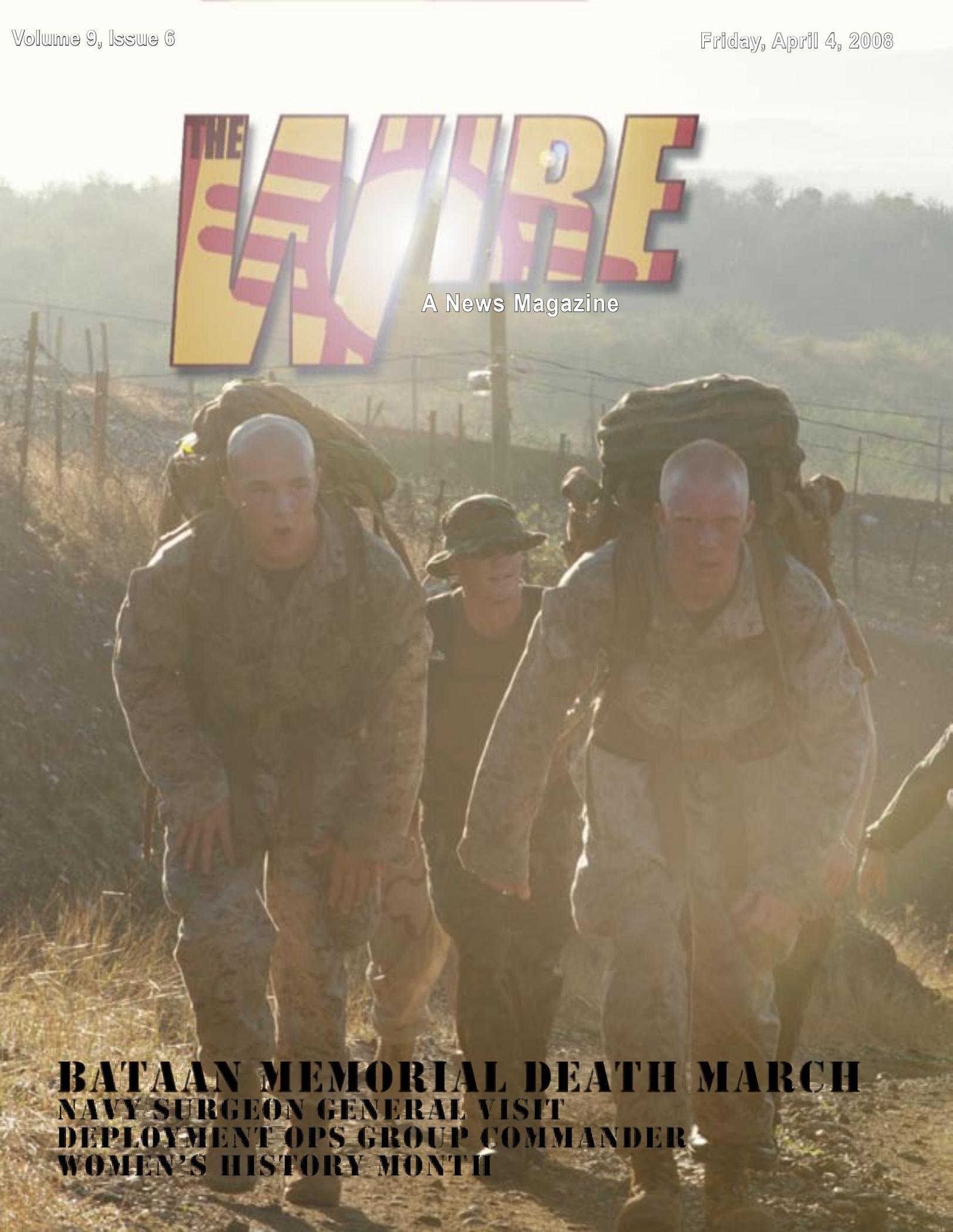


THE WIRE

A News Magazine



BATAAN MEMORIAL DEATH MARCH
NAVY SURGEON GENERAL VISIT
DEPLOYMENT OPS GROUP COMMANDER
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Lessons learned with the JTF

By Army 1st Sgt.
Patrick Sellen

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Well JTF Guantanamo, this will be my last Trooper to Trooper article as I prepare to return home to the states. As happy as I am to be returning to my wife, children and the everyday conveniences of home, I leave with a lot of good memories, new friends and lessons learned while being a part of the Joint Task Force. I would like to share some of my thoughts and experiences as this has truly been a unique experience.

When my unit – the 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment – and I boarded a plane in Baton Rouge, La., for mobilization training almost a year ago, we did not have a single military public affairs qualified person, so you can imagine my concern for all we were about to embark upon: a 16 page weekly newsmagazine, reconstruction of the Intra- and Internet Web sites, real time print, audio and video production and the supervision of visiting national and international media.

We began work in Gitmo with two additional Soldiers from the Individual Ready Reserves, five National Guard volunteers from five other states, and four Navy public affairs counterparts. Through hard work and perseverance, all of us – deployed Sailors and Citizen-Soldiers including an attorney, a school administrator, a mother of two, a decorated OIF veteran and a call-center supervisor, to name but a few – not only accomplished the mission, but excelled at it.

This has been our situation. Some of you may have shown up here



feeling unqualified or unprepared and not at all sure what you were getting into. I know I certainly did. Being a fairly new first sergeant, I knew I had a lot of learning to do, but I learned quickly and benefited greatly from the many different senior enlisted leaders from all the different service branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard. I will leave here a more confident and well rounded leader as a result.

I encourage all of you to be open-minded and learn as much as you can from whomever you can, no matter what service branch he or she may be a part of. Each branch brings its own dynamic dimension to the table, but all are key players on the same team.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to say “thank you” to all whom I have worked with and learned from. I also thank Gitmo’s Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff for giving us plenty to do and entertainment to enjoy. Take care of each other and continue to set the example. HONOR BOUND!

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COVER:

Service members scale a difficult hill on the Marine fence line at the halfway point of the Bataan Memorial Death March, March 30. This was the first year that the event - organized by members of the New Mexico Army National Guard - was held at Guantanamo Bay. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard)



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

Navy Surgeon General Surveys Gitmo Medical Care

Story by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Nat Moger

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Surgeon General of the Navy Vice Adm. Adam Robinson visited U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, March 28-30, to meet with medical corps personnel and observe operations.

Providing quality medical care is always a manpower and logistical challenge. After observing Navy medical operations for U.S. Naval Station personnel and Joint Task Force Troopers, Robinson left assured that the health care professionals here are more than prepared to provide force health protection.

“The care I’ve seen given at the naval hospital and the detention camps is consistent, patient and family-centered care,” said Robinson.

Force health protection is a Navy Medicine concept designed to maintain a fit and ready fighting force that can deploy at a moment’s notice. Robinson noted several aspects of force health protection being practiced here at the highest standards.

“[Navy medicine] keeps a fit and ready force and deploys with the warfighters to care for the warfighters,” said Robinson. “Then they take care of eligible family members: spouses, children, parents, grandparents.”

Robinson sees the family-oriented medicine being practiced at the naval station as a huge benefit for Sailors and Marines.

“One of the biggest satisfiers the Navy has is the medical care we give,” said Robinson. “With married uniformed forces I can’t just worry about taking care of them. I need to worry about their family members too. If we focus only on warrior care and not the family members we’ve missed the mark.”

Robinson went on to note that quality health care also factors heavily into maintaining high retention rates.



Navy Surgeon General Vice Adm. Adam Robinson speaks with Joint Detention Group personnel during a tour here, March 29. Robinson visited the JTF to meet with health care professionals and view the facilities. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Thompson)

Robinson, whose strategic plan focuses on maintaining a healthy fighting force, got to view one of the paradoxes of Guantanamo Bay: the detention medical facilities where Navy medicine is utilized to treat patients who may not want to be healthy, who may not want care. The Joint Task Force Joint Medical Group, commanded by Navy Capt. Bruce Meneley, is tasked with this difficult mission.

“The unique challenges the JMG faces include providing the same quality of care to the detainees as we do to all other military members, which can require bringing considerable medical assets to Guantanamo,” said Meneley. “It also includes trying to establish a certain level of trust with the detainees so they will allow us to provide that care.”

Meneley also asserts that “no matter how many reports you see, no matter how much it is described,

you can never fully comprehend and appreciate the complexity and logistical difficulties of Guantanamo without seeing it firsthand. It allows the Surgeon General [Robinson] to go back to Washington and state he has seen the high quality of care provided with his own eyes.”

After viewing JMG operations, Robinson agrees that the medicine being practiced here is indeed blind to the status of the patient; detainees get treated the same as everyone else on base.

“We give the best care and best advice and try to practice preventive medicine for whichever patient we see,” said Robinson. “I think that is what differentiates Navy medicine and military medicine from other types of medicine. Whoever needs our assistance or our help from a medical standpoint, no matter what their status, we’re there to provide it.”

New Coast Guard DOG commander revisits old haunts

Story by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Cheryl Dilgard

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Coast Guard Rear Adm. Thomas F. Atkin visited U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay this week to take look at Guantanamo operations and the Coast Guard mission here.

Atkin is no stranger to Guantanamo. He was stationed here with Joint Task Force 160 in 1994 and was involved in the Haitian/Cuban migrant operations mission then.

Now Atkin is commander of the newly established Coast Guard Deployable Operations Group. The DOG consists of 27 Coast Guard units that are primarily law enforcement, tactical and port security units such as Port Security Unit 313 that is deployed here.

“By putting all of these units under one command we can provide a more thorough adaptive force package to meet mission needs,” Atkin said. “DOG is a force provider. We have elements of approximately 15 units deployed at any given time.”

Due to his background in migrant operations, Atkin expressed a particular interest in the progress of migrant operations planning here.



“Migrant operations are much better planned than in 1994. The Department of Defense works with Department of Homeland Security to identify and meet requirements for large scale migration,” said Atkin.

Atkin comes from a background of security and law enforcement which has prepared him for his new position. His visit to Guantanamo allowed him to see Coast Guard Port Security Unit 313 in its

working environment.

“PSU 313 is doing an awesome job. They are doing what we want and more. They are meeting the JTF mission,” said Atkin.

Atkin relishes his background in law enforcement. He has had the opportunity to work closely with the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security in counterterrorism and intelligence capacities. These experiences prepared him for his current position and he feels fortunate to have a job he loves.

“I have chosen my assignments based on fun and based on my family,” said Atkin. “I would advise Troopers to do four things: Take care of their teammates and take care of their families from their families’ perspective. Many times Troopers do it from their perspective, but their families feel left out. Be committed to doing the best job possible and have fun. Everyone does a better job if they enjoy what they are doing.”



Guantanamo honors WWII veterans of Bataan

Story and photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

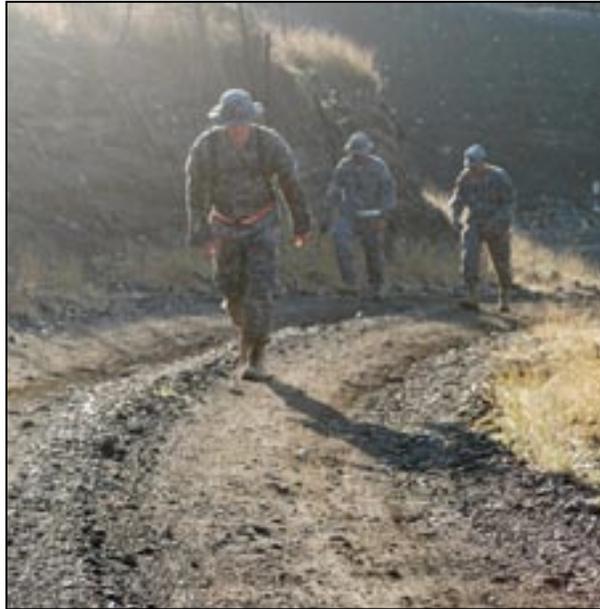
A solemn mood fell over Windmill Beach here Sunday when over one hundred Guantanamo residents joined New Mexico National Guard Troopers to commemorate the Bataan Death March of 1942.

The march, which is held annually to honor World War II veterans of the 200th Coast Artillery, New Mexico National Guard, memorializes the infamous 70-mile "Death March" that was characterized by physical abuse, savagery and murder against more than 75,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war. Although the 26.2 mile march usually takes place on the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, Troopers here coordinated a 13 mile march so that Guantanamo residents could take part in this long-standing New Mexico tradition.

"Tens of thousands of Americans representing the Army, Army Air Corps, Navy and Marines and Filipino forces fought Japanese soldiers for four months before they were marched in the scorching heat through the Philippine jungles to prison camps," said Army Maj. Anthony Guerrero, of the New Mexico National Guard. "We want to honor the memory of those veterans who sacrificed above and beyond the call of duty. Some of them gave the ultimate sacrifice and died during this effort."

Runners and walkers wore civilian or military gear as they participated in the march that began at Windmill Beach and took Troopers across hilly terrain along the Marine fence line and back. Troopers, who could sign up as individuals or a team, participated as a way to say thanks to the veterans who endured excruciating pain and abuse during the World War II march.

"There is nothing to compare to what those men went through," said Army Command Sgt. Maj. Ted Trahan, JTF Joint Detention Group command sergeant major. "I have had the honor and privilege to participate in the Bataan Death March



JTF Troopers scale a hill midway through the Bataan Memorial Death March, March 30, 2008 was the first year the event - organized by members of the New Mexico Army National Guard - was held in Guantanamo Bay.

on two separate occasions. Some of the march's veterans are at the finish line waiting to thank those who marched. When they look you in the face and shake your hand in thanks, what you have done really hits home."

Trahan added that although the march here was grueling, it pales in comparison to what the veterans endured when they were surrendered to Japanese forces by their commander, Army Maj. Gen. Edward "Ned" P. King Jr., without the knowledge of his superior officers.

The battle for Bataan was one of the significant opening battles of World War II where American forces aided in the defense of the islands of Luzon, Corregidor and the harbor defense forts of the Philippines. Approximately 2000 Soldiers from the 200th CA helped Filipino forces fight Japanese forces during the four-month battle that ended when they were surrendered and marched for days from Mariveles to Camp O'Donnell, a prison camp in the province of Tarlac in the Philippines.

During the six-day march, POWs moved by foot on dusty roads without food or water. The march was characterized by wide-ranging physical abuse, savagery and

murder, which resulted in a number of fatalities. Deliberate refusal to allow prisoners food and water and rifle beatings were common abuse techniques used by Japanese captors. Some POWs were even beheaded.

Those who survived the march faced the hardships of prisoner of war camps where many starved to death or died due to lack of medical care. Some who survived the march were later wounded or killed when unmarked enemy ships transporting these POWs to Japan were sunk by U. S. air and naval forces. When the surviving Americans were rescued by U.S. forces in August 1945, less than half of the 200th CA Soldiers survived.

Although only a small contingent of National Guardsmen deployed here were permitted to travel to their state to participate in the White Sands Death March, March 31, Guerrero

mentioned that the march here served as a way for Guantanamo residents to observe an important part of New Mexico and U.S. history, just like the participants in New Mexico.

"When you cross that finish line, it is something tremendous that you have accomplished. Not just because it is physically demanding, but you also realize that you have participated in something that recognized an important part of our military history," said Guerrero. "As civilian along with members of U.S. military units and foreign armed forces are greeted by survivors of the [White Sands] Death March, you can feel the comradery and a sense of pride to be a member of the world's greatest military force."

The first three participants to cross the finish line here in the men's, women's and team categories were awarded trophies. The first place winners were Patrick Sellen, Shanna Lynch and team Vigilance, in the male, female and team categories respectively. The second place winners were Ted Trahan, Geneta Palacios and team 111th. Third place winners were Chris Hodl, Laura Artis and team Hell's Gate.

Four No. 1 seeds advance to finals - first time ever

By Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

For the first time in NCAA history, the selection committee got it right – all four No. 1 seeds advanced to college basketball's most-anticipated weekend. The Memphis Tigers will take on the UCLA Bruins in the first semifinal Saturday at the Alamo Dome in San Antonio, Texas. The Kansas Jayhawks will play the North Carolina Tarheels in the nightcap and the winners face off Monday for the national championship. The four teams have a combined record of 143-9 this season.

These are the programs that have no problem attracting big name players each year not only because of their gleaming gyms and awesome weight rooms, but because it gives them a chance to wear the same uniforms as Lew Alcindor and Bill Walton, Wilt Chamberlain and Danny Manning, Michael Jordan and James Worthy.

What player from this year's Final Four will be the new household name starting next week? Tyler Hansbrough of UNC, the guy whose iconic picture image showed him bleeding from a broken nose after takin an elbow by arch-rival Duke last season? Could it be Kevin Love, the freshman from UCLA who hit a full court shot in warm-ups after he called it? How about Brandon Rush, a guard who has led Kansas in scoring in all three seasons? Or will it be Derrick Rose, the



North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough dunks over Louisville's Juan Palacios during the NCAA East Regional basketball game March 29, in Charlotte, N.C. (AP Photo)

Chicago kid who went to Memphis, chose jersey No. 23 just like the Windy City's most famous No. 23, Michael Jordan.

Indeed, these Final Four teams have history on their side – and a chance to make more before it is all said and done.

Gitmo fan makes American League baseball predictions

By Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

OK baseball fans, it is that time of the year to head out to a ballpark since the Major League Baseball season has officially started. Sunday night marked the official opening in America when the Washington Nationals won a thriller 3-2 over the Atlanta Braves with a two-out homer in the bottom of the ninth inning by third baseman Ryan Zimmerman. However, the league really started last week when the Boston Red Sox split a pair of games with the Oakland Athletics in Japan, marking the earliest date that the baseball season has ever started.

In 2008, all big-league teams have high hopes for the upcoming season. They've made big trades, cut certain players, signed free agents and even hired new managers to better themselves. Hopefully, this article will give a little insight on my American League Division favorites.

Let's start with the American League East. The Boston Red Sox are by far the head of the class in this division. They largely have the same cast of players returning this season led by starting pitcher Josh Beckett and reliever Jonathon Papelbon. Even after losing Curt Schilling to an injury, they still should win 90-plus games. The Toronto Blue Jays should step up and take the wild card over the New York Yankees. The Blue Jays underachieved in 2007. The addition of two experienced ex-St. Louis Cardinals, infielders Scott Rolen and David Eckstein, they improve the Jay's offense. Look for the Jays to start out like a blaze of fire and keep the heat on the Red

Sox all the way to the end. The Yankees on the other hand lost the most important ingredient for a baseball team - their manager. Joe Torre has been a staple in the Yankees organization for the past 12 seasons. With his guidance gone, so go the Yanks. They will drop into third place and watch the playoffs on TV like me.

The American League Central should be a two-team race, but I will give the title to the Detroit Tigers. With their pitching staff still intact and the addition of lefty Dontrelle Willis from the Florida Marlins, the Tigers should lead the league in shut-outs and strikeouts. The Cleveland Indians will be in the fight with the Tigers till the last few weeks, but will come up short in the long run. The Indians have a good offensive team, but with only one true starter in C.C. Sabathia, making the playoffs will be too much of a hurdle for the tribe to overcome.

The American League West will be a one-team race. The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim (with a name like that you can't lose) got better in the off-season with the signing of free agent center fielder Torii Hunter and the acquisition of starting pitcher Jon Garland from the Chicago White Sox. Garland joins a very good starting rotation that ranked second in the American League last season. But if any team can make some noise and make it a tight race against the Angels, so it should be the Seattle Mariners at least to the halfway point. After that, it's the Angels in a landslide.

Don't worry, I didn't forget about National League. I'll dive into the depths of the National League pool next week in part-two of the three-part series on pro baseball.

Golf clubs swing freely at Gitmo tourney

Story and photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Yatera Seca Golf Association teamed up with Miller Lite and Budweiser for Gitmo's annual tournament and membership drive Saturday.

Over 25 golfers participated in the nine-hole tournament that included a barbecue lunch and an awards ceremony. All who participated received a challenge coin, hat, shirt, coozie and other knick knacks.

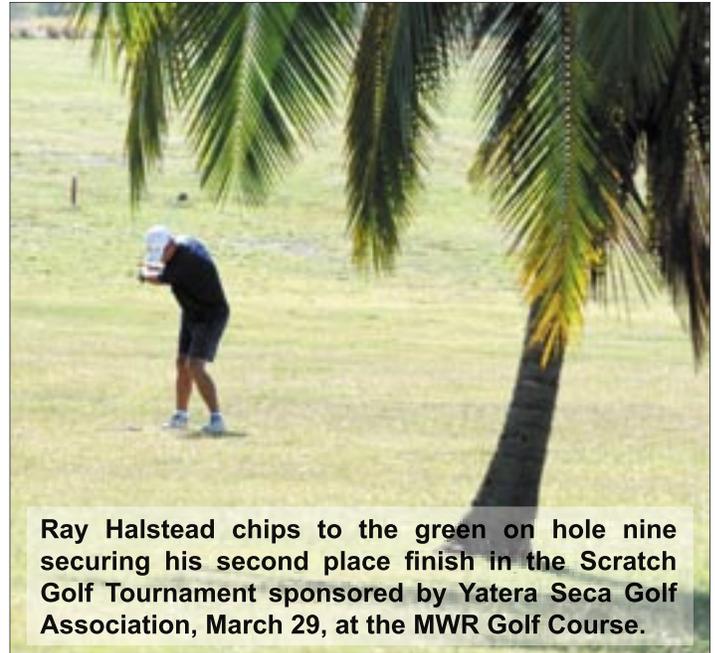
"We were happy with the turnout that we had," said Tim Higgins, vice president of the YSGC. "A great time was had by all and everyone specially enjoyed the meal."

"This is an annual golf tournament that we hold to help get people aware that our organization is open to anyone interested in joining," said Higgins. "With all the people leaving Guantanamo in the last few months, our numbers have dropped, but we always take new members."

Cheri Gildae and Jerry Rushing each walked away with first place finishes in the Scratch Golf Spring Tournament.

Rushing won the men's division by shooting a 38, followed by Ray Halstead's 42. Rushing received a trophy, \$30 and a putter. Halstead grabbed \$25 and a Miller Lite beer bucket.

In the ladies division Gildae won by shooting a 54, followed by Nancy Brown's 56. Gildae won a trophy, \$30 and an oversized golf umbrella. Brown earned \$25 and a



Ray Halstead chips to the green on hole nine securing his second place finish in the Scratch Golf Tournament sponsored by Yatera Seca Golf Association, March 29, at the MWR Golf Course.

Miller Lite beer bucket.

John Krannitz and Gildae each won their divisions in the long drive competition winning \$25 each. Rob Harrison also netted \$25 for the "closest to the pin" competition.

Be on the lookout for other events," said Higgins. "We are planning a night golf event in April and plan on having at least one event each month."

CPOA 5-K race raises funds for W.T. Sampson trip



The top three competitors in both the male and female divisions showed off their prizes for being the best runners during the Navy Chief Petty Officers Association 5-K, March 29.

Story and photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nat Moger

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Starting just before sunrise, nearly 200 people gathered in front of Denich Gym to celebrate the birthday of the "Navy Chief Petty Officer" by running 3.1 miles, Saturday. When it was all said and

done, the sun was peeking out and the runners were all rehydrating, eating oranges and checking out their cool T-shirts.

Patrick Phelan won the overall event with a time of 18:49 and Marguerite Mogul finished first on the women's side with a time of 19:44. Ntumsi Lah and Lew Cooper rounded out the men's with times of 19:39 and 21:15, respectively, and Beatriz Solorio and Kim Higdon wrapped up the women's with times of 21:22 and 23:00, respectively.

The race route took runners along Sherman Avenue to Rogers Road and back to Denich.

Race winner Phelan, felt confident with the course.

"I felt pretty good out there; I've run it before," said Phelan. "That gradual incline at the end can be pretty deceiving if you're not used to it."

Race organizers were excited by the turnout, which was so good that extra T-shirts needed to be ordered.

"We had 120 people sign up before race day, but then another 60 signed up that morning," said Pat Sellen, race coordinator. "It was incredible; the turnout was more than we expected."

Besides being a good time for all involved, the race also raised about \$1,500 for a good cause: a planned Odyssey of the Mind trip for W.T. Sampson students. The money will help the students with transportation and lodging for the nation-wide event held at the University of Maryland.

Bataan!

The 2008 Memorial Death March

Photos by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard and Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

In the Philippines in 1942, following the four-month battle of Bataan during World War II, thousands of prisoners of war – American and Filipino – were taken by the Japanese and force-marched 70 miles to an internment camp. The prisoners were marched for days in the tropical heat, denied food and given minimal water.

Along the way, the prisoners were treated brutally. Falling behind meant having your throat cut, your head hacked off or simply being shot where you fell. More horrifying accounts include bayonet stabbings, guttings and rifle beatings.

The exact death toll is unknown, but estimated at close to 20,000. Many more died of delayed effects and continued brutal treatment once at the interment camps.

The event is commemorated every year in White Sands, New Mexico, with a trail marathon. Troopers here coordinated a 13-mile march along the fenceline so that everyone could participate in a long-standing tradition.



Women's History Month

Story and photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Guantanamo Bay community recognized eight shining stars for their significant achievements during a ceremony held at the Windjammer Club, March 27, in honor of Women's History Month.

Civilians and Troopers assigned to the naval station and the Joint Task Force were recognized as "Guantanamo Bay Women's History Month 2008 Phenomenal Woman Honorees" for their significant achievements within the military and civilian communities. Event guest speaker Madhya Husta commended the honorees for taking the time to become community leaders while they serve their country. She also personally thanked them for becoming examples to their colleagues.

"I believe with power comes great responsibility," said Husta. "Every single successful woman like the ones we have sitting here today have applied the power of their abilities to inspire, educate and encourage. Most of all, they have served and invested in others."

Women honored during the event for using their talents, work ethics and mentorship to help improve the lives of others were, Navy Cmdr. Deidre McLay, Navy Chief Petty Officer Gina Marie Doherty, Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Corelle Street, Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Cynthia Williams, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Rachel Thompson, Army Pfc. Mercedes Diaz and civilians Lilly Garland, Taylor Edwards and Jacqueline Castel.

Although the three women recognized from the JTF work in different capacities for the command, one commonality they share is the impact that their mentorship and hard work has on others. McLay, the executive assistant to the JTF commander, was recognized for the leadership she displays while assigned to the JTF. During the ceremony, she shared three



Army Pfc. Mercedes Diaz, Navy Cmdr. Deidre McLay and DoD civilian Jacqueline Castel enjoy being "Guantanamo Bay Women's History Month 2008 Phenomenal Woman Honorees," March 27. The event recognized women's achievements in many categories.

qualities with attendees that have helped her become successful throughout her Navy career.

"First, always do your best...you never know when a door of opportunity will open. Second, know your heritage... women have been serving not only in the military, but throughout our country for many, many years. You should continue to learn not only about women, but your military heritage in general, which can be a source of strength," said McLay. "Third, be a mentor...it's extremely helpful to be approachable and to share your experiences both good and bad, because that is how you learn. Many times it is often the bad stories that are just as helpful as the good stories."

Diaz, who is assigned to the 525th Military Police Battalion, was also credited for being an inspiration to enlisted Troopers by striving to be the best at whatever she does. Army Sgt. Amanda Spiegel, who nominated Diaz for the award, highlighted some of her accomplishments while serving here.

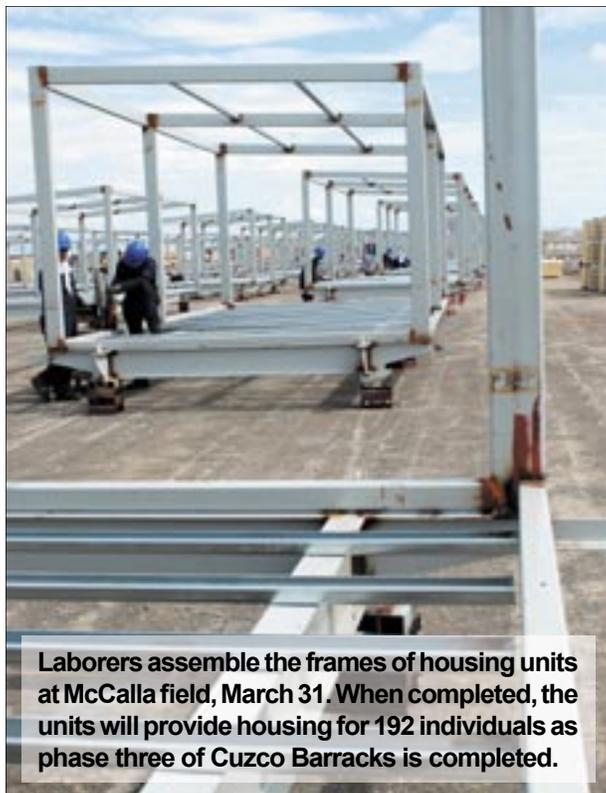
"She is currently the busiest person

I know. She is working on a second job while deployed in Guantanamo Bay, and she is also working to put on a benefit concert for the fallen military heroes that will take place on April 25," said Spiegel. She added that Diaz is one of the best soldiers she has ever had the pleasure of working with.

Castel, who serves as the Joint Intelligence Group director's executive assistant, was also honored for her service. Besides traveling to 30 countries during her enlistment in the Army, Castel received four Meritorious Service Medals (three joint service) and three Army commendation medals. Since retiring from the Army, Castel continues to serve her country by working in the intelligence field.

During March, the Women's History Month committee members here also sponsored other events, including a candid talk session held to address issues that affect women in the military. They also began a mentoring program where women share valuable life experiences with community youths.

LeVault provides update on JTF housing developments



Laborers assemble the frames of housing units at McCalla field, March 31. When completed, the units will provide housing for 192 individuals as phase three of Cuzco Barracks is completed.

Story and photos by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

JTKF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Take heart, residents of Guantanamo Bay, plans continue to provide roofs over heads for members of the Joint Task Force. JTF Guantanamo Command Master Chief Brad LeVault recently took time out to tour JTF housing facilities and provide an update on their progress.

“The housing situation is important to the chain of command because it is imperative that Troopers live in reasonable housing for this situation,” LeVault said.

“My written goal – that I wrote probably a year and a half ago – is to have one Trooper per room,” LeVault said. “When I got here they measured the number of living accommodations by beds. I immediately said ‘No more; it will be addressed by rooms.’”

“Almost every room in Tierra Kay was doubled up [when I got here],” LeVault said. “My goal is to make them all single rooms before I leave here. Cuzco 3 should make that a reality.”

“My goal is one Trooper per room,” LeVault said. “That’s not an all-encompassing statement because in Camp America we have open bay-type rooms. Unfortunately, they can’t be changed to

one per room.”

While the bays can’t be changed, the situation has been improved for Camp America residents. Bays that used to house six Troopers now hold only three or four.

“It’s reasonable to have three or four Troopers in those bays,” LeVault said. “It gives them plenty of room to do what they need to do, to give it a private feel.”

Some have speculated about the “headstones” standing bare across from the NEX. Cuzco 3 development was delayed because the housing units needed to be sent to the leeward side. Those units now provide housing for the laborers who do construction for the base. Now that the laborers have housing, construction will proceed much more rapidly.

Cuzco 3 has 192 units – and 36 washing machines and dryers. That’s a big step up from the handful at Cuzco 1 and 2.

“The foundation for the facility is there. All we’re waiting for is the buildings to be finished on McCalla Field,” LeVault said. “They should finish soon and start putting the units up within probably the next six weeks. We’ll get furniture in them and open the doors and Troopers will step in to their new private rooms.”

“Tierra Kay is currently in the midst of a fairly extensive upgrade,” LeVault said. Linoleum-type flooring, new paint and bathroom refurbishing are part of the renovation. “They’re about 60 percent of the way through with that renovation.”

“Last year they got new furniture. It’s a little backwards, but you go with what you’ve got,” LeVault said. “What we had was furniture. [TK residents] needed furniture desperately. This year is the renovation.”

TK renovation is scheduled to be done before the end of the

year.

Next up: Bay Hill. Not many people know about the plans for Bay Hill. It’s been something of a mystery to some due to its unusual – and out of sight – location. What is it? Where is it? Who’s going to live there? LeVault was happy to provide information.

Bay Hill is the rise behind the Navy Exchange, a mesa covered by brush and trees. Some light-hearted archeological work reveals a leftover concrete stairway and foundations from housing that sat there many years ago.

“Bay Hill will be the senior enlisted and officer housing,” LeVault said. “They’re going to be 40 individual efficiency apartments. Square footage is small, but you’ll have a bedroom area, a very small living room and kitchenette area and a personal washer and dryer.”

Construction of the Bay Hill housing is scheduled for completion in July.

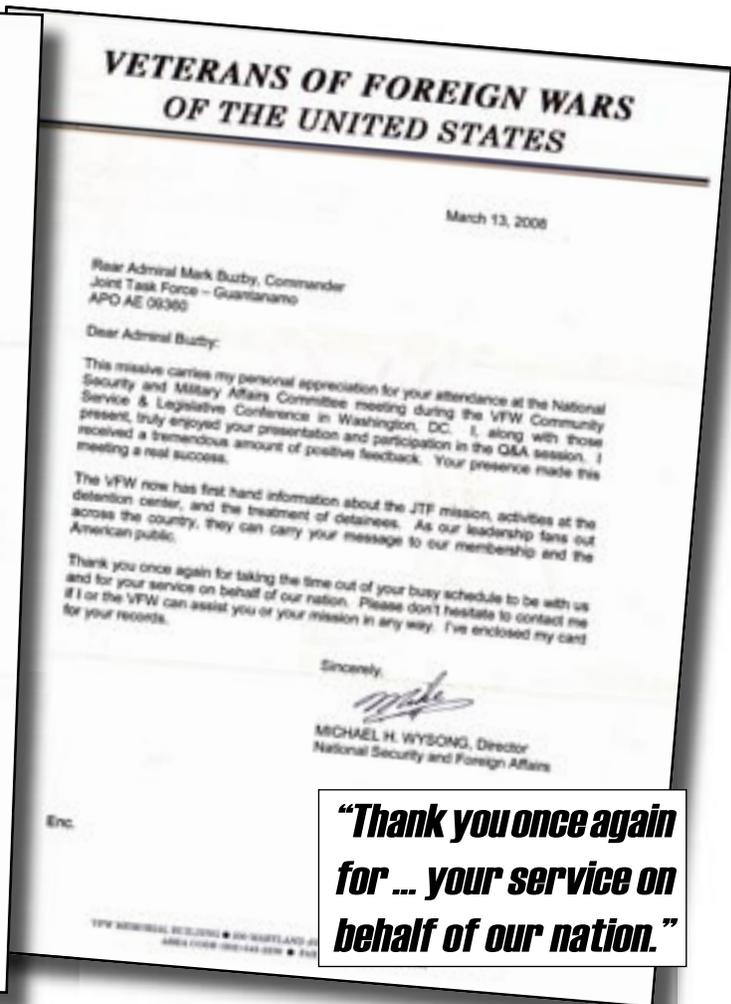
“We’re in a state of flux continually, in terms of how many personnel we have in the JTF,” LeVault said. “In making sure we match our needs with what is available, the housing situation constantly changes. But we are very cognizant of who’s living where and there’s a plan to get them into housing that is appropriate.”



Equipment is in place and construction will begin soon on the Bay Hill Barracks. Located on the mesa behind the Navy Exchange, Bay Hill will provide housing for 40 senior enlisted Troopers and officers.



"This event stands alone as a magical experience for all of us."



"Thank you once again for... your service on behalf of our nation."

Guantanamo General Tells Legionnaires About 'Misunderstood Mission'

By Ramona Joyce

Special to American Forces Press Service

Three months ago, Gregory J. Zanetti was a stockbroker and financial advisor in New Mexico. Today, he is an Army National Guard brigadier general who helps lead a multi-branch team of 2,200 personnel in what he describes as the "most misunderstood assignment in the military."

"It is a mission misunderstood by most, reviled by some and unique to everyone," said Zanetti, deputy commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, the organization that has held and interrogated enemy combatants and terrorism suspects from the global war on terrorism since 2002.

On April 1, Zanetti addressed more than 1,000 members of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary gathered in the nation's capital this week for the 48th Annual Washington Conference and

Legislative Rally.

The general explained in detail and candor the many ways "Gitmo" detainees are given fair and humane treatment, from culturally appropriate meals to numerous spiritual and recreational opportunities. One hundred medical personnel cover the needs of roughly 280 detainees.

The detainees, however, "believe the camps are an extension of the battlefield," Zanetti explained, adding that they have attempted to form new terror cells inside the fence and frequently fling feces and other bodily fluids at guards.

Zanetti recollected for Legionnaires an incident in which a detainee told a female guard that he was going to rape her and, after he gets out, find her and kill her and her family. The soldier shook it off and went back to work for another 12-hour day. The general was impressed by her response. "That's when I fully realized we

are going to win this war," Zanetti said.

Zanetti gave a more comprehensive presentation to the American Legion's National Security and Foreign Affairs Commissions on March 31. In that forum, he spoke often of a general "disconnect" between public perception and what really goes on at Guantanamo Bay, particularly when it comes to allegations of torture against detainees. "[Americans] believe the people who want to kill them, but distrust the people who are trying to protect them," the general said.

Zanetti drew a standing ovation yesterday when he expressed frustration over frequent questions alleging detainee abuse at what he calls "the most transparent detention facility in the world."

With all the measures taken to assure fair treatment of the terror suspects, people need to "quit talking to me about abuse and torture," he said. "Frankly, I'm sick of it."

U.S. Charges Suspect in African Embassy Bombing

By Army Sgt. Sara Moore

American Forces Press Service

Charges were sworn against a Guantanamo Bay detainee, March 31, alleging he was involved in the preparation and planning of the 1998 attack on the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania, Defense Department officials announced today.

Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, of Zanzibar, Tanzania, is being charged with murder in violation of the law of war, murder of protected persons, attacking civilians, attacking civilian objects, intentionally causing serious bodily injury, destruction of property in violation of the law of war, and terrorism, Air Force Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Hartmann, legal advisor to the convening authority in the DoD Office of Military Commissions, told reporters at the Pentagon.

Ghailani is the 15th detainee against whom charges have been sworn under the Military Commissions Act.

The chief prosecutor in the case has recommended that the charges against Ghailani be referred as capital, Hartmann said. The charges now will be reviewed by Hartmann and forwarded to Susan Crawford, the convening authority, who

will decide whether the case should be referred to trial and whether the charges should be capital, which would mean a maximum penalty of death.

The bombing of the embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, happened on Aug. 7, 1998, the eight-year anniversary of the start of Operation Desert Shield. A truck bomb exploded at the embassy within four minutes of another bomb exploding at the American Embassy in Kenya. The bombing in Tanzania killed 11 people and injured hundreds.

The charges allege that Ghailani was involved in the following actions:

- Purchasing TNT, detonators and detonation cord on multiple occasions and transporting the bomb components to Dar es Salaam;
- Moving the bomb components to various safe houses in and around Dar es Salaam;
- Assisting in the purchase of the truck used in the attack;
- Facilitating the purchase of oxygen cylinder tanks that were used as bomb components;
- Escorting the bomb engineer between Dar es Salaam and Mombasa, Kenya, after the bomb had been assembled;

- Scouting the American Embassy with the suicide-bomb driver;

- Meeting with co-conspirators in Nairobi, Kenya, shortly before the bombing; and

- Joining the co-conspirators on a flight from Nairobi to Karachi, Pakistan, one day prior to the bombing.

Ghailani is further charged with providing material support to terrorism, Hartmann said. This charge alleges that, after the bombing, Ghailani continued in his service to al Qaida as a document forger, physical trainer at an al Qaida training camp, and as a bodyguard for Osama bin Laden. Ghailani was arrested in July 2004 in Pakistan, Hartmann said.

This is the seventh case to be sworn as capital; six detainees were charged Feb. 11 with involvement in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and their cases were recommended to be capital. Those cases still are being reviewed in the office of the convening authority, Hartmann said.

Hartmann emphasized that the charges are only allegations that Ghailani has committed offenses under the Military Commissions Act, and he remains innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Boots on the Ground

What is your favorite sports team?

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Lizbelle Pleasants



"Tennessee Titans because they are from my home state."

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Markeeta Hardin



"I like the Memphis Tigers because I am from Tennessee and they are 37-1."

Army Sgt.
Amanda Spiegel



"My favorite team would have to be the Ohio State Buckeyes because I am originally from Ohio."

Army Sgt.
Valentina Herrera



"The Thunderbirds, are my favorite team, its my son's little league soccer team."

By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

FAILING FORWARD INTO LIGHT



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nat Moger

By Navy Lt. Cmdr. Daniel Mckay
JTF Command Chaplain

Before beginning our year deployment to Ar Ramadi, Iraq (February 2005 to February 2006), our Marine Colonel ended the weekly battalion run with a pep talk. He usually closed what he had to say each week with these or similar words: “Ladies and gentlemen, warriors all, I remind you we may face a few tough moments in the year ahead, in fact I’m certain we will experience some setbacks along the way, but I assure you we will not quit, we will move forward all the time, and, in the end, working together, we will succeed!” Colonel Hough was a student of success. He realized the road to success was not an easy one, that it is often paved with very real difficulties and hardships. For those willing to pay the price, though, and willing to learn from their mistakes and treat their so-called failures along the way as course corrections toward the desired goal, ultimately they will succeed.

John Maxwell, author of such works as “The Success Journey,” “Failing Forward” and “The Winning Attitude,” informs us

that failure is a trait held in common by all successful people. Indeed, he says it is often the failures in their life experience which serve to propel them further down the road toward the success they finally achieve. What’s more, he adds, successful persons do not treat their failures as failures, but rather they choose to view their failures as opportunities for personal growth and advancement. He writes, “failures are milestones on the success journey. Each time you plan, risk, fail, reevaluate, and adjust, you have another opportunity to begin again, only better than the last time.”

Thomas Edison is a wonderful example of this very point. Of his more than 1,300 inventions, he often spoke of the lightbulb as one of his favorites. Why? Because it took him more than 2,000 experiments to make it work, he shared that the process taught him much about himself and life in general. In fact, when a reporter asked Edison how so many failures made him feel he shared that, in retrospect, he did not fail. After all, he did invent the lightbulb. He simply discovered, through the inventive

process, that it involved more than 2000 steps. Later in life, Edison defined success as “one percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration.” a testament to his own “stick-to-it” attitude and fortitude over the years.

The difference between failure and success in life, then, really comes down to one thing: attitude. Simply stated, while success remains out of reach for those who choose to view their failures as insurmountable obstacles, it remains within reach for those who choose to view their failures as opportunities for reflection, reevaluation and readjustment. In other words, for some their failures hold them back while for others their failures move them further down life’s road, in a more positive direction. For those in the second group, success is all about “failing forward.” The Apostle Paul was certainly such a person, as we see in his words. “I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward ...” (Philippians 3:13-14).

Dunn credits Navy, faith, and family for success

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

In 1978 a young man joined the Navy in search of a better life, and he found it. Lt. Cmdr. Michael Dunn, originally from East St. Louis, Ill., joined the Navy right out of high-school. He's been one happy sailor ever since.

"If you want negative advice about the Navy, you have come to the wrong person," said Dunn.

After climbing the ranks to petty officer first class, he became a chief warrant officer. In 1997 he became a limited duty officer, and soon advanced in rank to a lieutenant junior grade.

Dunn credits much of his success to four people, Chief Petty Officer De Jesus, Navy Cmdr. Ash, his pastor, back home, Reverend Vines, and most importantly his wife.

When Dunn was a young petty officer third class, De Jesus pulled him aside one day and told him, "This Navy is designed for you to succeed and for you to be in charge."

Over the next two years De Jesus mentored the young Sailor and helped him develop his leadership skills as well as advance in rank and cross-rate from boatswain's mate to master-at-arms.

Later, Dunn went to work for Ash in Navy law enforcement. Ash introduced Dunn to the chief warrant officer/limited duty officer program. The program is designed to promote Sailors who demonstrate leadership skills but lack college degrees to the ranks of warrant or line officers.

"Ash told me that I reminded him of himself. We shared a lot of similar experiences, and he told me how the LDO program could really benefit my family, myself and my career," said Dunn

Throughout his military journey, Dunn has maintained a positive attitude and a deep love for the Navy. He believes that the Navy has given him the tools he needed to create a life for himself and his family that he can be proud of.

"The Navy has progressively given me greater responsibility and challenges, I love it." Dunn continued, "I love people. I love motivating people. I love to see people succeed, especially if I can directly help them, whether it is through fitness reports, evaluations or letters of recommendation. Not only do I want to help people succeed in the Navy but also in life."

Dunn believes his success in his personal life is reflected in his



relationship with Jesus Christ and in his relationship with his wife. Dunn, an active member of his church in San Diego attributes his hometown pastor, Reverend Vines, as one of the greatest influences in his life. Vines helped Dunn in his spiritual growth and encouraged him to become more active in ministry. Dunn is an ordained deacon in his home church and has brought that enthusiasm for ministry to Gitmo. He is in the process of getting certified as a layperson with the chapel program here.

"Being a layperson allows me to be even more plugged-in in Guantanamo. As a layperson I will be helping out in the chapel wherever I can. I can pray and help with whatever the ministries may need," said Dunn.

His wife of almost 25 years was his highschool sweetheart and is a former Sailor. She is the pillar of the Dunn household, which includes two sons and a daughter.

"She is my backbone and my manager," Dunn said. "My family is my number one accomplishment; we keep in touch by using many phone cards and emails."

Dunn's advice for Troopers is to have a mission statement for their lives. Dunn's mission statement for his life is based on a Bible verse, Proverbs 21:21.

"He who pursues righteousness and loyalty, finds life, righteousness and honor."



Navy Lt. Cmdr. Dunn, returns a salute to a guard on duty inside Camp Delta, March 28.

AROUND THE JTF



◀ Army Lt. Col. William Wozniak, commander of the 525th Military Police Battalion, administers the oath of reenlistment to Army 1st Sgt. Jose Perez, March 28. Perez is the first sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Field Artillery, which serves here as a component of the 525th Military Police Battalion. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker)

Army Capt. Christopher Hodl (right) passes the 189th Military Police Company's saber to Army 1st Sgt. Mark Tillman (left) during a change of responsibility ceremony on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, March 31. Tillman took over the company first sergeant position from Army 1st Sgt. Van Carpenter. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nat Moger) ▶



◀ Navy Lt. Walter Zapf administers the oath of enlistment to Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Henry Stueve outside the Tierra Kay housing complex, April 2. Stueve reenlisted for four years. (Photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Sanchez)