

THE WIRE

Joint Task Force
Guantanamo's
Finest News Source

A News Magazine

HONOR BOUND TO DEFEND FREEDOM

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pg. 15 "15 Minutes of Fame" with

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher Murray

Our JTF daily values

By Navy Command Master Chief Petty Officer Rick Beaber

Commander, JTF-GTMO

In 1992, the U.S. Navy adopted the Marine Corps' core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Since then, the U.S. Air Force adopted similar values in 1995. Those values being Integrity first, Service before self and Excellence in all that we do. The U.S. Army has long held its own seven core values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. If you mix them all together you will find that they equate to something I call our Joint Task Force (JTF) Daily Values.

These all may just seem like words to some. They may only remind you of answers to questions that you have been tested on during a 'service member of the quarter board.' They may be concepts you remember from your Recruit Division Commander, Drill Sergeant or other military leaders encouraging you what values to live your life by. You may only take them as suggestions. And you may take each of them to and from work as the guidelines behind your behavior. They are the reasons why some of us joined the military. They are there to make us better than what we came from. Although they are different words between the services, they share a common bond. They are the concepts that allow us to say we are America's finest and the world's greatest military force.

We have to be careful that we do not lose any of these values, that we work hard and sometimes play hard. However, do not let any of your values get lost with an alcohol related incident or a loss of your temper over something small. When you consider all of the values that you have now because you are in the JTF, and the responsibilities we have, losing one single value can tarnish all of us. It's up to each one of us to help each other out. How many



times do we ever think back and say: "I wish I would have said something or stopped that?" Well just think of your values you NOW carry around and you will have no trouble helping someone out that may be about to lose one. They will thank you later.

We as JTF Troopers are some of the best this great military force has to offer. I do believe the reasons behind that are because we so diligently represent all of these values. These values, I believe, are what allow us to stand this long watch over the detainees. To treat everyone with professionalism and step up when we are called upon, to stay those extra hours at work to make sure the job is done correctly, to help one another when we see a shipmate, battle buddy, wingman or bluesuiter in trouble on, or off duty. We are made up of all services, Permanent Change of Station, Individual Augmentee and Temporary Duty. Some commands send their best and some commands believe they are sending us some of their problems. Many of these so called problems prove their commands were wrong because we gave them a chance to show what they can do; They started living the JTF Daily Values and doing great things. To all the Troopers, I would just like to say thanks for coming in today and doing what you do. ■

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DSN: 660-3651

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www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil



The 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Joint Task Force-Guantanamo, produces *The Wire*, which is printed under the provisions of Department of Defense Instruction 5120.4

Detainee Death at Guantanamo Bay

From JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

A Saudi Arabian detainee died of an apparent suicide early Wednesday afternoon here at Guantanamo Bay.

He is Abdul Rahman Ma'ath Thafir Al Amri, also known as Al Amri, a 34 - year - old Saudi national and detained enemy combatant. Al Amri arrived at Guantanamo in February 2002.

Guards found the detainee unresponsive and not breathing in his cell. He was pronounced dead by a physician after all lifesaving measures had been exhausted.

JTF-Guantanamo officials are handling the remains with the utmost respect for reasons of cultural and religious sensitivity. Under the supervision of a cultural advisor assigned to the JTF, the remains were transferred to Guantanamo Naval Hospital morgue where they will be autopsied by a pathologist from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and an independent observer from the Miami-Dade Medical Examiner's Office.

Upon completion of the autopsy, U.S. Navy Muslim Chaplain, Lieutenant Muhyaldin Ibn-Noel will prepare the

remains for eventual repatriation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

By his own account Al Amri, volunteered to fight with local Taliban commander Mullah Abdul Al Hanan, and fought on the front lines north of Kabul.

In November 2001, he engaged in combat with U.S. forces in the Tora Bora Mountains. During his time as a foreign fighter in Afghanistan he became a mid level Al Qaida operative with direct ties to higher level members including meeting with Usama Bin Ladin.

His associations included UBL bodyguards and Al Qaida recruiters. He also ran Al Qaeda safe houses.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service initiated an investigation of the incident to determine the circumstances surrounding the death.

The Commander of JTF Guantanamo, Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby, commented on the incident saying, "Any loss of life is regrettable. Our primary mission is the safe and humane treatment of the detainees. We will seek to understand what happened and prevent it from happening again in the future."

The mission of detention and interrogation at Guantanamo continues. This mission is vital to the security of our nation and our allies and is being carried out professionally and humanely by the men and women of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. ■

Destructive weather preparedness

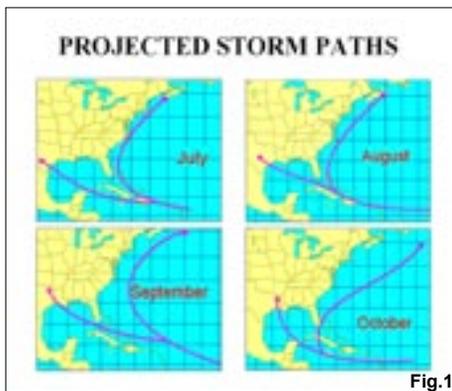


Fig.1

By Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Physically mustering all Joint Task Force, Guantanamo's (JTF-GTMO) 1,900 or so Troopers Saturday, May 26 was not anyone's idea of a good time, especially on a holiday weekend! Yet the resulting 100 percent successful accountability of all Troopers on this exercise illustrates the fact that Troopers recognize the seriousness of hurricane preparedness. Perhaps they remember images from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 or, like Troopers serving here from south Louisiana, the Gulf Coast or

Puerto Rico, they've experienced the ferocity of hurricanes themselves. Whatever the case, hurricane preparedness is everyone's business here at GTMO.

So what are the chances of a hurricane striking us here at GTMO? Perhaps the best answer to that question is that, from June 1-Nov. 30, hurricanes are ALWAYS a threat. The historical record is slightly reassuring, however, as GTMO is shielded by mountain ranges in the Dominican Republic to our southwest and Jamaica to our southeast which diminish the likelihood of a direct hit. This unique mountainous geography offers it some protection that the rest of Cuba can't count on, according to Marine Corps Major Michael Lynch, one of the JTF-GTMO operations officers responsible for Destructive Weather planning. He pointed out that the fact that even though a direct hit seems unlikely according to historical records (Fig 1), being well-prepared is, nevertheless, in every Trooper's best interest as there is still a better than average chance that we will still experience tropical force winds for hurricanes that come close to Cuba. We need to prepare for the worst.

Fortunately, dynamic modern-day hurricane tracking means time works in Troopers' favor. Once U.S. Naval Station (NAVSTA) Guantanamo Bay determines that a direct hurricane strike or tropical storm is a real possibility, the JTF-GTMO operations staff initiates a progressive series of actions at set intervals beginning 72 hours before probable landfall. Depending on the strength of the forecasted storm, these actions would ultimately culminate in a likely evacuation of all JTF personnel to certain hurricane-resistant facilities that can withstand stronger winds. Evacuation would commence no later than 12 hours prior to the storm's arrival, hence the importance of the two accountability exercises held on May 8 and May 26.

Generally, for tropical storms where winds are less than 73 mph, everyone can expect to stay in their housing areas. For a Category 2 Hurricane (winds 96 to 110 mph), for example. Troopers that live in Tierra Kay, Cuzco, Camp America, and Camp Bulkeley can expect to be relocated to either the high school gym or bowling alley. Elements will

Please see **Hurricane**, Pg. 5

Identify theft and fraud alert

By Frank Perkins

JTF-GTMO Special Security Office

Several Joint Task Force Guantanamo individuals have been victims of credit theft in the past year. Credit fraud and identity theft is becoming increasingly more common. A credit thief can use your social security number to acquire goods and services in your name without your knowledge. This can cause undue hardship on military and government personnel especially since it can adversely affect your security clearance.

A way to protect yourself from these activities is to contact the three national credit-reporting organizations and place a fraud alert on your name and social security number. If anybody tries to open an account, get a credit card or apply for a loan using your personal information, a red flag will come up on your record and the person processing the application will call you to verify that you are in fact, the person applying for credit.

You initiate a fraud alert by telephone. Equifax and Experian use telephone numeric prompts. Trans Union requires

Admiral 'Buz' hits airwaves

Commander, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby, addressed the Naval Station community on May 29th during a radio interview at the Naval Media Center Detachment here. The special session of "Open Line" showcased some of the commander's views on his first week in charge. Buzby commented that

one of his primary goals is "shifting attention from the detainees to the Troopers." He also reflected on the Memorial Day service at Cuzco Well Cemetery and the festivities at Windward Ferry Landing. "It was definitely hometown America, it was really neat to be a part of it all, especially as a recent arrival. It was great to get out and meet everybody, and seeing everyone enjoying themselves." ■



you to provide the information verbally. An added benefit of the fraud alert process is the companies will provide you a free copy of your credit report. The national credit reporting organizations are:

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

Experian: 1-888-397-3742

Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289

If you are the victim of fraud, you should also contact the Social Security Administration fraud line at 1-800-269-0271.

The Federal Trade Commission has an excellent

site offering a one-stop national resource to learn about the crime of identity theft. It provides detailed information to help you protect yourself from identity theft and the steps to take if it occurs. It is also a comprehensive reference center – for consumers, businesses, law enforcement and the media –with access to specific laws, contact information and resources from state and federal government agencies. (<http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>) Mission First- Security Always! ■

Secretary of Commerce visits GTMO

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez visited Guantanamo Bay Wednesday, May 30. During his tour of the base, Gutierrez stopped for lunch with Troopers at the Seaside Galley in Camp America.

Born in Havana in 1953,

Gutierrez came to America with his family in 1960. He is co-chair for the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba, actively involved in U.S.-Cuba policy and a strong advocate for helping the Cuban people hasten the day of their freedom from communist rule. ■



Photo by Sgt. Scott Griffin

Hurricane, from Pg. 3

be kept together so Joint Detention Group troopers will all bed down in the high school while PSU, TFP, HHC (JTF staff), JMG and JIG will all take up floor space in the bowling alley. Troopers, contractors, and any family members in other housing areas will remain in their residences as these are all rated to withstand Category 2 hurricanes. Specific details will be provided enough in advance to prepare to evacuate. Once at the shelter, the Mayor/Warden leadership teams from each housing area will direct Troopers to their sleeping areas and provide meals and other services required to keep everyone safe, reasonably rested and fed. Sometime within 36 hours after NAVSTA gives the All Clear, everyone can expect to return to their respective housing areas unless conditions on the ground dictate otherwise. Only first responders and emergency personnel will be allowed out during the first hours after a storm.

So what should Troopers expect to carry with them to the evacuation site? Lynch recommends that Troopers bring no more than two duffle bags worth of personal items and

that those items should include the clothing and supplies listed on the attached Packing List (Fig. 2). All the supplies listed can and should be purchased at the Navy Exchange (NEX) immediately while supplies are plentiful, because once a weather situation develops the supplies sell out long before everyone can get what they need. The NEX currently has a shelf of storm supplies dedicated for this very purpose. Housing Mayors & Wardens will also be issued JTF Hurricane Kits that serve up to eight personnel, but there's no guarantee that enough will be issued to supply every single Trooper.

Not to be forgotten is the necessity for Troopers to secure and pack their

important documents; copies of orders, wills, powers-of-attorney, financial statements, etc., are all items that are easily blown away or soaked in a severe weather event. And don't forget the photographs! Survivors of severe weather events frequently cite the loss of photographs to be second only to the loss of family or friend, or the loss of a pet.

2007 is predicted to be an active year for storms in the Caribbean. Troopers owe it to themselves and their loved ones to be well-prepared. If you doubt this, talk to the Troopers from south Louisiana, the Gulf Coast and Puerto Rico – they know the score. ■

	CLOTHING	QTY	SUPPLIES
2	Uniform	1	Flashlight
2	Issue T-Shirt	4	D Batteries
2	Pair Socks	1	AM/FM Radio
2	Underwear	8	AA batteries
1	Pair Boots	1	Baby Wipes
1	Wet Weather Gear	5	Trash Bags
1	Wet Weather Overshoes	1	Sleeping Bag or Blanket
1	Towel	2	Toilet Paper
1	Sanitary Products (female)	1	First Aid Kit
1	Duct Tape		

Fig.2

The Importance of Password Protection

From the Information Assurance Office

It is the first rule of Information Security: safeguard your password. This rule, which is just slightly more important than "don't surf porn on a government computer," seems like a no-brainer, but we still see security incidents that result from people sharing their passwords with co-workers. It may seem like no big deal at the time, but here are some security implications that can result from sharing your password with the wrong person:

- 1) Your co-worker surfs for unofficial web content using your account. Current policy requires the account holder to face punishment along with the person who illicitly accessed the network.
- 2) Your account allows specific network privileges, such as access to shared drives or restricted folders. These restrictions are in place to keep unauthorized eyes off of sensitive documents. By sharing your password, you risk compromising this sensitive data to people that who do not have a need to know.
- 3) The person who accesses your account doesn't have a clearance. Whoops! Now, we not only have a network violation, but also a security violation. That's never good.

4) A third country national gains access to your account. Much of the information stored on the shared drives is for official use only. Some files contain names, social security numbers and other personal information of the Troopers deployed here. If this information falls into the wrong hands, it places everyone here at risk as well as friends and families back in the states. It is not unreasonable to think that the residents of detention camps have friends back in the Middle East who would be willing to pay a few bucks for this info.

Allowing uncleared personnel to access official files puts us all at increased risk.

As you can see, there are some pretty serious implications to sharing your password, so keep it safe. Sadly, three of the four cases mentioned have happened here within the last month. If you suspect your password has been compromised, please notify your information technology officer and change your password immediately.

As a reminder, never give your password out over the phone or via e-mail. The J6 Help Desk will NEVER ask you for your password. Be sure to report any phone calls or emails soliciting you for your password to the Information Assurance Office as soon as possible at x3836.

If you have a topic that you'd like us to address in an upcoming column of Network News, send your request to: J6-IA@jffgtmo.southcom.mil. ■

Bonds' juicing allegations raise questions



Brad Mangin/Sports Illustrated

San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds is on the verge of breaking Hank Aaron's single-season home run record.

Commentary by Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The much maligned career of The San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds has seen many highs and lows. As he stands at the doorstep of baseball's most hallowed record, Bonds still can not shake the implications of cheating the sport of baseball. Bonds is nine home runs (HR) away from breaking Hank Aaron's record of 755 which was set in 1976.

Bonds entered Major League Baseball (MLB) in 1986 and played his first seven seasons with the Pittsburgh Pirates. He never had more than 34 HRs in a single season during that time frame (ages 21-27). He then began playing with the San Francisco Giants. From 1993 to 2000, Bonds averaged 40 home runs per season (ages 28-35). In 2001, Bonds caught lightning (or juice allegedly) in a bottle and broke the single

season home run mark with 73 home runs. From 2002 to 2005, Bonds averaged 45 home runs (ages 37-39). In the years where most players' careers are deteriorating, Bonds' home run numbers increased. These numbers, along with several presumptions of steroid use, makes me ask the question, "Should I watch this sacred record be broken?"

There are several reasons why we should marvel at the career of Barry Bonds. In addition to several other personal awards and records, Bonds is a 13-time All-Star, seven-time National League MVP and three-time winner of the Hank Aaron award, given to Major League Baseball's player of the year. His career stats are mind boggling and will surely land him in the Hall of Fame; however, his alleged cheating on baseball, his wife, his taxes and generally just being a jerk to the fans and the media already have him in the Hall of Shame.

MLB commissioner Bud Selig has not said if he will be in attendance when Bonds breaks the record. Selig, who is a close friend of Aaron has been quoted as saying "I'll make a decision at some appropriate time."

When asked what he will be doing, Aaron said "I have no idea, probably playing golf some where." It is very ironic that one of baseball's biggest jerks will break, one of baseball's classiest player's record. While I am sure there will be millions of fans watching this man break the biggest record in baseball, I will make sure that I am doing something more productive. ■

Cleveland, Utah keep championship hopes alive

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeff Johnstone

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Cleveland Cavaliers re-ignited their hopes of winning the NBA championship, while the San Antonio Spurs moved even closer to such an accomplishment, each earning key victories this week. Let's begin with the Eastern Conference.

The Cavaliers took an 88-82 win in game three of their best-of-seven series against perennial playoff contenders, the Detroit Pistons. The Cavaliers finally woke up thanks to the play of superstar LeBron James. James led the field in scoring with 32 points, and contributed nine rebounds and nine assists.

James' scoring onslaught came on the heels of widespread accusations of not playing up to his full potential during the most important part of the season.

Cleveland held Detroit's Chauncey Billups to 13 points, eight of which came in the final quarter. Rasheed Wallace (16 points) and Chris Webber (15 points) led the Pistons scoring attack.

Cleveland earned their trip to the Eastern Conference Finals by sweeping the Washington Wizards 4-0 and defeating the New Jersey Nets in the conference semifinals, 4-2.

If they can take this series, the Cavaliers will become



Cleveland's LeBron James tallied 32 points as the Cavaliers narrowed their Eastern Conference series with Detroit to 2-1.

only the third team in NBA history to win a best-of-seven series after trailing 2-0.

In the more competitive Western Conference, the San Antonio Spurs bounced back from a game three loss to the Utah Jazz and are now just a single victory from returning to the NBA Finals. The Spurs took a commanding 3-1 series lead by blasting the Jazz, 91-79 on Monday. Prior to that loss, the Jazz were enjoying a perfect postseason record on their home court.

After enjoying an 11 point lead early in third quarter action, the Jazz were on the comeback trail, pulling to within a single point at the end of third quarter play.

Before the Jazz could smell victory, however, the Spurs' Manu Ginobili scored 16 points in the final quarter. The Spurs outscored the Jazz 28-17 over the final 12 minutes of play.

Other notable performances from San Antonio included Tim Duncan (19 points) and Tony Parker (17 points).

The Spurs' road to the Conference Finals was a bit rockier than the Cavaliers, as they defeated the Denver Nuggets, 4-1 and the Phoenix Suns, 4-2 in the Conference Semifinals. ■

San Antonio's Tony Parker contributed 17 points as the Spurs took a 3-1 lead in their best-of-seven series against the Utah Jazz Monday, May 28.



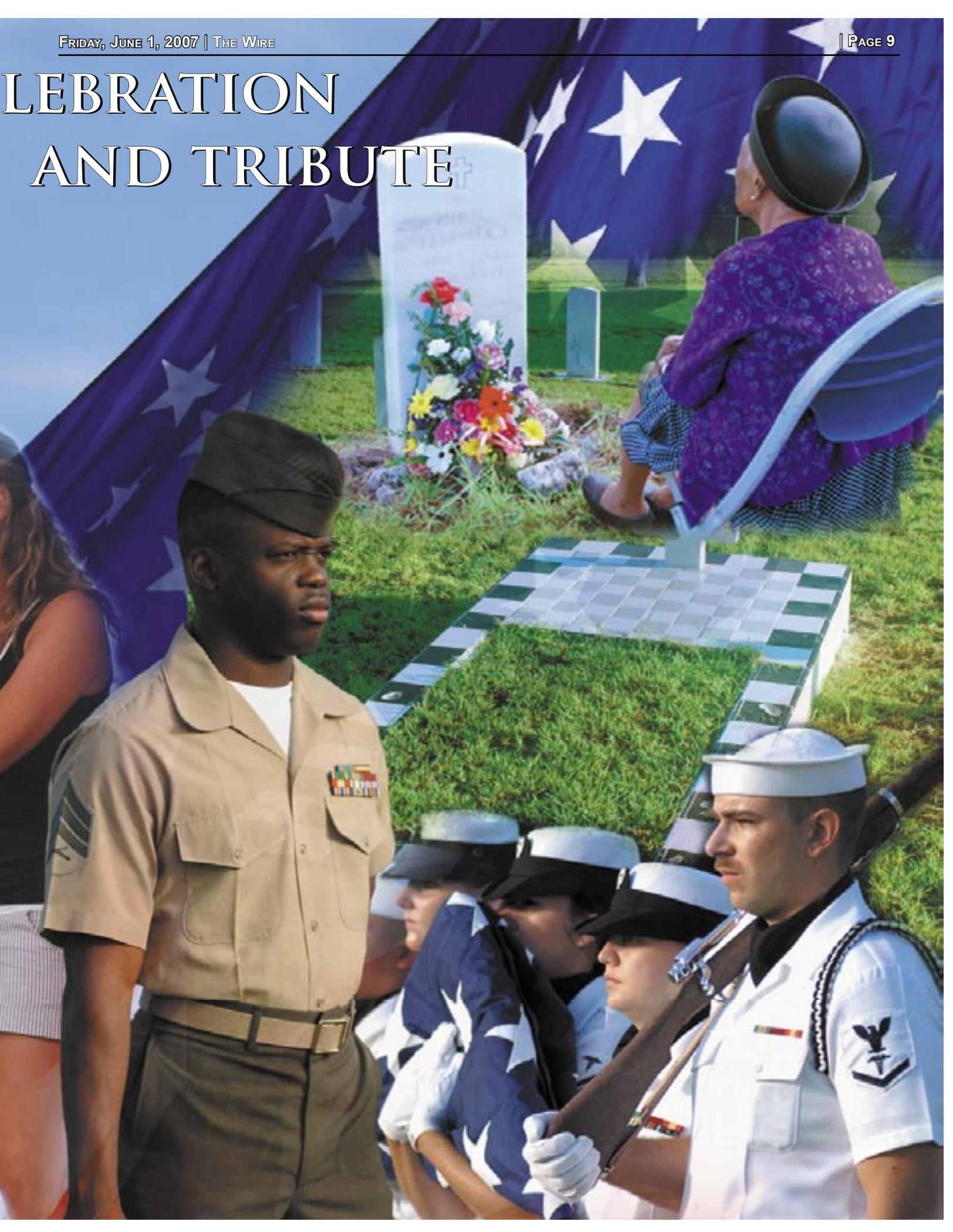
MEMORIAL DAY CE

Memorial Day is a time to reflect on the sacrifices made by service members who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans. On Monday, May 28 Troopers here in Guantanamo Bay paid their respects to America's fallen heroes. A 21 gun salute followed a ceremonial wreath-laying at Cuzco Well Cemetery by JTF-GTMO Commander, Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby.

Other holiday events included softball and dodgeball tournaments, a Memorial Day golf tournament and a fun-filled evening of live music at Ferry Landing featuring musical acts State of Man, The Producers, Mother's Finest and Laura Sullivan. Fun activities for kids included a climbing wall and bungee jumping, popular attractions for kids and adults alike. ■



CELEBRATION AND TRIBUTE



Invest in the future by recycling



Photo by Spc. Shanita Simmons

Whitie Price recycles a soda can at The Ferry Landing during the Memorial Day festivities. Gitmo's waste management program is constantly being upgraded in compliance with multiple governing standards.

By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Did you know that Troopers consume more than 1,800 water bottles per week, and toss more than 2,000 pounds of garbage per month? Have you ever wondered where all this waste goes?

Every Tuesday, garbage and other items are collected and transported to either the recycling center or the landfill for disposal. Frederick W. Burns, installation environmental manager here, said it is essential that all items used by Troopers are properly disposed of so they can be converted into a usable resource.

"The reason we should recycle is to prevent the landfill from filling up. By properly disposing of aerosol cans, propane cylinders and batteries, we can also eliminate hazardous waste," said Burns. "Recycling also helps the environment. The more we recycle today, the less someone will have to clear up 30 to 50 years from now."

Although a large amount of garbage is transported to the landfill, the waste management program is constantly being upgraded to ensure it is in compliance with the governing standards of Cuba, the Navy, and those set forth in presidential executive orders.

Troopers can take their empty beer and soda containers to the recycling center for a cash refund. However, most housing areas have also designated containers where Troopers can dispose of their recyclable items. Troopers living in housing communities such as Windward Loop and Tierra Kay, should have received a blue recycle bin. If not, Troopers may contact the recycling center at 74376 or stop by the facility located on Rodgers Road to pick one up.

The recycling center will accept items such as laundry detergent containers, clear plastics, aerosol cans and empty propane cylinders. Although Troopers do not get a

cash refund on water bottles, Burns mentioned that these bottles can be reused to produce carpet fibers, lumber and new plastic containers. Thus, Troopers will see a return on these products in the marketplace. He added that other recyclable items include glass jars, car batteries, computers, televisions, monitors, radios, and small appliances such as toasters and irons. In the future, the recycling center will accept cardboard and paper products.

One of the goals of the environmental program here is to ensure that all waste is properly disposed of. In addition to the landfill and recycling center, there is also a scrap yard and a hazardous waste facility here where Troopers can drop off various items. One way Troopers can help the environmental team accomplish its goal is by placing waste in their designated areas. Large items such as old bicycles, car parts, tires and furniture should be placed next to dumpsters, or in areas designated for wood and metal products. By properly disposing of these items, the potential of damaging garbage trucks is greatly reduced.

Once these items are separated by the recycling center, most are shipped out to the United States on the barge. To reduce its size and weight, many recyclable items are shredded, crushed and baled before being shipped out. Liquids such as motor oil and brake cleaning fluids should not be mixed, and may be brought to the AutoPort for disposal.

As the recycling program here continues to evolve, Burns emphasized that the environmental team is constantly finding innovative ways to reuse our resources. Thus, every water bottle that is properly disposed of gets them closer to achieving their goal. ■

Drive safe and arrive alive



By Army Pfc. Daniel Welch

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

We have all had an impulse one time or another to push the accelerator pedal in our vehicles just a little harder. Maybe there are no other cars on the road, or you feel the 25 MPH speed limit is too slow; maybe you got out of work late and are trying to catch that new movie at the Downtown Lyceum.

However, recent traffic incidents involving military personnel highlight the fact that speed does kill even when alcohol or drugs are not present. Recently a Sailor assigned to NAVBASE Coronado Precinct, CA., who was on his way to pick up his son, was killed when his pick-up truck struck the divider on a highway flipping the truck and ejecting him from the car. Alcohol was not found in his system, but the driver was not wearing a seatbelt.

Unfortunately, incidents such as

these are not isolated. According to the Army Combat Readiness Center, in 2005 there were 136 Soldiers killed in traffic fatalities. Since May 15, 2007, there have been 95 vehicle fatalities in the Navy and Marine Corps alone.

Even with the reduced speed limits here at Guantanamo Bay (GTMO), Troopers going on leave or redeploying back to the States are at the greatest risk.

“The first 30 days when a Trooper returns home, they are at the most risk of anyone in the military of getting into an accident,” said Chief Warrant Officer John Kerr, Joint Task Force Safety Officer.

Kerr explained that there are a number of reasons that contribute to these risk factors, such as a lack of familiarization with faster moving traffic in the states, alcohol and Troopers who push it by driving longer distances while fatigued.

“Sometimes, when Troopers head

to their next duty assignment, they try to pack in long hours of driving in order to see family and friends on the way,” explained Kerr.

According to Kerr, there are tools such as the Travel Risk Planning System, offered by both the Army and Navy. This allows users to plan out the route they are going to take while traveling and offers suggestions to make the trip safer.

However, even when driving shorter distances, the potential for an accident is still there. The National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA)

says that wearing your seatbelt, not speeding, staying within the flow of traffic, as well as avoiding distractions including cell phone use, makes a drive immeasurably safer.

The NHTSA also mentions that proper vehicle maintenance, including checking a vehicle’s oil and other fluids, and ensuring proper tire pressure are also good ways to avoid getting into an accident.

The NHTSA reports that studies have found that drowsiness and fatigue can have the same effect on a driver as alcohol. “Highway Hypnosis,” as it is often referred to, is a very serious trend in American drivers. The NHTSA recommends that stopping for coffee or exercising, stretching every three hours or, if possible, changing drivers, are good tools to combat road weariness.

If you are taking leave soon, redeploying back to the states or even driving on a regular basis here at GTMO, practicing some simple safety measures can go a long way to ensuring your safe arrival at your destination. ■

Reunion Issue #6

By Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ron Martin-Minnsih

JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain

Many troops, family members and friends think that once a deployed Trooper returns home everything returns to normal automatically. It is as though people think that something “magical” happens to all of us once we leave the area of operation and walk through our front door. Change is something we all often seek to avoid, but none of us can prevent or ignore. Change is the only constant “absolute” in life.

In reunion briefings, Troopers have actually stated that they didn’t think their children will have changed during a deployment. Many of us believe that the roles and responsibilities we controlled will be ours to resume upon our return. The changes that different experiences in life create within us, our friends and our family are usually permanent. It is reasonable to expect that our children will not remain as infants, our spouses will become more independent, and our friends may have changed their habits or even moved and left no forwarding address.

Still, life goes on and we may be pleased and pleasantly surprised by the changes that have occurred. If we think about what the other person has experienced and the challenges that they have met, we will be better

prepared to accept why they have changed. Anger and surprise can be our automatic feelings, but we have to keep these feelings under control. Emotional overreaction to change does not allow us to positively adjust and adapt to what can never be the same as it was before we deployed.

Seek professional and sympathetic support if you are having a difficult time adjusting to your stateside life through your chaplain and family readiness and support programs and staff. ■

SURVIVING SEPARATION

By Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ron Martin-Minnsih

JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain

This week’s action item is:

See things from the other person’s point of view.

You, your family and friends have experienced the separation differently. It takes time and patience to help each other understand the different experiences and problems it created. ■

WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com

Saturday, June 2

Isolated thunderstorms possible. Highs in the high - 80’s, and lows in the high-70’s.



Isolated T-storms

Sunrise: 6:20 a.m.
Sunset: 7:37 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 30%

Sunday, June 3

Isolated thunderstorms possible. Highs in the high - 80’s, and lows in the high-70’s.



Isolated T-storms

Sunrise: 6:20 a.m.
Sunset: 7:37 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 30%

Monday, June 4

Isolated thunderstorms possible. Highs in the high - 80’s, and lows in the high-70’s.



Isolated T-storms

Sunrise: 6:20 a.m.
Sunset: 7:37 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 30%

Tuesday, June 5

Isolated thunderstorms possible. Highs in the high - 80’s, and lows in the high-70’s.



Sunrise: 6:20 a.m.
Sunset: 7:38 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 30%

Isolated T-storms

Wednesday, June 6

Scattered thunderstorms possible. Highs in the high - 80’s, and lows in the high-70’s.



Sunrise: 6:20 a.m.
Sunset: 7:37 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 60%

Scattered T-storms

Thursday, June 7

Partly cloudy with a low chance of rain. Highs in the high - 80’s, and lows in the high-70’s.



Sunrise: 6:20 a.m.
Sunset: 7:37 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 60%

Partly cloudy

Friday, June 8

Isolated thunderstorms possible. Highs in the high - 80’s, and lows in the high-70’s.



Sunrise: 6:20 a.m.
Sunset: 7:37 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 60%

Isolated T-storms



MOVIE REVIEW CORNER

By Army Pfc. Daniel Welch

“Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End”

After reviving a long forgotten genre of film making, the producers of “At World’s End” seem destined to send swashbuckling pirate films back into a watery grave, and take as much money from movie goers as they can.

The movie picks up where the previous film left off, with Elizabeth Swan (Keira Knightley), Will Turner (Orlando Bloom) and Captain Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush) in the midst of a plan to rescue Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) from the depths of “Davy Jones’ Locker.” Meanwhile, the British Navy has begun imposing martial law on all of its territories in order to eliminate all pirate activity in the Caribbean.

Keeping in line with the previous two films, this version is filled with dazzling special effects, fantastic costumes and a blazing soundtrack. Depp does a fantastic job as the schizophrenic Sparrow and Keith Richards makes a small appearance in the movie as Sparrow’s father (and Depp’s real life inspiration for the character).

The movie falls on its sword because of the plot. Instead of trying to wrap up the story, the filmmakers take almost the film’s entirety to introduce new characters and sub-plots, all the while never fully exploring why particular actions taken by the cast are important. Instead of focusing on one myth of the lure of the sea, the movie attempts to input all of them into this film and fails badly.

The first iteration of the ‘Pirates’ series was a fun, big budget summer blockbuster, but with each successive release in this series, it becomes more evident they should have stopped after the first one. ■

**-Pirates of the Caribbean:
At World’s End-**

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Rated: PG-13

Duration: 168 minutes

Boots on the Ground:

“What would you leave unchanged at Guantanamo?”



“The one year rotation”

-Spc. Felix Fernando



“The effort made in advocacy for the mission we’re accomplishing.”

-Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Bob Heino



“The great food selection.”

-Army Sgt. Willie Taylor



“The chain of command striving to support the troops with special pay.”

-Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Tanya Seui

Facing life's challenges

From the JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain's Office

A superb athlete ran across America a number of years back, from east coast to west, in a selfless campaign to raise money for charity. At the end of his long journey, reporters asked him what the greatest obstacle was that he had faced. The athlete thought a moment about his trek through driving rainstorms, across parched, lonely stretches of desert, and over treacherous mountains and rocks. He then answered, "The greatest obstacle that I faced was the sand that got into my sneakers!"

This story points out, in an ironic way, our human capacity to overcome enormous challenges. And at the same time, it is the minor obstacles that overcome us. People who command multi-million dollar businesses, or who easily navigate through the most complex scientific equations, have been reduced to panic when dealing with the small, mundane chores that are necessary to managing a family and a household. Consider multimillionaire, Howard Hughes. He was an aviation genius, but he could not function in everyday life and eventually he shut himself off from the world.

Or consider how many marriages end in divorce simply because two otherwise mature adults could not agree on trivial, insignificant issues. I am talking about minor details like household chores, filling up the orange juice pitcher, squeezing the toothpaste in the middle or putting the toilet seat down. We call it irreconcilable differences and the couple ends up in divorce court.

All too often, the molehills of living become insurmountable mountains of despair. We allow the small problems in our life to pile up and become mountains. It is easier to remove the "sand from our shoes" than a mountain that is blocking our journey.

How can we keep the sand from becoming mountains? One way is by keeping a sensible perspective of life. Deal with the small problems quickly and efficiently. If you get sand in your shoes, take the time to remove it, but realize it is just sand. Another way to deal with life's small difficulties is by keeping a sense of humor. We all need to laugh and enjoy

life. Laughter is the best medicine for many problems.

Finally, if you need help dealing with some difficulties that are bringing you down, then go and talk to someone. As chaplains, we are always available to listen and help you explore your options. Asking for help is not a sign of weakness, but a sign of wisdom and maturity. From time to time we all need a helping hand, especially down here at Guantanamo Bay, so reach out and let us remove the sand together. ■

CAMP AMERICA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Troopers' Chapel
	5:45 p.m.	Confessions	Troopers' Chapel
	6:30 p.m.	Catholic Mass	Troopers' Chapel
	7:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Troopers' Chapel
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Soul Survivor	Camp America North Pavilion

NAVAL BASE CHAPEL

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	9:00 a.m.	Catholic Mass	Main Chapel
	9:00 a.m.	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Sanctuary A
	9:30 a.m.	Protestant Sun. School	Main Chapel
	10:00 a.m.	Protestant Liturgical	Sanctuary B
	11:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel
Monday	1:00 p.m.	Gospel Service	Main Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	7:00 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
Mon. to Fri.	6:00 p.m.	Daily Mass	Main Chapel
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
Friday	12:30 p.m.	Islamic Prayer	Sanctuary C
Saturday	4:15 p.m.	Confessions	Main Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	Vigil Mass	Main Chapel

*Jewish Shabbat Services held every second Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the
Naval Base Chapel complex Room 11.*

15 Minutes of Fame

NAVY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS CHRISTOPHER MURRAY

By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

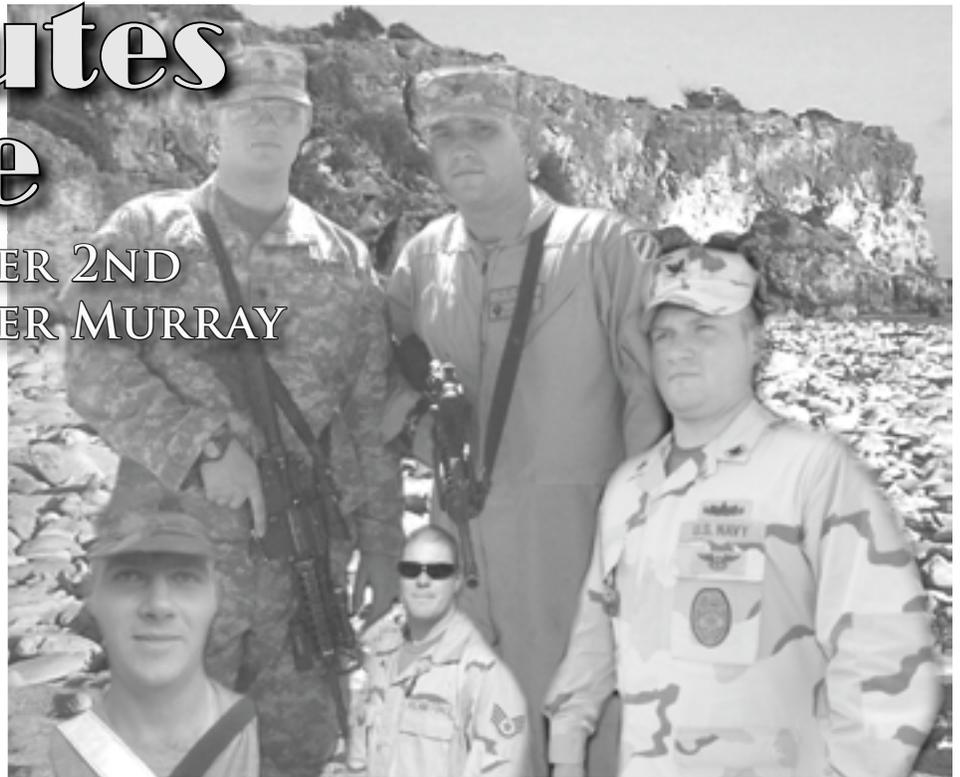
JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Many Joint Task Force, Guantanamo (JTF-GTMO) Troopers have friends or family members who are serving overseas in harm's way and find ways to keep in touch. One Trooper at GTMO takes the sacrifice of others to another level entirely. This Trooper makes a daily effort to read e-mails from his four brothers, all deployed or preparing to deploy, and like himself and all mindful of the sacrifices each is making in service to their country.

Navy Petty Officer Second Class Jonathan Murray, an escort control operator with JTF-GTMO, has understood this sacrifice his entire life. Murray was born into a military family where his father served in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. As the eldest brother, he has seen his four brothers deploy to the Middle East to fight the Global War on Terrorism. As a father, Murray recently left behind his son, born in December 2006, to deploy to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Despite the many sacrifices made by his family, Murray said he and his brothers plan to continue serving their country. "My dad told us to make sure we picked a career that we enjoyed doing, and he would support us regardless of what we did," said Murray. "My brothers and I just reenlisted. We knew what was in the job description when we signed up. We knew what we were getting into."

Two of Murray's brothers, Michael and Christopher, are currently serving in Iraq. He has another brother, Greg, who recently returned home from Iraq, while his brother, Patrick, prepares to head to Iraq. Although Murray is proud to have brothers who chose to serve their country, he added that



their sacrifices have caused distance within their family. Murray mentioned that he and his brothers have not been together as a family in more than 10 years. He added that he has not seen his brother Michael, who is completing his second deployment to Iraq, in a year and a half, nor his brother Christopher in three years.

Murray said that he is content with communicating with his brothers over the internet. However, there are days when his brothers are out in the field and unable to maintain contact with each other. Murray said that those days when his e-mail inbox shows no sign of his brothers are the hardest.

"I sleep better at night knowing they are all safe," said Murray. "My worst fear is losing one of my brothers. Every time I hear something, I always worry. It was nerve-racking having two brothers over there; when Patrick goes it triples the chances."

Murray was 14 years old when his father left to fight in the first Gulf War, a memory that resonates with him still. Although his father would leave the family many other times, Murray added that he always had his mother and brothers around him for support. Early on, his family realized the importance of sticking together and maintaining a close bond. Murray added

that this bond is what currently gets his family through this time of war.

"My brothers and I are always concerned about our parents, especially when they hear reports like the news of five soldiers being ambushed in Iraq," said Murray. "My mother had to deal with this every time my father left, and she is always on the lookout to make sure we are all okay."

Murray, who is married and has five children, said GTMO is his fourth deployment. Since Murray entered the Navy in 2000, he has deployed to Pakistan, the Horn of Africa and the coastal waters near Kuwait and Iraq. Murray explained that he was aboard the *USS Peleliu* on Sept. 11, 2001, and he recalls the urgency in which the ship headed to Pakistan to patrol the Mediterranean Sea. Murray added that being a part of that mission validated the need for service members like him and his brothers to be available to help protect American soil.

As Murray continues to reply to his brother's emails, he looks forward to the day that they can greet each other face to face. As the Global War on Terrorism continues, he understands that this day may be delayed for some time. However, Murray said, he knows in his heart that the day will come when they will all be together again. ■

AROUND THE JTF



Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

The 2007 Memorial Day Chili Cookoff featured a variety of chili recipes for sample. Pictured above are the winners from three different categories. (From left): Matt Murcin (spicy chili), Emily LeVault (original recipe) and Jerry Ramm (Best overall flavor).



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeff Johnstone

Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Jolinda Lighton is presented the Joint Service Commendation Medal by Capt. Michael Reynolds Friday, May 25.



Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Rick Beaber (left) is presented the Defense Meritorious Service Medal by Commander, Joint Task Force, Guantanamo Adm. Mark H. Buzby Friday, May 25.