

THE WIRE

Joint Task Force
Guantanamo's
Finest News Source

Magazine



Mini Triathlon

DoD Physician
Meneley on JMG
Charlie Co. 1st Bn, 65th INF.

Respect: Give it and Get it Back

By Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Tony Dant

JTF-GTMO Freedom of Information Act Manager

For three months I've had the pleasure of serving alongside you great Americans. What an impressive bunch you are!

I've also enjoyed reading the words of our senior leaders in this column. I'll admit to more than a little trepidation about writing an article myself. There haven't been many Air Force Chief Master Sergeants in the Joint Task Force. In fact, I believe I'm the first one. So what message should I attempt to impart?

After much thought and re-reading of the previous Trooper to Trooper articles I decided to talk to you today about respect. In past articles I've read about how extremely important each of us is to our shared mission. How we – Army, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard and Air Force, officer, enlisted, civilian, and contractor – are like a symphony when we all work together. How our mission will only succeed if each Trooper performs in a professional manner.

I know these words are true. Yet for some reason I still hear and see cases of Troopers not showing the respect that should come without question for their fellow Troopers.

Anytime we diminish the service of one of our Troopers we diminish the service of all. From the seemingly insignificant jokes about length of Joint Task Force service, to telling a Trooper his or



her hard earned rank isn't as honorable because it wasn't achieved in your branch of service, to the much more insidious crime of physical or sexual assault. All of these strike at the heart of our call to be "Honor Bound to Defend Freedom."

Please keep in mind that the Troopers standing around you are not only defending freedom for the American people back home, they are defending freedom for you too. The Air Force core value of Service Before Self is exemplified by each Trooper who serves. Each of us has answered a call to service and we deserve the utmost respect from those we serve, especially other Troopers. You should expect to receive that respect and give it back everyday.

My initial call to service came 26 years ago and brought me into the Air Force where I proudly serve as an Airman. Today I find myself alongside military members and civilians from all the services. I'm a Trooper – a title I am proud to wear.

JTF-GTMO

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DoD 'Doc' Makes House Call

By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs visited U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Aug. 8 to ensure that detainees here are receiving the highest level of care.

Dr. S. Ward Casscells met with Joint Task Force military personnel to discuss whether current policies affecting detainee care and treatment are being properly implemented. He also toured the Joint Task Force detainee and base hospitals where he was briefed on the latest procedures and equipment used to treat detainees.

"As a practicing doctor, I wanted to ensure that the detainees were getting good care. I was pleased to see the state of the art equipment being used, and the caregivers gave good answers to my questions," said Casscells. "I came here today in an oversight role to determine whether the policies that were drafted are actually being carried out."

Casscells met confidentially with individual Troopers of all ranks and inquired whether they believed they had the support of their leadership and the equipment necessary to properly perform their duties. Casscells expressed confidence that the individuals he spoke with were truthful in their responses, especially when he asked whether they had knowledge of or witnessed any mistreatment of a detainee. "Moreover," Casscells stated, "as the personnel at the camp had no names on their uniforms, and I spoke with them in private, I am confident I got the truth."

He mentioned that a recent article published in the Journal of American Medical Association that challenged the ethics of enteral feeding by Joint Medical Group personnel prompted him to visit Guantanamo Bay and witness the procedure himself.

"I got to witness two of the tube feedings done by the nurse. In those instances I witnessed, there was no fighting or resistance," said Casscells. "Tube feeding is a complicated issue because the detainees are not American citizens, they are not prisoners of war, nor are they criminals in the usual sense. They have this controversial status, which makes the circumstances difficult."

After meeting with physicians and other medical personnel, Casscells concluded that the care detainees receive meet the guiding principles set out in the Geneva Conventions, and exceeds those standards in several respects. For example, there are over 100 health professionals caring for approximately 350 detainees. The JMG can call in specialists within 12 hours. Sick call is daily. Detainees can request appointments. If they object to a female doctor, they are offered a male doctor. Preventive medicine (for example, colonoscopy, vaccinations, eye exams, stress tests) is routine, as is dental care (two cleanings per year), and psychological care.

In addition to reviewing the ethics of medical procedures, Casscells wanted to ensure that detainees were treated humanely during interrogations. He met with the director of interrogations to discuss allegations of physical abuse against detainees that have been publi-



Dr. S. Ward Casscells, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, listens to information regarding detainee medical operations from a Joint Medical Group health provider at Joint Task Force. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Micheal Billings)

cized in recent newspaper articles.

"The interrogation process was explained to me as being non-physical and non-confrontational. The interrogators reported they have gotten information [from detainees] that is saving lives," said Casscells. "A lot of them have been implicated by independent observers for having participated in terrorist activities. We can not take that lightly, so we just cannot cut them all loose. Our number one mission is to make sure that our troops' lives are saved. So if they can provide information that keeps our troops alive then that is very good."

In the future, Casscells said he would like to meet with Islamic physicians and religious leaders to discuss various medical ethics issues. He also hopes to get input from these individuals on controversial issues such as enteral feeding. "Medical ethics is important, and not simple. We routinely seek a broad spectrum of viewpoints. But I have not seen anything that suggests the feeding policy is wrong. No U.S. law or religion approves of suicide. Since some of the strikers are said to have told the doctors they are ordered by detainee leaders to go on hunger strike, the doctors have to feed them when there is a risk of death, since they feel they cannot take at face value the refusal of food from someone who is coerced, or someone who may be depressed."

"I should also add that it was reassuring to hear Admiral Buzby say his goals are to deliver humane care, to take care of his Troopers too, and to be transparent. The mission statement, 'holding the right people, in the right place, for the right reasons, and doing it the right way,' is taken seriously. That's leadership."

Casscells assumed his current position in April 2007. He is responsible for the overall leadership of the military health system, and he serves as the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense regarding health care policies and programs.

Meneley: Six Weeks on the Job

Story and photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

When the current commander of Joint Medical Group, Joint Task Force Guantanamo came aboard on July 6, he assumed command of a state-of-the-art detainee medical treatment operation that is unmatched within the military. He also inherited a real public relations challenge.

The major challenge that Meneley and his staff face daily does not deal so directly with the exceptional medical care they provide, but rather with the detainee situation itself and the constant requests they receive for information from outside sources regarding detainee medical treatment.

Meneley emphasized that ensuring that the public is properly educated on detainee medical issues has become an important part of the detainee hospital's mission.

"Every time we are able to tell our story to visitors who come to see the facility, they are uniformly impressed with the quality of care that we are providing to the detainees. When someone comes down to look at our operation, they are exceedingly impressed with the volume of care we provide," Meneley said.

Despite his best efforts, many journalists and habeas attorneys who visit the Joint Task Force have been critical of the medical care received by detainees. A recent commentary in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* questioned the ethics of the medical staff here who enterally feed hunger striking detainees. Meneley noted that the article failed to take into account the policies and standards in place here that are accepted within the medical community.

"The recent commentary in *JAMA* regarding the ethics of involuntary feeding makes some basic assumptions to include informed consent, involvement of family and the absence of coercion. When applied to the situation in Guantanamo, it becomes clear to the medical staff that it is our ethical and moral obligation to preserve life, which may include the enteral feeding of detainees.

"We have a sworn duty to protect life and make sure nobody comes to harm while they are in our care. We do that in a very dignified and compassionate manner that is as comfortable as it can be for them," Meneley said.

Meneley attributes the high quality of detainee medical treatment here to his staff of over 120 well-trained professionals and the excellent hospital facility, which houses a fully-equipped operating room and a pharmacy that is fully stocked.

"In the detainee hospital, we have dental operating suites, a full x-ray suite and an operating ward. We also have a separate mental health unit with inpatient capabilities that far exceeds those of the naval hospital.

"We have brought in a very high-quality CT scanner and a cardiac catheterization lab specifically for the detainees," Meneley said, adding that it was necessary to have a fully-equipped treatment facility here to prevent the need to transport detainees off island for specialized medical care.

Meneley noted that he was at an advantage when he came on board since there was already a standard operating procedure in place that outlines how to deal with

every situation within the detainee medical facility. Whether a staff member is here for six months or three years, Meneley's primary goal is to ensure that his staff is trained on the processes and procedures that have already been established.

Meneley said it is encouraging to have a staff that provides high quality medical care under exceedingly difficult circumstances and he believes they should be proud to be a part of a significant mission that helps the U.S. fight the Global War on Terrorism.

"What I enjoy most is being able to work with all the great people; they inspire me everyday by doing great work in very trying conditions. Day after day their actions inspire me to do more to make sure they have the appropriate resources to do their job, and that they are adequately recognized for the job they do," Meneley said.

In addition to his responsibilities as commander of the Joint Medical Group, Meneley is also commander of Naval Station Hospital Guantanamo Bay. In that role, he oversees all medical care provided to the entire base population, military and civilian alike.



Navy Capt. Bruce Meneley reviews the day's operations with staff members in the Joint Medical Group's detainee medical treatment facility.

Charlie Co./ 65th Infantry Patrol JTF Perimeters



Story and photo by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Troopers of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry Puerto Rico National Guard move out through every 24 hour period to their duty positions at points along the multiple perimeters of Joint Task Force (JTF) Guantanamo.

A team of three infantrymen mount their “Maverick” tactical vehicle as the cool morning air begins to melt into a hot and humid summer day. Once loaded, the Maverick team climbs over a network of trails that function as a sort of highway between JTF access check points, observation points and watch towers.

Their overall mission is to conduct area security operations within the perimeters and to protect detainees, civilian personnel and United States forces. Though not serving at the “tip of the spear” in a combat zone, they are, nevertheless, combat trained and ready.

They check on their fellow Troopers along the way which breaks up any monotony in their shifts, keeps the individual Troopers alert and helps maintain a sense of trust and de-

pendability between the members of the different teams.

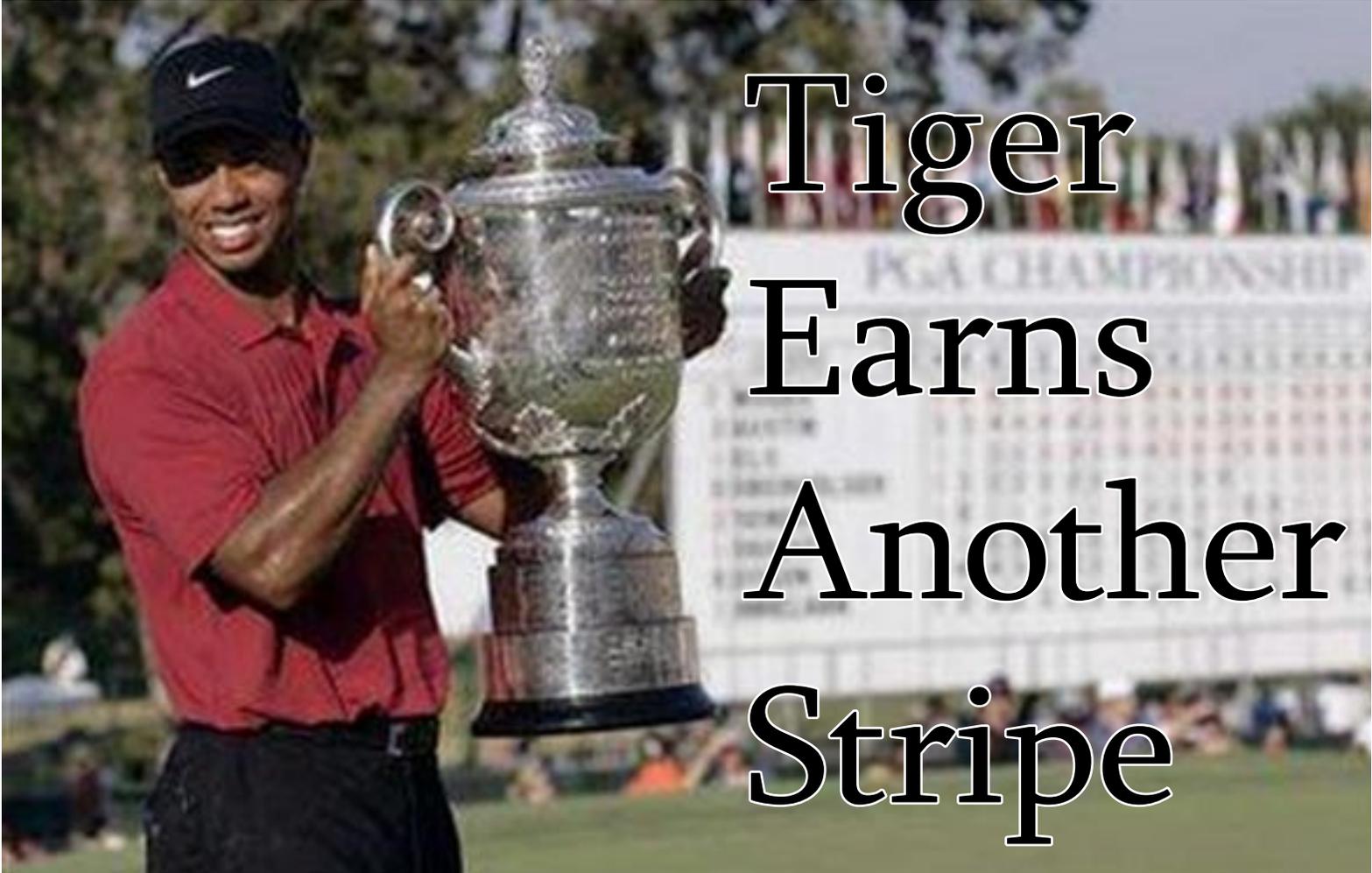
“We are infantry. Everything we have trained for in the Army and in the infantry supports the mission that we perform here. Whether we go out to perform check points at a gate or stand watch in observation towers, it is an infantry mission. But for me the best part is patrolling in the Mavericks,” Rodrigues said.

For Charlie Company Commander, Capt. Alvin Aponte, the JTF mission is also an educational one.

“The mission we serve here gives all of us a unique chance to work in a joint environment alongside other Armed Forces branches and active components,” said Aponte.

As infantrymen, their jobs are not always desirable, but for the Troopers of Charlie Company, 65th Infantry, the benefit of serving the JTF mission has been great, not only because of the training, but for the opportunity to help their country in a time of need.

“We are all part of a team and we couldn’t do this without each other,” said Rodrigues.



Tiger Earns Another Stripe

(Photo courtesy REUTERS/Eric Miller)

By Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

On Sunday, Aug. 12, Tiger Woods won his 13th Major title by winning the PGA Championship at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Woods was 12-0 in Majors play when leading going into the final round, so number 13 brought no bad luck for Tiger on Sunday as he closed the tournament with a two-stroke lead. Woods turned away the challenge of Woody Austin (6-) and Ernie Els (5-) to win his fourth Wanamaker Trophy. Woods had his lead up to five strokes before Austin closed within one, but then Tiger birdied the 15th hole to stretch it out to the final margin.

Tiger Woods burst on to the PGA Tour in 1996 when he played his first tournament at the Greater Milwaukee Open. He finished 60th, but then went on to win twice on the PGA tour and was named PGA "Rookie of the Year" and Sports Illustrated's "Man of the Year." Tiger has had only one "lull" in his career which occurred in late 1997 and early 1998 when he managed only one tour victory.

However, in 1999 his career exploded. From 1999 to 2003, Woods won 32 tour events – seven of which were Majors. In 2004, Tiger again won only one event but still managed to finish five more Majors.

Woods has career tour earnings that add up to an astounding \$73,536,709; moreover, he has multiple endorsement deals from companies that include Nike, General Motors, Titlist and American Express that earned him an additional \$90 million in 2006 alone. He has been awarded Associated Press "Male Athlete of the Year" four times, PGA Tour "Money Winner" seven times and "PGA Tour Player of the Year" eight times. All of these accomplishments have occurred in the almost constant presence of his family.

Tiger's family has always played a huge part in his life. His late father, Earl Woods, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel and Vietnam War veteran, lost his lengthy battle with prostate cancer, and passed away in May of 2006. His father had been his coach, mentor and inspiration. Fans had become used to seeing

Tiger and his father embrace and share a smile or a cry after each Majors victory. Smiles and cries did not disappear altogether with Earl Woods' passing, because in June of 2007 Tiger and his wife Elin welcomed their first child, daughter Sam Alexis, into the world. Sam and mom showed up at the course Sunday decked out in the Woods traditional Sunday red to greet dad at the end of his triumph.

"It's a feeling I've never had before," Tiger remarked, referring to winning with his wife and daughter present. "Having Sam there and having Elin there, it feels a lot more special. And it used to be my mom and dad. And now Elin, and now we have our own daughter. So it's evolved, and this one feels so much more special than the other majors."

Tiger is five wins away from tying Jack Nicklaus' all time mark of 18 Majors victories. At 31 and in the prime of his career, Tiger Woods will almost surely surpass this mark in the near future. There rarely comes an athlete more dominant in his sport than Tiger has been in the golf.

Go Gettas Got 'em



(Photo illustration by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Gary Keen)

By Army Spc. Lazelle Jones

JTF-GTMO 525 Military Police Battalion

As the summer basketball league draws to a close, one of the better match-ups of the season happened last Friday night, Aug 10, as JMG (3-1) took on the unbeaten Go Get-

tas who sat at 3-0.

You could feel the electricity in the air as JMG huddled up and engaged in a stirring chant before the game, which pumped up JMG's raucous fans.

In the first half, defense ruled the

day as both teams exchanged in a series of uncharacteristic turnovers from the defensive pressure each team applied.

Someone in the crowd commented that even though the game was low scoring, (7-4 for the first 9 minutes), it was one of the best games he had seen. The *Go Gettas* looked as though they were taking control of the game as they went ahead 14-4 in the middle of the first half, but JMG showed resilience and began to chip away at the lead, cutting it to one (15-14) before giving up two free-throws to trail 17-14 at half-time.

In the second half, the *Go Gettas* came out strong and seized control of the game by forcing four turnovers in JMG's first six possessions.

The *Go Gettas* ran out to a thirteen point lead before JMG called a timeout. From that point on the *Go Gettas* never looked back as they went on to win 39-18.

With their stifling defense, the *Go Gettas* held JMG scoreless until 2:42 remained in the second half. JMG's coach summed it up best by saying, "We came out a little flat and didn't get many second shots while they [Go Gettas] picked up their intensity; my hat's off to them."

The catalysts for the second-half surge were the *Go Gettas* two starting guards, Ismael and Frederick Favors. Asked what changed in the second half for them to dominate defensively, Ismael responded, "Playing together as a team," and Favors added, "We wanted to attack their guards because of their lack of ball handlers."

The win sets up a potential battle of unbeaten as the *Go Gettas* are pitted against the undefeated *Vigilant Warriors*, Friday, Aug. 17 at Denich Gym at 9:00.

JTF TRIATHLON



RUN. BIKE. SWIM.



Forty five Troopers and civilians explode through the starting line in a friendly competition that took place last Saturday, Aug. 11, just before 7:30 a.m.

Race Coordinator Joseph Horne says the outcome of the race was more than he expected.

"You don't have to be a professional triathlete to participate. Triathlons are popular around the world. It's a fun event since personnel on base are restricted to the base. You get a real sense of accomplishment when you finish a triathlon, no matter how short it is," said Horne.

The mini triathlon featured three different events for individuals or teams: 2 mile run, 4.5 mile bike and 500 meter swim.

INDIVIDUAL TRIATHLETES

1st Place Male Triathlete:

Johnathan M. McComb

(Time: 30:39)

1st Place Female Triathlete:

Amber Dach (Time: 44:16)

2nd Place Male Triathlete:

James M. Missildine

(Time: 36:58)

2nd Place Female Triathlete:

Nancy T. Johnson

(Time: 46:19)

3rd Place Male Triathlete:

George T. Mellenbruch

(Time: 39:41)

3rd Place Female Triathlete:

Jessica Mohler

(Time: 47:44)

RELAY TEAMS

1st Place Relay Team:

Cameron Crawford, Thomas

Ausherman, Robert Trujillo

(Time: 31:31)

2nd Place Relay Team:

Kathryn Z. Hostetler, Donald W.

Troxler, Michael R. Kropushek

(Time: 37:36)

3rd Place Relay Team:

Kari Friedman, Dave Crady, Thomas

Wolfe (Time: 38:17)

Photos by Army 2nd Lt. Cara Thompson and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Clowney

Ceramics 101



Christine Cots proudly displays her mug that is ready to be fired. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker)

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Gary Keen

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

If you are looking for a creative way to spend some of your time in Guantanamo

Bay, you should check out the Pottery and Ceramic Shop located in front of the Wood Hobby Shop off of Sherman Ave. This shop has much to offer Troopers that want to expand their skills, as well as help them save money.

In the Pottery and Ceramic Shop, Troopers can craft things such as cups, plates, decorative vases, large serving bowls and a wide variety of figurines.

If you don't know anything about pottery or ceramics, there are knowledgeable staff members there to lend you a hand.

"The staff makes it very easy for you; I didn't know anything about ceramics the first time I went there," said Navy Chief Petty Officer Christine Cots.

The Pottery and Ceramic Shop has seven furnaces, hundreds of molds, two potter's wheels, clay, paint and brushes that you can use to make a very wide variety of ceramics. If you don't feel up to spinning a vase on the potter's wheel then browse the shop's catalog which depicts over a hundred different pottery styles that that you can create from molds.

There are no fees for using the equipment at the Pottery and Ceramic Shop. If you want a mold of a figure made for you, then you will have to pay a small fee that will cover the cost of the clay. A large water pitcher or serving tray will cost about \$3.00. You will also have to buy your own paint and brushes, which can be purchased at the shop as well.

"I like going to the Pottery and Ceramic Shop because it's something productive provided by Morale, Welfare & Recreation services and you can make unique souvenirs and presents," Cots said, adding, "It is also very inexpensive."

If you want the satisfaction of learning a new craft or you just want to make personalized gift, check out the Pottery and Ceramics Shop – they even offer classes for beginners from time to time.

The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 to 8:00 p.m. and from 12:00 to 8:00 p.m. Sunday and holidays. For more information call the Pottery and Ceramic Shop during their normal working hours at 74795.

Women's Equality Day Observance



Please join us at
The Windjammer Club
Friday August 24th
1100-1200
Guest Speaker
CDR Kimberly Evans

Presented by
JTF Equal Opportunity
No charge

Dress: Duty uniform or
appropriate civilian attire

*Celebrate
Women's
Right to Vote*



Army Col. Bruce Vargo, commander of the Joint Detention Group, Joint Task Force - Guantanamo discusses detainee operations with members of the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference, Aug. 15, 2007. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Billings)

South Florida Leaders VISIT GITMO

their community on what they see here,” said Alvarez.

USSOUTHCOM has created its own version of the JCOC that mimics DoD’s program. It has coordinated trips for JCOC to 32 coun-

tries representing the Caribbean, Central America, and South America.

Alvarez said the command wanted the leaders to visit Guantanamo to see what JTF-Guantanamo is all about.

S. Daniel Ponce, an attorney and businessman from Gainesville, Fla., was among the group of educators, chairpersons and chief executive officers from South Florida who visited Guantanamo Bay. Ponce said that he appreciated

having the opportunity to observe, ask questions, and enjoy unfettered access to military personnel here.

“I find this place to be amazing for what the purpose is. I find that our military is actively engaged in a military mission which has got to be a very difficult thing to do on a day-to-day basis knowing the eyes of the world are waiting for you to make a mistake,” said Ponce.

Alvarez said that the individuals who visited Guantanamo Bay were alumni of the JCOC program. He added that it is important for USSOUTHCOM to actively engage and inform the alumni to ensure that they continue to educate others within their communities on the reality of what occurs in Guantanamo Bay.

“We hope to create an awareness and, as a result, advocacy for the U.S. Southern Command’s mission, and Guantanamo Bay’s contribution to the security of the United States,” said Alvarez.

By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

A group of south Floridians participating in a Department of Defense (DoD) sponsored program visited the detention facilities of Joint Task Force - Guantanamo Aug. 15.

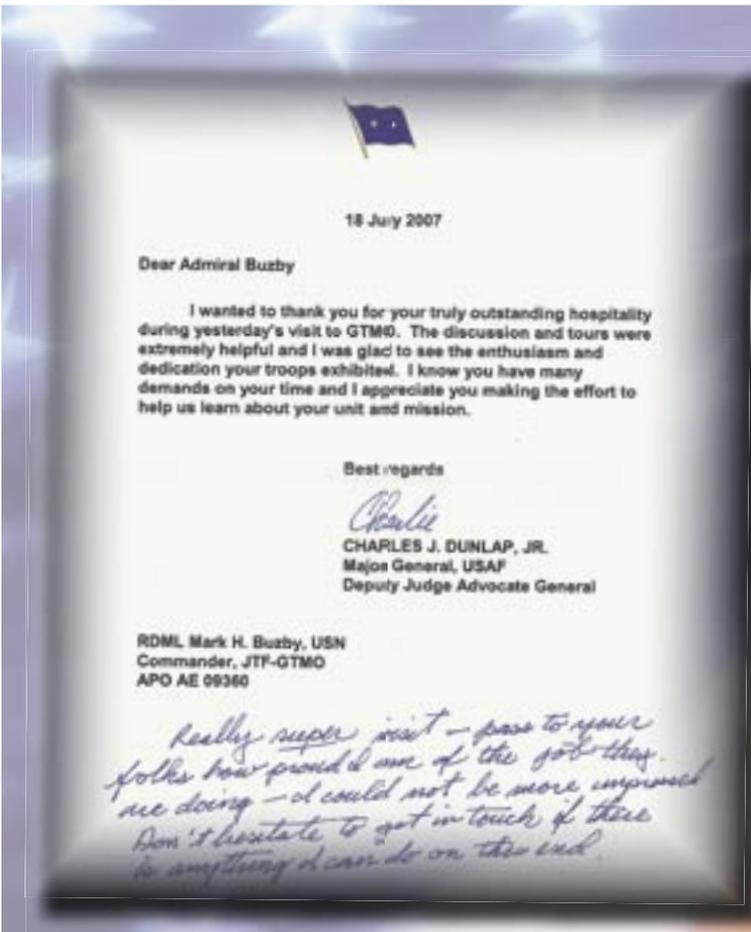
The tour, led by Joint Task Force leadership, included individuals who are leaders within their respective professional and civic communities. The Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC) is a global program designed by the DoD to educate prominent community leaders on the operations that occur within the U.S. military’s combatant commands.

Mario Alvarez, Chief of Outreach for the United States Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM), said the participants were selected from a pool of 50 individuals who were nominated to participate in the program. The selected participants traveled to various locations within the command’s areas of operation to gain first-hand perspective of day-to-day operations within the various command areas of operation.

“Although Florida is not within the Southern Command’s area of responsibility, we hand pick them according to their professional, community and civic relationships, so they can spread the word out to



Members of the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference tour Joint Task Force detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay, Aug. 15, 2007. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Billings)



Air Force Maj. Gen. Charles J. Dunlap expresses his appreciation to Rear Adm. Mark Buzby and the Troopers of Joint Task Force-Guantanamo Bay.

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com

Saturday, Aug. 18

Highs in the low - 90's, and lows in the high-70's.



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:41 a.m.
Sunset: 7:27 p.m.
Chance of rain: 20%

Sunday, Aug. 19

Highs in the low - 90's, and lows in the high-70's.



Partly Cloudy/Windy

Sunrise: 6:42 a.m.
Sunset: 7:27 p.m.
Chance of rain: 60%

Monday, Aug. 20

Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the high-70's.



T-Showers/Wind

Sunrise: 6:42 a.m.
Sunset: 7:27 p.m.
Chance of rain: 40%

Tuesday, Aug. 21

Highs in the low - 90's, and lows in the high-70's.
Chance of rain: 60%



Sunrise: 6:42 a.m.
Sunset: 7:25 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 30%

Scattered T-Storms

Wednesday, Aug. 22

Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the high-70's.
Chance of rain: 60%



Sunrise: 6:42 a.m.
Sunset: 7:24 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 60%

Isolated T-storms

Thursday, Aug. 23

Highs in the low - 90's, and lows in the high-70's.
Chance of rain: 45%



Sunrise: 6:43 a.m.
Sunset: 7:24 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 60%

Isolated T-Storms

Friday, Aug. 24

Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the high-70's.
Chance of rain: 60%



Sunrise: 6:43 a.m.
Sunset: 7:23 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 60%

Isolated T-storms



MOVIE REVIEW CORNER

By Army Spc. Daniel V. Welch

The Bourne Ultimatum

Rated: PG 13

Duration: 111 minutes

In a summer that has brought us giant robots beating the &*@# out of each other and Bruce Willis evading a jet fighter from the helm of an 18-wheeler, the best was saved for last with the first showing of the “Bourne Ultimatum” at the Lyceum last Friday night.

“Ultimatum” is the third film in the immensely popular Bourne series. All three films chronicle the amnesia-stricken former CIA agent

Jason Bourne (Matt Damon) in his quest to discover his true identity as well as avoid his former government task masters who are looking to silence him.

The film opens in Moscow where the Russian police are casing an injured Bourne. Meanwhile, Bourne bounces back onto the CIA’s radar after his name surfaces during an investigation of a mysterious CIA operation called “Blackbrier” by British journalist Simon Ross (Paddy Considine).

“Ultimatum” careens across the globe from Moscow to Tangiers to New York City. Each location features Bourne battling U.S. government “assets” (assassins) in a series of marathon chase sequences that are a staple of this series.

Another great feature of “Ultimatum,” besides the fantastic action sequences, is its thinking man’s plot. Hopefully the success of these films will usher in an era of more smart action films.

Due to the dynamic chase scenes and carefully crafted plot, this movie is hands-down the best film shown here this year. Many fans will judge it the best film of the series as well.

Rating: ★★★★★

Boots on the Ground

By Army Spc. Jamison Self

“If you could meet any person from history, who would it be?”

-Army Sgt. Stephanie Stickel



Gen. Casey. When he gives speeches, he is straight to the point and he went to the desert with us.

-Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Tonya Geary



Oprah Winfrey. She is down to earth and loving and caring.

-Air Force Tech Sgt. Linda Humphrey



Abraham Lincoln. Because of the perseverance he had throughout his life.

-Army Spc. Micheal Markley



General Patton. Because of his leadership skills and how he influenced today’s Army.

Commitment: Love to the Fullest Measure

Submitted by Navy Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Daniel McKay

Giving one's word and keeping it is one of the most important ingredients in living a full, meaningful and enjoyable life. Indeed, success is measured, more often than not, by the degree to which one is able to honor agreements over the course of a life time. Whether buying a car or house, entering a contract for employment or simply agreeing to do something for a loved one, friend or neighbor, it all comes down to one thing: delivering on a promise made.

No where is this more true than where marriage is concerned. Think about what is being said in the exchange of the wedding vows. A man and woman, before God, family and friends, pledge to each other their complete faithfulness and devotion. Regardless of their shared life experience (health or sickness, rich or poor, etc.), they agree to remain at each other's side and see life through together. In other words, they agree to give to one another the gift of love to the fullest measure for a life time.

The collapse of so many marriages today boils down to one thing: the failure to take seriously the giving of one's word and keeping it. Love – true love – as defined by God, offers the remedy. For therein is found

the real meaning and extent of commitment: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." {*I Corinthians 13:4-8a*}

No doubt, many wonder today if such a definition of love is still valid or even possible. The wonderful example of Robertson and Mauriel McQuilkin assures us that it very much is—on both counts. (see Scott Stanley's *The Heart of Commitment*, pp. 193-198) A few years ago, Robertson was serving as a highly successful university president when the love of his life, Mauriel, contracted Alzheimer's disease. Many of his closest friends, advisors, and associates encouraged Robertson to place Mauriel in a twenty-four hour care facility so he could continue his work as university president. Instead, he resigned and took care of Mauriel himself until her death. Many questioned the wisdom of his decision, but to their criticism Robertson replied, "It was a matter of integrity. Had I not promised, 42 years before, 'in sickness and in health . . . till death do us part'? This was no grim duty to which I was stoically resigned, however. It was only fair. She had, after all, cared for me for almost four decades with marvelous devotion; now it was my turn." (Ibid., p. 194)

Yes, in today's world, such devotion may seem extraordinary, but, in God's design, it's meant to be commonplace. And, like Robertson, with God's help, we too can experience the joy of such loving commitment: by giving and keeping our word—to the fullest measure.



**"This is the nicest conversation we've had in weeks.
Let's not spoil it by talking."**

(Image courtesy from Randy Glasbergen, www.glasbergen.com)

15 MINUTES OF FAME

AIR FORCE MASTER SGT. VANESSA FREEMAN

**Story and photo by Army Spc.
Daniel Welch**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

When new Joint Task Force Troopers arrive at the Leeward Airport, some immediately feel the effects of the oppressive Cuban heat while others are distracted by the sight of a rock iguana or two. Once inside the terminal, however, they are all greeted by the beaming smile and shining personality of Air Force Master Sgt. Vanessa R. Freeman welcoming them to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Freeman, Superintendent for the Joint Processing Reception Center, is responsible for helping make newly assigned Troopers first few days on the island as smooth as possible. She explains basic policies and procedures, ensures that all Troopers are properly briefed and confirms that their identification paperwork is in order before they head out for their new assignments.

“You know, before we got here, none of us knew what to expect,” said Freeman. “My job title in the Air Force is Personnel Craftsman, and we all thought this would be more like our training for Personnel Support for Contingency Operations.” That training involved sending out casualty messages and maintaining Trooper accountability records from commands in Iraq or Afghanistan, Freeman went on to explain.

Reflecting back on her early days in the military, Freeman explained how the Air Force attracted her for a variety of reasons.

“I had been to college, been married and had seen a lot, I just wanted to do something different,” she said.

She added that the immense patrio-

tism she felt after the first Gulf War piqued her interest in the military.

“My dad was in the Army, and [he] always said if I was going to join, join the Air Force,” said Freeman, “When I was at the Military Entrance Processing Station, I saw a girl who was joining the Marine Corps and I was very impressed with her motivation, and thought for just a moment about joining the Marines, but after 15 years I am very happy with my decision.”

One of Freeman’s favorite parts of her military service is the feeling of family she has felt when stationed overseas.

“My second duty assignment was at Aviano Air Force Base in Italy,” said Freeman, “The people there were so welcoming; we were all like an extended family I really valued that and it’s something I have experienced in overseas duty assignments throughout my time in the service.”

This feeling of extended family is also something she has found here in Guantanamo. During her first days on the island, she was assigned to housing at Windward Loop. However after a visit with a colleague who was residing at Cuzco Barracks, she was struck by how nice and inviting everyone was and immediately asked to be moved there.

As welcoming as people have been at Guantanamo, she shared how hard it is being away from her two young daughters back home.

“I talk to my kids as much as I can; it is hard not being there sometimes,” said Freeman. “I like to make them little gifts



and personalized crafts and send them each a little present; it really makes their day,” she added.

One may expect that a 15 year veteran of the military has seen it all; however, Freeman said this was the very first time she has worked extensively with the other branches of service. She said that it has been fascinating interacting with the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coastguardsmen here at the Joint Task Force and learning about each branch’s unique traditions and working styles.

Despite working a rigorous six-day schedule, Freeman has taken advantage of the opportunity to get in great shape.

“It is really hard being away from my family, but I have had a lot of ‘me’ time which is something I have not had in a long time,” said Freeman. “I give a lot of credit to the [Headquarters and Headquarters Company] Physical Training formations for giving me the motivation to start working out,” said Freeman.

When the next Guantanamo “rookies” step off the plane, it is Master Sgt. Freeman who will help make their transition to becoming Joint Task Force Troopers as painless and enjoyable as possible by bringing a sense of family to those who will soon be far away from home.

AROUND THE JTF



Chief Petty Officer Lee Vincent braves the sweltering Caribbean heat Monday, Aug 13, and proudly reenlists for another five years in the Navy. (Photo by Army Spc. Daniel V. Welch)

Army Brig. Gen. Cameron Crawford joins members of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion in recognition of their outstanding work in recent detainee movement operations. Crawford is the Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker)



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Brady L. Laxton reenlists for another tour in the U.S. Navy. Cmdr. Kris Winter congratulates him for his unwavering dedication to duty. (Photo by Army Spc. Daniel V. Welch)

