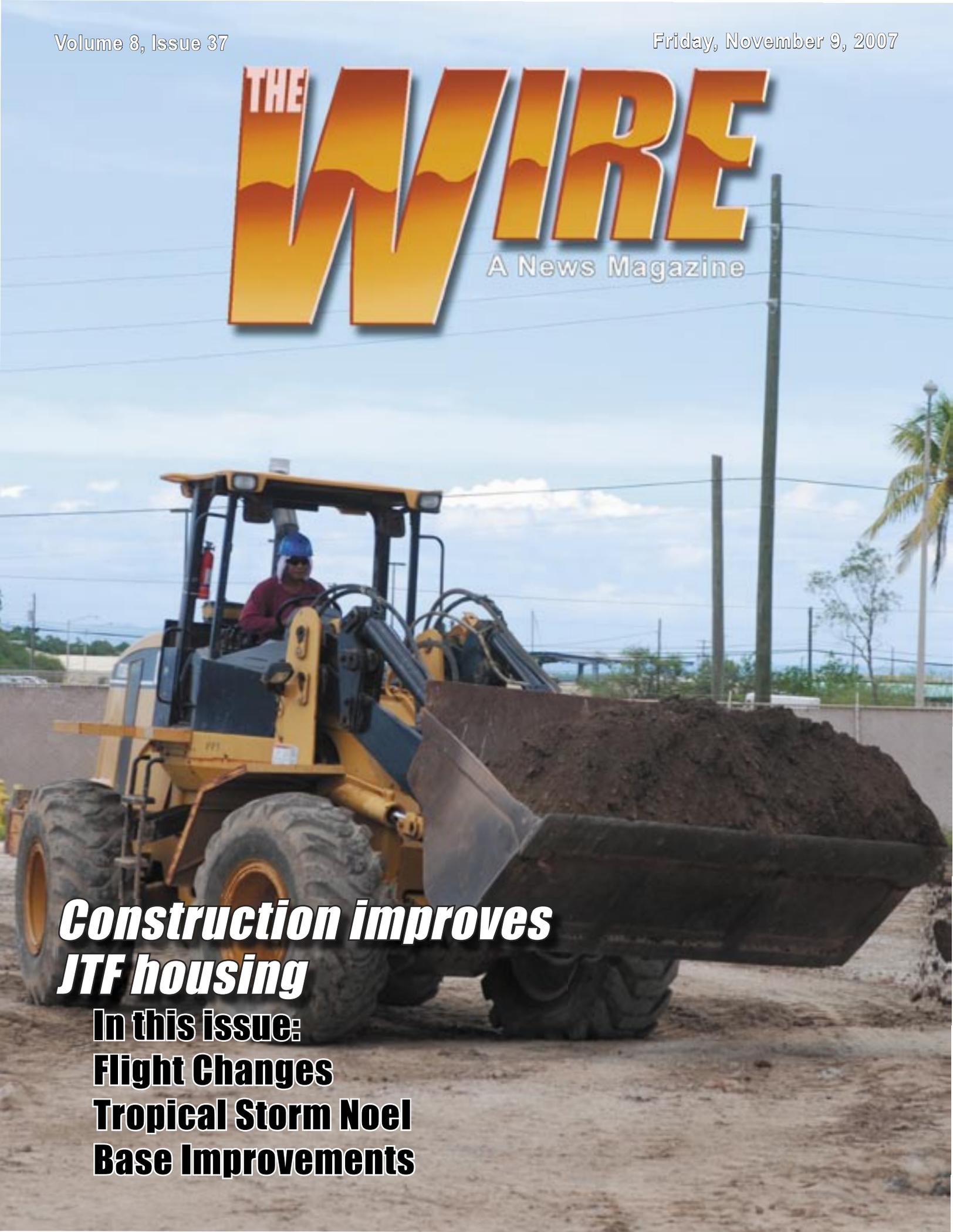


THE WIRE

A News Magazine



***Construction improves
JTF housing***

**In this issue:
Flight Changes
Tropical Storm Noel
Base Improvements**

Troopers can improve quality of JTF

By Army 1st Sgt. Jose DeJesus

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
HHC First Sergeant

Just a few years ago, Troopers assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo slept in tents, ate MREs, seldom operated in air-conditioning and had no Internet access. Quality of life to our troopers is significantly improved. We are grateful – these changes are good for the Troops and the overall mission. The JTF has come a long way and now it's up to Troopers to make it even better.

The most important thing we can do to better Quality of Life is to value others: to give respect by treating people the way they should be treated. The Army offers this as one of its seven core values, but this emphasis is not unique to the Army. All the services offer variations of the basic theme.

So how does this core value, respect, play a role within the services and, more specifically, how does it apply to the Troopers of the JTF? Early in basic training, Troopers learn to respect rank and to render proper military courtesies. In the conduct of our mission, we learn to treat each other with respect. As we grow as leaders, we learn that respect is a two-way street. In order to be respected by those we lead, we must give them respect

There are times when we will get on each others' nerves because of tight working conditions. Perhaps the most difficult lesson to learn is to treat our peers – our coworkers and roommates with respect. Roommates are, in many cases, unavoidable. Having a good relationship with your roommate is integral to keeping your overall stress level down. You need a safe environment where you can unwind after a long, hard day's work. There will always be things you cannot control, but ultimately, if you show respect to your roommates, things tend to work out alright.

I ask that everyone assigned to the



JTF examine their own behaviors in relation to work, home and the Guantanamo Bay community. Are you treating others the way they should be treated – the way you would like to be treated? Is respect one of your core values? Do your part to make the JTF an environment free of hostility, harassment or discrimination. Anything less is unacceptable. Remember that your actions affect everyone around you, whether it's playing loud music and partying after hours, leaving trash and cigarette butts on the ground, using profane language, telling dirty or racist jokes or sexually harassing others.

Think of things you can do to help your fellow Troopers. If you have a vehicle, give a Trooper waiting at the bus stop a lift. Assist Troopers with training or classes they might be taking, and offer to teach them the skills you have, whether military or civilian. Be someone's friend. Write or call home. Everyone enjoys a letter or package from home and those at home want to the same from you. Do the right thing.

Doing the right thing is the honorable way to live and applies to everything and everyone all the time. Always strive to leave your area of influence better than it was when you arrived. Seek self-improvement and be tolerant of others.

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ON THE COVER:

The foundation is prepared for the Cuzco Phase Three Barracks across the street from the NEX. The completed project will add 190 units to the Cuzco housing area. (Photo by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger)



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 700.

Cuzco 3 and Bayhill to alleviate JTF housing crunch

Story by Army
Spc. Shanita Simmons

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Wondering what all the racket is across the street from the Navy Exchange? What you are hearing is heavy equipment preparing the foundations for the latest additions to Joint Task Force Guantanamo housing.

An increase in personnel and the crowded conditions in Tierra Kay (TK) housing area sparked the need for additional housing and improvements to existing housing. By next spring, according to Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer John C. Inglis of the JTF engineering office, both junior and senior enlisted Troopers will have more housing options, as the \$3 million housing expansion continues with the construction of Cuzco Phase Three and Bayhill senior enlisted barracks.

“Housing is getting tight as JTF gets more and more personnel,” said Inglis. “The modular units being constructed will provide additional housing for all unaccompanied military personnel who support JTF.”

The intent of JTF leadership is to provide adequate housing that prevents the present trend of assigning two Troopers to a berthing designed for one. Cuzco Three will add 190 suite-style units to the housing area where approximately 400 Troopers currently reside. The new addition will also include larger laundry facilities to accommodate Troopers.

Senior enlisted Troopers, currently assigned to Windward Loop, will also have additional housing options once construction is completed on Bayhill. This housing will include 40 modular units, each providing approximately 400



Construction has begun on Cuzco Three modular units that will be installed across the street from the NEX. Cuzco Three will add 190 new units to the Cuzco housing area. (Photo by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger)

sq. feet of living space. These one-person units will resemble mini-apartments and include amenities such as a kitchenettes, living rooms and stackable washer and dryer units. Bayhill will be comparable in quality to traditional stateside senior enlisted housing, according to Inglis.

“The senior enlisted housing will be located behind the NEX in the same location where demolished military barracks once stood. Since the utilities are still in good working condition, the time needed to set up the modular units on the site is greatly reduced,” said Inglis.

Some Troopers residing in TK are already enjoying the results of renovations that began in September and will continue into late summer 2008.

Air Force 2nd Lt. Stacey E. Vance, JTF housing officer, said the renovations include new carpet and flooring, as well as new interior paint in all the units. In time, all the bathrooms in each unit will be upgraded and air conditioning units will be replaced as needed.

“The bathroom renovations will be done on a schedule so that we

Continued on Page 13

New flights to BWI give Guantanamo travelers added choices



Photo courtesy of www.superfantasystories.com

By Army Sgt. Jody Metzger

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Guantanamo's largest air carrier, Air Mobility Command, expanded its flight schedule to include Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI) as of Nov. 3.

The AMC rotator is the primary carrier supporting transportation of travelers to and from the base. Until earlier this month, the only two destinations serviced by the AMC rotator were Naval Air Station Jacksonville in Florida and Naval Air Station Norfolk in Virginia.

Now all Saturday flights on the rotator depart Guantanamo Bay for Jacksonville and then fly on to BWI. The rotator will no longer fly to Norfolk on Saturdays, however, every-other Tuesday flights to Norfolk will continue.

The number one reason for adding the BWI connection, according to Mark Veditz, air terminal manager of Guantanamo's Leeward Airfield, is that there are not enough connecting flights out of Jacksonville in the evening. Veditz said that by introducing BWI flights, travelers now have viable options for getting to their destinations without having to

stay overnight (in most cases) before making connections.

Veditz has worked tirelessly for Guantanamo's airport for almost 13 years and is the most knowledgeable person regarding Servicemember's air travel on and off the base. His advice to travelers is to consider many important aspects before flying on the rotator to Jacksonville.

"The problem with taking the rotator to Jacksonville is that by the time you get there [NAS Jacksonville] you have to catch a bus – but sometimes there is only one bus. At this point, there is an hour drive to get from the Naval Air Station to Jacksonville International Airport.

"In most instances, there are not enough flights going out of Jacksonville after 7:30 p.m. This can create a problem, because there is no assurance that you are going to make the flight [that evening]. From BWI there are about 35 or more flights between 8 and 10 p.m. that will give you a better chance to get to your end destination," said Veditz.

BWI not only poses a great opportunity for those seeking more options for connecting flights, but it also hosts one of the best USO lounges in the country serving armed forces

personnel and families.

The USO International Gateway Lounge is a \$1.1 million establishment dedicated to providing support and comfort to American service members and dependents. The USO is located on the lower level of the airport next to baggage claim area 11. Here Troopers and dependents can make themselves comfortable while passing through BWI.

The USO's amenities include: a hospitality desk that provides ground transportation and lodging assistance, secure baggage storage area, free photo

copying and faxing services, family room equipped with cribs and toys, restrooms with diaper changing tables, 72-inch screen TV, lounge with an extensive DVD library, snack bar, free wireless Internet access, plus Verizon Voice-over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) phones that allow USO guests to call anywhere in the world for free. In addition, there is a sleeping room with wake-up call service.

Guantanamo Bay is served by two other airlines as well, Air Sunshine and Lynx Air International, so travelers have more than one option when traveling to and from Guantanamo Bay. These two airlines are especially helpful when Guantanamo residents need to depart the island, especially for emergency reasons.

Veditz encourages those needing to get off the island quickly to call the airline terminal.

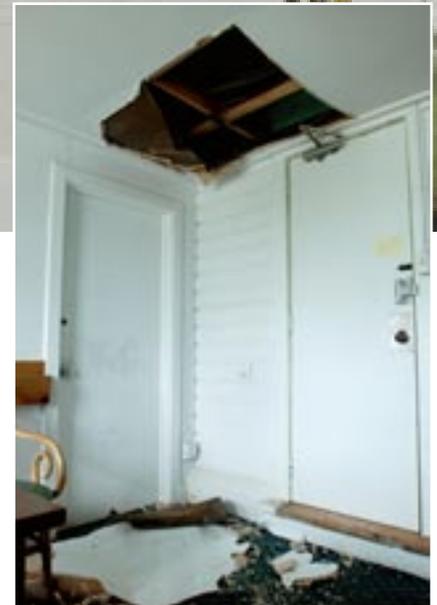
For more information on times and pricing from the three air carriers, see the Daily Roller or call the terminal at extension 6204 or 6208.

"Five out of seven days a week, if you stop by the terminal [or call] and you need to get out of here we can find something that is flying out," Veditz said. Passenger flights do not fly on most Sundays.

Guantanamo Bay spared Noel's death and destruction



Tropical Storm Noel brought 300 percent more precipitation than Guantanamo Bay's average for this time of year. Thanks to lessons learned from previous years, damage was minimal, like the ceilings that collapsed at the Bayview restaurant. (Photos by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin)



Story by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Wind swept across the rough seas of the Caribbean while rain pounded down from the heavens with the force of an angry god drenching everything and leaving a chaos of mud and flood. Devastation on this level had not been witnessed in the Caribbean since Hurricane Georges in 1998. The force of nature that produced all this havoc was the 14th tropical storm of this season. That force was Noel.

Noel developed into a tropical storm on Oct. 27, as an upper level, low pressure system collided with a tropical wave in the Caribbean Sea. The interaction produced 60 mph winds just before it hit Hispaniola and Cuba. Once the storm turned northward on Nov. 1, it became a hurricane. Noel was responsible for 148 deaths from flooding and mudslides, mostly on the island of Hispaniola.

When the storm hit Guantanamo Bay, it brought 300 percent more precipitation than Guantanamo's average for this time of year. The base set a rainfall record in 2005 during the October – November time frame so lessons learned then helped the naval station prepare for Noel, according to naval station public works officer, Cmdr. Jeffery Johnston.

"Based on the lessons learned that year [2005], significant drainage improvements were made in 2006 and 2007," said Johnston.

While much of the Caribbean incurred large

amounts of damage, Noel's impact on Guantanamo Bay was minimal. Progress made on drainage problems in the last two years kept the damage to a minimum except along parts of the fence line.

"The damage was relatively minor, but widespread. About a dozen power poles were damaged along the perimeter fence, and some speakers on the leeward side were also damaged. A couple of the wind turbines received minor damage from the high winds and numerous pot holes popped up on our roads. We were right in the middle of re-siding the chapel, so it took on some water," Johnston said.

The areas most affected by the storm were Guantanamo's popular beaches, which were subject to erosion from the ocean's ferocity.

"The wind and wave action scoured tons of sand off of Ferry Landing Beach. The beach is still closed due to water quality issues, but when it's reopened, there won't be nearly as much beach to enjoy," said Johnston.

Now that the 2007 hurricane season has entered its final month, Caribbean citizens are hopeful that the worst of the weather is behind them.

Sellen awards NFL's best halfway through season



Tom Brady
New England Patriots



James Harrison
Pittsburg Steelers



Adrian Peterson
Minnesota Vikings

Photos courtesy www.espn.com

By Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Records are falling midway through the NFL season and lots of surprises have fans on edge. The Detroit Lions and the Cleveland Browns, two teams believed to be going nowhere, are right in the middle of the playoff push. The St. Louis Rams, Denver Broncos and Philadelphia Eagles, all pre-season picks for post-season play, are virtually out of contention. Parity is more prevalent this year than ever and predicting NFL outcomes is almost impossible. With that said, I will stick to the facts and give you my mid-season Pat Sellen awards.

AFC Champions:
New England Patriots

I don't think this is a surprise to anyone. The Patriots are virtually unstoppable. Before I talk about the offense, let's not forget about the Patriots' 4th ranked defense.

This veteran squad led by Teddy Bruschi and Mike Vrabel has allowed only 16.3 points per game and have served notice to the league that the Pats are not all about offense. What can you say about the Patriots offense that has not already been said? They lead the

league in most offensive categories and have shown what's possible when Tom Brady gets a little help.

NFC Champions:
Dallas Cowboys

This award comes with much thought and research, though not much love. Based on best overall team performance, I have to give the nod to the Cowboys. The Cowboys are ranked 2nd in offense and 8th in defense and as a unit are the best in the NFC. The Cowboys sole loss came at the hands of the Patriots, which sets up a legitimate chance for revenge come Superbowl time.

League and Offensive MVP:
Tom Brady
New England Patriots

I hate to be so obvious with this pick, but who else qualifies? All the guy has done is throw for 2,686 yards and 33 touchdowns with only four interceptions, and a passer rating of 131.8. He's on pace to break several single-season records. The only other player that you might consider is his teammate Randy Moss who some argue is the reason for a lot of Brady's success. These two guys go together like peanut butter and jelly.

Defensive MVP:
James Harrison
Pittsburg Steelers

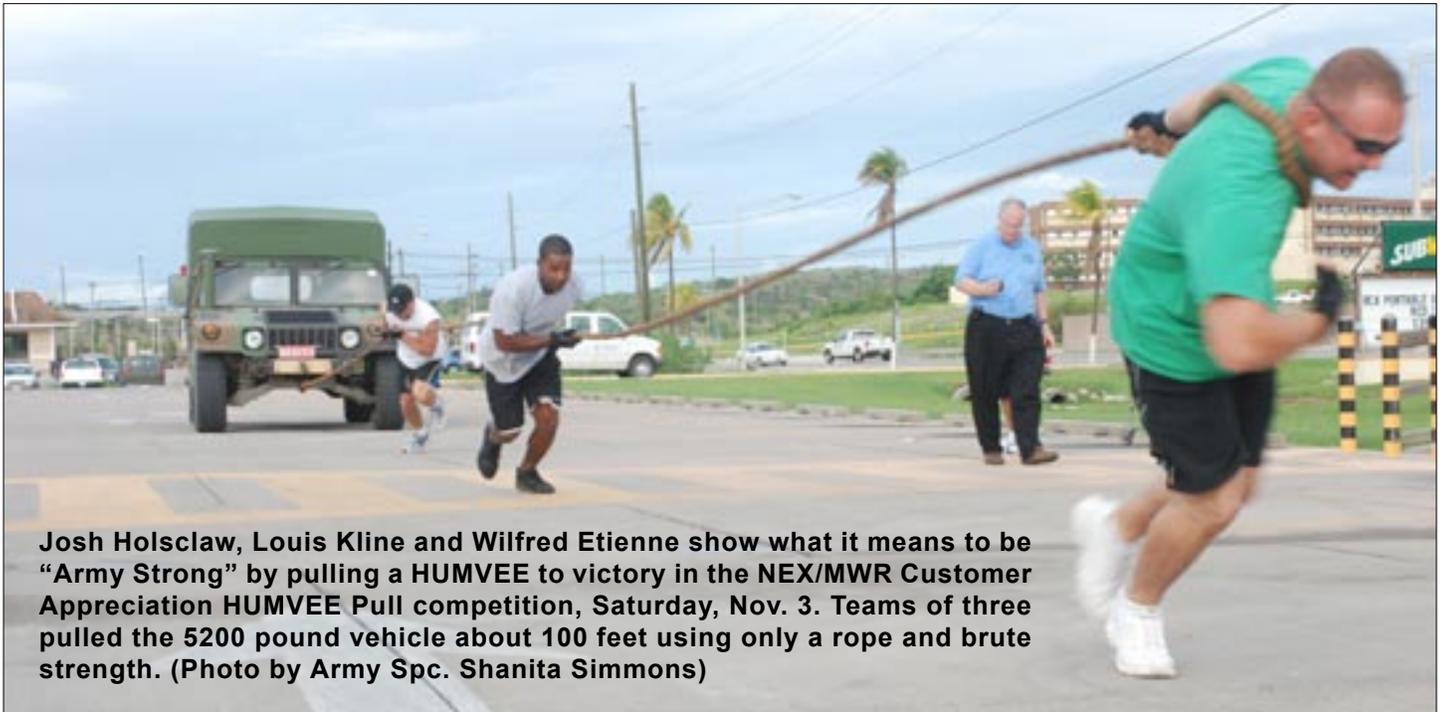
Harrison is the driving force on the league's number one defense. Harrison plays outside linebacker and has Steeler fans saying he's among the best ever. Harrison leads the team with 43 tackles, 6.5 sacks and three fumble recoveries, none of which are league leaders. Combined, however, they are good enough to get my vote for defensive MVP.

Rookie of the Half:
Adrian Peterson
Minnesota Vikings

Peterson has burst on the scene with 1,036 rushing yards, a 6.6 yard rushing average and eight touchdowns, all of which lead all league rushers through the first eight games. Peterson is already in the running for NFL Rookie of the Year.

With half of the season left to go, the only thing that is predictable is that there will plenty of hard hitting and touchdown tosses to take us to the end of the season.

5K Race and HUMVEE Pull highlight local athletic prowess



Josh Holsclaw, Louis Kline and Wilfred Etienne show what it means to be “Army Strong” by pulling a HUMVEE to victory in the NEX/MWR Customer Appreciation HUMVEE Pull competition, Saturday, Nov. 3. Teams of three pulled the 5200 pound vehicle about 100 feet using only a rope and brute strength. (Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons)

By Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Two sports events last Saturday highlighted local athletic prowess. The first was the NEX/MWR Customer Appreciation 5K Race. This event brought approximately 150 JTF Troopers, naval station personnel and civilians for a fast romp through Gitmo avenues. Two familiar faces in local running circles, Wilfredo Turrel and Melissa Belleman, dominated the race coming in at 17:50 and 20:42 respectively and each were awarded Overall Winners in the male and female divisions.



▲ Josh Holsclaw, Louis Kline, Wilfred Etienne of the 525th Military Police Battalion proudly display their award for soundly beating the competition in the NEX/MWR Customer Appreciation HUMVEE Pull, Saturday, Nov. 3. (Photo by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger) ▼ NEX/MWR Customer Appreciation 5K overall winners Wilfredo Turrel (17:50) and Melissa Belleman (20:42) hold up the winner’s bounty following the race Saturday. (Photo by Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen)

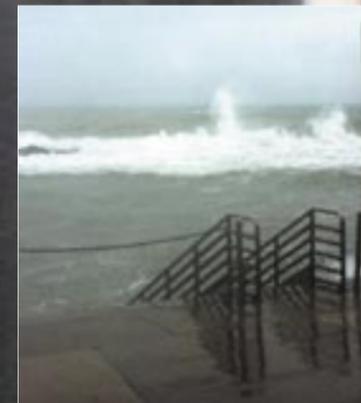
The second event, the HUMVEE Pull, also held as part of the NEX/MWR Customer Appreciation activities, featured five teams of large-muscled Troopers representing the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Each team had to drag a HUMVEE by rope for 100 feet. The team with the fastest time was awarded first place. That distinction went to Josh Holsclaw, Louis Kline and Wilfred Etienne of the 525th Military Police Battalion with a time of 15 seconds.



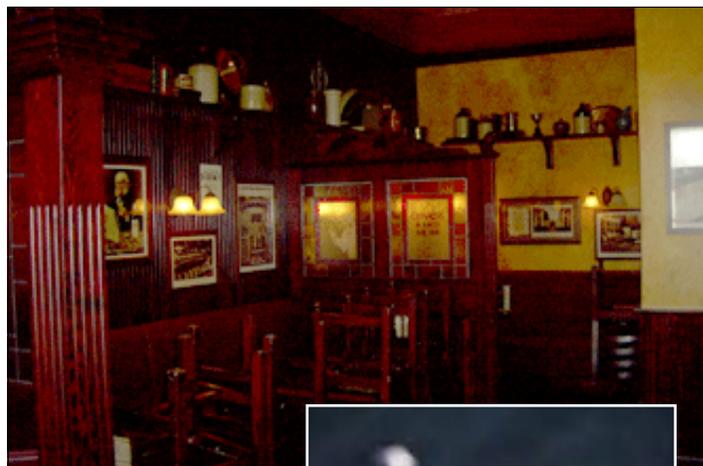
Noel Unleashes His Wrath on the Guantanamo Coastline

Tropical Storm Noel ravaged the shoreline of southeastern Cuba, bringing with him days of howling wind, pounding rain and high surf. Guantanamo Bay roadways and parking lots flooded, ferry and air traffic schedules were disrupted and beaches were closed for more than one week. Some older buildings on base suffered minor damage, but Noel spared most Gitmo structures. Many other parts of the Caribbean sustained much greater damage as warm water fed Noel's fury and turned him into a hurricane shortly after his 24-hour stall over northwestern Cuba.

*Photos by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin and Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert
Joint Task Force Guantanamo Public Affairs Office*



New turf, Taco Bell, Irish Pub coming to Gitmo



By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

To improve the quality of life of Joint Task Force Troopers and naval station personnel, a number of new building projects are underway. Three of these projects focus on improving morale by updating sports facilities and eating establishments.

The first of these projects is a complete renovation of Cooper Field Athletic Complex. The new field area will include a full size football/soccer field, two regulation size softball fields and a multi-purpose field. All new fields will be covered in state-of-the-art artificial turf that will drain well and be easy to maintain. For runners, there will be a six lane, 400 meter “soft” track around the football field. A new press box, equipped with restrooms and a concession stand, will be built to serve all three fields. Additionally, all-weather access pathways will connect the new fields to the gym. According to Eric Nikkel, Morale, Welfare and Recreation clubs’ director, this will make it so there is “no more mud walk.”

The project, priced at \$6.8 million, starts this week with the demolition of the current field area. Installation contractors are scheduled to arrive in January to start final construction.

“We’re shooting for opening on the 4th of July,” said Nikkel.

The next two projects are a result of feedback received from a 2006 food service survey and are meant to improve the Guantanamo dining and evening experience.

The existing A&W/KFC restaurant closed Sunday, Nov. 4, to prepare for renovation and the coming of the long-awaited Taco Bell. Demolition of the current facility began Wednesday, Nov. 7, and the job is projected to finish Feb. 15, 2008.

“When the project is completed, it will be a true food court like one you would find in a mall. It will be a triple storefront.” said Nikkel. Patrons will be able to order items from all three restaurants at one counter

All three restaurants will share a refrigerator, freezer,

preparation area and staff but will operate with separate accounting procedures.

The Taco Bell will be an express version of the restaurant and will not have a full menu. After the renovations, KFC’s expanded menu will offer on-the-bone chicken due to the addition of a pressure fryer. In the past, power supply problems prevented the addition of a pressure fryer. With new wiring installed, that problem will be solved.

Whether the new Taco Bell will stay open late like its counterparts in the states is an open question.

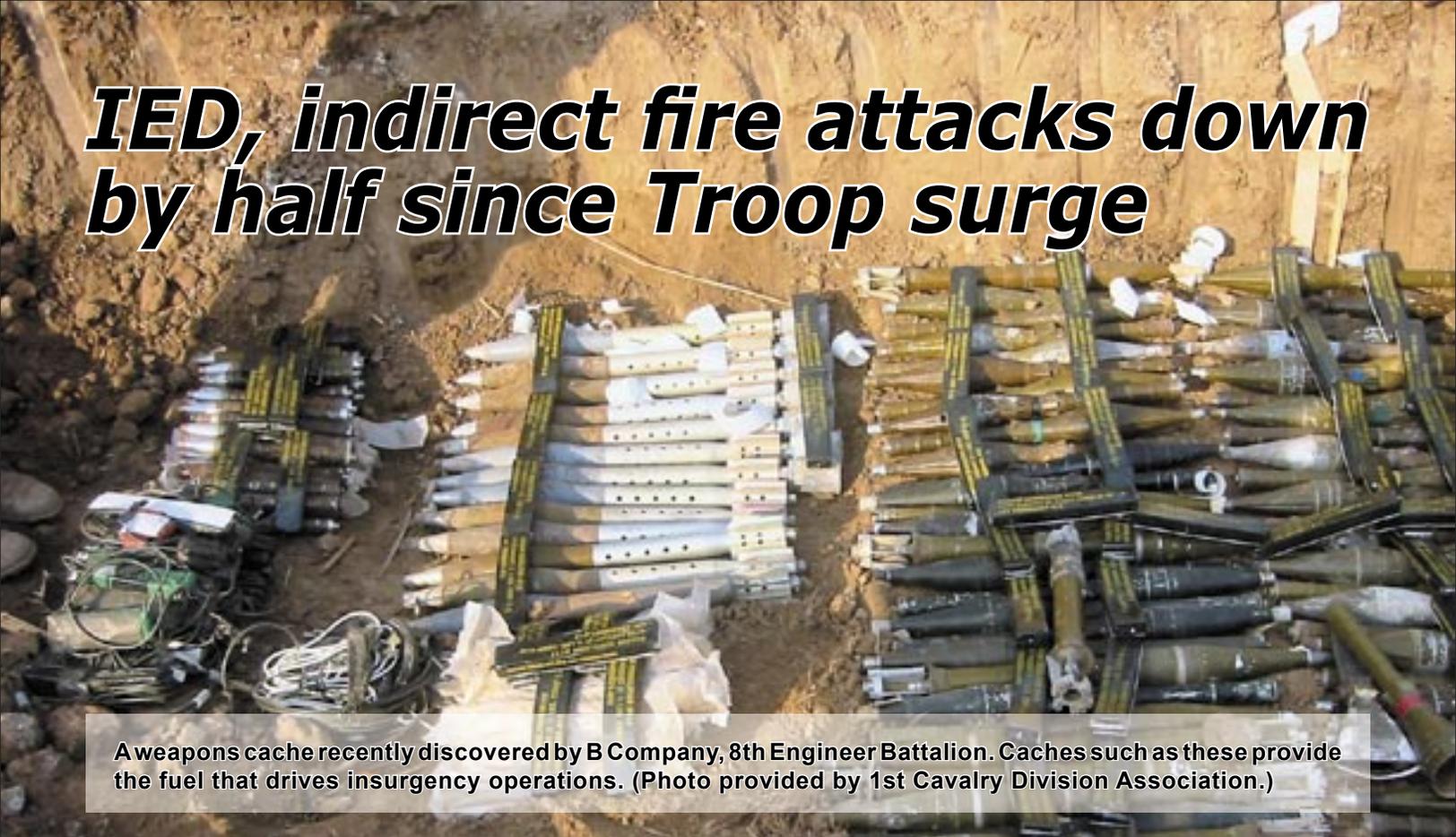
“We will explore late night dining. We may stay open until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays, but that all depends on our success,” said Nikkel.

The last of these overhauls will be the conversion of the Acey Deucey at the Windjammer into O’Kelly’s Irish Pub. The pub project will start Dec. 15 and finish around Feb. 15. The current room will be stripped to prepare for contractors to come in and install the new facility. The pub’s architectural components will be prefabricated in Canada by the construction company, Prairie Pacific Pubs, and then shipped here. The company has already come and measured the existing facility and is ready to get started.

The new pub will feature a fireplace, lounge chairs, oak double doors with stained glass windows and a new dart area. It will also offer a fresh menu and eight premium tap beers – Guinness, Harp, Newcastle, Smithwicks, Sam Adams, Blue Moon, Fosters and one seasonal brew, all served in traditional glass pints.



IED, indirect fire attacks down by half since Troop surge



A weapons cache recently discovered by B Company, 8th Engineer Battalion. Caches such as these provide the fuel that drives insurgency operations. (Photo provided by 1st Cavalry Division Association.)

By John J. Kruzal

American Forces Press Service

Improvised-explosive-device, mortar and rocket attacks have declined by 50 percent since the height of the troop surge in April, a Multinational Force Iraq spokesman said Monday, Nov. 5.

Related to this dramatic decrease is a rise in the number of weapons caches uncovered by coalition forces, Navy Rear Adm. Gregory J. Smith told reporters during a news conference in Baghdad.

“In April, when the majority of the surge forces had arrived in Iraq, the number of caches found spiked considerably, and in the ensuing months we’ve seen a steady increase,” Smith said of the 20,000 troop increase in Iraq.

A cache is a source of supplies, including weapons, munitions, IEDs or its components that are concealed and used in insurgency operations. “Simply put, it’s the fuel that drives the insurgency that has led to the death and destruction witnessed here in Iraq for the past several years,” he said.

In Iraq’s western province of Anbar this year, security forces have discovered 2,525 caches, more than doubling last year’s figure, making it the highest concentration of caches found anywhere in the country, Smith said. Diyala province, a direct beneficiary of the troop surge, has seen a dramatic four-fold increase of caches found and cleared over last year, from 165 to 529, he added.

“The surge has allowed our forces an opportunity to develop relationships with local citizens,” Smith said. “Gaining their trust and confidence, these local citizens have contributed

greatly to the increase in caches found, IEDs cleared, and insurgents detained.”

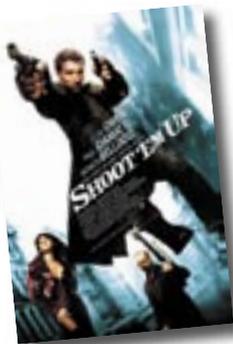
An increase in the effectiveness of Iraq’s security forces is another reason Smith offered for the climbing number of caches found. He cited stockpiles that Iraqi forces discovered recently in Balad, Baghdad, Kirkuk, Iskandariyah, Baqubah and Taji.

“Their efforts have no doubt helped lead to the decrease in IED explosions we are seeing across Iraq,” he said. Smith noted that troops recently discovered large numbers of explosively formed penetrators, a highly lethal version of IEDs.

Last month, coalition forces found a cache of weapons in Sada village that included one of the largest EFP stockpiles discovered to date, Smith said. The cache contained 120 fully-assembled EFPs, and scores of components used to fashion the homemade deadly charges, including some 150 copper discs, 600 pounds of C4 explosives, 100 mortar round and 30 107 mm rockets.

In Husseinayah last week, an Iraqi citizen led coalition forces to a building being used by insurgents as an EFP factory, where troops found roughly 10 fully-prepared projectiles of various sizes, including a 12-inch EFP -- among the largest found in Iraq. Coalition forces also seized some 90 copper plates, more than 200 pounds of C4 and other explosive-making materials including TNT, Smith said.

“Coalition forces will continue to work with our Iraqi partners as we move to sustainable security, a self-sustaining economy, and viable local, regional and national governance,” he said.



'Shoot 'Em Up' is hardcore POW!

By Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Rated: R - with good reason

Running Time: 90 very fast minutes

I swear this stuff is actually in the film.

Giamatti plays the villain with villainous glee. He's an intentional caricature of a villainous villain who commits villainy for villainous reasons. One does not ask for depth from such a role, merely a reason for our hero to shoot at the maniacal villain and his nefarious henchmen.

Back to the plot ... Hertz wants the baby so badly that he uses seemingly every hired gun, thug and shooter in America to get the kid. So Smith kills them all. He kills people so often that the exhilarating thrills can become exhausting. The film is a volcanically depraved love-letter to action movies of yore. By yore I mean way back in the late 1980s. If you've never heard of the '80s, ask your parents. Odds are they were there and they saw "Commando" or "Tango & Cash" or anything with his holiness Chuck Norris.

Back to the plot ... You know what? Forget it. The director did. I did. You will too. The plot becomes irrelevant and intentionally so. It's a fully intended guilty pleasure of a film, filled with inane dialogue, ridiculous plot twists, and absolutely lunatic action.

"Shoot 'Em Up" is a 90-minute shootout that'll leave your heart pounding and your brain a little dumber. Also, you'll want to pick up some carrots. They're good for your eyesight.

Rating: ★★★★★

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST			
<small>Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com</small>			
Saturday, Nov. 10	Sunday, Nov. 11	Monday, Nov. 12	
Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the mid-70's.	Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the mid-70's.	Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the mid-70's.	
 Isolated T-Storms Sunrise: 7:03 a.m. Sunset: 6:26 p.m. Chance of rain: 30%	 Partly Cloudy Sunrise: 6:03 a.m. Sunset: 5:25 p.m. Chance of rain: 20%	 Partly Cloudy Sunrise: 6:03 a.m. Sunset: 5:25 p.m. Chance of rain: 20%	
Tuesday, Nov. 13	Wednesday, Nov. 14	Thursday, Nov. 15	Friday, Nov. 16
Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.	Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.	Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.	Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.
 Sunrise: 6:04 a.m. Sunset: 5:24 p.m. Chance of Rain: 20% Partly Cloudy	 Sunrise: 6:05 a.m. Sunset: 5:24 p.m. Chance of Rain: 60% Scattered T-storms	 Sunrise: 6:05 a.m. Sunset: 5:24 p.m. Chance of Rain: 60% Scattered T-storms	 Sunrise: 6:06 a.m. Sunset: 5:23 p.m. Chance of Rain: 30% Scattered T-storms

Detainee transfer announced

The Department of Defense announced Monday, Nov. 4, the transfer of eleven detainees from Guantanamo Bay. Eight detainees were transferred to Afghanistan, and three to Jordan. These detainees were determined to be eligible for transfer following a comprehensive series of review processes conducted at Guantanamo.

The transfer is a demonstration of the United States' desire not to hold detainees any longer than necessary. It also underscores the processes put in place to assess each individual and make a determination about their detention while hostilities are ongoing – an unprecedented step in the history of warfare.

Approximately 80 detainees at Guantanamo are eligible for transfer or release. Departure of these detainees is subject to ongoing discussions between the United States and other nations.

Since 2002, over 450 detainees have departed Guantanamo for other countries including Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey, United Kingdom and Yemen.

There are approximately 320 detainees currently at Guantanamo.

Housing crunch from page 3

time. Our goal is to have all the renovations completed within a unit at the same time before moving onto the next unit,” said Vance.

Vance said that the renovations are necessary since many units are in bad shape. The units are being renovated in numerical order and Troopers should expect to be displaced for 10 days when their unit is up for repairs. During that period, affected Troopers will be housed in Camp America until they are authorized to return.

The addition of Cuzco Three and Bayhill will help alleviate overcrowding in Camp America, TK and Windward Loop. Troopers assigned to tenant units like the 525th Military Police Battalion are not issued meal cards; therefore, they often have to share one bedroom so that they have access to kitchen facilities. Those dynamics should change once the new housing is up and operational.

Photo by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger



Boots on the Ground

By Army Sgt. Jody Metzger and Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert

“Why did you choose to join the Air National Guard instead of the Active Duty Air Force?”

**Air Force Staff Sgt.
Mike Eversole**



I got out of active duty Army and joined the Air National Guard. I could still serve but be close to home.

**Air Force Staff Sgt.
Erin Hall**



I joined to be able to finish my education.

**Air Force Tech. Sgt.
Dawn Putzke**



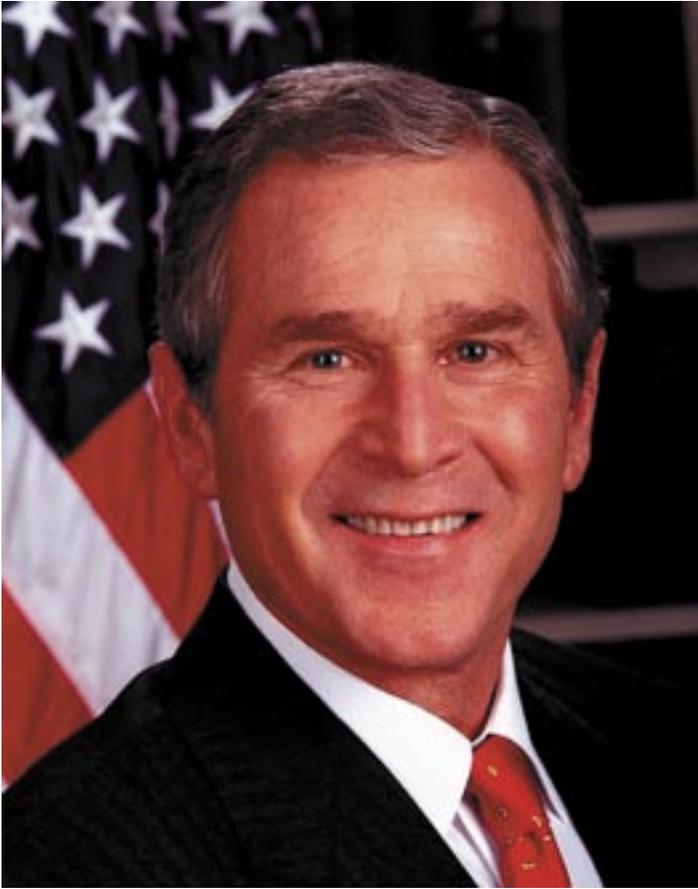
I was active duty Air Force, but I still wanted to serve my country.

**Air Force Airman 1st
Class Pablo Badillo**



I want to use my Air Force training as an electrical engineer in my civilian job.

Veterans Day honors extraordinary Americans



A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

Oct. 31, 2007

Throughout our history, America has been protected by patriots who cherished liberty and made great sacrifices to advance the cause of freedom. The brave members of the United States Armed Forces have answered the call to serve our Nation, ready to give all for their country. On Veterans Day, we honor these extraordinary Americans for their service and sacrifice, and we pay tribute to the legacy of freedom and peace that they have given our great Nation.

In times of war and of peace, our men and women in uniform stepped forward to defend their fellow citizens and the country they love. They shouldered great responsibility and lived up to the highest standards of duty and honor. Our veterans held fast against determined and ruthless enemies and helped save the world from tyranny



and terror. They ensured that America remained what our founders meant her to be: a light to the nations, spreading the good news of human freedom to the darkest corners of the earth.

Like the heroes before them, today a new generation of men and women are fighting for freedom around the globe. Their determination, courage, and sacrifice are laying the foundation for a more secure and peaceful world.

Veterans Day is dedicated to the extraordinary Americans who protected our freedom in years past, and to those who protect it today. They represent the very best of our Nation. Every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, and Coast Guardsman has earned the lasting gratitude of the American people, and their service and sacrifice will be remembered forever. In the words of Abraham Lincoln: “. . . let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the Nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle . . .” On this Veterans Day, I ask all Americans to express their appreciation to our Nation’s veterans.

With respect for and in recognition of the contributions our service men and women have made to the cause of peace and freedom around the world, the Congress has provided (5 U.S.C. 6103(a)) that November 11 of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor our Nation’s veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2007, as Veterans Day and urge all Americans to observe November 11 through November 17, 2007, as National Veterans Awareness Week. I encourage all Americans to recognize the valor and sacrifice of our veterans through ceremonies and prayers. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to display the flag of the United States and to support and participate in patriotic activities in their communities. I invite civic

and fraternal organizations, places of worship, schools, businesses, unions, and the media to support this national observance with commemorative expressions and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

GEORGE W. BUSH
President of the United States of America

Coast Guard Petty Officer named Junior Enlisted Trooper of the Year

Story by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Everyone stops to talk to Petty Officer 3rd Class William Holcomb as they walk by. He has a hard time even getting away from his desk when he tries to make his way outside several people stop to greet him. Walking from the parking lot to the complex of Coast Guard trailers, Master Chief Roger Holland, Chief of the Boats, 308th Port Security Unit, imitates the other Coasties by offering his ‘Good morning’ and patting Holcomb on the shoulder.

“Ever since he was named Junior Enlisted Trooper of the Year he makes us call him Junior Enlisted Trooper of the Year,” Holland said. He grins at Holcomb. “How are you today, Junior Enlisted Trooper of the Year?” he asks. Holcomb smiles sheepishly out of the corner of his mouth and turns his eyes upward, clearly embarrassed by his chief’s good natured ribbing.

Holcomb, a yeoman with the 308th Port Security Unit, was named the Junior Enlisted Trooper of the Year last month for his dedication to his administrative responsibilities, his willingness to go beyond the parameters of his specific job – taking on several collateral duties – and his involvement in unit recreational activities.

“I often rely on Petty Officer Holcomb when I need a crewman to get underway on short notice,” Holland explained, boasting about Holcomb’s supplementary job qualifications. “He’s always there when I need him. His crewman qualification was not a requirement of his rate, but it was a thing he accomplished because he knew it would be useful during this deployment.”

Part of the Coast Guard Reserve, the 308th deployed here to provide



anti-terrorism force protection for the harbor and shore-side facilities for Joint Task Force Guantanamo in support of the Global War on Terror. They are also tasked with providing safe, fast, and efficient transport for distinguished visitors.

Holcomb, who in his civilian career assists people in processing disability claims for the Social Security Administration, believes his job and the mission of his unit, play an integral part of both naval station and JTF missions.

A native of Northern Louisiana, Holcomb’s easy southern drawl is only compounded by his laid-back attitude – making him a quintessential Bayou State illustration of Southern courtesy. He is a self-proclaimed outdoorsman whose passion for fishing, like his dedication to his work, leads him to invest 100 percent into his endeavors, only further evidenced

by his recent three-foot Tarpon catch in the Guantanamo River.

“I get outside as much as I can,” said Holcomb, his zeal becoming much more visible. “We’ve had our share of issues here, just like any other deployed unit... But, keeping busy with things I like helps the time go easier.”

Holcomb joined the Coast Guard nearly three years ago, and at 36 years old he was looking simply to serve his country. Reluctant to ‘toot his own horn’ or even to really speak about himself, Holcomb believes his success on this, his first, deployment can be directly attributed to his fellow Coast Guardsmen in the 308th.

“This is a really good group of guys,” Holcomb explained. “We’re a large unit and we’re away from our home base, but the people make it a lot easier for us to do the job we came here to do.”

AROUND THE

JTF



▲ The Motor City Madman basks in the adoration of devoted fans, Air National Guardsmen from the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, Thursday, Nov. 1. Former “Amboy Dukes” front man, Ted Nugent, signed autographs for Troopers during the NEX and MWR Customer Appreciation Weekend on anything they brought with them – cds, guitars and faces included. (Photo provided by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Dawn Putzke)



▲ The band “Edison” rocks out Saturday, Nov. 3, at the Windjammer. The group performed for Troopers as part of the NEX and MWR Customer Appreciation Weekend. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)



◀ Navy Command Master Chief Bradley N. LeVault gets a flu shot from Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jolando Lightner, Friday, Nov. 2, at one of several sites set up in Camp America. Influenza shots are recommended for all Troopers once a year. (Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons)