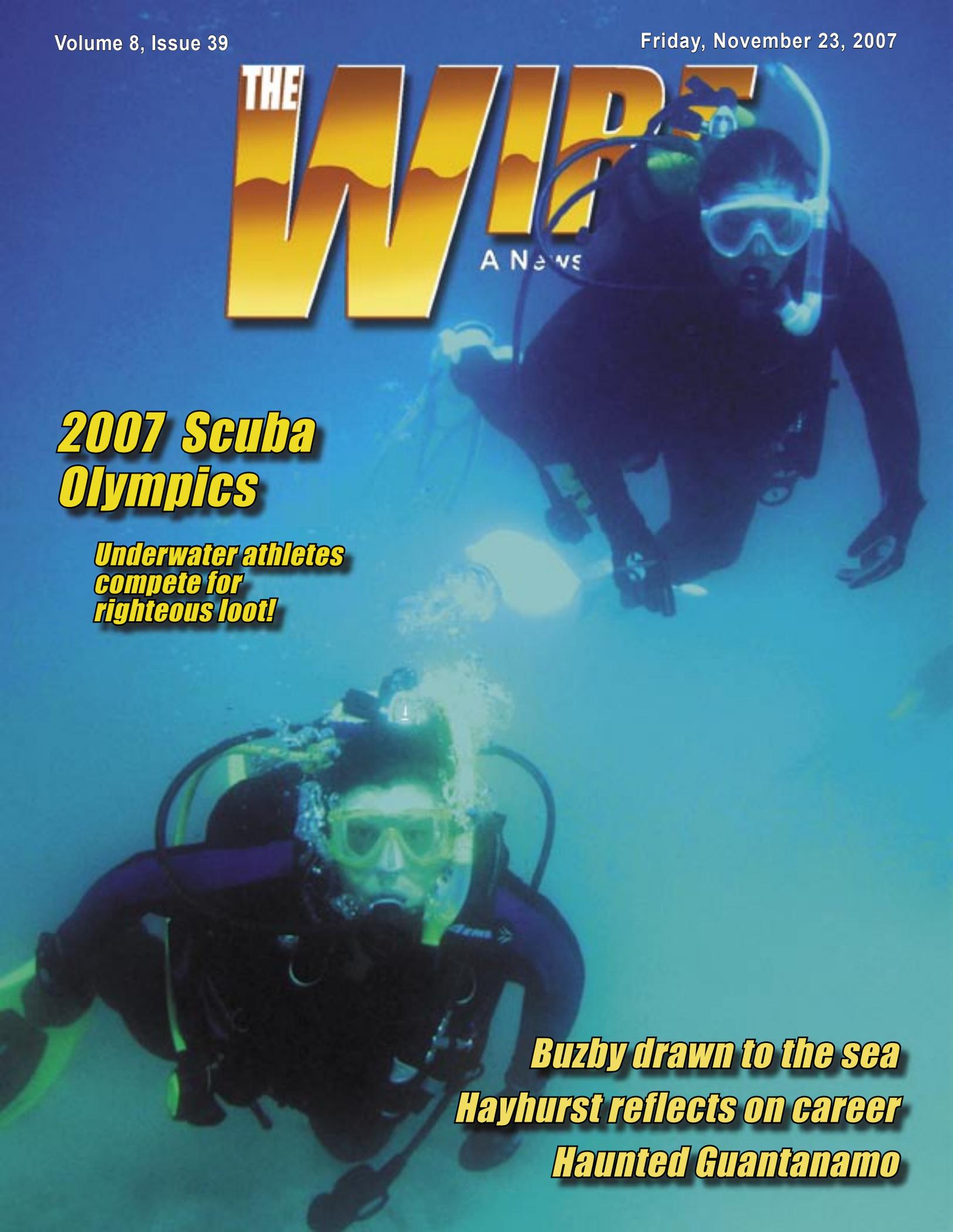


THE WIRE

A NEWS



2007 Scuba Olympics

Underwater athletes compete for righteous loot!

***Buzby drawn to the sea
Hayhurst reflects on career
Haunted Guantanamo***

Troopers have reasons for thankfulness and vigilance



**By Navy Command Master Chief
Otis N. Carolina**

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
NEGB Command Master Chief

In just a few days or so a period in the year we call the holiday season will be in full swing. It begins with Thanksgiving and is soon followed by Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and New Years. These are often thought of as festive and joyous times for all; however, for many this is not always true.

This period often brings about thoughts of time shared with family and friends, causing some to feel lonely, sad or depressed. Others may simply focus their attention to other matters and lose focus on what is really important and what their primary mission is.

Whatever your emotions are as the season begins, there is no need to suffer in silence or feel left out and alone. There are many ways you can enjoy the season even though you are away from all the comforts and celebrations of the holiday season. Reach out to family and friends via phone and or email. If you do not have phone or internet service in your particular quarters or housing area, utilize one of the numerous

Morale, Welfare & Recreation facilities available.

During this period I ask that each of us pay more attention to the disposition of our fellow Sailors, Soldiers, Marines, Airmen and Coastguardsmen – Warriors all. If someone seems a bit distant, try and get their attention and bring them back to us. Notify his or her chain of command if need be. Not everyone may want to go to the galley for their holiday meals, so if your idea of a great time is a quiet time, organize dinner or other activities with your housemates or office personnel.

Thanksgiving is a time for reflection and giving thanks for all we have been fortunate to experience throughout the year and in our lives. Use – not just this Thanksgiving – but a moment of each day to give thanks for fellow service members, family, friends and the great country that we all serve.

Remember, your contributions here are a part of a mission that promotes peace and is vital to the security and safety of the entire free world. Let me be the first to again offer my thanks to you again for serving and to wish you a happy and festive Thanksgiving.

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ON THE COVER:

Scuba divers participate in the second Scuba Olympics sponsored by the Reef Raiders Dive Club. Turn to pages 8-9 to check out the photos! (Photo by Army 1st Lt. Kevin Cowan)



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

Buzby drawn to the sea by his distinguished great-uncle

By Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

“I can’t say there are civilian experiences that have brought me to this point – I don’t remember a time when I didn’t wear the uniform,” Rear Adm. Mark “Buz” Buzby quips, his hands folded neatly upon the spotless glass of his precisely put together office table.

An impressive collection of challenge coins are displayed proudly from their casings beneath the table’s surface. “I was 10 years old when I decided I wanted to be in the Navy. My great-uncle placed his Medal of Honor around my neck and I knew that is what I wanted to do. I wanted to serve.”

An office clock marks the hour with bells reminiscent of a nautical theme – beckoning days of wooden ships and iron men.

“I first put the uniform on at 14 years old,” Buzby smiled. “I attended Admiral Farragut Academy in Pine Beach, New Jersey; a naval high school and I had to beg my parents to send me.”

Buzby, a 1979 graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, recently marked six months as commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. He jokes that this assignment will mark the longest period he has ever – in his military career – spent ashore.

Often, the admiral’s staff will tell you, when riding across the bay in one of the Coast Guard’s Viper boats, he will move the boat coxswain aside and take the boat’s helm, if even just for a moment.

Buzby, a seasoned sea dog with salt water coursing in his veins, hails from a family with a naval history that runs as deep as the Marianas Trench. He is the grand-nephew of the most highly decorated medical officer in U.S. Navy history, Vice Adm. Joel Boone. Buzby credits his

uncle’s valor in service as the inspiration for his lengthy maritime career.

Boone, a veteran of World War I, served with the 6th Regiment, U.S. Marines, near Vierzy, France. For his service he was awarded the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, three Silver Stars and three Purple Hearts. He was the first medical officer to have a ship, the Frigate U.S.S. Boone, named in his honor.

Coincidentally, Buzby’s home in Guantanamo Bay, the Catlin House, is named for Marine Brig. Gen. Albertus Catlin, the man who commanded the 6th Regiment in France and recommended Boone for his Medal of Honor.

Buzby draws inspiration not only from his seafaring history, but also from the Troopers he commands. They are a reason for the patriotism and strong sense of pride that guides his leadership.

“This is the finest group of young Americans I have ever had the pleasure of working with,” Buzby said. “I am continuously impressed by their levels of professionalism and the dedication to their job that these Soldiers and Sailors exhibit



Rear Adm. Mark Buzby, as a child, with his uncle Vice Adm. Joel Boone. Buzby credits Boone, the most highly decorated medical officer in U.S. Navy history, as the inspiration for his distinguished naval career. (Photo courtesy Rear Adm. Mark Buzby)

everyday. My goal for the rest of this tour is – just as it has been until this point – to make the quality of life better for Troopers who do not work in a very nice place.”

Buzby spent Thanksgiving Day with the Troops of the JTF. He and his wife, Gina toured the camps and galleys to greet service members and thank them for their dedication.

“The Troopers really are my family, at least this year,” Buzby said. “I will spend the majority of the day with them, as family should.”

Hayhurst credits enlisted service as key to leadership success

Story and photos by Army Spc.
Shanita Simmons

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

As the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion commander walks through Camp Delta, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, he reflects upon an earlier period in his 29-year Navy career when he served as the executive officer of U.S. Naval Station here.

The activation of Joint Task Force Guantanamo took place during a period of Navy-wide downsizing in 2002 where the population of U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay was reduced to approximately 2,300 Navy and Marine Corps personnel, family members and civilians. The residents here were accustomed to a peaceful and quiet lifestyle.

This all changed after Sept. 11, 2001 when the population swelled to over 7,000 people with the addition of the Joint Task Force. Serving as naval station executive officer from June 2004 to October 2006, Cmdr. Jeffrey Hayhurst was a major influence in implementing the service and support changes required to support the new JTF mission at Guantanamo Bay.

Hayhurst worked very closely with JTF leadership and became well-versed working within a joint environment. Since then, the Navy's detainee mission at Guantanamo Bay has evolved from what was once known as a provisional guard to what is now the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion. Less than a year after serving as the naval station's executive officer, Hayhurst returned to Guantanamo Bay to serve in one of the most important roles of his career – as commander of the NEGB. Hayhurst is the third commanding officer since the commissioning of the NEGB in Jan. 2006.

“It is a great honor for any military officer to get the opportunity to command,” said Hayhurst. “The



Navy Cmdr. Jeffrey Hayhurst, commander of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, briefs Mr. Robert W. Rodriguez, Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary of the Army for Manpower & Reserve Affairs, on Camp Delta operations, Nov. 15.

Troopers here handle the mission in such a professional manner that it makes me proud to serve with them.”

When Hayhurst stands before the Sailors assigned to NEGB, he exudes a great sense of confidence, courage and accomplishment. His primary responsibility is the safety, welfare, and well-being of nearly 600 Sailors employed in the largest guard force in the U.S. Navy, as well as the safe and humane care and custody of unlawful enemy combatants in Camp Delta.

Hayhurst's smooth transition to his new position occurred largely due to his previous relationship with JTF leaders and familiarity with the JTF mission. He brings a wealth of experience beginning with his enlisted service as a chief boatswain's mate before being commissioned an ensign many years ago.

Hayhurst did not arrive here with a checklist of new goals and objectives and does not believe in trying to fix something that is not broken. Hayhurst said his main goal is to maintain and improve on the phenomenal job currently being performed by the Troopers here.

“I want to empower the senior leadership and provide them with the tools they need to succeed,”

said Hayhurst. “No job in the Navy prepares NEGB Sailors to do what they do on a daily basis here. There is no [existing Navy] skill set that prepares them for this job.”

Hayhurst said that Sailors were initially called upon to support the JTF mission in 2005. They arrived here as Individual Augmentees sent from various Navy commands to serve as guards within the JTF detention facilities. The duty has changed somewhat since then. The majority of Sailors no longer serve as IA's; they serve as members of a well-trained guard force that is here on permanent duty status for a year or more.

As commanding officer, Hayhurst said that one of his greatest challenges is ensuring that his Sailors receive appropriate training and use the skills they learn to protect themselves while providing a safe and secure environment for detainees.

“One challenge is overseeing a detention facility that is partially manned by Sailors who do not have a law enforcement background,” said Hayhurst. “However, the young Sailors here of various Navy ratings have done a phenomenal job. The

Continued on page 13

“Big Picture” reasons to be thankful right now

By Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

On a couple of pages in this Thanksgiving week issue of *The Wire*, we’re reminded of many reasons to be thankful, reasons that certainly affect us profoundly in the here and now. Command Master Chief Carolina in his “Trooper to Trooper” article calls upon us to be thankful for friends and family, both here and at home. Chaplain Glenvil Gregory in his “Life and Spirit” article encourages us to be thankful for God’s blessings and exhorts us to share those blessings with each other. Both articles compel us to consider reasons for Thanksgiving that are personal, even spiritual.

As the editor of our news service and newspaper here always looking for the “big picture,” I’m the kind who scans the Internet and news magazines looking for evidence that better things are happening to people and places where nothing good seems to have happened in a long time. I’m also the kind of guy who wonders whether the uniforms we wear and the missions we perform generate any kind of respect in a nation notorious for its harsh judgments of morally complex institutions.

A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, I’m grateful this year, this month, this week that there are “big picture” reasons to be thankful. I’m especially thankful that circumstances for American Warrior and Iraqi citizens are better now than they were six months to a year ago.

Liz Sly, the Chicago Tribune’s Middle East chief correspondent, who has been reporting from Baghdad since April, 2003, wrote on Nov. 18 of many hopeful, though tentative, indicators of progress.

- Number of explosives reduced from 1,641 in March to 763 in October
- Mortar attacks down from 224 in Baghdad in June to 53 in October
- Total number of bombings dropped almost 50 percent since March
- 750 killed in Iraq in October; down from 2,172 last December (Associated Press)
- U.S. casualties dropped from the year’s monthly high of 126 in March to 38 in



Photo courtesy by Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker

Rahim, a young Iraqi boy, pictured here with Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker in 2003 at the Iraqi port and rail-head of Umm Qasr, used to hang around Troopers when they arrived to transfer supplies from trucks to railcars. Substantially fewer Iraqi citizens have died from acts of terrorism and sectarian strife in 2007 than last year.

October

• In Baghdad alone, car bomb attacks dropped from 38 last December to 15 in October; injuries to civilians dropped from 1,099 last December to 450 in October; total of bodies found dropped from 1,030 in December to 168 in October (McLachey’s Baghdad Bureau)

Of course, not all that Sly documents is positive. Total U.S. casualties for the year are higher this year than any year since the invasion in 2003 and IED attacks in Baghdad increased between last December and October of this year. Nevertheless, there is incremental evidence of progress and for that – for our fellow Troopers in Iraq and for the Iraqi citizens we are pledged to protect – I am profoundly thankful.

I’m also thankful that the uniforms we wear and the missions we perform around the world continue to generate the confidence of the majority of America’s citizens. When the Gallup Poll asks citizens: “How much confidence you, yourself, have in each one [named American institutions] – a great deal, quite a lot, some or very little?” – the responses are telling.

Seventy-three percent of Americans report “a great deal” or “quite a lot” of

confidence in the military between 2001 through 2007. This compares to average confidence levels of 30.9 percent for television news and 24.4 percent for Congress (both organizations that purport to represent the interests and views of Americans) over the same time period.

A recent New York Times/CBS News Poll reported in the Times on Sept. 10 that Americans trust military commanders far more than the administration or Congress to “bring the war in Iraq to a successful end.” I don’t think it’s a stretch to infer profound gratitude from the majority of Americans for the work we do.

I am thankful for friends and family, and for God’s blessings, but I am also thankful that I’m a member of an institution that continues to command respect for the difficult and complex missions it assumes. I’m thankful that the U.S. military is committed to protecting its Warriors, to saving the lives of foreigners it has sworn to protect and to preserving our nation’s freedoms.

“Good people sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf.”
– (attributed to George Orwell)

Football keeps fans guessing. NASCAR belongs to Johnson.



Driver Jimmie Johnson celebrates with his crew after winning the Nextel Cup Championship at the Homestead-Miami Speedway Nov. 18 in Homestead, Fla.

By Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

College Football

Another wild weekend in college football has the nation scratching its head and holding its breath. Both No. 2 Oregon and No. 4 Oklahoma were upset and lost any shot at a national championship. West Virginia jumped to the No. 3 position and Ohio St. moved up to No. 5, but both need some help to make it to the big game. Arkansas visits No. 1 LSU, Nov. 23, and No. 2 Kansas plays No. 4 Missouri, Nov. 24. Neither game will be a pushover. After last weekend's surprises, I am not even going to guess who will be left standing after this weekend.

Pro Football

After ten games in the NFL season there is little doubt left who the best teams are in each conference. In the NFC, the Dallas Cowboys and the Green Bay Packers rule. This weekend the Cowboys played a tough game against the Redskins, but were able to turn it on when they needed to as Tony Romo and

Terrell Owens hooked up four times for touchdowns. In Green Bay the Packers are 9-1 for the first time in the post Lombardi era. Brett Favre and the Packers made quick work of the Panthers on Sunday, 31-17. The Cowboys and Packers are headed for a special Thursday night NFC showdown, Nov. 29, to see who will take the lead for home field advantage in the playoffs.

In the AFC it is one team and one team only – the New England Patriots. In all my years of watching football, I have never seen a more complete and totally dominant football team. I think this team pretty much does what it wants on the field. I would not be shocked to find out that Tom Brady and Randy Moss conspired after the Romo/T.O. show to put on their own four touchdown show, which they did all in the first half of their 56-10 stomping of the Buffalo Bills. I feel sorry for the next team that plays them. ... Guess what, Philly – you're next!

Stock Car Racing

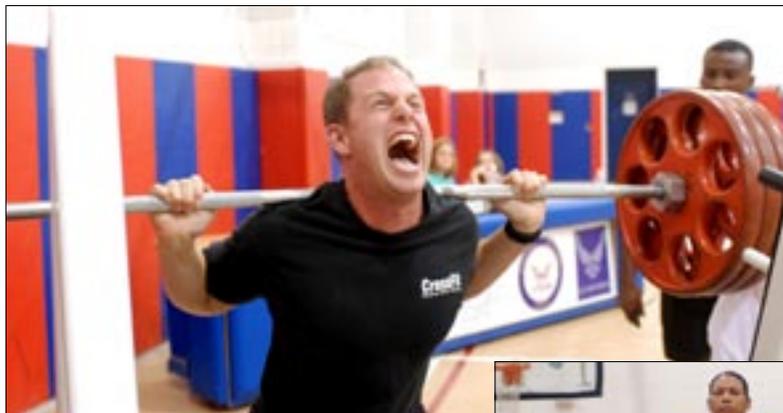
Jimmie Johnson became only the 10th



Dallas Cowboys Quarterback Tony Romo led his team to victory over the Washington Redskins Nov. 18. Romo threw four touchdown passes to Terrell Owens.

driver in NASCAR history to win back-to-back points championships. Johnson beat out his teammate and friend Jeff Gordon by 77 points, the most ever since the current points system was adopted. Gordon had 30 top ten finishes which was a season record but not enough to overcome the Johnson's 10 wins, four of which came during the final 10 races. Johnson has never finished less than fifth in the points championships since he entered the series. This 33 year-old driver keeps getting better and better! Getting lost in all the hoopla at the Homestead-Miami Speedway was Matt Kenseth's second win of the season. The top ten drivers will be honored at NASCAR's banquet in New York City next month. The top ten to be recognized are Jimmie Johnson, Jeff Gordon, Clint Boyer, Matt Kenseth, Kyle Busch, Tony Stewart, Kurt Busch, Jeff Burton, Carl Edwards and Kevin Harvick.

Guantanamo's athletes challenge the weights and the water



Story and photos by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

It was a busy weekend in the sporting world as Guantanamo's strongest and most determined battled it out in two Morale, Welfare & Recreation sponsored extreme competitions. The first of these was the Power Lifting Contest, Nov. 16, and the Windward to Leeward Bay Swim the next morning.

The scene was set at Denich Gym Friday evening for the strongest of the strong to demonstrate their brute force to all in attendance. Contestants fought through three events: the squat, the dead lift and the bench press. Throughout the challenge, Guantanamo's brawniest astonished crowds as they heaved weights as massive as 500 pounds. Those who proved triumphant walked away with trophies, but all competitors showed great strength and resolve.

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Lloyd Heflin took home the trophy for the males, lifting a combined total of 1,350 pounds in all three events while Navy Lt. Vanessa Dunn triumphed in the female class, boosting a total of 500 pounds in all three events. The winners were judged by how much they lifted in proportion to their body weight. Though he did not win, one of the most impressive displays of the evening was Army Sgt. Duriel Randolph's bench



press of 505 pounds.

The next morning while the dew's veneer was still visible, 28 swimmers took to the water to prove their strength and endurance. The event started at Phillip's Dive Park and required the swimmers to battle powerful currents all the way to the leeward beach.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph Home, a professional dive instructor and

rescue diver, convinced a pal to join him in the swim. Home showed impressive tenacity as he not only finished the swim, but pushed and motivated his friend and other swimmers to keep going.

"I would recommend for others who wish to participate in a future swim that they learn how to do multiple swimming techniques so when you get tired of one, you can switch to another," Home said.

The swim was not presented as a competition, but rather as a challenge to the participants. No trophies were awarded to winners; instead, certificates of completion were given to all who rose to the challenge. Thankfully, unlike last year, dreaded jelly fish were nowhere to be found.





Pictured from the left are Reef Raiders Scuba Olympics winners Greg Seltzer and Blake Adams in third place, Tony Banoub and M.J. Lewis in second place and first place winners Wally Cannon and John Gruden. (Photo provided by Reef Raiders Dive Club)

2007 Scuba Olympics

Story and photos by
1st Lt. Kevin Cowan

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Reef Raiders Dive Club hosted their second Scuba Olympics, Nov. 18, at Phillips Dive Park to the delight of 22 participants. Events designed to test diver's skills varied from walking a tight rope to the melon relay to musical chairs. Most divers agreed that the musical chairs event was the most challenging, so it wasn't all about fun and games.

Amber Dach, who helped organize the Scuba Olympics, says one of the main reasons for holding the event was for the camaraderie. "It's a chance for us to get together and do something for the diving community," says Dach. "And, we've got a lot of great prizes to give away!"

So, the skill and hard training these athletes pride themselves on was not for naught. A cookout followed the competition where the winners received prizes and recognition.

So until the torch burns again at Gitmo, train hard olympians and dive deep!

Haunted Guantanamo

By Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Paula Leary stands at the edge of the large four-poster bed she and her husband share. Her shoes make a soft swishing noise as she shuffles along the tile floor, pulling at each of the bed's corners and flattening its sheets. While smoothing the large-print quilt over the pillows, she glances across her minimally furnished bedroom toward the door. Out of the corner of her eye she sees a tall dark-haired man walk from the living room of the base commander's rambling two-story home into the bathroom.

"Mark," she calls to her husband through the door. Silence comes from the bathroom. "Mark, is that you?" she calls to him again. She ventures toward the door just in time to see the khaki clad man turn and walk back through the door to the living room. "Mark?" she again calls to her husband. She walks through the living room and peers through the front window. Her husband's truck . . . not in the driveway. "Strange," she thinks to herself and goes on about her chores.

"That was the first time I saw . . . whatever that was. I told my husband about it. I said I thought I was going crazy, and he said I probably was," Leary joked, her cheerful face framed by the plush white couch of her sitting area. "I'm not one who believes in ghosts necessarily, but I have seen that person three times. So, I have to acknowledge there

is something here."

The room in the Leary's home has been home to base commanders here for generations. The space in which the apparition appears is the Roosevelt addition, built in 1943 for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's visit to Guantanamo Bay. By all accounts, the male figure materializes near the entrance to the bedroom and disappears when it reaches the living area.

"Once he came in and peeked around the corner," Leary said. "I think he was just looking to see if I was there. . . . It seems to me that he is not hostile or anything like that. I actually think, maybe, that he had the time of his life here; and so then wanted to come back. . ." her voice trails off. "I think he just wants to know there is someone else in the house. I see him and he sees me."

Leary is not the first to report supernatural activity in that house. Debbie Buehn, the wife of a previous base commander, Capt. Bob Buehn, reported hearing very boisterous men's laughter coming from the kitchen of the house – a phenomenon Leary confirms.

Deer Point, where the Leary's home is situated, has a very haunted history. It was the site of Marine camps from 1901 until about 1920. Many neighbors of the Leary's have reported spectres in their homes as well. The real supernatural score, however, is the Bayview Club just down the street.

Built in 1943 as an Officer's Club, the Bayview has four notorious hauntings, but

perhaps the most prominent is the poltergeist the club staff calls, 'the woman in white.'

"She was a former MWR wife, well Special Services director's wife – that's when they were still called Special Services," explained Eric Nikkel, the Morale Welfare and Recreation clubs director here. "There used to be an apartment up there, and that's where the couple lived. . . . There was never any foul play or anything; one day she was just found dead in the bathtub upstairs."

The woman in white is said to be elderly with white hair and a long white dress. She is often seen seated in one of the club's front, second-floor windows, looking out over what is now the parking lot.

"She has a chair that she sits in. Sometimes the staff would move it to the other side of the room and the next morning it would be right back where it started," Nikkel said.

The ghostly woman, who has also been spotted at the top of the stairs, is blamed for lights switching off and on when no one is inside the club, sewing machines turning on and making high-pitched 'squealing' sounds, and even for the fire of 2004 started inside the T-shirt shop that used to be housed in the club.

I think this may just be one of those places that has a lot of emotional impact on people," Leary said. "This was not an easy place to live in the early part of the 1900's. There just seems to really be a lot of energy tied to this place."

Hope award recognizes selfless service to Troopers

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard each honored one of their own at a Pentagon ceremony, Nov. 19, with an award named for actor-comedian Bob Hope.

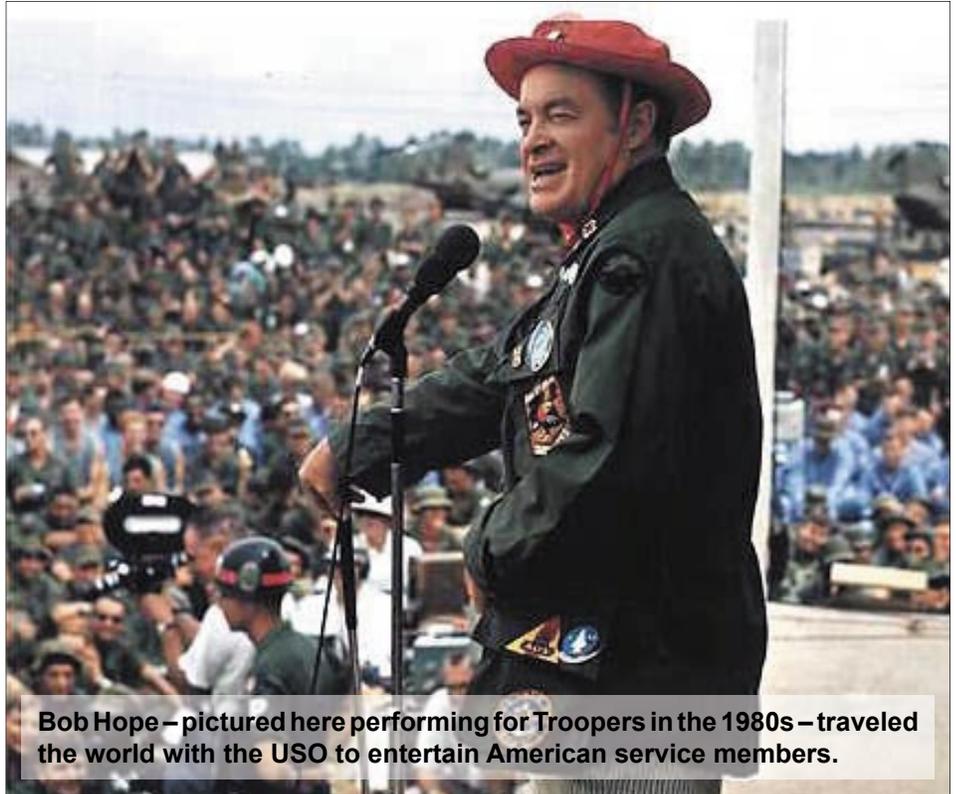
Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. hosted the Spirit of Hope Awards ceremony.

The award honors Hope's values of duty, honor, courage, loyalty, commitment, integrity and selfless dedication, said Michael Kagin, the award's originator. It recognizes individuals or organizations who have "selflessly contributed an extraordinary amount of time, talent or resources to significantly enhance the quality of life of servicemembers around the world," he said.

Bob Hope traveled the world under the United Service Organizations banner to entertain American servicemembers wherever they were stationed. His first USO show was at March Field, Calif., in 1941, and his last USO tour entertained forces in the Persian Gulf War in 1990. The U.S. Congress recognized Hope at an honorary veteran of the U.S. armed forces. He died in 2003, two months after his 100th birthday.

The Army recognized retired Chaplain (Col.) Lyle Metzler for his lifelong contributions. Metzler served two tours in Vietnam as a Special Forces officer. He retired from the military and became a chaplain, where he became dedicated to working with soldiers and their families. In 2005, he volunteered to serve as chaplain for the 145th Medical Battalion and its five associated units as it deployed to Afghanistan. He served as a personal mentor and counselor to several soldiers and their families.

The Navy honored James W. Carrier for his efforts to improve the lives of veterans and for aid to wounded warriors. Carrier helped to raise \$40 million for the Center for the Intrepid wounded warrior rehabilitation facility at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and for the Fisher House



Bob Hope – pictured here performing for Troopers in the 1980s – traveled the world with the USO to entertain American service members.

Photo courtesy caahopkinton.org

Foundation, which builds housing so the relatives of wounded servicemembers can visit them as they recover. He also raised money for the Navy SEAL Warrior Fund.

Air Force Master Sgt. Louis D. Pell received the award for a lifetime of outreach to airmen and veterans. Assigned to Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., Pell coordinated and participated in many volunteer efforts, including blood drives, muscular dystrophy fundraising and reading to elementary school students.

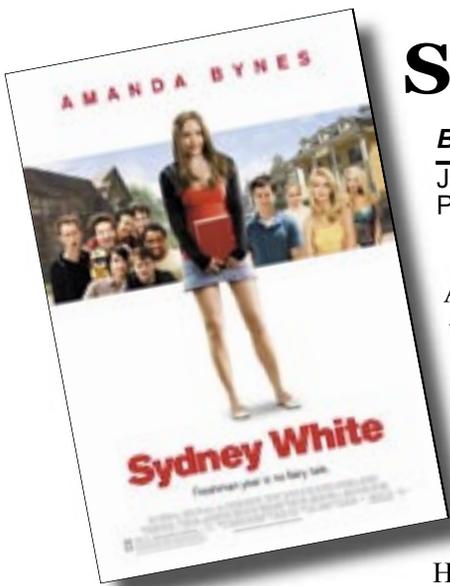
The Marine Corps recognized the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund for its efforts to provide financial assistance to Marines injured in combat or training. With the generosity and support of the American people, the group – founded by Marine spouses around a kitchen table in 2004 – has provided more than \$9.4 million in assistance to more than 1,700 servicemembers. One of the group's co-founders – Wendy Lethin – received the award on behalf of the fund.

Coast Guardsman Marvin J. Perrett received his award posthumously. He piloted a Higgins boat in the invasions of Normandy, Iwo Jima and Okinawa during

World War II. After the war, he returned to his native New Orleans and became a leader in establishing the National World War II Museum there. Perrett traveled the country telling a new generation the Coast Guard's story.

Casey recalled that Bob Hope received the Sylvanus Thayer Award in 1968 at West Point. In his speech, the comedian said that "living in America is a great privilege. The only thing greater is that wonderful feeling in your heart when you know that you deserve that privilege, that you have paid for your little slice of freedom."

Casey said that much has changed since 1968, when the West Point class was ready to deploy to Vietnam. "We're fighting a different war, we're fighting a different enemy, but what America stands for – life liberty and the pursuit of happiness – has remained constant," Casey said. "And our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and their families are bearing a heavy burden now after six years of war. [The honorees'] efforts are especially worthy of note and recognition. They epitomize the values of Bob Hope."



Snow White goes to college

By Army Sgt. Jody Metzger

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Rated: PG13

Running Time: 90 minutes

I have to say that if it's a chick flick, I am probably interested, and when you throw in Amanda Bynes ("What a Girl Wants" and "She's the Man") I might as well get the buttered popcorn and diet coke and settle in for what I like to call 'me time.'

Director Joe Nussbaum's reworking of the classic Snow White tale titled "Sydney White" has all the formulaic trappings of a recycled romance. In many ways, the film is predictable with its hair flips and sassy comments that punctuate movies like these. I mean, haven't we beat that horse to death yet? Yet, I found myself enjoying the film.

"Sydney White" begins with White going off to Southern Atlantic University where her late mother used to reign as a well-respected sorority girl in the Kappa House.

Soon White finds herself in the thick of Kappa, where catty behavior is a prerequisite to join. Enter the self-obsessed, whippet-thin Rachel Witchburn (Sara Paxton). Rachael is the queen bee and sorority president who takes a special dislike to White.

Undaunted, Sydney braves the humiliating rituals of Rush week and finds herself at odds with the Kappa's population of skinny blonde bimbettes. But when Rachel sees her ex-flame Tyler Prince (Matt Long) take an interest in Sydney, the Kappa queen casts her rival out of the house. Stumbling upon a dilapidated old dwelling known as the Vortex, Sydney becomes the guest of the seven geeky guys who live there.

Here she wraps herself in the role of house mom to her seven modern day dwarves, who would rather reenact fantasy video games than take part in college life. The result is a satisfying little fable that doesn't break new ground, but squarely hits its femme target audience.

Sydney White will thrill the heart of your inner teenage girl. The film comes fully loaded with girly frills and female empowerment all wrapped up in the adorable smile of Amanda Bynes. Bynes is exceptional and brings comic relief and warmth to the screen. A delicious remedy for any chick flick occasion!

Rating: 🍎🍎🍎🍏🍏

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com

Saturday, Nov. 24

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



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:15 a.m.

Sunset: 5:20 p.m.

Chance of rain: 20%

Sunday, Nov. 25

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



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:15 a.m.

Sunset: 5:20 p.m.

Chance of rain: 20%

Monday, Nov. 26

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



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:16 a.m.

Sunset: 5:20 p.m.

Chance of rain: 20%

Tuesday, Nov. 27

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



Sunrise: 6:16 a.m.

Sunset: 5:20 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 10%

Partly Cloudy

Wednesday, Nov. 28

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



Sunrise: 6:17 a.m.

Sunset: 5:20 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 60%

Scattered T-storms

Thursday, Nov. 29

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



Sunrise: 6:18 a.m.

Sunset: 5:20 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 60%

Scattered Showers

Friday, Nov. 30

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



Sunrise: 6:18 a.m.

Sunset: 5:20 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 30%

Scattered Showers

Hayhurst from page 3

intense training they received in Fort Lewis more than prepares them for this mission.”

Hayhurst speaks from first-hand experience and notes the appreciation he feels for enlisted Sailors. Hayhurst proudly credits his days as a chief boatswain’s mate as instrumental in helping others develop the skills necessary to become effective leaders. With the exception of this mission, Hayhurst said there has never been a time in his career when he did not perform the same tasks as his subordinates.

“I have spent 21 of the past 29 years of my career at sea. As a chief boatswain’s mate, I spent a lot of time on amphibious ships where we sometimes conducted dangerous seamanship and deck evolutions,” said Hayhurst. “We would execute underway and vertical replenishments where we would transfer supplies from a beach to a ship or from ship to ship while out at sea. I had to ensure my men and women were well-trained, supervised and well-equipped to successfully and safely execute these dangerous evolutions.”

Another character trait that Hayhurst has exhibited throughout his career is his ability to be a team player. As a self proclaimed sports enthusiast, Hayhurst enjoys competing in various sports such as softball, golf and basketball. Although he does not have as much time for sports in his present position, he always emphasizes to his Sailors the importance of engaging in such activities.

“Engaging in sports-related activities teaches a young adult many lessons in life,” said Hayhurst. “The most important is teamwork.”

One thing that Hayhurst admires about the JTF community is the ability of its leadership to work effectively with the naval station. He believes that as both sides work together to better understand the JTF mission, the effectiveness and quality of life for personnel assigned here will continue to improve.

“Guantanamo Bay is a very unique place to work and not many people will get the opportunity to see what is accomplished here,” said Hayhurst. “I’m looking forward to the challenges in the future. I cannot emphasize what an honor it is to be an important part of the JTF mission as NEGB commander.”

A letter of thanks ...

Admiral James Stavridis,

It was a privilege for me to visit Camp Delta last week. I have some experience having set policy for operating a detention facility here in Fort Lauderdale for 15 years. I observed an extremely dedicated staff working to provide a safe and secure facility.

I was particularly impressed with the medical care provided to the detainees. I could tell that the men and women serving our nation were well trained and dedicated to their important mission.

I wish every American had the opportunity to observe their service so that all could be as proud as I am.

The trip also provided me an opportunity to understand better the importance of maintaining U.S. presence at this strategic location in the hemisphere.

Thank you for your service and please call on me if I can ever be of assistance,

Jim Naugle
Mayor, Fort Lauderdale

Boots on the Ground

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

Be All You Can Be, Army of One, Army Strong; which slogan is your favorite and why?

Army Sgt. Angel Flores



Army Strong, it sets a good example.

Army Sgt. Pedro Green



Be All You Can Be, because it motivates you to accomplish your goals.

Army 1st Sgt. Jose DeJesus



Army Strong, it lets you know that we are the strongest ones.

Army Staff Sgt. Jose Santiago



Be All You Can Be, it tells you that you have the opportunity to do things you have never done before.

GIVING THANKS RESULTS IN GOD'S BLESSINGS



(www.wikipedia.org)

By Army Chaplain (Capt.) Glenvil Gregory

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Chaplain

Have you ever met a person who you dread inquiring about their well-being? Somehow you are hesitant in asking because greeting them is like giving them permission or reasons to gripe and complain. Have you ever spoken to a person and then wondered if God has ever done anything good for them? All they do is complain. Their preoccupation seems to be that of focusing on the negative in everyone and everything. They seem to experience little or no joy in their hearts. This shows discontent and dissatisfaction with self.

Upon reflection, there is so much for which we ought to be thankful. For sure, we can recall the bountiful blessings that God has freely bestowed on us and our country. These blessings include our families, jobs, homes, food on our tables, and our health and well-being. We must also thank God for liberty and justice in our land and the honor bound men and women who continue to defend our freedom and enforce our values.

When grumbling and complaining dominate our thoughts and conversations, we prevent ourselves from enjoying the things which have been provided for our use and, indeed, we rob ourselves of opportunities to be a blessing to others. We are also blinded to the beauty of God's creation. Complaining puts a chokehold on us, makes us vulnerable, and keeps us bound to situations and circumstances. We can overcome many of these situations by adjusting our attitude and the state of our mind. There are other situations that we can overcome if we decide to pray about them – standing tall in belief and in confidence, affirmed that God is working out his purposes.

I am not suggesting that we will not encounter difficulties or that

we will go through difficult times with our faces lit up with smiles and our hearts bubbling with joy. Like normal human beings we go through pain, and we will at times harbor doubts, and may even question the presence of God. The difference is, by faith we expect that the God to whom we have committed our lives will give us grace sufficient for every need and strength for every trial. So when we consider the sum total of our lives, we can see God charting the course for us.

Expressing our gratitude to God is one way to acknowledge His majesty, supremacy and benevolence. Failure to acknowledge God causes our hearts to grow cold and distant towards the things of God. Hence, we must learn to be thankful or we become bitter. We must learn to be thankful or we will become discouraged. We must learn to be thankful or we shall surely grow arrogant and credit ourselves for our blessings. Giving thanks prepares us for increased blessings from God.

Thanksgiving is a guide to godly living, as it causes us to recognize our dependence upon our Creator. We gain a right perspective of who we are in His eyes. This causes us to worship Him for who He is. When we understand God and his love and care for us, we are more willing to trust Him for our future.

Praising God and giving Him thanks should be a natural part of our daily living and not just an annual celebration. Be reminded that expressions of our gratitude to God are not so much actions as they are attitudes brought about by the continual awareness that all of life is a gift from God.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His loving kindness is everlasting" (Psalm 118:1).

Junior Enlisted Trooper of the Quarter stays motivated

**Story and photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class
William Weinert**

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay
Public Affairs Office

The writer Sam Ewing once wrote, “Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don’t turn up at all.” One man whose character shines through his hard work is Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class John Wilson.

Wilson has spent his life as one never afraid to turn up his sleeves and because of his hard work, professionalism and positive attitude, he has been recognized as Joint Task Force Guantanamo’s Junior Enlisted Trooper of the Quarter.

In 1986, Wilson joined the Army after graduating high school. He served honorably for four years as an infantry Soldier, participating in tours of Korea and Germany.

After leaving the Army in 1990, Wilson pursued a more domestic life in Fairhope, Alabama, where he lives with his wife of 16 years and two teenage sons. While raising his family, Wilson engaged in a career as a police officer, and served admirably for 13 years. Following public service in the police force, he shifted career fields into the world of fire prevention.

“I got sick of doing shift work and the opportunity came up as a fire prevention technician, so I took it,” said Wilson. As a fire prevention technician his duties include inspections of chemical factories and other industrial facilities.

Wilson joined the Coast Guard Reserve two and a half years ago with the idea of working in a port security unit.

“I had a long break in service and wanted to get back into the military and found out about the port security units, and it was just something that interested me,” said Wilson.

This has been Wilson’s first deployment since becoming a member of the 308th Port Security Unit.

Since arriving here, Wilson’s role has changed from providing land security for the unit’s operations to working as a Viper boat crewman.

“I like the Port Security Unit, it suits me. I wouldn’t like being in the ‘Blue Guard,’” said Wilson. ‘Blue Guard’ is a term used to describe Coast Guardsmen who go out to sea on larger vessels for extended periods of time.

Wilson has made good use of his time here in Guantanamo by taking college courses and finishing his associate’s degree in Criminal Justice.

“Now I’m working on my Bachelor’s Degree in



Occupational Safety,” Wilson said.

In addition to work and class, Wilson enjoys spending his free time running and has participated in Guantanamo Bay’s half marathon and a recent 5k run. In the future, Wilson plans to continue his efforts to attain his Coxswain qualification so that he can command his own boat. He also plans to finish his Bachelor’s degree and work on lowering his running times.

Wilson was the only Coast Guardsman in the running for Junior Enlisted Trooper of the Quarter; however, he was very well-prepared since most Coast Guardsmen participate in multiple boards as they advance in their careers. All these boards are similar to the Trooper of the Quarter board in terms of the preparation required. Wilson credits his leadership with preparing him well for the achievement.

“We’ve got a great group of senior enlisted that helps us prepare for these,” said Wilson, with characteristic modesty. His work ethic and positive attitude are assets not only to his unit, but to the Joint Task Force as a whole.

AROUND THE

JTF



◀ Army Cpl. Jaime Diaz shows Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Schloendorn how to calculate adjustments for zeroing his M-16 rifle Nov. 20 at the Windward Pistol and Rifle range. (Photo by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger)

▶ Petty Officer 3rd Class Jesse Brouillette of the 308th Port Security Unit graduates from The Leadership and Management School (LAMS) at the Windjammer Club, Nov. 17. LAMS is a U.S. Coast Guard course that develops leadership and management skills for supervisors and mid-level leaders using an experience-based curriculum. (Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Billings)



◀ Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cedrick Young re-enlists Nov. 15 at the flagpole in Camp Delta. Navy Lt. j.g. Karla Bennett presented the certificate to Young, a damage controlman assigned to the Naval Expeditionary Guard Battalion. (Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Billings)



▶ Command Master Chief Brad LeVault, Amy Levault, Gina Buzby and Rear Adm. Mark Buzby enjoy a moment together for the camera. All were on hand to welcome Troopers to a special Thanksgiving Day meal, Nov. 22, at the Seaside Galley. photo by Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker)

