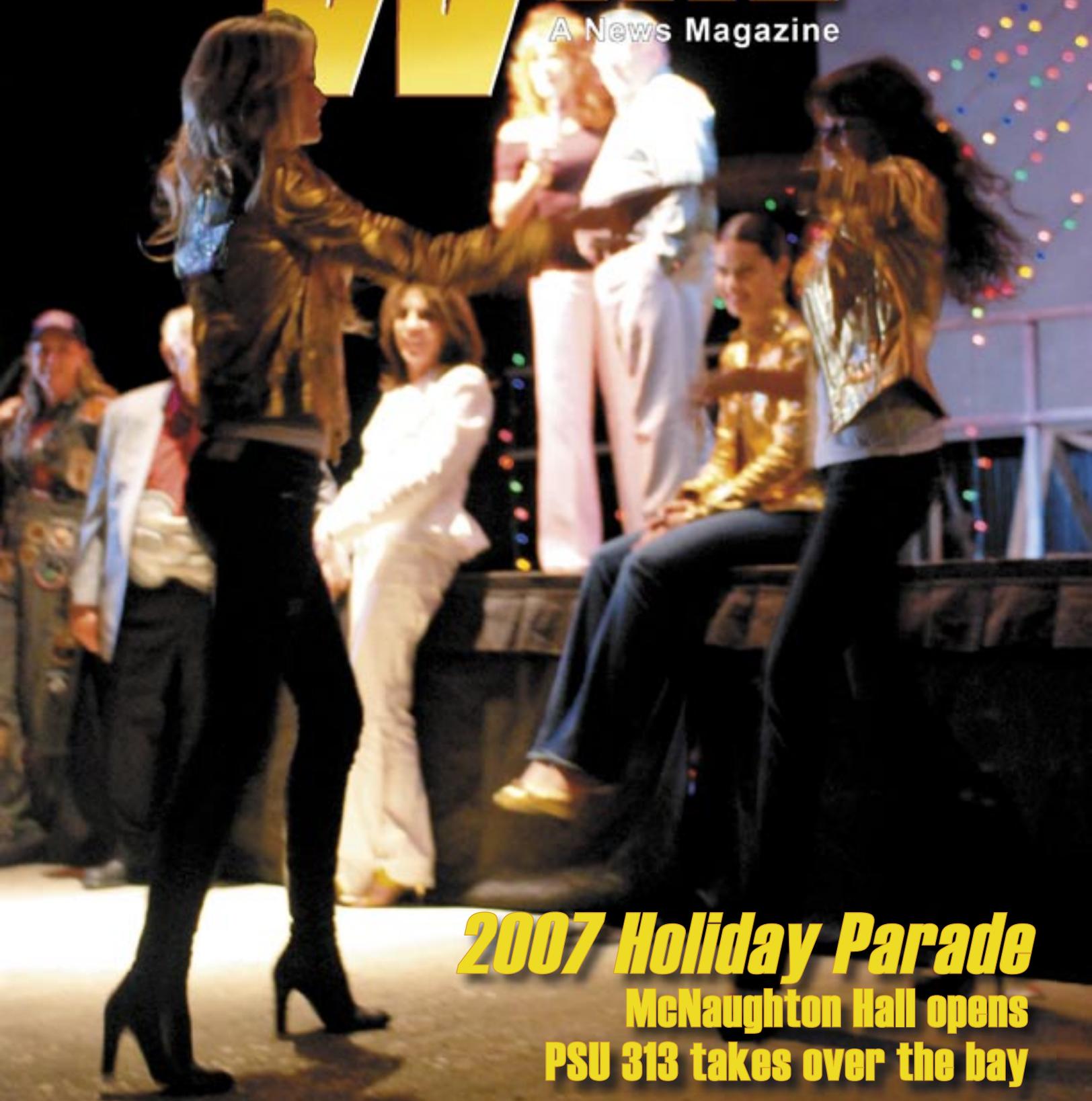


THE WIRE

A News Magazine



2007 Holiday Parade
McNaughton Hall opens
PSU 313 takes over the bay

NCOs- Now is the time to lead by example



**By Army Command Sgt. Maj.
Avery Jones**

Joint Detention Group
Command Sergeant Major

The Troopers of the Joint Task Force are eager for responsible leadership, so we need noncommissioned officers (NCOs) to step up and provide it.

Here are the three Leadership principles I feel we could improve on as a Joint Task Force NCO Corps: **Communication, Caring, and Leading by Example.** During my 24 years as a leader I have tried to apply these three principles with each and every Trooper I have had the privilege of leading.

It is the responsibility of all NCOs to communicate with their Troopers, whether the news is good or bad. If we refuse to communicate with our Troopers, someone else will and most of the time their information will be incorrect or based on rumor. Failure to communicate with our Troopers will lead to Troopers becoming frustrated and having lackadaisical attitudes. This is the type of behavior that leads to Troopers not following rules and regulations, and even disobeying lawful orders.

After you have established open lines of communication with your

Troopers, you must let them know you care about them as individuals. Let them know you value them as human beings, not just as lower-ranking Soldiers to order around.

Take the time every day to talk to Troopers about their families, goals and future plans. Caring is also taking the time to walk through Tierra Kay and Camp America at night and on the weekend to see how your Troopers are doing. It means going to the Tiki Bar, Cuban Club and Windjammer to ensure no one is drinking underage or drinking and driving.

We, as leaders, need to set the example when it comes to drinking responsibly. Try to think about what it looks like to young Troopers when they see NCOs at the clubs stumbling, slurring and making inappropriate comments to junior Troopers.

Always remember – Troopers are watching your every move. They may not remember your safety briefs, but they will never forget your acts of misconduct.

NCOs must provide purpose, direction and motivation to their Troopers. Remember, Troopers will know you care by your actions, not by what you say. Caring about Troopers comes from your heart.

The most important thing you need to do is lead by example. If we can't follow orders or rules, then we shouldn't expect Troopers to. Watch what you say around your Troopers. Complaining about your duties or chain of command in front of your Troopers will foster negative attitudes within the ranks.

We require our Troopers to be disciplined and sharp 16 hours a day, but we NCOs are paid to be leaders 24 hours a day. We are noncommissioned officers and first-line leaders. I'm calling on all NCOs of the Joint Task Force to step up and take charge.

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ON THE COVER:

Victoria's Secret models Marisa Miller and Selita Ebanks dance at the culmination of Gitmo's Dec. 1, Electric Light Holiday Parade. They are joined on stage by fellow model Adriana Lima and other Hollywood guests. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)



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.

New York 9/11 first responder and KIA war hero honored in Guantanamo



The family of Staff Sgt James McNaughton cuts the ribbon, Nov. 30, on the building named in his honor at the dedication of JTF Guantanamo's McNaughton Hall. The newly renovated conference center was dedicated to the memory of Staff Sgt. James McNaughton, a 9/11 first responder who was killed in action, Aug. 2, 2005, in Iraq during his tour with the 306th MP Battalion. (Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Billings)

By Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

New York City Police 9/11 first responder and war hero, Army Staff Sgt. James McNaughton, was honored in a dedication ceremony here Nov. 30.

Joint Task Force Guantanamo's new operations building – McNaughton Hall – was dedicated to the memory of McNaughton, a Soldier who, on Aug. 2, 2005, was killed in the line of duty by enemy gunfire.

McNaughton, a member of the '9/11' class at New York's police academy, was one of the first recruits to graduate following the tragic strikes on New York's World Trade Center. His class term, the longest in the history of the academy, was extended three months to respond to these shocking terrorist attacks.

McNaughton, of Centereach, NY, was a member of what his stepmother,

Michele, calls a 'cop family,' as McNaughton's father, stepmother, uncles and even his fiancé all served as police officers. He was the first NYPD officer to be killed in Iraq.

A volunteer for service in Iraq, McNaughton was performing his duties as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Iraqi Highway Patrol Mentorship Program when he was ultimately felled by a sniper's bullet at Camp Victory, near Baghdad's International Airport.

"He was a true Patriot," Mrs. McNaughton's said of him. "He was actually born at West Point, because his father was stationed there then. I guess he was sort of destined to be an American hero that way."

McNaughton served his country as an Army Reservist with the 306th Military Police Battalion, 800th MP Brigade, and as a New York City Police Department's District 2 transit officer.

He served five years of active Army duty prior to becoming a Citizen Soldier and police officer.

"He truly marched to the sound of guns... twice," said Rear Adm. Mark Buzby, current commander of JTF Guantanamo. "He served his country honorably and so we will honor him."

Rear Adm. Harry Harris, director of operations, U.S. Southern Command and former JTF Guantanamo commander, speaking to those in attendance quoted President Calvin Coolidge, "A nation that forgets its defenders, will itself be forgotten." He continued, "We are here today to not only honor

a true hero of our nation, but also affix an indelible symbol of bravery, courage and patriotism to this brick and mortar foundation that will stand as a constant reminder to us all of what it means to serve."

The newly christened McNaughton Hall was originally built as a laundry facility for the migrant operations facilities once housed here. Now that the approximately \$690,000 renovation is complete, the building will house the J-3 directorate, which is the JTF Guantanamo staff organization that facilitates operations and planning.

"It really is an honor," Mrs. McNaughton said. "I know that he would be so proud. Not because he was arrogant, but because I think he would like to inspire people with his story. He was a role model for people, and I think he would have wanted to be a person kids would look up to and say, 'I'd like to be like him.'"

PSU 313 inherits mission from heralded PSU 308



Cmdr. Michael Hart, outgoing commander of U.S. Coast Guard Port Security Unit 308 and Cmdr. James Howatson, incoming commander of PSU 313 render respect during their transfer of authority ceremony, Dec. 6.

Story and photos by Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

A transfer of authority ceremony for the Port Security Unit was held Dec. 6 at the Coast Guard operations center at Guantanamo Bay. Presiding over the ceremony was Commander, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby.

Members of the departing unit, PSU 308, from the Coast Guard Reserve out of Gulfport, Miss., are justifiably proud of the work they did while serving in the Joint Task Force. According to PSU 308 commander, Cmdr. Michael Hart, his unit more than raised the bar set before them by the unit they succeeded in June.

“The 54 members of PSU-308 not only met the bar, we more than raised it. In addition to performing our mission flawlessly, we qualified 11 new level one CG small boat coxswains, 19 new qualified crewmembers, 6 new qualified boat engineers, 17 earned their coveted Port Security Pins, 34 attended CG Leadership and Management School, 20 attended the Basic Combat Life Saver Course, and 14

got promoted.

“In addition, we had three Troopers selected for Trooper of the Quarter and two selected for both the Junior and Senior Trooper of the Year. Not bad for bunch of Coasties from Gulfport, Miss. I’d say we raised that bar exceptionally high. PSU-313, as good as they are, may need a ladder just to see over it!”

Port Security Unit 313 out of Tacoma, Wash. is more than ready to accept the challenge. Incoming commander, Cmdr. James Howatson outlined the following goal for his

unit’s deployment here: “Continue to build on our reputation as the best PSU in the U.S. Coast Guard!”

PSU 313’s reputation was first established immediately following 9/11. They were activated for eight months with a mission to conduct homeland security patrols, escort high value assets and provide waterside security for essential infrastructure.

In January 2003, PSU 313 deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They participated in the capture of Iraq’s primary oil terminal and then occupied and protected that terminal for four months without relief under extremely harsh conditions.

The conditions here at Gitmo are a considerable improvement over that of the Persian Gulf, but the mission is no less important. Knowing what’s ahead for PSU 313, Hart offered the following words of encouragement to the incoming unit.

“You are now an integral part of one of the most professional operations in the world – Joint Task Force Guantanamo. You are the point of the maritime spear. Stay focused on your mission, be professional, and take care of each other, and you will be successful. Semper Paratus!”



Hart, flanked by Deputy Commander JTF Guantanamo Brig. Gen. Cameron Crawford and Commander JTF Guantanamo Rear Adm. Mark Buzby, receives the Army Meritorious Service Medal.



Pearl Harbor remembered 66 years later

**By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class
William Weinert**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

“Yesterday, Dec. 7, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by the naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.”

President Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke these words in his chilling address to the nation following this heinous attack. This pivotal speech changed American policy and attitudes from isolationism to total involvement in the escalating world war. His words informed Americans about the underhanded and unprovoked attack on our Pacific fleet, while simultaneously urging our country into one of the largest, most vicious, and perhaps most necessary wars in history.

The events of that tragic morning and Roosevelt’s gripping speech stirred American patriotism to heights never before seen. Drove of men enlisted in the armed services and the rest of the nation engaged in an all out effort to not only support the Troops, but also the war.

The disastrous events of that important morning unfolded at 7:53 a.m., when the first wave of Japanese planes flew into the airspace over Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, home of the United States Pacific Fleet. The planes roared overhead strafing the harbor with gunfire and dropping bombs, catching

everyone off guard.

That morning, a young Ensign named Joseph Taussig was standing watch on the USS Nevada (BB 36). Taussig called General Quarters as the Japanese planes came into view. He served as the anti-aircraft director, commanding his men to keep the Japanese at bay as the ship pulled out of port. At one point in the attack, a bomb exploded near the young Ensign, nearly severing one of his legs, which was later amputated. Taussig treated himself with an improvised tourniquet, held his station and continued to direct fire. He did not quit until fires caused by the bombing raged out of control. Due to his injuries, Taussig couldn’t physically leave his post, so a Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class, ran up to save him. The Boatswain’s Mate single-handedly constructed a sling using some nearby rope and carried Ensign Taussig out of harm’s way. For their bravery that day, both men earned the Navy Cross.

Approximately an hour after the initial attack, a second wave of warplanes flew in to finish the job and by 9:55 a.m. it was all over. The assault left Americans shocked and bewildered. What they had experienced was in fact the worst attack on America up to that point in our history. The Japanese onslaught claimed the lives of 2,403 Americans and left another 1,139 injured. It temporarily crippled America’s military might by destroying 188 aircraft and damaging or sinking eight ships.

Prospects for war with Japan had existed since the 1920s, as Japan began to vigorously improve its fighting capabilities and exercise its ambitions for expansion. Tensions between the U.S. and Japan remained minimal until the Japanese invasion and occupation of Manchuria in 1931 and the subsequent invasion of the rest of China in 1937. The situation compounded itself in 1940 when Japanese forces seeking to control Southeast Asia invaded French Indochina.

In response to this invasion, the U.S. decided to stop supplying oil to the Japanese. This action prompted the Japanese to continue their expansion and led to their takeover of the oil supplies in the Dutch East Indies. The U.S. oil embargo pushed the Japanese to view the U.S. as a threat to their plans for imperial expansion.

The concept of a premeditated attack on our country is something easily grasped by many of today’s generation, as the events of Sept. 11, 2001 still simmer in our memory. Both events changed America’s consciousness and defined our respective generations. While the reasons for our modern war and the provocation of that fateful day sixty-six years ago may be different, American sentiment is still the same. Both of these events stirred up patriotism and pride in our country while plunging us into bitter, but necessary wars against tyranny.

(Sources: www.eyewitnesstohistory.com and www.historyplace.com)

College football's chaotic season closes with bowl match-ups

By Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

After a regular season and several conference championship games we finally have the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) Championship match-up and it features Ohio St. (11-1) vs. LSU (11-2). This pairing did not come without a huge amount of debate about other eligible teams, so let's touch on some of these arguments and then we will roll into my predictions for every other bowl match up.

The first team with a pretty good argument to be in the BCS Championship game is Hawaii. They are the only ranked team in

the country with an undefeated record (12-0) and therefore deserved consideration. The problem is who they played all season in the Western Athletic Conference is a far cry from the caliber of teams from the Southeastern Conference or the Big Ten. Getting to any BCS game is a huge accomplishment for the Warriors and I think they should be happy going to the Sugar Bowl. Unfortunately, I'm afraid they will be mauled by the Georgia Bulldogs.

Neither Georgia (10-2) nor Kansas (11-1) could win their own conference championship so neither deserved a shot – enough said. I believe Virginia Tech (11-

2) didn't get the nod due to the 48-7 beating LSU handed them earlier in the year.

Oklahoma had the best case for making the big game. The Sooners (11-2) had just come off of a convincing victory in the Big 12 Championship over the then number one ranked team, the Missouri Tigers (11-2).

When it comes right down to it, I believe that the fact that the SEC is regarded as the best conference in the country is what gave its champion, LSU, the benefit of the doubt.

Here are my bowl picks. I challenge all of you Gitmo sports enthusiasts to do the same and see how you stack up against my expert picks.

BCS Games					
Date	Game	Location	TV	Time	Matchup
Jan. 7	BCS Title	New Orleans	FOX	8 p.m.	Ohio State vs. *LSU
Jan. 3	Orange	Miami	FOX	8 p.m.	Virginia Tech vs. *Kansas
Jan. 2	Fiesta	Glendale, Ariz.	FOX	8 p.m.	*Oklahoma vs. West Virginia
Jan. 1	Rose	Pasadena, Calif.	ABC	4:30 p.m.	*Southern California vs. Illinois
Jan. 1	Sugar	New Orleans	FOX	8:30 p.m.	*Georgia vs. Hawaii
Non-BCS Games					
Date	Game	Location	TV	Time	Matchup
Jan. 6	GMAC	Mobile, Ala.	ESPN	8 p.m.	Bowling Green vs. *Tulsa
Jan. 5	International	Toronto	ESPN2	Noon	*Rutgers vs. Ball State
Jan. 1	Outback	Tampa, Fla.	ESPN	11 a.m.	Wisconsin vs. *Tennessee
Jan. 1	Cotton	Dallas	FOX	11:30 a.m.	Arkansas vs. *Missouri
Jan. 1	Gator	Jacksonville, Fla.	CBS	Noon	Virginia vs. *Texas Tech
Jan. 1	Capital One	Orlando, Fla.	ABC	1 p.m.	Michigan vs. *Florida
Dec. 31	Armed Forces	Fort Worth, Tex.	ESPN	12:30 p.m.	*California vs. Air Force
Dec. 31	Sun	El Paso, Tex.	CBS	2 p.m.	Oregon vs. *South Florida
Dec. 31	Humanitarian	Boise, Idaho	ESPN2	2 p.m.	*Fresno State vs. Georgia Tech
Dec. 31	Music City	Nashville, Tenn.	ESPN	4 p.m.	*Kentucky vs. Florida State
Dec. 31	Chick-fil-A	Atlanta	ESPN	7:30 p.m.	*Auburn vs. Clemson
Dec. 31	Insight	Tempe, Ariz.	NFL Net.	5:30 p.m.	Oklahoma State vs. *Indiana
Dec. 30	Independence	Shreveport, La.	ESPN	8 p.m.	*Colorado vs. Alabama
Dec. 29	Meineke Car Care	Charlotte, N.C.	ESPN	1 p.m.	*Wake Forest vs. Connecticut
Dec. 29	Liberty	Memphis, Tenn.	ESPN	4:30 p.m.	UCF vs. *Mississippi State
Dec. 29	Alamo	San Antonio	ESPN	8 p.m.	*Penn State vs. Texas A&M
Dec. 28	Texas	Houston	NFL Net.	8 p.m.	*Texas Christian vs. Houston
Dec. 28	Champs Sports	Orlando, Fla.	ESPN	5 p.m.	*Boston College vs. Michigan State
Dec. 28	Emerald	San Francisco	ESPN	8:30 p.m.	Maryland vs. *Oregon State
Dec. 27	Holiday	San Diego, Calif.	ESPN	8 p.m.	*Arizona State vs. Texas
Dec. 26	Motor City	Detroit, Mich.	ESPN	7:30 p.m.	Central Michigan vs. *Purdue
Dec. 23	Hawaii	Honolulu	ESPN	8 p.m.	*Boise State vs. East Carolina
Dec. 22	Papajohns.com	Birmingham, Ala.	ESPN2	1 p.m.	Cincinnati vs. *Southern Miss
Dec. 22	New Mexico	Albuquerque, N.M.	ESPN	4:30 p.m.	New Mexico vs. *Nevada
Dec. 22	Las Vegas	Las Vegas, Nev.	ESPN	8 p.m.	UCLA vs. *BYU
Dec. 21	New Orleans	New Orleans	ESPN2	8 p.m.	*Florida Atlantic vs. Memphis
Dec. 20	Poinsettia	San Diego, Calif.	ESPN	9 p.m.	Utah vs. *Navy

Army goes 1 for 3 in Army/Navy trifecta

Story and photos by Army Sgt.
Sarah Stannard

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Before all the glamour and hype of the Super Bowl or Fantasy Football – prostituting high paid celebrities and million dollar athletes – America’s game was Army vs. Navy. West Point Soldiers and Annapolis Sailors aren’t in it for the NFL draft, just a commitment to the Service. Steeped in over a century of tradition, by land or by sea, it doesn’t matter which team you pick...either way, American patriots are rooting for their home team.

Nice, huh? Too bad we don’t really feel that way in Guantanamo Bay. One hundred and seventeen years of U.S. service academy rivalry (if now only symbolic) does not stop when you cross the Caribbean. There probably aren’t any ‘Goatbusters’ stealthily thieving farm animals under the cover of darkness or mischief makers burning school syllabary into gridiron grass, but entire families clad in traditional ‘Go Army, Beat Navy’ regalia prove that inter-service antagonism lives on. And ours is a particularly ridiculous brand of antagonism.

A century of football friction is really all it’s cracked up to be – if you’re into that kind

of thing – but really, how many times will we have to read that Bill the Goat has again been ‘kid’ napped? If you want to see the services’ colors really fly and how deeply your sergeant major’s (or chief’s for you mutton busters) competitive streak really runs, the Army vs. Navy men’s and women’s flag football games should do nicely to suit your fancy.

“The Army team can’t read,” was the Naval Station’s Youth Center Cheerleaders’ refrain (who could have guessed both of their coaches were playing for the women’s Navy team?). And, it probably would have been amusing to the audience to hear their little quips, had Army fans’ air horns not been purposefully deployed to drown out the sound of their mischievous taunts.

The women were the first to take the field, and take it they did. The Army donned their signature green jerseys, the Navy, blue. And with the seats still sparsely populated, the ladies of the Army handed down a punishing 14-0 victory to the Navy gals. “Well, we’re the Army,” said quarterback Heather Mullins. “That’s what happens with the Army.”

I know what you Navy cats are thinking... “Right, Army girl, get off your high horse. You may have the women’s flag football

game, but we have the *REAL* game...and wait a minute, didn’t we do the same amount of damage to your guys?”

We don’t really need to talk about the 41-13 pounding Navy gave Army or the Army’s scoreless first half. We don’t need to talk about the Army coach being ejected from the game – before half time. We don’t need to talk about Navy’s touchdown, interception, touchdown, trifecta that cut me deeply as I read my notes, just as it had watching it on the field. We don’t need to be reminded of any of that.

The Army still has the women’s game... and one out of three ain’t too bad.

Soldiers (green) and Sailors (blue) clash, Dec. 2, in Guantanamo Bay’s annual Army-Navy Flag Football Games.



2007 Holiday Parade!

Photos by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin
and Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class
William Weinert
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs



Residents of Guantanamo Bay lined Sherman Avenue as brightly colored floats rolled down the street twinkling with hundreds of dazzling lights. Setting an all-time record for participation, 33 floats carried everyone from six-year-old cheerleaders to super models to Old Saint Nick. With "Hart to Hart" leading lady Stephanie Powers, and the 'Mayor of Hollywood' Johnny Grant as grand marshals, Gitmo's 2007 Holiday Electric Light Parade wound through the crowd emanating holiday cheer. Carolers, boom boxes and car stereos filled the air with joyful sound as Mitchie Brusco, boy skateboarder extraordinaire, and his posse whizzed up and down the line of wheeled wonderlands. Ending at the Downtown Lyceum, flocks of people gathered to take photographs with the vivacious vixens, a set of Victoria's Secret Angels and Karri Turner from the television show "JAG." Sweet.

Go Guard! 371 and still going strong

By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class
William Weinert

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Over a century before the U.S. won its independence, each of the English colonies in America formed their own militias for protection. Years later, as the country came into its own, these militias formed the oldest component of the U.S. armed forces, the National Guard. On Dec. 13, the Guard celebrates its 371st birthday.

In 1636, the Massachusetts Bay Colony became the first to establish a militia. The colony set up three militia regiments, North, South and East, to defend against the Pequot Indians. Since the Pequot War, the Army National Guard has been engaged in every one of our nation's conflicts.

Militias were established with similarities to their English counterparts,

with obligatory service from all males between the ages of 16 and 60. The goal of the militia was to train civilians for combat so colonies could protect themselves from hostile forces. Additionally, their job was to enforce local laws and fight Britain's enemies in America. Militia training was carried out once a week as a group. Also each member had to stand watch over their village, to sound the alarm in case of attack.

After the U.S. won its independence, the founding fathers recognized the country's continued need for a militia. Congress defined the militia's mission as such: "to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions."

The modern National Guard was established in 1903 as the nation's primary organized combat reserve force, transforming it from a rag-

tag loosely organized militia into a well regulated branch of the armed services. Guard members pledge their allegiance to both their state's governor and the president. This distinguishes their mission from that of the active military. Not only do Guardsmen participate in missions abroad, they also carry out humanitarian and disaster relief missions in their own states.

Since the Guard's inception, our nation's citizens have made it known that they are willing to pick up their weapons and fight anyone who attempts to take away their freedoms as well as aid their neighbors in any way they can. Whether they are fighting off Pequots, Iraqi insurgents or helping cities rebuild after a hurricane, their mission is always the same – *"Always ready, always there."*



The history of the National Guard began on December 13, 1636, when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony ordered the organization of the Colony's militia companies into three regiments: The North, South and East Regiments. The early colonial militia drilled once a week and provided guard details each evening to sound the alarm in case of attack. Although the exact date is not known, the first muster of the East Regiment took place in Salem, Massachusetts. (*The First Muster* by Don Troiani, National Guard Image Gallery)

Department works to keep homeland secure



By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

The U.S. military is prepared to defend the United States and support civil authorities in ways not even thought of a decade ago, the assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense said to reporters at the Foreign Press Center on Dec. 6.

Paul McHale said that establishing the office he now holds in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks was a recognition that the nature of warfare had changed.

“What we recognized was that through most of the history of the United States, in order to fundamentally threaten the national security of our country it required the resources and capabilities of a hostile nation-state,” McHale said.

“On September 11th it became brutally clear that in the 21st Century, with the evolution of destructive technology, the proliferation of that technology and its raw power and transportability, it no longer required the resources of a nation-state to fundamentally threaten the United States.”

Small terrorist groups – or even individuals – could gain these technologies and could threaten America. The threat became different and the U.S. response also had to be different.

“In order to confront a threat that was more decentralized and less dependent on the command and control of a hostile nation-state ... in order to

protect the United States we had to devise defenses that were built upon, but quite different from, defenses that had worked in the Cold War,” McHale.

In 2002, the Defense Department established U.S. Northern Command to coordinate the military defense of the country, and McHale’s position was created to supervise all the homeland defense activities of DoD.

“The protection of the United States in the 21st century involves much more than military power,” McHale said. His office works to coordinate with another newly created entity: the Department of Homeland Security.

McHale’s office helps ensure defense of the United States, and it provides military assistance to civilian agencies in the event of a catastrophic attack or natural disaster.

McHale said the various commands and departments have made American citizens safer. He said U.S. air defense capabilities have been drastically modified since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

There are now ground-based air defenses around cities and high-value targets, he said. The air-to-air fighters “on alert, ready to destroy any aviation threat to the United States,” he said.

On land, there are active duty and National Guard quick reaction forces ready to deploy in order to defeat a foreign terrorist attack, he said.

In the maritime domain, there are

Navy and Coast Guard ships ready to interdict and defeat a threat. This could involve “the maritime movement of a weapon of mass destruction – a nuclear device or a dirty bomb,” he said. “We are prepared to use U.S. Navy ships ... to interdict the maritime approaches to the U.S. We are prepared and train to that mission everyday.”

But if the defense fails and a terrorist manages to attack the United States, the office has a mission of providing civil support. The Defense Department could provide manpower, expertise and help to civilian agencies coping with the aftermath of such an attack, McHale said.

Communications, equipment, train-ed manpower, imagery, air assets, there are any number of military capabilities that could help. And it is not limited to an attack. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. military helped bring order to an overwhelming humanitarian disaster.

Overall, the nation is in much better shape to defend itself than before September 11, 2001, McHale said.

“In terms of physical defense of the United States and our ability to respond, we have many more military personnel with much better equipment, on much shorter alert, task-organized and ready to respond in a way that we did not envision a half-decade ago,” McHale said.



Beowulf has nothing to do with dogs of any kind

By Army Sgt. Scott Griffin
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Rated: PG13 ... barely
Running Time: 154 minutes

“Beowulf” – the poem – was written over 1200 years ago. It is the first poem written in English and it is booooring. “Beowulf” – the film – was released a month ago and really works to take out the boring factor. Full of plot holes? Throw in some action pieces. Too stale

and chubbier and Angelina Jolie just walks around nude. Computer ... generated ... NUDE. Best part of the movie.

For all that, though, the CG is just a little too bunk. Director Robert “I made a little film called ‘Forrest Gump’” Zemeckis goes for *too* lifelike, *too* real. Watching the CG actors age is bizarre and disconcerting, like seeing your grandmother after she’s had a facelift: it’s still your grandma, but now she’s been covered in saran wrap.

The most effective CG is Grendel himself, a putrescent man-thing with sensitive ears and a rotting skin condition. Grendel is like that jealous neighbor who calls the cops when you throw a party and forget to invite him. Unfortunately, Grendel eats people’s heads when they forget his invite. The voice performance is by Crispin Glover (the freaky rat guy from “Willard”) who is so creepy in reality that he could have played the part without CG.

The script is somewhat underwhelming. Writers Neil Gaiman (“Stardust”) and Roger Avary (“Pulp Fiction”) are accomplished enough already, so I expected more. The imagination and spectacle of two writers so distinguished only adds up to a lot of CG gore and gristle. The film is abundantly violent but not much more.

Is the film worth seeing overall? At an outdoor movie theater in the Caribbean that doesn’t charge admission, the answer is absolutely yes. “Beowulf” is entertaining and has some dazzling action pieces. When I get home, I’m gonna take my grandma to see it!

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

a storyline? Add in a naked sea nymph and a bunch of sloshed Danes. Too much of that “thee” and “thou” chatter? Cut it! Gloss it over with computer graphics (CG) and *blammo!* We got us a movie.

Here’s the rumpus: those Danes know how to party. King Hrothgar builds an entire mead hall devoted solely to the purpose of getting smashed and partying like it’s 799 A.D. Their riotous rockin’ wakes up one of the locals who proceeds to smash the joint up. Hrothgar, who spends most of his time walking around with his butt hanging out, calls in a Geat hero named Beowulf. Never one to be outdone, Beowulf chooses to fight Grendel almost nude (he wears a leather strap around his forehead). It’s a simple plot: mistake leads to revenge which leads to counter-vengeance which leads to a deal with the devil and an ultimate search for redemption before the credits roll.

The film is all CG with motion-capture performances by the voice actors. So Ray Winstone goes from mid-sized and squat to Teutonic demigod. Anthony Hopkins goes from old and chubby to ... older

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com

Saturday, Dec. 8

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high-60’s.



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:23 a.m.
Sunset: 5:22 p.m.
Chance of rain: 20%

Sunday, Dec. 9

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high-60’s.



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:24 a.m.
Sunset: 5:22 p.m.
Chance of rain: 20%

Monday, Dec. 10

Highs in the high - 80’s, and lows in the high-60’s.



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:25 a.m.
Sunset: 5:23 p.m.
Chance of rain: 20%

Tuesday, Dec. 11

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.



Sunrise: 6:25 a.m.
Sunset: 5:23 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 30%

Scattered Showers

Wednesday, Dec. 12

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.



Sunrise: 6:26 a.m.
Sunset: 5:23 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 30%

Isolated Showers

Thursday, Dec. 13

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.



Sunrise: 6:26 a.m.
Sunset: 5:24 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 10%

Partly Cloudy

Friday, Dec. 14

Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.



Sunrise: 6:27 a.m.
Sunset: 5:24 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 60%

Scattered Showers

Commitment

... means remaining in the action

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Rebecca Smith

JTF Joint Detention Group

The level of commitment can either make or break an individual, a team, or an organization. When beginning any task, a few questions should be asked. How committed am I to seeing this through? Am I willing to be fully committed to completing the task at hand? And a leader should ask, "How can I motivate my people to maintain their level of commitment and see the good in what they are doing?"

Our mission here at the Joint Task Force involves demanding jobs that require a high level of commitment. When the demands of our jobs get mixed up with separation from loved ones and the familiar, and other pressures of deployment our commitment can falter. When our commitment falters, the organization's commitment falters and, as a result, the mission either suffers a great deal or fails all together.

We Sailors, Soldiers, Marines, or Airmen should always remember that when we start feeling that this job is pointless or that we really aren't making a difference, try to remember the reason we are here. Try to remember the ultimate goal of our mission. Try to remember all the lives that are being saved as a direct result of our mission.

Most importantly, remember the commitment you made when you raised your right hand and took that oath. There are people out there who are proud of both your commitment and your sacrifices. A motivational speaker once said, "It is character that got us out of bed, commitment that moved us into action, and discipline that enabled us to follow through."

Boots on the Ground

By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert

What would you like to receive from your loved ones this holiday season?

Army Sgt.
Jose R. Hernandez



"A portrait of my wife and kids"

Army Sgt.
Daniel Thomas



"Prayers for the well being of all the Troopers here in Guantanamo"

Army Pfc.
Daniel Andrews



"Knowledge of my loved ones' happiness"

Army Sgt.
Joel Stone



"A video message from my family"

Hanukkah observance unites Gitmo's Jewish community

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The holiday season is again upon us and for our Jewish brothers and sisters, one holiday will be spent reflecting on a great victory for religious freedom and on God's miracle during that time.

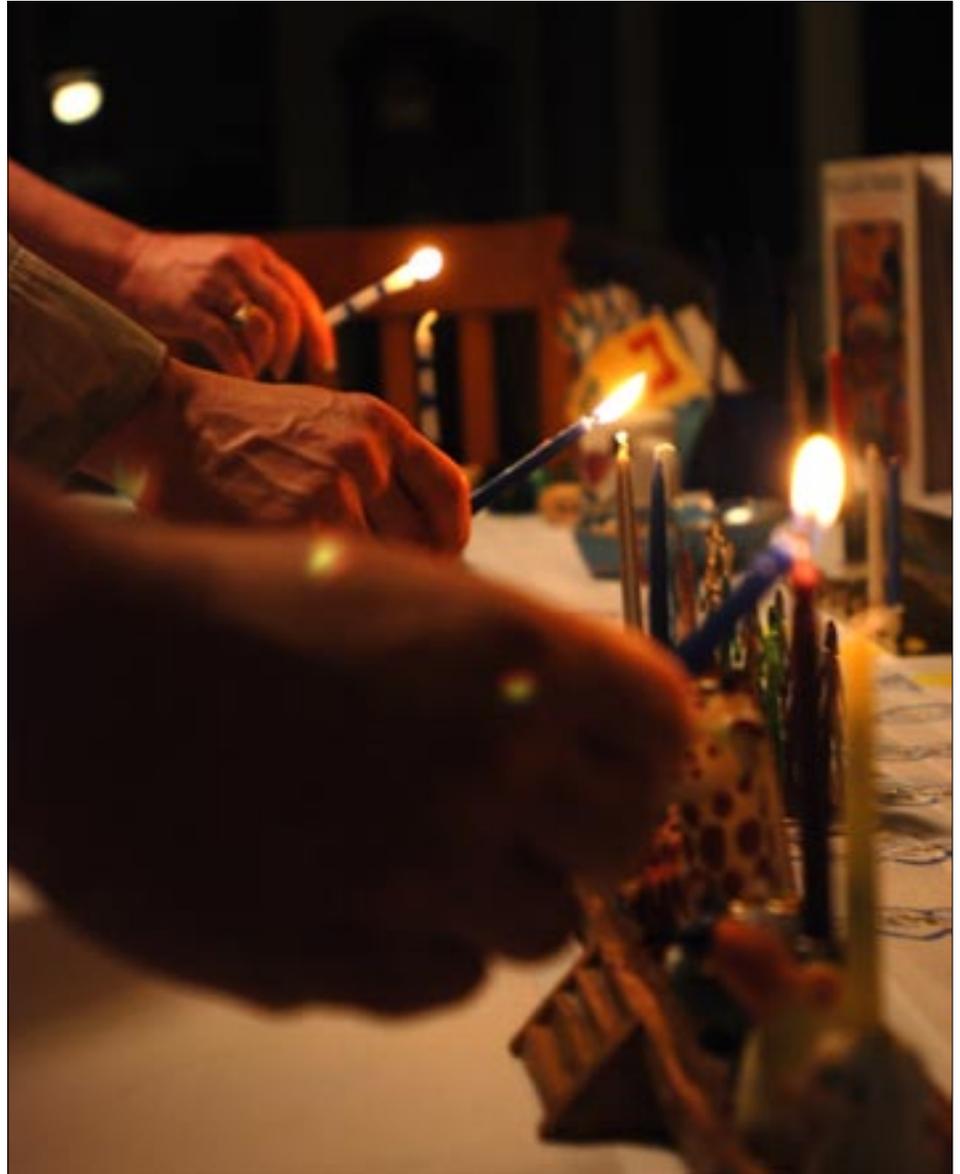
This battle for religious freedom began in the 2nd century B.C., as the Syrian-Greek Seleucids took control of Israel. At first the Seleucids allowed the Jews to practice their own religion as long as they paid their taxes. This changed, however, in 167 B.C., when King Antiochus IV became displeased with the Jews and ordered the looting of the temple in Jerusalem and the erection of an altar to Zeus there. Antiochus outlawed all Jewish practices and customs. This did not sit well with a priest named Mattathias and his followers. They saw the desecration of the temple as a slap in the face and revolted. Mattathias formed a small rag-tag group that, within two years, drove the Seleucids from Israel.

"It was God's glory that aided the victory of the few over the mighty," said Chaplain Brett Oxman, a visiting Joint Task Force chaplain and Rabbi.

After their victory, one of Jewish people's top priorities was to re-consecrate the temple. In the re-consecration process, one of the first moves was to re-light the eternal flame. There was a problem though. There was only enough oil to light it for one day, and the process for preparing more oil took eight days. They lit their small quantity of oil and prayed that it would last long enough for them to prepare more to keep the eternal light burning. That one day's worth of oil burned all eight days and the story has lived on to symbolize God's love for his people.

"We light one candle each night for eight nights to observe the miracle of the oil and the miraculous victory of the few over the mighty for religious freedom," Oxman said.

In the practice of the lighting the menorah, a central candle is lit first and is used to light a new candle each night in order from right to left. Traditionally the Menorah is set up near



the home's entrance so everyone can see it and reflect on God's miracles. While lighting the Menorah, prayers are lifted to God.

"We praise God for performing miracles for our forefathers and allowing their religious freedom," said Oxman.

Additionally, a small meal is eaten each night. Oxman explained, "The tradition is to eat foods fried in oil to commemorate the miracle of the oil."

In the U.S. and Europe, potato pancakes called latkas are common, though in Israel jelly doughnuts called sufganiyot are more widely eaten.

To prepare for the celebration the chaplain's office ensured that Menorahs and

candles were sent to Guantanamo in advance. The chaplains also put forth a great effort to bring Chaplain Oxman to Guantanamo to accommodate the holiday celebrations of our Jewish Troopers.

Hanukkah services will be conducted at the Einhorn home located at Marine Site M102 and will include menorah lighting every night through Dec. 12. The Einhorn's can be reached at 75822. The menorah lighting will be at 6 p.m. each night and a Sabbath service will be held at 6:30 p.m. tonight. Chaplain Oxman will be performing all the ceremonies.

(Sources: www.jewishpub.org and www.chabad.org)

Geistfeld retires after 31 years of service

Story and photo by
Army Sgt. Jody Metzger

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Colleagues and friends of Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Patrecia Geistfeld, as well as her husband, Ken, who flew in for the occasion, gathered at the lighthouse Nov. 30, to offer congratulations to the Coast Guard operations specialist on her retirement from the military.

“I have met the most amazing people and been to great places and I wouldn’t take back any of it,” Geistfeld said. “Sometimes I have grumbled, as junior sailors do. I look back and it was actually a pretty good experience.”

Geistfeld initially enlisted in the Navy at 20 as a radioman in 1975. Beginning early in her career, Geistfeld integrated her work ethics and beliefs into her military vocation. Geistfeld has been an advocate for women dating back to a time when women were more visible as housewives than Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen or Marines.

“I think I was always a closet rebel,” Geistfeld explained. “I was never an outgoing rebel, but I think that I was always unwilling to accept the rules that society imposed. I was always ready to say, ‘I don’t think so.’ I always wanted to try to challenge the status quo. It was beginning to be more commonplace right around that time. It was the end of the Vietnam War and the ‘60s just happened, so women were beginning to be accepted in more roles.”

Seeking to avoid the status quo for women at that time, Geistfeld’s ambition for self improvement and opportunity to make a difference led her to join the service.

“I tried to go to college and pay for it myself,” she said. “That was very tough. I wanted to travel and have a career, and those opportunities were just not there for me. I was struggling to pay for college and I needed a job.

As a female Sailor, Geistfeld had to work hard to win over her male counterparts and notes she did not want



Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Patrecia Geistfeld receives the Joint Service Achievement Medal, Nov. 30, from Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby, commander Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Geistfeld is retiring after 31 years of service in the Navy and the Coast Guard.

to be thought of as a weak link.

“I do remember, thinking back, that you did have to do your job and be sure and do your job well because there was that tendency for men to say, ‘She’s just a woman, just admin.’ If you were sick, you had to think twice about being sick. I never wanted to give the impression about not being able to hold my own because I was a woman,” said Geistfeld.

Though she left the Navy in 1980, Geistfeld never regrets any of her missions or her time spent on active duty. One of her missions brought her here in the late 70s, where she met her husband of 28 years who was serving here with the Navy.

“A ‘Gitmo romance’ that lasted—I don’t know how we did it,” Geistfeld joked. “We’re a really good team. We’re not alike, but we bring it together.”

Discharge from the active duty Navy was not the end of the road for Geistfeld’s military career. She spent two years in the Navy Reserve and then joined the

Coast Guard Reserve. It is from the Coast Guard, and ultimately Port Security Unit 308, that she is finally retiring her sea legs.

Geistfeld encourages young service member not to make the same mistakes in their military careers as she did in hers.

“One of the things I regret is not working harder to get promoted,” she said. “I was busy doing my job, and I did that very well. But, I don’t think I started early enough to try and work my way up into leadership. I would have liked to have made it to master chief, and I think I could have if I hadn’t postponed taking the advancement tests.”

As her military career closes, and coincidentally her six month deployment here, Geistfeld offers words of advice to younger Troopers.

“I tell the guys to treasure it. You will look back down the road when you are older and you will remember these experiences with fondness.”

AROUND THE JTF



▲ Tess Drake presents her side-splitting comedic stylings, Dec. 2, at the Windjammer Ballroom. “Tess and the Funny Hunnies and Homies” performed hours of standup hilarity over the weekend during shows at both the Windjammer and Club Survivor. (Photo by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger)



▲ Contractors install a new pedestrian bridge panel, Dec. 2, after shoring the ditch bed behind Cuzco barracks. Heavy rainfall in October caused substantial erosion to ditches and roads throughout the area following Tropical Storm Noel. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker)



◀ Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Roger Holland, Chief of the Boats, Port Security Unit 308, escorts a tour, Dec. 5, of Guantanamo Bay’s waterways. The 308 has been deployed here to provide anti-terrorism force protection for the harbor and shore-side facilities. (Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)