



Friday, June 7, 2002

“Wire” staff cuts out

By **Spc. Frank N. Pellegrini**
The Wire

The Wire is dead -- long live the Wire.

"The Wire," JTF-160's source of internal information and weekly morale-boosting field newspaper for servicemembers stationed at Guantanamo Bay, changed ink-stained hands this week as the Army journalists of the 27th Public Affairs Detachment reluctantly gave their brainchild over to new management.

As the 27th heads back home to Fort Drum, N.Y., and the 10th Mountain Division, the new staff, a team of journalists from the 361st Press Camp Headquarters out of Fort Totten, New York, takes over a paper built from the ground up.

"When we first got here in January there was nothing," said the paper's editor, Spc. James Strine. "There was no internal information at all for JTF 160, just 30 copies of a 10-page Microsoft Word document made up of stories pulled off the Internet."

"Jim took one look at it and just laughed, and said, 'we can do much better than this,' recalled the four-man print staff's Officer in Charge, Capt. Jeffrey P. Nors. That process began with style -- turning the layout of the thrice-weekly handout

into something that looked more like a newspaper -- and ended with substance: news stories not only for but about the JTF-160 community.

"As the folks out at X-Ray got more and more access to newspapers, television and the Internet, they didn't need as much outside news -- what was going on back home -- from us," said Nors. So his staff dropped issues as time went by, and redirected their energies toward covering the soldiers themselves. Eventually the Wire got to the point where it is now: one edition per week on Friday, with the emphasis on the local content.

"This stuff fires up the troops. They love to see their name in the paper," said Nors. "Our mission is morale -- that's what field newspapers are all about."

The Wire also has a website now, thanks to the initiative of Pfc. Daniel Kelly. Only three months out of Defense Information School when he deployed, Kelly was convinced that a modern newspaper had to have an Internet presence, and badgered his superiors until they let him have the task. Now, at www.nsgtmo.navy.mil/jtf-160, web surfers can get not only every edition of the Wire but press

See WIRE, page 5



Photo by Army Spc. Joseph A. Morris

Camp America Raises Stars and Stripes

Army Sgt. 1st Class John A. Lombard, 988th Military Police Company, Army Spc. Jason A. Murray Sr., 401st MP Co., and Army Spc. Seth D. Stoller, 339th MP Co., salute the newly raised flag at Camp America Thursday. The flag-raising marked the 58th anniversary of D-Day.

A look inside...



Read about the new MPs in town

Page 3



Talent show wows packed GTMO house

Page 6



Navy sinks Army on gridiron

Page 11

JTF-160

Chaplains' Corner

Attempting to glorify Christ always...

More Helpful Thoughts Since Arriving in GITMO

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

God tries our faith so that we may try His faithfulness.

Anonymous

KNOW GOD'S WILL

The best to know God's will is to say "I will" to God.

Albert Lee

GOD'S PROVIDENCE

The Lord hath prepared His Throne in the heavens; and His Kingdom ruleth.

Psalms 103: 19

TRIALS AND HARD PLACES

Trials and hard places are needed to press us forward.

B. Simpson

RICHES

If riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

Psalms 62: 10

GREATNESS

True greatness does not come to those who strive for worldly fame. It comes to those who choose to serve in Jesus' Name.

Richard DeHaan

JOY

There is no greater joy than to know God loves us.

David Rope

LIVING IN THE PAST

To live in the past is to miss today's opportunities and tomorrow's blessings.

Anonymous

Announcements

A Special "Thank You" to each of you who have supported The ministry of Freedom Heights and Camp America. The precious memories of us worshiping and serving together will always be treasured.

Your new Protestant JTF-160 Chaplain is CH (MAJ) Merrill. Let us support and pray for him faithfully.

Submitted by Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John W. Alexander, JTF-160 Chaplain

Local Briefs

Reminder from the CG: Alcohol Consumption Policy for JTF-160

The strict prohibition of alcohol consumption is waived. To promote responsible consumption of alcohol, however, the following regulations apply:

The possession or use of alcoholic beverages by a person under 21 is strictly prohibited.

Those in possession of alcoholic beverages shall ensure minors do not consume such beverages.

Drunkenness or abuse of alcohol will not be tolerated.

Consumption of alcoholic beverages is authorized only within the confines of living spaces (to include the fenced-in backyard areas) and at on-base establishments authorized to serve alcohol.

Alcohol will not be consumed in locations other than those mentioned above, unless at a command-approved party or picnic with command representation. Command sponsored parties must be approved by the JTF Commander.

Drinking on duty is absolutely forbidden. There will be no alcohol consumed by anyone for eight hours prior to assuming watch or duty.

No alcohol is allowed at Camp X-Ray, Camp America or other camp billeting areas.

The Commander may terminate alcohol consumption privileges if and when circumstances warrant such action.

Violating this policy is punishable by UCMJ.

**Remember: Alcohol
Consumption is a Force
Protection issue. Drink
responsibly.**

JTF-160 Command

Commander:

Brig. Gen. Rick Baccus

Deputy Commander:

Navy Capt. Robert A. Buehn

Joint Information Bureau Director:

Cmdr. David Points

Public Affairs Officer:

Maj. Stephen A. Cox

Online at:

www.nsgtmo.navy.mil/JTF-160/index.htm

A special thanks to the soldier-journalists of the 27th PAD for a smooth transfer of power.

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J T F - 1 6 0

New sheriffs at Camp America

By Army Spc. Chris S. Pisano
The Wire

The care, feeding and handling of the detainees at Camp Delta in Guantanamo Bay will be in new hands next week.

The 160th Military Police Battalion will be replacing the 115th MPBN as the MP Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Command in charge of running Camp Delta and adjoining Camp America.

"Our mission is their mission: to process detainees as far as personal data, country data, to treat them humanely, and care for them until they're dispositioned," said Chief Warrant Officer Larry J. Hendry, property book officer for the incoming 160th. "It's what we're trained to do."

Being able to perform that mission in the relatively hospitable environs of Guantanamo Bay, however, turned out to be a much belated holiday gift.

The 160th was originally activated for duty in forbidding Kandahar, Afghanistan — on Christmas Day.

But the pieces on the military's chessboard often move in myste-

made sure their soldiers' time wasn't completely idle.

"We had the time to expand our training goals," Hendry said.

That creative task included additional land navigation and patrolling courses. Throw in some extra mock-detainee training and canine training with German Shepherd "working dogs" — and helping staff some unmanned Fort Benning stations — and the soldiers of the 160th were busy enough.

"We were proud to be going on a mission to Kandahar then, and now we're proud to be here," said Hendry. Added S-4 officer Capt. Leslie Haines: "Our job is to take this mission over and carry it down range."

Members of the 160th agreed that with the help of the 115th, the transition has gone well.

"We've had people from the 115th taken us hand in hand and told us exactly what to do, said mail clerk Spc. Michele P. Sumrell. "They've made my first week here a pleasure."

"The 115th have really been a godsend to us," said Hendry.

"We're blessed to have what was here as opposed to the other people who had to start completely from scratch," he said.

"When we got here, we started from scratch," said 1st Sgt. Eric Bokinsky, HHC, 115th MPBN. "We've evolved this place from its humble beginnings as X-Ray to what it is now."

Bokinsky and his fellow National Guard soldiers have



Photo by Army Spc. Jose Martinez
Army Sgt. Gary D. French, 160th MPBN, loads detainee laundry into the back of a Humvee.

earned the time off. They were first called into action immediately after Sept. 11 and spent three weeks guarding the Pentagon.

Then it was more force protection training at Fort Stewart, Ga., for another three months. Finally, they were sent to Guantanamo Bay, arriving just days before the first detainee hit the ground.

Now, they're all ready to go home. But sometimes a job this

big is hard to hand off.

"Everybody's a little bit concerned about the transition," said Bokinsky. "But you reflect, you do your After Action Reports, and you remember — they've got the benefit of this mission already being done for five months."

"They'll be fine," he added. "Besides, there's always a better way to build a mousetrap. I'm sure they'll continue to improve on what we built."



Photo by Army Spc. Joseph A. Morris

Army Sgt. 1st Class Joseph P. Schrafel, 160th MPBN, toils away.

rious ways, and the reservists from Tallahassee, Fla., wound up spending their spring standing fast at Ft. Benning, Ga. — yet another Army case of "hurry up and wait."

But the leadership of the 160th



Photo by Army Spc. Chris S. Pisano

Army Chief Warrant Officer Larry J. Hendry and Army Maj. Steve Robinson of the 160th MPBN take a break outside their command "hooch."

J T F - 1 6 0



Photo by Army Spc. Joseph A. Morris

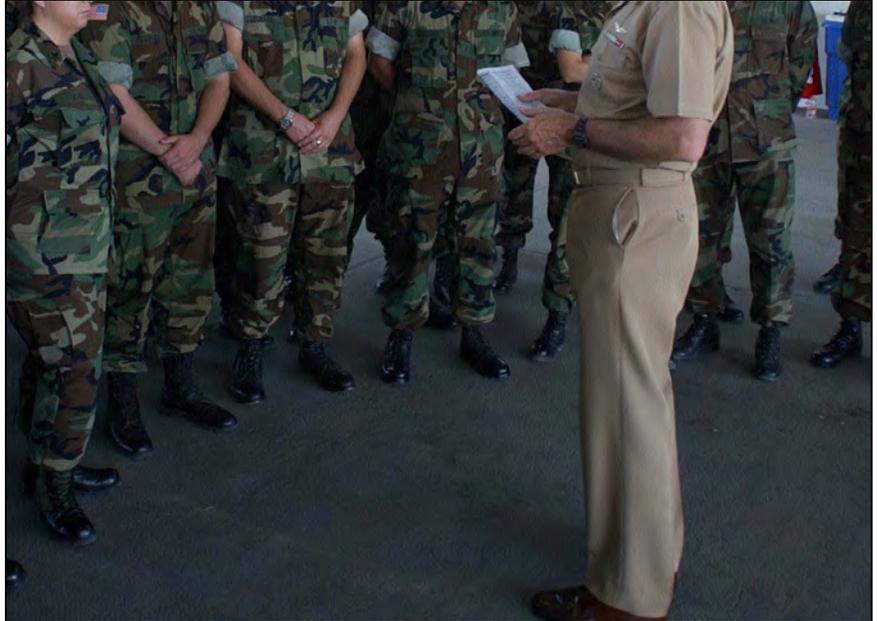


Photo by Army Spc. Joseph A. Morris

Reserve sailors get the four-star treatment!

Navy Admiral William J. Fallon pays a visit to Naval reservists stationed on Guantanamo Bay. He boosted their morale by assuring the sailors that their hard work is significant to the success and completion of Eduring Freedom.

Man on the Street

Compiled by Army Spc. Joseph A. Morris and Army Spc. Jose Martinez
The Wire

This week's question:

What did you think of "Attack of the Clones"?



Army Pfc. Orlando Soto Jr.
B company 122nd Infantry

That little green dude with that light saber was almost as fierce as me with my bayonet. I can't wait for the next Star Wars movie to arrive in my part of the galaxy!



Army Spc. Charles Cook
115th Military Police Company

I thought Attack of the Clones was by far the best in the series. It was definitely the best Star Wars out of the five.



Navy ABH3 Chad Dindo
Naval Station

The clone battle at the end was my favorite part. The Jedi knights were outnumbered by Trade Federation droids 1,000-to-1 until those clones showed up!



Army Pfc. Heather Sim
339th Military Police Company

I thoroughly enjoyed the movie. The fighting scene between Yoda and Count Dooku was by far the best part.

Next week's question: What is your definition of "motivation"?

J T F - 1 6 0

WIRE, from page 1

leases, biographies, photos, graphic art, audio released by JTF-160. Since Feb. 10, Kelly said, the site has received over 55,000 hits - and not a few emails thanking Kelly for his good work.

As the Wire has evolved, so has its staff. In the beginning Strine, FORSCOM Journalist of the Year in 2001 and the most broadly experienced of the four, did most of the layout work. Now each member of the staff, in addition to writer and photographer duties, lays out his own stories and contributes equally to the final product.

"These guys are a very talented group of young people," said the group's NCO in Charge, Sgt. Christina M. Bhatti. "They have exceeded all my expectations when it comes to their journalism skills."

But as journalists, the soldiers of the 27th still had to overcome one last challenge of a challenging deployment: the security considerations of the historic detainee-handling operation going on right under their noses.

"We were frustrated, as any journalists would be," said Spc. Travis Burnham. "They call it Heartbreak Ridge (the media vantage point for Camp X-Ray) for a reason. You stand there and it breaks your heart because you can't get any closer without putting away your pen, paper and camera."

But Kelly said it wasn't long before that feeling faded. "Once you realize what your mission is, not to cover this historical event but to write for the soldiers and



Photo by Army Spc. Frank N. Pellegri

The last stand, from left to right: Spc. James Strine, Pfc. Danny Kelly, Spc. Travis Burnham, Sgt. Christina M. Bhatti, Capt. Jeffrey P. Nors and Pfc. Jacob A. McDonald.

sailors and marines and everyone else involved in this operation -- once you get out there and start talking to soldiers and getting their stories, you don't mind any more.

"In the end, they're just detainees. In some ways, it's more exciting to find out what an Army bus driver does."

For Pfc. Jacob McDonald, just the chance to work on a newspaper was enough.

"This is what I love to do. I got a lot of great experience that's going to help be with what I want to do in civilian life, which is be a journalist. It's the only job I wanted in the military."

The 27th had been itching for a deployment for a long time. On Sept. 11, knowing they'd be needed somewhere, they were already packing up their office by the time the World Trade Center

towers had finished tumbling to the ground. First they expected to be sent to Manhattan to help with the recovery effort; then, as the war in Afghanistan began, their best guess was Uzbekistan. Finally, on Jan. 13, the call to Cuba came. Just 48 hours later, they were Guantanamo-bound.

Six months later, the 27th is "mission-proven," as Burnham puts it.

To Nors, they're barely recognizable.

"This is not the same unit, as far as training, as far as ability," he said. "We left Drum and we had a lot of soldiers that were just out of DINFOS. And now, you couldn't ask for a better crew. They're seasoned. They've got a deployment under their belt. We're excited they're going to go on and do great things."

"I'm glad to be going home,"

said Strine, who admitted some nervousness at giving up control of the paper he created. "But I definitely won't forget what I learned here, and hopefully what we put together -- the newspaper and the website -- will stick around for years to come."

The Wire will continue to evolve under the care of the 361st. Blessed with a larger staff, the unit will be able to produce more local content and will expand next Friday's edition to 16 pages instead of 12.

Even the name may change (if only to preserve the Army tradition of strict accountability).

But as long as JTF-160 and Operation Enduring Freedom continues at Guantanamo Bay, the spirit of the Wire -- news and features for servicemembers, about servicemembers, wherever they may serve -- will never die.



Photo by Army Spc. Chris S. Pisano

Drinking from the cup of victory, Generally speaking

Army 1st Sgt. Michail D. Eckles, of the 414th Military Police Company, accepts the Commander's Cup from Army Commanding General Rick Baccus at Camp America Monday. The awarding of the Cup is the culmination of a series of 12 events, from a 5K run to spades to darts, that has been going on since May 1. Finishing behind the 414th were, in order: the 988th MP Co., a team from the 160th MP Battalion, and the 401st MP Co. "Congratulations to everyone who participated," said Baccus.

Spring Talent Show rocks Windjamm

Story by Pfc. Jean-Carl Bertin
The Wire

More than 200 people crammed the Windjammer Ballroom for the Spring Talent Show organized by A Group of Friends and the Senior Petty Officer Association here Friday, May 31.

Many of the people who attended said that it was the biggest talent show ever held at Guantanamo Bay.

The show, which was also a fund-raising event for the SPOA's High School Education Scholarship Fund, drew military and civilian performers from across the wide Guantanamo Bay spectrum.

"Each member of the armed services is represented: Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine, federal and civilian employees," said Navy Cmdr. David Points, director of the JTF-160 Joint Information Bureau and one of the sponsors of the show. "That in itself allows us to say we can come together and respect each other's view and talents, working together for a common cause."

Following Points' remarks and the singing of the national anthem, Army Capt. Michael Farkas, JTF 160 deputy staff judge advocate – and master of ceremonies for the night – kicked off the show, warming up the crowd with a stand-up comedy act that included the Brooklyn-born Farkas' New York salute: "How you doin' – Oh no, how' you doin'."

Farkas, who said he was chosen as the master of ceremonies because of his New York accent, tried everything to get a laugh from the audience. He orchestrated an impression of James Brown's "I feel Good" and segued into the disco hit "Night Fever," donning a white polyester suit in a tribute to John Travolta.

"This is just a great event. It was a fantastic idea," Farkas said. "It's good for morale, and it's good for the kids. It's good to get your mind off the day-to-day drudgery of Guantanamo, especially with a weather like this," said Farkas.

After Farkas' opening act, the rest of the show was on. There was a little bit of everything – R&B, country, folk and rap music, gospel singing, poetry reading, a contortionist act and step dancing.

The audience looked – and sounded – as if they loved every minute. But every talent show must have its winners and losers, and at night's end, as Cmdr. Points handed out certificates of appreciation to all of the participants, a panel of judges made up of officers and enlisted personnel chose the best acts in three categories: Creative Music, Creative Lyrics and Creative Performance.

Then the winners were called to the stage to receive their awards and pose for photos.

In Creative Music, civilian computer contractor Mike Long took first place and Navy Lt. Jim "Perry Como" Bowman took second. In Creative Lyrics, first place went to freestyle rap act Throwd & Protégé; fellow rappers Seventeen took second. In Creative Performance, first place went to the NH (Navy Hospital) Steppers and second went to local high school senior Marie Brewer for a stirring rendition of "Every Breath You Take."

After it was all over, Points called the show an "unexpected success" even by his high expectations. "Everybody shared in this success. Here we are in a foreign environment, but we had a chance to share happiness and we made the most of it."

One of the judges, Navy Lt. Andrea Petrovanie, heartily agreed. "This is the first talent show I've ever participated in. It's great."

Added winning act Mike Long called the entire show "wonderful... To hear a whole bunch of people doing something diverse and eclectic – so different from what you normally hear on the radio or on TV – is amazing."

In addition to being a hit with the audience and participants, the show raised more than \$1000 for the scholarship fund.

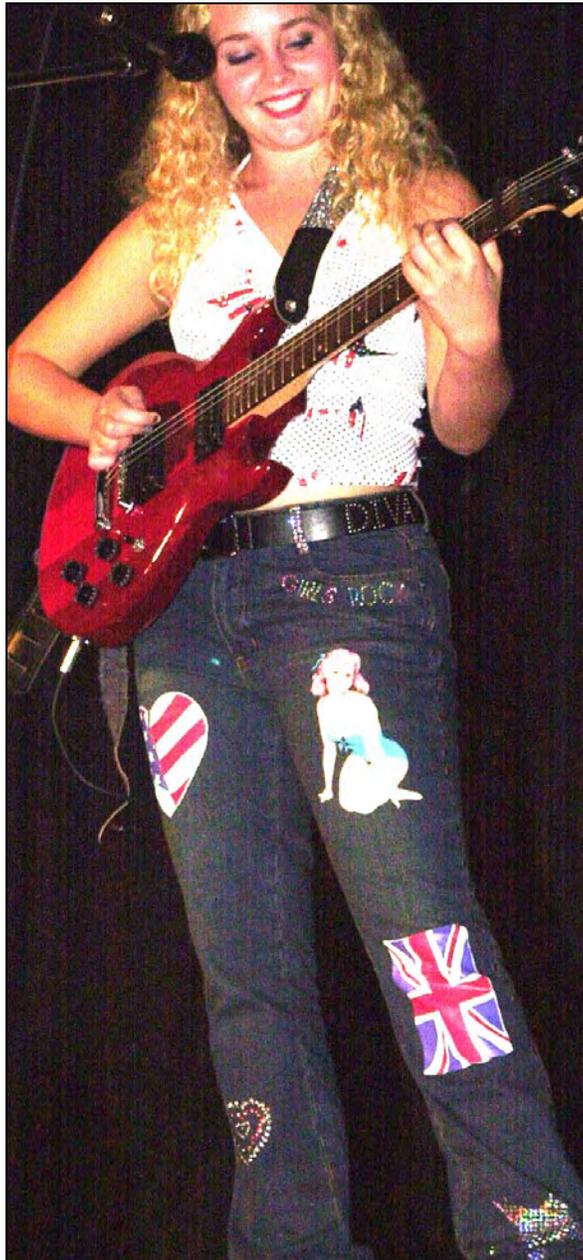


Photo by Army Spc. Chris S. Pisano
Marie Brewer dazzles the audience with a stirring performance of "Every Breath You Take."



Army Capt. Michael Farkas, the show's master of ceremonies, performs the song "Night Fever".



Mike Long belts out the winning performance of "Every Breath You Take" in the Creative Music category.

Force - 160

er Club with amazing performers



Photo by Army Spc. Chris S. Pisano

how's master of ceremonies, turns the beat around when he calls for some audience participation while dancing to

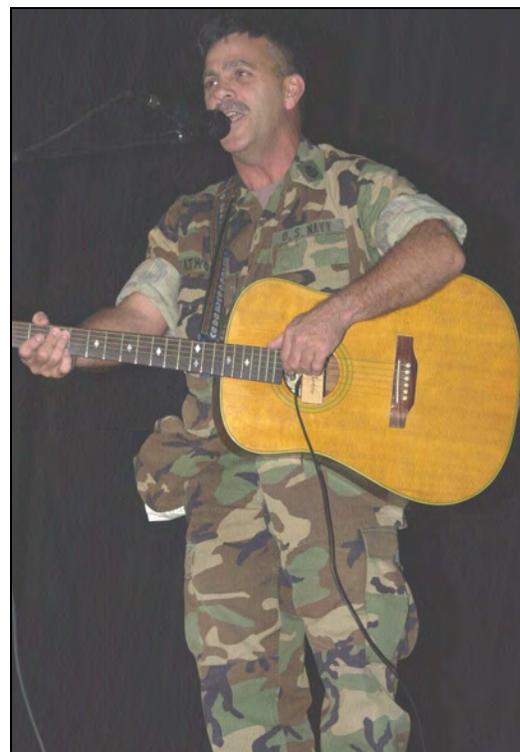


Photo by Army Spc. Chris S. Pisano

During the 15 minute intermission, there was a special performance by the Legendary A.A. "Tony" Atwood.



Photo by Army Spc. Jose Martinez

out a rendition of "I'll Be," which won him first place in the category.



Photo by Army Spc. Chris S. Pisano

The Navy Hospital Steppers bask in the glory of winning first place in the Creative Performance category.

N E W S

Bush Says America's Freedom is 'Non-negotiable'

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The United States must have “the best intelligence possible” in the war against the “shadowy enemy” of terrorism, President Bush said June 3 in Little Rock, Ark.

“We need to know what they’re thinking and what they’re planning on doing before they do something,” he said.

Up until Sept. 11, Bush said, the FBI was running down white-collar criminals and worrying about spies. Now, law enforcement agencies’ new strategy focuses on preventing further terrorist attacks. The FBI is doing a better job of communicating with the CIA and sharing information, he said.

“The whole mission of the federal government, working in conjunction with the state and local governments, is to protect the American people,” the president said. When it comes to defending our freedom, he added, “We’ll defend it with all our might. ... We love freedom, and it is nonnegotiable.”

The United States has a great military and the American people are grateful for those who wear the nation’s uniform, Bush said. Any time America’s young are committed to battle, he added, “they deserve the best pay, the best equipment (and) the best training possible.”

The nation has been at war for nine

months, Bush noted, and in that time U.S. officials have learned that the terrorists are resourceful and devious. They hide in caves and they’re willing to send youngsters to their death. They’re patient and they’re still determined.

They’ve still got an army out there, he noted, but it’s not the kind of army the American people are used to. There are no traditional lines of defense. The enemy melds into society and takes advantage of our freedom, he said.

Just as the United States has learned about the terrorists, they have learned that Americans are patient people who are in for the long haul. Much to the enemy’s chagrin, he stressed, the American people “understand that we face a new threat, the likes of which we’ve never seen before, and that we will do what it takes to win the war.”

“We’re on an international manhunt,” Bush said. “We’re after them, one person at a time. Anybody who thinks they’re going to hurt America is going to be hunted down.”

“This great country will lead the world to a more safe and secure and free society,” he said. “This nation is plenty patient and plenty tough. And we’re ready.”

“The great strength of this country is not really our military,” he said. “The great strength of the country is the people of America.”

Students Present Sept. 11 Lithograph to Joint Staff

By Air Force Tech. Sgt. Russell P. Petcoff
Special to the American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Two students from the Army Command and General Staff College recently presented the Joint Staff with a lithograph honoring the military’s response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Marine Lt. Gen. Gregory S. Newbold, J-3 director, accepted the lithograph May

10 on behalf of the Joint Staff. It now hangs in the outer office of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“Every year the class gives a gift to the college,” said Army Maj. Donald R. Baker, gift chairman. “Habitually, it’s an original oil painting.” The staff college is at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The original painting by artist Jim Dietz is now the largest painting hanging in Bell Hall on Fort Leavenworth.

The painting features representatives of all the armed forces. The people depicted are real service members, all stationed in Washington state.

In addition to the military members, the painting features rubble scenes from the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. In the background is the American flag.

To help pay the artist’s fee, the students sold a lithograph. The 1,000 copies printed sold out, according to Baker.

The students gave lithograph 1/1000 to Congress. They also reserved other notable numbers. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg is to receive 11/1000 — for American Airlines Flight 11, the aircraft that slammed into the World Trade Center north tower. Litho 93/1000, for United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed near Shanksville, Pa., was presented to the adjutant general of Pennsylvania.

The White House received 911/1000, and 1000/1000 went to the U.S. Supreme Court.



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Russell P. Petcoff

Maj. Donald R. Baker (left) presents the lithograph to Marine Lt. Gen. Gregory S. Newbold, J-3 director.

I n b r i e f

Afghan Firefight Results in 'Friendly Force' Casualties

WASHINGTON -- American and allied Afghan military forces conducting a raid May 31 mistakenly fired on other friendly Afghan troops, killing two and wounding three, a U.S. military official reported from Afghanistan today.

The fight lasted less than two minutes. No Americans or accompanying Afghans were injured.

NORAD-Sponsored Exercise Prepares For Worst-Case Scenarios

WASHINGTON -- The first part of today’s multiagency, bilateral air security exercise sponsored by the North American Aerospace Defense Command is already a “go.”

This is the second year the U.S.-Canada exercise has been held, Snyder noted. NORAD headquarters, at Colorado Springs, Colo., is responsible for air and space warning and aerospace control for the continental United States, Canada and Alaska.

British MOD: Attacks on U.S., British Fliers in Iraq Increasing

BRUSSELS, Belgium -- Iraqi forces have resumed stepped-up attacks on U.S. and British fliers enforcing the northern and southern no-fly zones in that country, the British defense minister told American reporters today.

Accompanying Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld from London for meetings here with other NATO defense ministers, Geoffrey Hoon spoke to reporters traveling with Rumsfeld.

“Immediately after Sept. 11, there was a fall-off of incidences over the no-fly zone. We judged that the regime in Iraq seemed to have gotten the message that military action would follow if they were not very, very careful,” Hoon said.

N e w s

Rumsfeld Trip Includes NATO, India, Pakistan, Mideast Stops

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- The war on terrorism and relations between India and Pakistan represent two hot topics on Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's agenda as he begins a trip tomorrow that will span Europe, South Asia and the Middle East, senior DoD officials said today.

The secretary's European schedule features a stop in London to meet with the British Secretary of State for Defense Geoffrey Hoon. Moving on to Brussels, Belgium, Rumsfeld is to attend multilateral North Atlantic Treaty Organization defense ministerial meetings, including first-ever NATO-Russia Committee talks, a senior DoD official noted.

The London and Brussels meetings will feature updates on the war against terrorism, he said. Another topic of discussion in Brussels, he noted, will involve selection of new NATO members during November meetings slated in Prague, Czech Republic.

Slated for discussion in Brussels will be possible NATO-Russia cooperative initiatives such as training and sharing airspace security information, an official said.

Rumsfeld is scheduled to visit a NATO AWACS facility in Germany. He is to fly on to the Estonian capital of Tallinn to meet senior defense representatives from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, all of whom want to join NATO.

Rumsfeld will also visit India and Pakistan,

a senior DoD official said, to meet with their senior defense officials and to help lessen current bellicose relations between the two South Asian nuclear powers.

The secretary will also go to Bahrain, Qatar, and Kuwait to meet senior officials, the official said, adding that the three countries have been helpful in providing support to the United States in the global war against terrorism. At this point, he said, it's unclear whether the secretary will visit South Asia or the Middle East first.

The length of the trip, a senior DoD official said, could extend into the end of next week. Other countries could be added to the secretary's trip itinerary, another official noted.

U.S. Philippine Policy Starts With Servicemembers

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- The success of U.S. policy in the Philippines rests squarely on the shoulders of the "extraordinary capabilities of our young men and women" serving there, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said today at the Hoover Institute Symposium here.

"In this case, (it is) not just their military skills, but their human skills, their sensitivity to local concerns and local issues," Wolfowitz said.

The deputy secretary returned June 4 from a trip to Singapore and the Philippines.

The deputy said many Philippine government officials did not want U.S. troops on Basilan Island, the stronghold of Abu Sayyaf, a terrorist group linked to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network.

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo overrode the objections and invited U.S. Special Forces soldiers and support elements into the country.

"There's a certain ... quite understandable sen-

sitivity in a country that was an American colony ... about the dangers or the fears that the United States might be there to take over," Wolfowitz said.

But the way U.S. servicemembers approached their jobs has swayed opinion in the government.

Secretary of National Defense Angelo Reyes said he saw no problem in allowing U.S. forces to continue their train-and-assist mission past July 31, the date it is scheduled to end.

Wolfowitz also praised the way American servicemembers researched and planned the mission.

"It's a level of sophistication that you might expect in a graduate course on sociology," he said.

"These are people who carry guns and risk their lives and build roads and dig wells, but they're able to do (the planning) piece of the job also.

It's just a very, very high quality of professionalism and dedication, and I think it has an infectious influence on the people that we work with as well."

Even on the trip over to East Asia and back, the deputy secretary got a chance to see American servicemembers in action.

Wolfowitz, his party and a traveling party of press flew 22 hours to Singapore aboard an Air Force KC-10 aerial refueler. Wolfowitz sat in the cockpit and watched as the plane refueled in the air.

"(It was the) first time I've actually seen two planes come that close together and for a steady, long period of time, and the cool, calm confidence of those pilots," he said.

"It's not something that I would ever think one would ever take for granted, but obviously, they've been doing it day after day throughout this conflict and in many others, and in much more difficult conditions than the ones we

were under, including more than one instance in which they were shot at."

"And then I had the experience later on of going back into the tail section of the plane and having the boom operator, who has seven years of experience in doing this very difficult and ... at times very dangerous job, explain in loving detail how it all worked.

"It's that command of

his job that I've seen over and over again among our young men and women — pride in their work, knowledge about what they do," he continued.

"It is terrific. It's the greatest strength of this great American military, and something we all should be grateful for as Americans."



Photo by Jim Garamone

Air Force Tech Sgt. Bob Burdick shows Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz the refueling boom controls on a KC-10 Extender aircraft.

N E W S

Even on the battlefield, wartime romance can bloom

The Army plays unwitting matchmaker for two soldiers in love

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan -- Family separations are routine in the military. Men and women in America's armed forces often have to bid a temporary farewell to spouses, fiancé(e)s, parents and children.

Once in a while, though, people get lucky. That's what happened to a 1999 West Point graduate from Santa Fe, N.M., and her Green Beret fiancé from Puerto Rico.

Just over a month after Army 1st Lt. Valencia Delavega got engaged last August, she received orders to Afghanistan.

"At first, I didn't want to deploy, but then I realized this was what I had joined the Army to do," she said. "This was why I went to West Point."

Delavega's grandfather had served as a warrant officer in Korea and Guam. She grew up listening to stories about the military. When it came time for college, she recalled the excitement she'd felt hearing his tales, so she applied to West Point.

"I wanted to do something different and I wanted to make a difference. I thought West Point was the perfect route for that."

Delavega went on to jump school, jumpmaster training and an assignment at Fort Bragg, N.C. There she met 1st Lt. Gregorios Zayas of the 3rd Special Forces Group.

Delavega said it was not love at first sight.

"He walked into our company area and another lieutenant introduced us," she recalled. The lieutenant said, 'This is Valencia,' and Greg said, 'I'm Lt. Zayas.' He wouldn't use his first name. He was so rude! Then, like three weeks later, he wants to go out on a date."

"I was a jerk at first," said Zayas, who is now a captain. "She was nice. I was mean. Being the new person to the unit, she was the talk of the town and I didn't want to come across as anything other than professional."

Zayas, as he puts it, was "born into the military" at Fort Lewis,



Army Capt. Greg Zayas and his fiancée Army 1st Lt. Valencia Delavega are both assigned to Bagram Air Base, near Kabul, Afghanistan.

Wash. His dad is a retired enlisted man. Zayas joined the Army and qualified to be a member of the Special Forces. He said his unit spends a lot of time in Africa doing humanitarian and other missions.

"When you're out in Africa in 125-degree weather with no cold water and no cold drinks and you just have an MRE to eat, you re-evaluate your priorities and your beliefs," Zayas said. "It's matured me and I've become a better person."

With seven years of active duty served, the captain said he plans on making the Army a career. "My goal is to do at least 20 years. I love the military. I love the guys." And, as fate would have it, he fell in love with another soldier.

As the weeks went by after their first meeting, the West Point grad and the Green Beret found they had a lot in common. Both are airborne. Both are jump masters responsible for making sure other paratroopers are safely out of the aircraft before they go out

last.

"The coolest thing is looking at her on the other side of the airplane and we're doing the same job at the same time together," Zayas said. "There aren't very many people in the military that can say they do that."

Shortly after the couple got engaged, the world changed. Terrorists attacked the United States and the military was sent into action. Zayas stayed behind at Fort Bragg while Delavega went to war.

People in her unit were really motivated about the deployment, she said. "We were fired up. Everyone wanted to show the world that nobody could do that to the United States without expecting some kind of repercussions. I think we've proven that. We've come out here and we've shown the world what we can do. We've warned them not to mess with us and that we want to prevent things like this from happening in the future."

Zayas arrived in Afghanistan three months after Delavega. "I

was happy to get orders," he said. "I hadn't seen my fiancée in months. I was really excited. I couldn't get here fast enough."

He said soldiers in his Special Forces unit welcomed the chance to fight. "That's what they train all their lives for," he said. "We have guys who have been in the Special Forces for 15 years and they've never seen combat. This mission means a lot. The terrorists took our pride away for a brief second."

Delavega admitted she worries when Zayas is out on a mission, "but that's our job. If you worry about it, you'll never be able to live. You've just got to take it for what it is and say this is what we signed up to do. If we didn't want to do it, we should never have signed up to do it."

Delavega and Zayas know how fortunate they are to be in the same place at the same time. "We're very blessed," Delavega said. "We get to see each other every day. We do breakfast. We do dinner and we get to watch a movie every night."

Sports

In Battle of Branches, Navy cruises

By Army Spc. Frank N. Pellegrini

The Wire

Friendly insults flew, sweat poured and the crowds for both sides loudly predicted victory.

But at the end of the day, two teams of sailors had proved as skilled on the turf as on the surf. The Navy swept the Army in two Battle of the Branches flag football games on a hot and humid Saturday night June 1 at Cooper Field.

In the women's game, the Navy women's defense proved as stifling as the air, giving up only a safety in a 20-2 victory over the Army women as drive after drive ended with the soon-familiar sight of a Navy player holding up a yellow Army player's flag.

Trailing 13-0 at halftime, the lady Black Knights threatened to make things close with a promising drive midway through the second half.

But a 50-yard interception return for a touchdown by Chief Melba Benjamin sealed the victory.

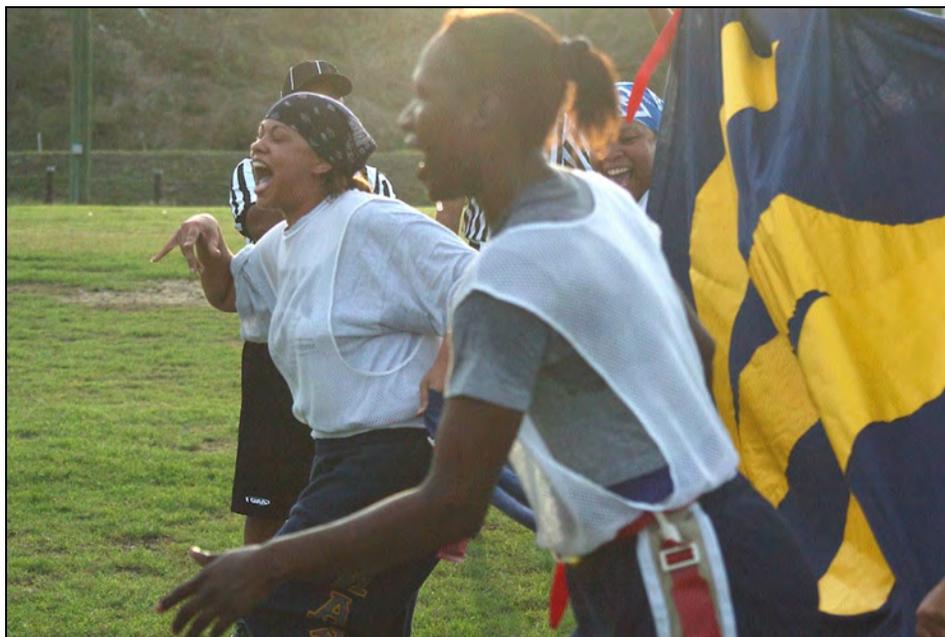
The men's game featured more spectacular plays but even less scoring as Navy QB and coach EN1 Bernard Jennings captained his team to a hard-fought 13-6 victory.

Again, Army threatened at the end, driving to within 10 yards of the goal line before a last-second pass by Army QB Staff Sgt. Rockne Gardner fell incomplete in the end zone. There was no more argument: the Navy had won the day.

"It was a close game – we didn't expect it to be that close," said Jennings, who also coached the women's squad to victory.

"It's been fun. It's nice to get out here and release some tension – of course, it's always nicer when you win."

Navy HM2 Tamika Richardson of the



You go, girls: Jubilant Navy women's team members HM2 Tamika Richardson and MS3 SW "JoJo" Stafford parade their colors after the big win.

women's squad was somewhat less diplomatic. "What did you expect? This is our base. This is our house. This is the Battle of the Branches, and the best branch won."

For MWR Athletic Director Donnell Daniel, who runs all the athletic events on base and has been overseeing a months-long Battle of the Branches series in a variety of sports, the game was a success no matter who prevailed.

"We just wanted everyone to have fun in a family-type atmosphere, and athletics brings people together," he said. "Besides, with so

many of the JTF folks leaving soon, we wanted to make sure these two guys got as many shots at each other as possible."

Next up is the last contest of this season: the Battle of the Branches basketball game, scheduled for Saturday night at the Main Gym. The games begin at 5 p.m.; the entire GTMO community is invited.

Predicted Jennings: "They're going on the plane with an 'L.'"



Photo by Army Spc. Frank N. Pellegrini

Navy coach EN1 Bernard Jennings coaches his women's team to victory.



Photo by Army Spc. Joseph A. Morris

As night falls on Cooper Field, Army QB Staff Sgt. Rockne Gardner tries to make his way to the end zone.



On the lighter side

Fifteen minutes of fame with Army Capt. Mike Farkas...

Nobody puts this Deputy SJA in the corner!

Compiled by Army Spc. Chris S. Pisano
The Wire

Q: What is your job at GTMO?

A: Deputy SJA, Staff Judge Advocate of JTF 160. I also brief all the new people at GTMO on the Geneva Convention and the Rules of Engagement.

Q: What made you join the Army?

A: Patriotism. Family history. My grandfather landed in Normandy. Now I'm trying to save the world all by myself.

Q: What do you do in the civilian world?

A: I'm an Assistant District Attorney in Brooklyn, homicide bureau.

Q: Haven't you already had your 15 minutes?

Your marriage on the Brooklyn Bridge was on the front page of the New York Post.

A: Yeah, January 13. My grandfather, the one who landed in Normandy, was a retired judge, and he married us. It was the day before I reported for duty here. But I did go back for the actual reception in April. It's interesting going through a wedding ceremony when you're already married.

Q: Seems like that bends some rules of engagement. What's the most challenging part of living at GTMO?

A: The most challenging part of GTMO is being mentally prepared to do pretty much the same job all over again, day after day after day.

Q: So what do you do for fun here?

A: Put on John Travolta costumes. Make fun of my roommate. Watch my NCO's do bucket races down Windward Loop. Otherwise, GTMO is a bit limited. Maybe some fishing.

Q: Any good catches?

A: My best catch was a 15 lb. Jack. I fish about as good as I dance.

Q: So, you're a pretty good disco dancer?

A: Self-proclaimed Tony Mainiero.

Q: What did you think of being in the talent show last Friday?

A: This was just a great event. It's good for morale. I demonstrated my special gifts. I donated my own personal humiliation for the good of the audience.



Photo by Army Spc. Chris S. Pisano

"I'm trying to save the world all by myself."

Q: How did you get rooked into it?

A: How did I get rooked into it? I'll tell you. Commander Points, who was the organizer, thought I was funny, and he told me that other people thought I was funny, and therefore they thought I'd be a good choice to be MC.

Q: You were pretty crazy, but what is the craziest thing you've ever done?

A: That's a bad question. I was the president of a fraternity... Some things are better left unsaid.

Q: Ever done any hiking?

A: Spent a lot my childhood in the Catskill Mountains. No one puts baby in the corner.

Q: And here?

A: Every day up Windward Loop.

Q: How old do you weigh?

A: 200 years.

Q: Pick your favorite color from one to ten.

A: I would have to say Sandra Bullock.

Q: Who was your childhood hero?

A: James Bond.

Q: Do any impersonations?

A: I do an excellent Lt. Col. Cline. (455th MP Commander)

Q: What advice could you give those who just arrived at GTMO?

A: Get out fast! But seriously, take advantage of all the MWR activities that the permanent party servicemembers have available to them.

Q: And when are you getting out of here?

A: I'm scheduled to leave on the 29th of June. I'm very excited to go home and see my family.

Q: OK. Thanks, sir. Unless you have anything else?

A: Hey, Lt. Williams' interview two weeks ago was longer than that, and he's just a Squid!

Q: It don't GTMO better than this.

A: You'll look pretty funny saying that with no #@\$%ing teeth!

Next week's 15 minutes of fame could be you!