



the Wire

Friday,
October 25, 2002
Volume 2, Issue 20

GTMO's day in pictures

"A Day in the Life Of..." series comes around to the military...and GTMO

Story and photos by
Spc. Frank N. Pellegrini
The Wire

At 4:00 Tuesday morning, photojournalist Larry Price is sitting in an idling van on Sherman Ave., waiting for joggers. "In newspaper jargon we call this roaming," he says. "Just going out, looking for pictures."

Suddenly, Master Sgt. Donald W. Iafate appears around the bend. Price gets out, sets up his shot. In the early-morning dark, the street signs and Iafate's reflector belt are glowing in the van's headlights; the bend in the road near the motor pool is set off by a column of palm trees. Price snaps a few. "That might work," he says. He climbs back in, and the van pulls out. The search for shots begins again.

Price, a freelance photojournalist and a managing photo editor of the Denver Post, was at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base this week as part of the worldwide photojournalistic project "A Day in the Life of the Military." The planned coffee-table tome is the latest in an ongoing series that began in 1981 with "A Day in the Life of America" and has covered countries, from Australia to Africa to the former Soviet Union. Until now.

As Price was canvassing GTMO Tuesday, over 100 of America's top photojournalists



Photojournalist Larry Price snaps away as soldiers undergoing non-lethal weapons training stage a mock advance at Camp America on Tuesday. Price toured GTMO Tuesday as part of the "Day in the Life of the Military" project, a coffee-table book featuring photographs of some 100 military installations around the world.

were each doing their own "roaming" at military installations all over the world, from Bagram Air Force Base to Diego Garcia to Fort Bragg, each hoping their shots would be one (or more) of the 300-plus photos to be included in the finished book, due to be published by

HarperCollins in April.

Price figured he got a choice assignment. "This place is so topical right now," he said. "I'm sure to get at least a few in."

See DAY IN LIFE, page 5

A look inside...



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Chaplains' Corner

Meeting God

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of root beer.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man who was sitting in the park staring at some pigeons. The boy sat next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed the old man looked hungry. So he offered him a Twinkie.

The old man gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again. So he offered him a root beer.

Again, he smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave. But before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. He gave the boy his biggest smile ever!

When the boy opened the door to his own

house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I had lunch with God." Before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile the old man returned to his home. His son also saw the look of joy on his father's face. So he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

"I ate Twinkies in the park with God. You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a smile, a kind act, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring — all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, for a season, or for a lifetime. Embrace all equally!

Have lunch with God today!

— Submitted by Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Raymond A. Tetreault, JTF-GTMO

Provost Marshal's Office

Guidelines for tactical vehicle use

The guidelines for the use of Tactical and Non-tactical vehicles by members of JTF GTMO are outlined in Policy letter #3, "Requirements for Traveling in Tactical and Non-Tactical Vehicles."

The policy letter states in part that drivers and passengers of Tactical vehicles must wear Kevlar helmets and appropriate military uniforms when the vehicle is operated off the paved roadway.

When tactical vehicles are operated on paved roadways at GTMO, drivers may wear the Army Physical Fitness Training Uniform, while the passengers may wear civilian clothing, provided the clothing is in accordance with Policy letter #7,

"Civilian Clothes Policy."

Approved parking areas for Tactical vehicles are the dirt parking lots behind McDonalds, the USMC Headquarters building, the G.J. Denich Gymnasium, and the Windward Loop housing area. Drivers and passengers must wear safety belts at all times. Drivers will use ground guides when backing up tactical vehicles. Engage the parking brake and deploy the chock-blocks when the vehicles are parked.

—Army Maj. Gary J. Cipolletta, Deputy Provost Marshal, JTF-GTMO



New procedures for ordering supplies

Effective October 15, 2002, each section will appoint a primary and alternate supply representative. The supply representatives will be designated on DA FORM 1687 (Signature Card). The original will be turned in to Customer Service at the warehouse (Bldg 611). One copy stays with the section and one copy will be turned in to Spc. Forstie (J4). This person will now be able to submit purchase orders (expendable and non-expendable) through Customer Service.

Expendable/consumable items are the usual office supplies that most now receive through the J4 section at the CDC. To request these items, the supply representative will fill out JLSG-ECS FORM 1 and submit it to the Customer Service clerk at Bldg 611. Items currently on-hand will be issued. Requisitions will be submitted for non-stocked or zero balance items.

Non-expendable/non-consumable items are items that can be reused such as filing cabinets, safes, engravers, and so forth. To request these items, the supply representative will fill out the Non Expendable/Consumable Request Form and submit the form through Customer Service at Bldg 611. Order status will be available after item is requisitioned.

Customer Service operation hours are Monday through Friday from 8a.m. - 4p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8a.m. - noon.

The point of contact for Customer Service is QM1 Lamberson at x3002. For any questions regarding this matter, please contact Capt. Kost at x3073.

— Submitted by Air Force Capt. Wesley E. Manship Jr, Deputy J-4, JTF-GTMO

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Joint Information Bureau / Pink Palace

Multicultural Day Celebration

Sunday, October 27, 2002

1-5 p.m. at Phillips Park

Sponsored by Naval Station and Naval Hospital

For more information,

contact:

Cathy Bautista 7-2450

Andrea Petrovanie 7-2033

Profession of the Week

Laboratory Technicians

Story and photos by Spc. Jose A. Martinez
The Wire

No germ or infection is safe with the “human body detectives” on the job. These highly trained laboratory technicians use microscopes and machines to help them fight the war against deadly organisms. They have trained intensely for a year in the Navy’s finest training facilities across the country. They can spot any change in the human body and can see the cause of any ailment through



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Kisham R. Harripersad analyzes a patient’s urine samples on a microscope to properly diagnose the ailment.



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Micah S. Webb inserts blood samples into a blood-count machine to determine the number of red and white blood cells.

blood samples. If there is something wrong with you, they will find it.

“Blood is like a map. It gives a good understanding of what is going on at that time in the body. It gives you a better understanding of how the body functions,” said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Kisham R. Harripersad.

So germs, be afraid. Be very afraid. The laboratory technicians of GTMO are coming for you!



**Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class
Kizzy Duncan**

“I work in the blood bank section of the laboratory and I feel it is the most critical section, because if I give someone the wrong blood type it can kill them. I am on call 24 hours a day. I like my job because from one minute to the next there is always something exciting happening at the laboratory.”



**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Kisham R. Harripersad**

“Lab tech is an amazing field to be in, because if you enjoy medicine and the medical field you can learn a lot about how the human body functions. Being able to detect different ailments in the blood work and giving the proper diagnose for a patient makes it easier to find a cure for them.”



**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Micah S. Webb**

“GTMO is a really cool place to work because you get a variety of different cases. I was always intrigued about why people get sick and how can they be helped. Being a lab technician is a perfect field to feed my curiosity. The laboratory can help you find out why people get sick and how to cure them.”



**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Rosemarie T. Minaya**

“I have been a laboratory technician since 1992 and my specialty is microbiology. I like working with different organisms that try to attack the human body. I learned how to treat and kill different infections with different antibiotics. I enjoy my job and it is very challenging. There is never a dull moment at the laboratory.”



Photo by Army Sgt. Michelle M. Pessoa

Down with the wire

As part of increased force protection directives, volunteers came out this week to the hillsides below the Pink Palace and the "head shed" to help remove and replace the razor wire surrounding the buildings. The job of establishing a new perimeter is expected to last several weeks.

Pictured from left to right are some of J-3's finest force protectors — Marine Cpl. Pete Colombini, Army Sgt. Todd Taylor, Army Staff Sgt. Tom McCarthy and Spc. Kevin Laiter.

Man on the Street

Compiled by Army Spc. Jean-Carl Bertin and Spc. Jose A. Martinez

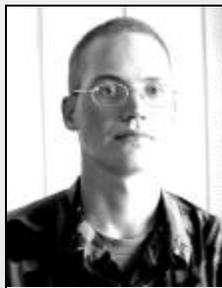
This week's question:

What do you think is the greatest invention ever?



Air Force Staff Sgt. George Fillingame, Motor Pool

"Airplanes. They make it easier to get around the world."



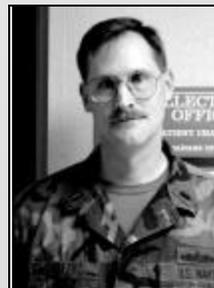
Army Pvt. Travis Axline, 1/22 Inf. Company

"I've got to say women. I can never know what they're gonna do."



Navy PO3 Pamela Mason, Dental Techn.

"The telephone. It was there before the age of the Internet."



Navy Lt. Thomas Bailey, Pharmacist

"Penicillin. This antibiotic saved the lives of many sick people."



Army Sgt. James Stringfellow, Motor Pool

"Radio. Before TV, that was the only way to get news."

DAY IN LIFE, from page 1

Eager to show a broader picture than the detention operation for which most Americans know GTMO best these days, Price made the rounds of all of the base's most photogenic spots, from the lighthouse for a sunrise over the sea to the patrolling Marines at the Northeast Gate, from a walk on the golf course to a sunset tour of GTMO's waters aboard a Boston Whaler with the Coast Guardsmen of PSU 307.

"The nature of this book is not so much to fixate on the military in the current political climate of the times, but to show the public things they're not going to see — extraordinary pictures of ordinary events."

There was no skipping Camp America, though, and Price was happy to stumble across a group of MPs and infantrymen receiving non-lethal weapons training on Camp A's sun-baked gravel.

Trailed by his media escort, Army Capt. Annmarie Daneker, and two military broadcasters, Army Sgt. Paul Morando and Spc. Christian Farrell of the 361st Press Camp Headquarters, charged with contributing to a promotional video that will accompany the book's release, Price shot breakfast at the Hospital Galley, lunch at McDonalds and dinner at the Windjammer. He shot soldiers and sailors and Boy Scouts. And after 17 hours behind the lens, he put it all to bed with the obligatory visit to GTMO's hottest media spot, snapping the lights of Camp Delta from beyond the fence.

"I took about 1,000 shots in all," a weary Price said at 10:00 p.m. "And I got some great stuff — a Marine behind a .50-cal driving along the fenceline, the weapons training, the sunrise at the lighthouse. The highlight was probably the trip up the GTMO River."

Price said the widespread Department of Defense support of the project — and the support he got on the ground here — made for a successful shoot, if a tiring one.

"You have to get a lot of sleep the night before," he said, "but I like to work continuously, chasing the light and just seeing pictures, and then taking them."

"It's a long day," he said, packing up his gear. "But it's been a great one."



Price strolls the fairways in search of golfers.



Price patrols GTMO's waters aboard a PSU boat.



Price lines up a shot of a Marine guard tower on the Cuban border from the deck of a PSU boat.



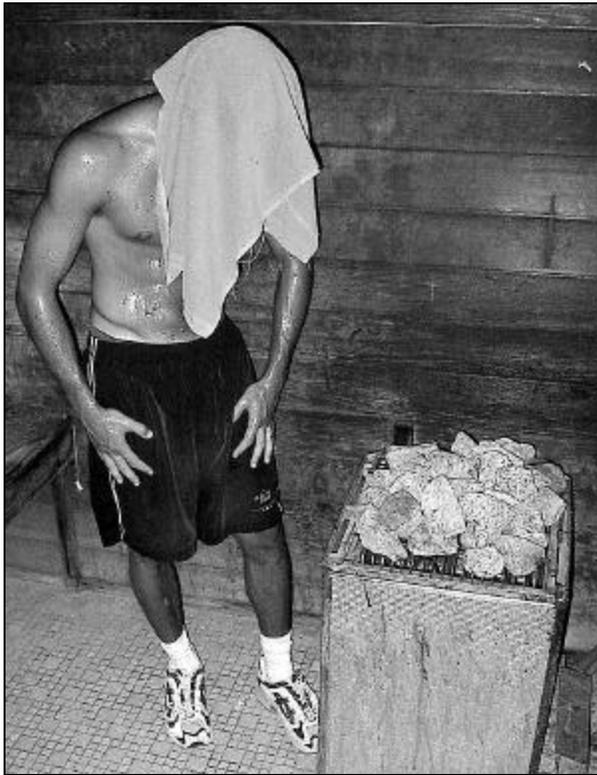
Price shoots the moon near the lighthouse while Spc. Paul Morando, behind, films the process.



Price, on the PSU 307 boat, cruises out into Guantanamo Bay in search of the coveted "sunset shot."

Three gyms, one

Story and photos by
Army Spc. Chris S. Pisano
The Wire



After a hard workout at the G.J. Denich Gym, brazen gym rats can crawl into the sauna room for that well-earned break.

addition to that sports a high-s who want to heights.

The Camp arena of iron a the humble te guard Camp D and keep in pe tion of free we ply of machine

Whether the physical fitness gram or were hands, any on their craving fo they're willing

For all the gym should fi one you choos fire and an unc GTMO, hurry pick. Work ha chance to work

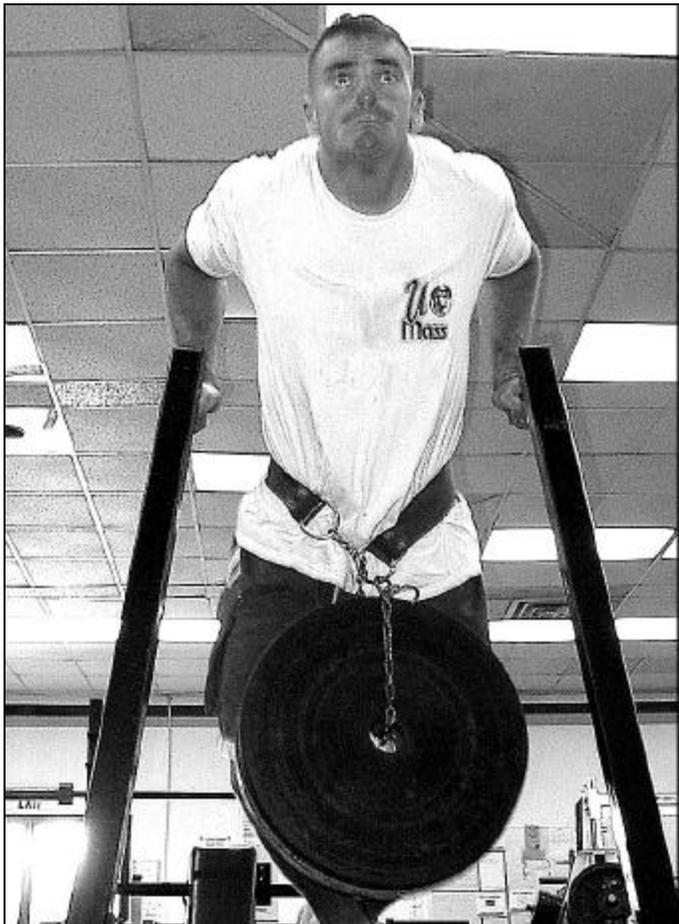
Remember:

Physically fit troops get the job done, and it's up to the gyms of Guantanamo Bay to see that they are properly "pumped up."

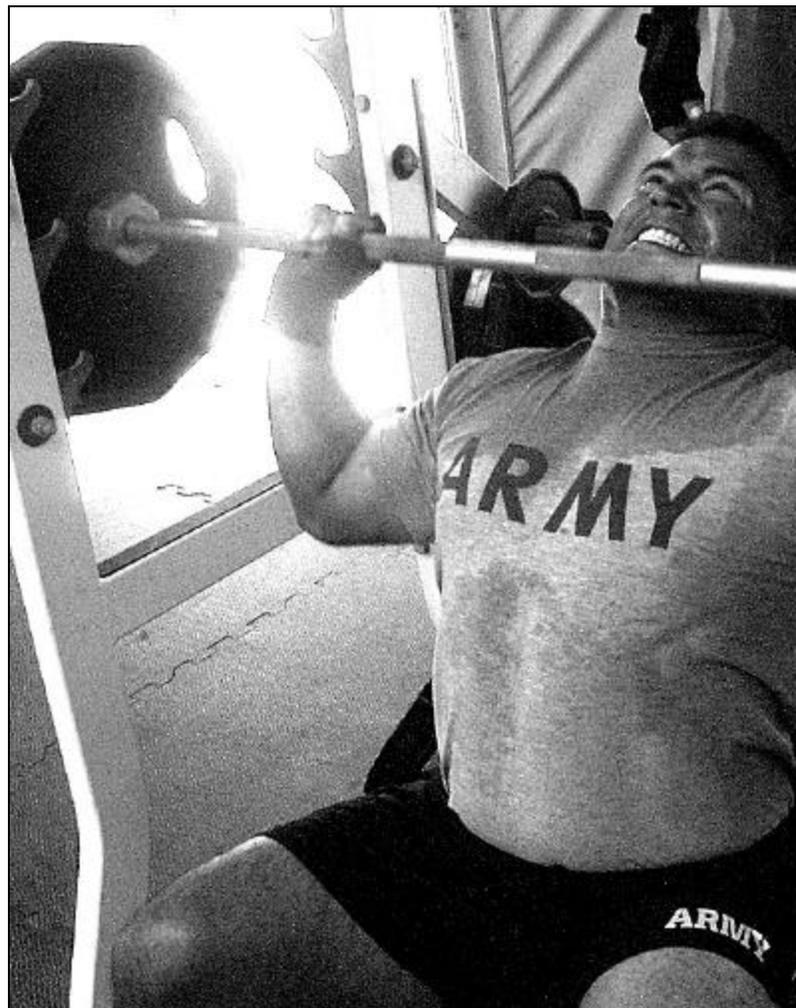
Take the G.J. Denich Gym, Marine Hill Fitness Center and the Camp America gym. Each offers a similarly solid physical fitness experience with a common goal in mind: well-balanced workouts, which lead to well-balanced servicemembers, who in turn lead to missions well done.

The G.J. Denich Gym offers by far the most selection for those craving a long and hard workout. With a plethora of free weights, benches and machines available, one will be like a kid in a candy store. Also offered is a basketball court, a selection of cardio-vascular machines, a spinning room and the sauna room for those who just want to sweat the worries of the day away.

Not just for Marines, the Marine Hill Fitness Center, while not as flashy as its Denich gym cousin, offers a solid selection of weights and machines for those potential ironmen out there. In



Hardcore Spc. Robert Lovely of the 43rd MP Brigade lifts the weight of many men during an intense session of dips while at the Marine Hill Fitness Center.



e mission

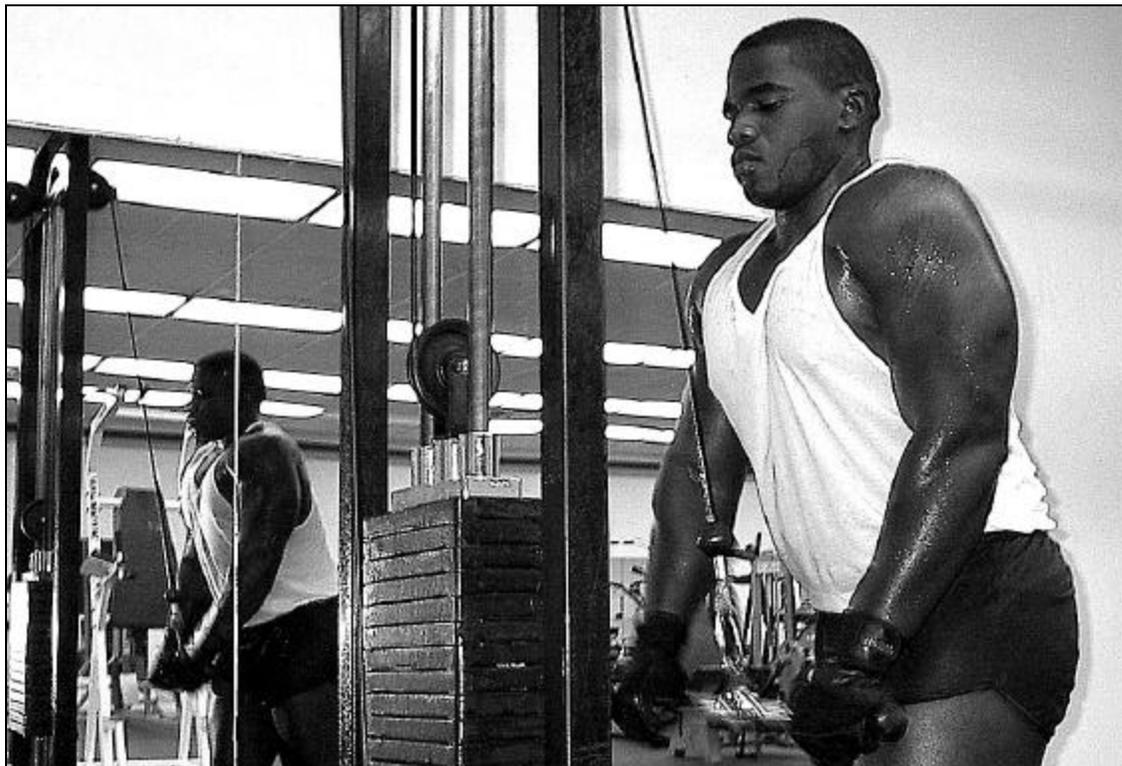
t basic steel goodness, the gym also speed rock climbing wall for those take their workouts to bold new

America gym is strictly a utilitarian and sweat. Located at its namesake, it allows the MPs who diligently Delta a chance to flex their muscles and break physical shape through its select weights and limited, yet effective sup-

s. The servicemembers are training for a test, trying out a new workout program just born with a barbell in their hands. One of these three gyms will satisfy you for steel or perfectly toned muscles if you want to give it their all.

For military personnel here, a visit to a gym is like a glove. So, no matter which gym you go to train in, if you've got a heart of gold and a dying desire to get in shape while at work, pick up and waste no time in making a gym your friend, and these gyms will allow you to work even harder.

no pain, no gain.



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Dakeem Coleman of Navy Station Security displays his chiseled muscles as he cranks another repetition of tricep extensions while at the Marine Hill Fitness Center.



A focused mind is key in the job performance of any troop. One can't get any more focused than going to the gym for a good set of concentration curls.

Army Sgt. Isidro Romero of the 2/142nd Inf. Company works up a quick sweat while strenuously performing one last shoulder press at the Camp America gym.

These guys aren't sweeping for dust

Story and photos by
Spc. Joseph A. Morris
The Wire

A few weeks ago, Kvaerner workers stumbled across what looked to be a landmine while putting in a water pipe behind the LCN building. They reported their discovery to the ordnance department, which then checked out the situation for themselves and determined it was a job to be passed on to the highly trained, explosive masters of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal mobile unit 2 detachment from Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

"We came down to find what looked to be live landmines hooked with live fuses," said Navy Chief Petty Officer Bradley C. Bunde. "So we left them in their place and blew them up with C4."

It's as simple as that. If any suspected explosives are discovered at Guantanamo Bay, these guys get the word, then come down and blow it up. Not a bad gig.

"We come here any time there is an emergency about ordnance popping up. We determine what the supposed ordnance is, and what has to be done with it to ensure the protection of all individuals and property," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Mike R. Adams of the EOD mobile unit 2.

"We also perform range sweeps for any unexploded ordnance such as grenades,



Navy Chief Petty Officer Bradley C. Bunde examines the remains of a Mark 3A2 offensive grenade that was found while searching Grenadillo Range.

work," said Bunde. "It takes the highest caliber of an individual to get through the training. Only the highly motivated make it to be highly trained."

A normal task of the EOD mobile unit 2 detachment is making regularly scheduled voyages to GTMO to retrieve unexploded ordnance from the different ranges. Whenever a range is in use, ordnance workers are nearby keeping an accurate account of all of the ordnance malfunctions.

"We keep record of all the duds that don't go off at the ranges here," said Navy Seaman Nathan J. Drollman, GTMO ordnance department. "Then we pass our information on the EOD team."

"Duds are accounted for," said Bunde. "Then our job is to search for them, find them, pile them up and take care of them."

"In the past, we were reporting here once every three months," said Adams. "But now with JTF here, there is a lot of ordnance training going on, so there are bound to be duds."

According to Adams, there is an average dud rate of around 20% on U.S. ordnance. Dealing with things that could just blow up

and rip someone into pieces isn't a job that many would be eager to take. But these guys display much pride in what they do and always play it cautiously.

"We use extreme safety doing range sweeps and demolition operations because of the danger factor," said Bunde. "With duds, the threat is even more heightened because explosives are built to go off, and when they don't, there's a problem. Things could even be worse than what's originally expected."

"We know to be careful about all ordnance," said Adams. "We go out in search of mines with a two-man team and use an ordnance locator, which is almost like a metal detector for explosives."

"Whenever live ordnance is found, we have to get rid of it," said Bunde. "If we can blow it up where it is, that's what we'll do."

"The simplest thing to do is leave ordnance where it's found resting, place C4 on it and blow it up," said Adams. "But if the explosives are near any important structures, we will proceed by moving them safely and then blowing them up somewhere else with up to 150lb of net explosive weight, configured together in one pile."

When boldly trekking the ranges, these troops are expecting to find the goods, but in the GTMO backcountry while performing a mine sweep, the odds aren't so well known.

"We found a bunch of mines during a mine sweep Wednesday that had to be at least ten years old," said Adams. "They were homemade with U.S. military fuses on them. And there are more of them out there."

"You never know what Castro could have placed out there," said Bunde.

And these explosive experts have some good advice for all of the people who want to keep all of their body parts in one piece.

"If you see ordnance, don't mess with it or move it," said Bunde. "Just get a good mark on it and call ordnance."

"If you spot anything out of the ordinary, call security," said Adams. "Don't take it into your own hands." When it comes down to it, leave it to the guys who won't "blow it."

"We got what it takes to get the job done," said Adams.

"Don't mess with explosives," said Bunde. "It's not worth your life."



(L to R) Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Mike R. Adams, Seaman Nathan J. Drollman, Seaman Bryan M. Burton and Chief Petty Officer Bradley C. Bunde perform a sweep of the terrain at the Grenadillo Range for any unexploded ordnance.

assault rockets, mortars and general-purpose bombs," said Adams.

Could it be that every individual here at Guantanamo Bay should walk around in fear of stepping on a landmine and blowing themselves up, and possibly a buddy as well?

"It turns out, where the mine was found used to be a training area for practice mines," said Bunde. So probably not.

These guys are smart and know a lot about explosives and how to handle them. After 56 weeks of training, who wouldn't be?

"Not everyone can make it into this field of



During a mine sweep performed Wednesday, homemade land mines with live fuses were discovered.



(left:) Marine Sgt. Jon Grinter gives the gathered crowd a quick lesson in the history of the presence of the U.S. in Cuba.

(below:) Marine Capt. William W. Elliott III, with wife, Margaret, and their 11-week-old daughter Grayson, possibly the youngest person ever to "walk" the fenceline.



(right) This sun bleached banana rat skull was just one of the many strange sights that dotted the trail from Kittery Beach to the Northeast Gate.



Volksmarch to Northeast Gate

Story and photos by
Army Sgt. Michelle M. Pessoa
The Wire

At 7 a.m. on Saturday, a group of nearly 100 people boarded buses at the parade grounds at Marine Hill to take part in GTMO's first Northeast Gate Volksmarch.

Volksmarching, a popular activity in Europe, combines the best aspects of physical fitness and sightseeing. Saturday's event, a cooperative effort by Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Marine Capt. William W. Elliott III, attracted servicemembers, contractors, spouses and even a few children.

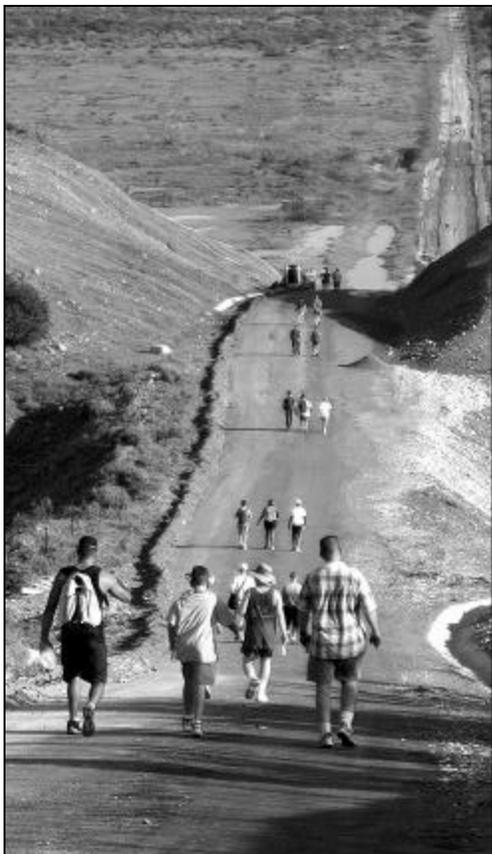
The buses dropped the walkers off at the Kittery Beach starting point at 7:30. Marine Sgt. Jon Grinter laid down the simple ground rules (drink lots of water and stay to the left of the fence) and they were off.

By 9:30 even the slowest walkers had made it to the guard post by the Northeast Gate. MWR's Donnell Daniels rewarded the group with commemorative medals and some refreshing fruits and beverages.

The event concluded with Grinter giving the group a summary of how the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station came into being, complete with highlights from the days of the Cold War.

After Grinter's speech, the walkers took the opportunity to stare through the gate into communist Cuba and take pictures. Then it was back to the buses and a return trip to Marine Hill.

Judging by the buzz on the ride back, the next Volksmarch will be just as eagerly attended.



The road goes ever on and on. The 8K stroll took approximately two hours to complete, though from certain vantage points it looked like it would never end.



At the end of the trek the walkers were treated to a glimpse of the gate that leads to communist Cuba. Ironically enough, the sign reads, "Republic of Cuba, Free Territory of America."



**Frustrated
Poetry
Corner**

by Spc. Joseph A. Morris

*A bitter, sweet world this is.
In a world filled with strain,
I suffer no pain.
Trekking through life,
Full speed like a train,
Through clouds and through rain,
I proclaim... to succeed.
Off this world I will feed,
While I plant my seed.
AS TIME PASSES BY,
I will grow.
Absorb what I can,
While I teach what I know.
I'll raise my head high,
When it wants to hang low.
And when my day comes,
I'll be ready to go.*

Movie Schedule

DOWNTOWN LYCEUM

Friday, October 25
8 p.m. Master of Disguise, PG - 80 min
10 p.m. Serving Sara, PG13 - 100 min

Saturday, October 26
8 p.m. Spy Kids 2, PG - 99 min
10 p.m. Blue Crush, PG13 - 104 min

Sunday, October 27
8 p.m. The Ring, PG13 - 115 min

Monday, October 28
8 p.m. Spy Kids 2, PG - 99 min

Tuesday, October 29
8 p.m. Blue Crush, PG13 - 104 min

Wednesday, October 30
8 p.m. The Ring, PG13 - 115 min

Thursday, October 31
8 p.m. Master of Disguise, PG - 80 min

CAMP BULKELEY

Friday, October 25
8 p.m. Exorcist 2000, R - 121 min
10 p.m. From Hell, R - 122 min

Saturday, October 26
8 p.m. 13 Ghosts, R - 91 min
10 p.m. Ghost World, R - 111 min

Sunday, October 27
8, 10 p.m. The Ninth Gate, R - 113 min

Monday, October 28
8 p.m. Resident Evil, R - 101 min

Tuesday, October 29
8 p.m. Jason X, R - 93 min

Wednesday, October 30
8 p.m. Murder by Numbers, R - 120 min

Thursday, October 31
8, 10 p.m. Panic Room, R - 118 min

Crossword Puzzle

Across

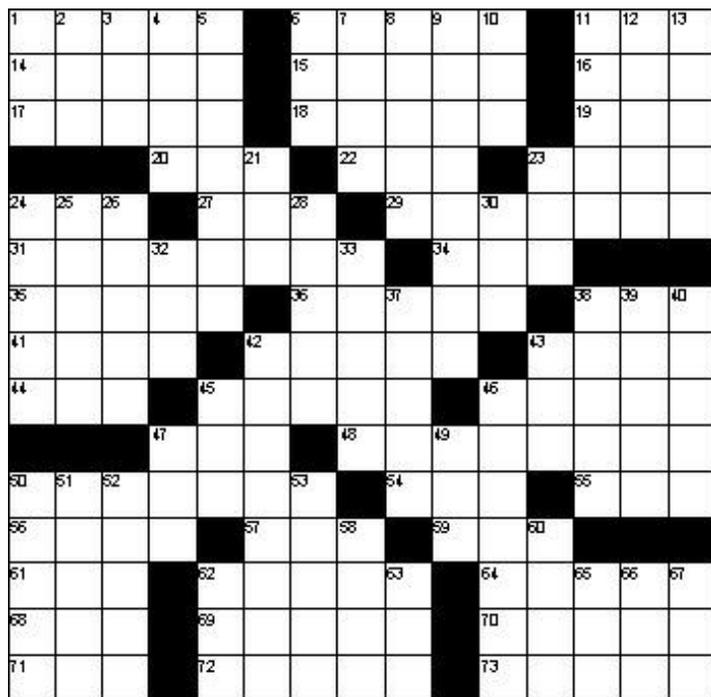
- 1 Brace oneself
- 6 Shrew
- 11 Movie 2001's talking computer
- 14 Winnow
- 15 Hip
- 16 Genius
- 17 Type of communication
- 18 African nation
- 19 Winter mo.
- 20 Flange
- 22 Talk incessantly
- 23 Opp. of aft
- 24 Highs
- 27 Central Intelligence Agency
- 29 An essential constituent of DNA
- 31 What Bojangles did
- 34 Electroencephalograph (abbr.)
- 35 Ordeal
- 36 Armed robbery
- 38 Animal foot
- 41 ___-a-sketch
- 42 Jocund
- 43 Roman garments
- 44 Grain

- 45 Asian nation
- 46 Furniture mover
- 47 Female sheep
- 48 A representation of a chemical reaction
- 50 A document issued by an educational institution
- 54 Lodge
- 55 IOU part
- 56 Swiss-like cheese
- 57 Unrefined metal
- 59 Fall mo.
- 61 Succor
- 62 Negative battery terminal
- 64 Clothes pressers
- 68 Pole
- 69 Ten cent coins
- 70 Asian nation
- 71 Eye infection
- 72 Meager
- 73 Cope (2 wds.)

Down

- 1 Fast plane
- 2 Equal
- 3 Moray
- 4 Always
- 5 Of or relating to the vocabulary
- 6 Frump
- 7 Gone
- 8 Capital of Morocco
- 9 To speak as a prophet
- 10 Japanese money
- 11 Capital of Vietnam
- 12 Squirrel's dinner
- 13 Embankment
- 21 Not max
- 23 Madagascar franc (abbr.)
- 24 Express
- 25 Celebration
- 26 Mace
- 28 Hurt
- 30 Still
- 32 Telegraphic signal

- 33 Uncanny
- 37 Iranian's neighbor
- 38 Childhood disease
- 39 Luminous
- 40 Cowboy John
- 42 A memory device
- 43 Kid
- 45 The other half of Jima
- 46 Rhythmic movements
- 47 Shade tree
- 49 Card game
- 50 Honeys
- 51 Imbecile
- 52 Rice farm
- 53 Scent
- 58 Adam's garden
- 60 Leaf maker
- 62 Spots
- 63 Eastern Standard Time
- 65 Choose
- 66 Snatch
- 67 Foxy



October 18th:



From GTMO to Puerto Rico

Story and photos
by Army Sgt.
Michelle M. Pessoa
The Wire

Servicemembers who are in GTMO long enough eventually accrue enough days on the ground to entitle them to go on leave. While many people choose to use their allotted ten days to go back home, a quick hop over to nearby Naval Station Roosevelt Roads in Puerto Rico may be a fun alternative.

For servicemembers who decide that they'd like to spend their leave exploring the island of Puerto Rico, here are a few tips to keep in mind.

Flights leave from the Leeward side of GTMO to "Roosey Roads" weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays. Flights return on Wednesdays and Saturdays. When signing up for a seat on a space available basis, it's important to get one's name on the list early. Flights to and from Roosevelt Roads are rarely packed, but don't risk getting left behind. The day before the scheduled flight, one must sign out with J-1, surrender one's I.D. badge, and contact the air terminal to have one's name placed on the passenger list. A nominal tax/inspection fee must be paid to get on a Space "A" flight. The cost going to Puerto Rico is \$23.80 and the price to return is \$12.80. The flight to Puerto Rico is about one hour and 20 minutes. Beverage and a snack are offered. Seating on the flight to Puerto Rico was open on my flight, so when I politely asked the flight attendants if I could take an open seat in first class, there was no problem.

Upon arrival in Puerto Rico a representative from Avis Rent-A-Car met me at the terminal. It's almost mandatory to rent a car if one plans to leave Roosevelt Roads at all. Roosevelt Roads is in the town of Ceiba on Puerto Rico's eastern coast. If one's ultimate destination is San Juan on the island's north coast, even a one-way rental of \$29 for a subcompact car makes a lot of sense,

given that a cab ride to the same destination can cost upwards of \$60!

My guidebooks had hinted strongly that driving in Puerto Rico might prove hectic, but I had little trouble. The highway signage could have been better in some places, but the traffic, though fast, was light for rush hour on a Tuesday. Most of the traffic was heading away from San Juan. I was relaxing in a huge room at the Wyndham El San Juan in the Isla Verde section of Puerto Rico's capital about an hour after leaving the naval base.

After a quick shower I explored the hotel and the sur-

shops around where you can pick up refrigerator magnets, t-shirts and shot glasses, but you can also find paintings, statues and carved wooden masks in this area as well. Old San Juan reminded me a great deal of New Orleans with a dash of San Francisco thrown in. The streets were hilly and narrow, and every alleyway held the promise of something new to explore.

As lunchtime approached, I avoided the temptation of fast food and found exactly what I was looking for in Cafe San Juan, a cozy hole in the wall across from Plaza Colon where a statue of Christopher Columbus stands.

I wavered over several choices on the menu, but ultimately went for *mofongo*, an Afro-Puerto Rican dish of mashed plantains formed into a volcano-like shape and stuffed with chicken, beef or seafood that has been stewed with tomatoes and green peppers.

Delicious!

In the days that followed I explored Loiza, a village with a rich African heritage dating back to the island's colonial period, and Fajardo, a 200 year-old town that is the jumping off point for excursions to the Spanish Virgin Islands — Vieques and Culebra.

Fajardo was cramped and the street signs were non-existent. My halting Spanish was pushed to the limit, but I was able to get by. If one is in the mood for lobster or *paella*, I recommend Rosa's Sea Food. Be warned — I had a devil of a time finding the dead-end street it's on, and they don't take reservations.

All too soon my leave was up. I only made good on a mere fraction of the grand plans I had outlined for myself — the day trip to St. Thomas and the visit to the rainforest of El Yunque never materialized.

The bright spot is, missing out on these opportunities has given me a thousand reasons to return to *La Isla del Encanto* — The Island of Enchantment — at the earliest opportunity.



The fortress of San Cristobal at sunset in Old San Juan.

rounding area. Isla Verde is a classy, upscale neighborhood, full of large hotels with casinos and many restaurants and nightclubs. I didn't feel nervous walking the streets, but like in any large city, it's best to remain alert in unfamiliar surroundings.

For dinner, I settled on Lupi's, a Mexican chain restaurant. One disappointing aspect of my Puerto Rico trip was the fact that I had to diligently search for authentic island cuisine. Everywhere I turned there was a Burger King or a Wendy's.

I spent the next day exploring Old San Juan, the section of the city dating back to the time of the island's first governor, Ponce de Leon. This quaint neighborhood has a lot to offer the sightseer and shopper. On Calle Fortaleza (Fortaleza Street) I discovered a strip of reasonably priced jewelry shops, and I was able to pick up some rings and necklaces that will make excellent Christmas gifts.

As can be expected, there were quite a few tacky tourist gift

This Week

The Men's Soccer season will start Monday, Oct. 28 and the Women's Soccer season will start Tuesday, Oct. 29. Please contact Capt. Gormly at 5249 or Maj. Buchanan at 5255 for more information.

* Daily free daytime & evening lessons are available for sailing, kayaking, and motor boating at Pelican Pete's Marina.

* Aerobics Classes, Marine Hill Gym, Mon., Wed., and Fri., 6 a.m. - 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., and 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Tues. and Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. . .

* Tae-Kwon Do, Marine Hill Gym, Mon., Wed., and Fri., 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (one hour classes) Tues. and Thurs. 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

* 1-on-1 Spinning Classes, G.J. Denich Gym, Mon-Thurs., 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

* Yoga Classes, Tues. - Thurs. 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m., GJ Denich Gym/Yoga Center.

* Bowling, Marblehead Lanes, Mon. - Fri., 11 a.m. - Midnight.

* Pool Hours: **Marine Hill Pool:** Open Swim, 6 a.m. - 6 p.m., daily; **Windjammer Pool:** Lap Swim, 6 a.m. - 8 a.m., Mon. - Sat, Open Swim, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily; **Deer Point Pool:** Open Swim, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. & Sun.

Friday, October 25th

11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Free bowling, Marblehead Bowling Lanes.

7 p.m. - 12 a.m., Friday Extreme Bowling, Marblehead Lanes.

Saturday, October 26th

6:30 a.m., Hospital Walk for Cancer, U.S. NAVBASE Hospital.

6 p.m., Bowling Party, Marblehead Lanes.

Sunday, October 27th

1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Extreme Bowling, Marblehead Lanes

6:30 p.m., Bingo, Windjammer Club.

Monday, October 28th

8 a.m. - 12 p.m., Adult Ceramic Classes, Ceramic Shop.

Tuesday, October 29th

6:30 p.m., Bingo, Windjammer Club.

7 p.m. Table Tennis Tournament, Main CBQ Liberty Center

Wednesday, October 30th

9 a.m. - 11 a.m., 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Adult Advanced Pottery Classes, Ceramics Shop.

8 p.m., Karaoke, Windjammer Club.

Thursday, October 31st

11 a.m. - 12 a.m., Bowling, Marblehead Lanes.

6 p.m., Bowling Party, courtesy of CBQ Liberty Center.

Sports

W.T. Sampson rolls over MPs

Story and photos by
Spc. Jose A. Martinez
The Wire

W. T. Sampson improved their record to 5-0 by beating the 571st Military Police Company Tuesday night on Cooper Field and remains perfect on the soccer field.

The 2-0 victory over the MPs put the Lady Pirates of W. T. Sampson High School ahead in the standings by two games.

The Lady Pirates came out aggressively on the field. They wanted to score early in the game and put pressure on the soccer ball.

Their aim was to make the 571st MP Co.'s goalkeeper, Spc. Angela Neal, work. But Neal was up to the challenge. She was holding her own behind the net. She was like a brick wall. She didn't let anything go by her.

Neal was keeping the 571st MP Co. in the game. The 571st MP Co. couldn't get into their offense because of all the pressure on the soccer ball.

The Lady Pirates kept the ball on the 571st MP Co.'s side of the field. This made it very hard to get their offense in sync. So, they had to rely on their defense to stop the onslaught by the Lady Pirates.

They had four shots on goal before eighth grader Page Gann spotted senior Rachel Johann open by the net. Gann timed the pass perfectly and Johann kicked it into the net for the goal.

They took the 1-0 lead to half time. The Lady Pirates had control of the game.

In the second half the Lady Pirates seemed very confident, because they had more players on the team. They substituted more than the 571st MP Co. The MPs had only eight players on the roster. This was a big advantage going into the second half.

The 571st MP Co. would eventually run



Page Gann from W. T. Sampson scores a goal on a penalty kick in the second half to win 2-0 Tuesday night.

out of gas, though, and succumb to the Lady Pirates' iron will.

As the game progressed, the 571st MP Co.'s defense was getting sloppy and they were being called on a lot of penalties.

One of the penalties led to a penalty kick, which Gann nailed to the left side of the net for a goal.

The game was now 2-0. The Lady Pirates were on their way to another victory in the soccer league.

"It seems like the teams in the league are playing more defense than offense against us. They are playing more defense to keep us from scoring, but the benefit we have in the league is that we have more players than the other teams," said Coach Buddy Gann.

"Most teams have less than eight players on the roster. They were getting tired in the

first half and I figured they would be very tired by the second half. So, we kept attacking the goal. We have good players and they are young and have fresh legs. We are able to wear teams out," said Coach Gann.

Because the Lady Pirates are a young team, coach Gann always communicates and makes sure his team knows what is important in the game of soccer.

"Keep your head in the game and play the game because it is fun," said Coach Gann.

"I am surprised to be 5-0, but the girls have played together and practice hard. Because of the win they will have a day off. I am happy with them and they have been doing a good job on the field," said Coach Gann.

Being in first place is not enough for the Lady Pirates. They feel they can improve in all areas of the game.

"It is great to be undefeated, but we need to work on our headers and left footers," said Gann.

The Lady Pirates now have a strong hold on the competition. With only three games left in the season, they have a pivotal game against Navy Hospital Tuesday night. A win could mean clinching first place in the upcoming tournament.



W. T. Sampson's senior Rachel Johann (R) battles with a defender from 571st MP Co. for the soccer ball.

Soccer standings Women's soccer

W. T. Sampson	5-0
Hospital	3-2
571st MP Co.	1-4
NAVSTA	1-4

15 Minutes of Fame...

with Navy IT2 Elisabeth N. Favorite

Naval Computer Telecommunications Area Master Station

These are a few of her “Favorite” things

Interview and photo
by Army Sgt.
Michelle M. Pessoa
The Wire

Q: Hi! Welcome to 15 Minutes of Fame! Tell me a little about yourself.

A: Thank you! My name is Elisabeth Naomi Favorite. I'm originally from Myrtle Beach, S.C. I've been in the Navy for four years. I'm an Information Systems Technician, 2nd Class. GTMO is my first and only duty station.

Q: Wow, you came here right out of school. So, how do you like it here?

A: I've been here 42 months. It's been great, but it's time to go. I'm headed to a ship outside of Norfolk — the U.S.S. Bulkeley.

Q: Oh, is that the same—

A: Yes, the same Rear Admiral Bulkeley as in “Bulkeley Hall.”

Q: So, how old are you? Do you plan to stay in the Navy until retirement?

A: I'm 24. My plan is to stay in the Navy two more years, then go to college full time to become a doctor.

Q: That's great! Have you always wanted to study medicine?

A: Yes, that's always been my goal, from childhood.

Q: Did you do well in school?

A: I excelled in math.

Q: Have your math skills helped you in your job here?

A: No, not really.

Q: Tell me about your job. What's it like?

A: As an information technician, my primary goal is to mediate message traffic throughout the Navy. I'm involved in supervising the message traffic and circuits for all communications — e-mail, phone, Internet, etc. Inside



Navy IT2 Elisabeth N. Favorite — well on her way to achieving some lofty goals.

and outside of GTMO. I'm not too into computers, but I do like my job. It's not a bad field to be in.

Q: Do you feel that you were prepared for the job you are doing after Basic Training?

A: Yes, I do. In the nine weeks we were trained, I do believe I was prepared.

Q: Only nine weeks? Not too long. Okay, now for a different type of question: You're stranded on a desert island for the rest of your life with only one book to read. What would it be?

A: “Disappearing Acts” by Terry McMillan. She's my favorite author. I've already read the book three times.

Q: What's your favorite song?

A: I like “Gangsta Lovin'” by Eve. I like the rough part of being in love.

Q: Oh, so it's the lyrics that attracted you?

A: And I definitely love the video!

Q: In your opinion, what's the greatest movie ever made?

A: I love “The Green Mile.”

Q: Okay, taking another direction... If you could go on vacation to someplace you've never been, where would you go?

A: Paris, France!

Q: Prior to being in the military, had you ever traveled overseas?

A: I took a senior cruise to Mexico and stopped at Cozumel.

I loved it! It was only three days. I would like to take a week of vacation somewhere outside of the U.S.

Q: I'm sure you'll get to do that soon.

A: I definitely want to take advantage of going to Germany and all of Europe. I want to see the rest of the world.

Q: If you went beyond 15 minutes of fame to just being famous, what would you like to be known for?

A: For being natural. People don't need to remake themselves through surgery. You can look the way you want to look. Work hard, eat right and you can do it.

Q: That's very positive! If you could be assured of one thing in life besides money, what would it be?

A: Love!

Q: Ah! You're a romantic. Who has had the greatest impact on you outside of a family member?

A: My best friend, Carolyn Stevenson. She's really helped me to mature. She's been with me the entire time I've been here.

Q: How would she describe you?

A: Kind, pleasant, fun to be around. Then when it's time to get serious, I get down to business. I keep it real, always.

Q: If you had to describe the single most important thing you've learned, what would it be?

A: Always respect your parents. You're always going to go back home, and you'll always need them.

Q: Any last words to the people of GTMO? You're going to be leaving the island in a few weeks.

A: Please come to my farewell party! It's at Phillips Park on November 1st from 9 until!