

the Wire

" Honor Bound to Defend Freedom "

Volume 3, Issue 3

Friday, December 20, 2002

Man's best friend... and loyal partner

By Army Spc.
Lisa L. Gordon

Working with a partner isn't always easy. It can be downright challenging, especially when those paired to work together come from different walks of life and have different means of communication. Now imagine the challenges one would face if one's partner were from a species different than one's own. In this scenario, there are several factors to consider that would make working in pairs even more demanding. Communication, establishing dominance, and the additional responsibilities that are included in caring for an animal are just some of the issues the dog handlers that make up the kennel section for the Joint Detention Operations Group (J-DOG) handle every day, 24 hours a day.

Dog handler and kennel master Army Staff Sgt. Robert Moore of the 42nd Military Police Detachment said it takes a lot of responsibility to be a dog handler. The handlers themselves are responsible for the kennels, the overall well being of the dogs,

and the continuous training required in order to maintain the dog's certification as "military working dogs." The handlers also conduct a great deal of training with their dogs including a minimum of four hours of detection work and four hours of patrol work every week. Due to the substantial training requirements and the level of care required by the dogs, active duty service members tend to make up the bulk of dog handlers.

The process of becoming a military dog handler isn't something a soldier falls into. After becoming an MP, he or she must be approved through their command before attending the three month program at the United States Army Military Working Dog School. "If you're chosen or you're lucky enough to go to the dog program, you go to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. You learn how to train the dog, how to work with a dog, and how to be a good dog team. You learn everything from sit, stay, and heel, to the attack work and the detection work. It's a really good school,"

see Handlers, page 5.

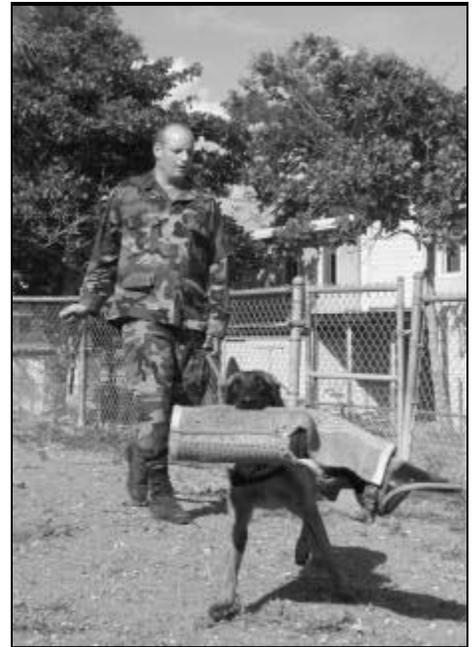
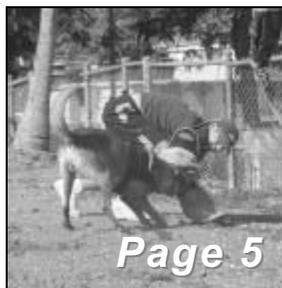


Photo by Army Spc. Lisa L. Gordon
Army Staff Sgt. and dog handler, Robert Moore, allows his dog Python to chew on a training sleeve after a particularly good performance during a training exercise.

Happy Holidays Guantanamo Bay!

Inside the Wire...





JTF-Guantanamo Commander
Army Maj. Gen. Geoffrey D. Miller

Message from Maj. Gen. Geoffrey D. Miller

Troopers of Joint Task Force Guantanamo:
This time of year is about hope - hope for a better tomorrow, where every person has the right to live in freedom. You represent the willing hearts and broad shoulders of what America stands for -- do what is right no matter what the sacrifice.

This time of year we celebrate the spirit of commitment. Each of you has made a personal commitment to the defense of freedom and answered the call of our country. Know that many soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines have been here before you -- from the warriors who spent our military's first holiday season at Valley Forge to our comrades who are engaged

in winning the War On Terrorism. Your commitment to make a difference is your share of living the legacy of American sacrifice on behalf of freedom throughout the world.

I am proud to be leading this great organization. You are making a difference everyday. May you and your loved ones have a safe and wonderful holiday season and a joyous new year. God bless each of you, your families, and our country.

Honor Bound.

Geoffrey D. Miller
GEOFFREY D. MILLER
Major General, US Army
Commanding

OPSEC Corner

Many years back, I had the opportunity to conduct some Infantry training at beautiful Fort Lewis, Wash. Our tactical officers repeatedly instructed us to never 'tamper, bother, or otherwise destroy' the numerous three-foot high ant hills.

We listened closely, however, once out on our patrols, we did the exact opposite.

We found all kinds of ways to bother those ants and their homes; punch holes through their nests with tree branches, throw meals, ready to eat contents and watch them scramble, or simply pour water on them.

We *thought* it was funny, however, we were actually disclosing our location and direction of travel.

Our tactical officers knew of our misdeeds, kept quiet, and set us up in a trap. During another 'routine' patrol a week later over the

same terrain, we were ambushed and our squad was annihilated.

What hard lessons did we learn in our After Action Review?

1. By tampering with the ant hills, we left *indicators* of our movement, plans, and unit size. While we thought we were on routine patrols, the adversary was using this information and formulating a plan to defeat our mission.

2. We jeopardized our mission because what we thought was *harmless* turned out to be *harmful*.

3. We totally underestimated our adversaries' (our tactical officers) ability to track our so-called fun. We actually thought we would not get caught!!

What should you take away from that After Action Review?

Indicators are any observable and/or detectable activity pointing to critical information. They may appear as routine events, but are often predictable. The route you take to work, your duty shifts or patrols, or even your meeting schedules can be indicators of your specific job in our mission. Sending sensitive, operational information through the Internet or over unsecure phones can leave indicators of mission changes and jeopardize our important mission. Talking in public about our operation in the presence of unknown personnel sends additional indicators to our adversaries. Our adversaries use this information, combine it with other bits of information from other sources, and then begin to form a plan to defeat our mission.

Therefore, alter your daily routines, no matter how small they may seem. Never assume that our adversaries are unable to 'track' your intentions or your duties. Finally, don't give away operational information by tampering with those 'ant hills.' Stay in your lane, remain focused on your specific tasks, and do your best to protect your piece of our vital mission.

'Think OPSEC'

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"If I am able to determine the enemy's dispositions while at the same time I conceal my own, then I can concentrate and he must divide."

- Sun Tzu



What's up, Doc?

"The Holiday Blues"

By Navy Capt. Douglas Lane, Ph.D.
85 MED DET (CSC),
Clinical Psychologist

The holidays are a time of joy and celebration, but they can present unique challenges for service members deployed away from home, family, and friends. For some, the holidays can be a time of sadness, frustration, or anxiety -- The 'holiday blues'.

The 'holiday blues' can result from any of a number of factors, including unrealistic expectations, financial problems, being away from home, and worry over current events.

Tips for coping with stress when deployed over the holidays:

Try to set realistic goals for the holidays. Keep expectations simple for yourself and others. Don't give in to the "perfect holiday" trap. Similarly, don't fall into the trap of comparing the holidays this year to the standard of "the good old days" of holidays in the past. To do so is a "set up" for disappointment. Be flexible. Instead of getting lost in the details, try to remember the values that make the holidays meaningful to you.

Make a budget and stick to it. Financial worries just add more stress. Don't try to make up for being separated from loved ones by buying them gifts you can not afford. Seek out free activities.

Try not to overeat or drink excessively to escape stressful feelings. Alcohol may make you feel "up" at first, but it's actually a depressant; too much can make you feel worse. Eat healthy foods and get plenty of exercise.

Try a new way of celebrating. Attend a celebration of another faith or community or give the gift of your time to someone else. Create happy memories for the future by beginning new traditions.

Helping others can also help you feel better. Volunteer at the chapel or school, buy a present for a child in need, or visit with other supportive, caring people.

If you do not have friends or family to visit with, reach out. Contact local clubs/organizations, religious groups, or community centers to see if they are holding activities that may interest you.

Recognize that everyone is responding to the current situation differently. Allow yourself to feel sadness, anger, or lonely feelings. Nurture yourself. Take some time out each day to care for and celebrate yourself.

Respect and validate others' thoughts and feelings.

Try to stay in the present. Look forward to the future. Life is full of changes. Consider what is important in your life now and good about these times.

Holiday Worship Services

Catholic

Dec 24

- 5 p.m. Main Chapel
- 12 p.m. Main Chapel
- 12 p.m. Camp America White Tent

Dec 25

- 9 a.m. Main Chapel
- 10 a.m. Camp America White Tent
- 12:15 a.m. Leeward, Bldg. 525

Dec 31

- 5:30 p.m. Main Chapel
- 7 p.m. Camp America Wooden Chapel

Jan 1

- 9 a.m. Main Chapel
- 10 a.m. Camp America White Tent
- 12:15 a.m. Leeward, Bldg. 525

Protestant

Dec 24

- 6:30 p.m. Main Chapel
- 7 p.m. Camp America White Tent

Dec 31

- 9 p.m. Main Chapel - Fellowship Hall

This Week in History:

Dec. 27, 1979

Soviets take over Afghanistan

In an attempt to stabilize the turbulent political situation in Afghanistan, the Soviet Union sends 75,000 troops to enforce the installation of Babrak Karmal as the new leader of the nation. The new government and the imposing Soviet presence, however, had little success in putting down antigovernment rebels. Thus began nearly 10 years of an agonizing, destructive, and ultimately fruitless Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Ironically, Karmal overthrew and murdered another Afghan communist, Hafizullah

Amin, to take power. Amin's government became unpopular and unstable after it attempted to install a harsh communist regime, declared one-party rule and abolished the Afghan constitution. Muslims in the nation rejected his rule and formed a rebel force, the Mujahideen. When it became apparent that Amin could not control the rebellion, Soviet troops intervened and put a puppet ruler, Karmal, into power. For the Soviets, political turbulence in this bordering nation, which was viewed by some officials as a potentially useful ally pursuing its interests in the Middle East, was unacceptable.

The Soviet intervention cost Russia dearly. The seemingly endless civil war in

Afghanistan resulted in thousands of Soviet dead and untold monetary costs. It also brought an abrupt end to the era of détente between the United States and the Soviet Union that began during the Nixon years. In response to the Soviet intervention, President Jimmy Carter withdrew the SALT II agreement from consideration by Congress. The treaty, which had been signed in June 1979, was designed to establish parity in nuclear delivery vehicles between the United States and the Soviet Union. Carter also halted grain shipments to the Soviet Union and ordered a U.S. boycott of the 1980 Olympics that were to be held in Moscow. (Compiled from HistoryChannel.com)

Tae Kwon Do, Guantanamo Style

Story and photos
by Spc. Alan L. Knesek

Many Joint Task Force Guantanamo personnel have joined the 'Guantanamo Tae Kwon Do' program and have left here with several different belt levels of Tae Kwon Do, all depending on the time and effort that is put into the program. With six months on average to start this martial arts program and become efficient, time is the most important thing for the students and The World Tae Kwon Do Federation Instructor Matt Brittle, Chief Petty Officer, NAV BASE.

The Dojang (Tae Kwon Do word for studio/school) has been up and running since Oct. 15, 2001. More than 300 students have been enrolled in this program. With these numbers increasing every month, the size of this program to date would compare to any World Tae Kwon Do Federation school or studio in the US.

"At first, we thought only a few would be interested, but soon found out that there was a large demand for the Tae Kwon Do schooling," said Brittle.

According to Brittle, "The only difficulty is not having enough classes and full time assistant instructors throughout the week to meet the demand of all the students. Rule of thumb for Tae Kwon Do schools is to have one black belt instructor for every ten students. Guantanamo Tae Kwon Do now averages 20 students per class with eight different belt levels and only one instructor to teach all the students in a time frame of eight classes a week. Trying to do much more with less has become the difficult part." Brittle has two other black belts that volunteer their time to help him during the classes to teach the students and keep up with the demand.

With most students working their classes into a six



(left to right) Spc. Justin Nelson, 300th MP; Army Sgt. Eric Dillman, 362nd MPAD; Spc. Mario Veliz, 300th MP, perform a front rising kick at the Guantanamo Tae Kwon Do Dojang on Marine Hill.

month time frame, this limited class time attendance is one of the biggest steps to progressing through the ranks. "The more classes they attend, the quicker they can advance through the ranks. By attending five or more classes a week, students can progress much quicker. This progression has benefited the JTF personnel tremendously," said Brittle.

One of the many benefits of this program is that students can pick up right where they left off at GTMO Tae Kwon Do and continue their training at any certified WTF studio or school. "We certify our students as WTF practitioners and with that they can go to any WTF facility in the world and continue.

That is the beauty and benefit of our program here. A benefit that is overlooked a bit," said Brittle.

Many of the disciplines found in Tae Kwon Do are found in the military branches at Guantanamo Bay. For Instructor Matt Brittle, the best thing that students can take away from this program is the sense of pride, the true meaning of self respect, self discipline, self confidence, and integrity, along with the ability to challenge any-

thing in life and come out feeling good about one's self. No matter what belt level they master at the time of leaving Guantanamo Bay, students will carry all the physical and mental training with them for the rest of their lives.



(left to right) Spc. Mario Veliz, 300th MP is instructed on how to perform a proper round-house kick by instructor Navy Chief Matt Brittle and his son, assistant instructor Matt Brittle Jr.



(left to right) Spc. Justin Nelson, 300th MP; Army Sgt. Eric Dillman, 362nd MPAD; Spc. Mario Veliz, 300th MP; Navy Chief Petty Officer Hugh Mills, Nav. Sta. Food Services, move into the front fighting stance before performing any of the punches and kicks in class.

Handlers, from page 1.

said Moore. After being certified with a “partner,” dog handlers like those stationed here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo find that there’s no shortage of work.

Currently the kennel section for J-DOG has three working dogs, each with their own specialized certification. Two of the dogs are “dual certified” including: one bomb and patrol dog, one narcotics and patrol dog, and one “straight patrol dog,” which is used mostly for “law enforcement.” Here on base, the dogs and their handlers are “responsible for external and internal security and psychological deterrents...both inside and outside the camps,” said Moore. Dog handlers are deployed frequently, as evidenced by Moore’s list of assignments (Kosovo, Kuwait, Bosnia, Honduras, Peru, and Ecuador) since becoming a handler in 1997. In addition to deployments, dog handlers are regularly needed for temporary duty in the U.S. to do missions with the civilian authorities.

A handler and his or her dog will remain partners until the handler has a change of permanent duty station. The bond formed between dog and handler was expressed by Army Sgt. Brenden Hiatt of the 179th Military Police Detachment when he spoke about his dog Ronnie. “I’ve had Ronnie for a year now and I definitely look at him as something more than a piece of equipment. To me, he is my partner. Especially when we’re out there working the road, doing patrol duties, working as police officers out on the streets. He’s there for me. He’s there to protect me...and he’ll take a bullet for me if he has to.” It sounds like it would be difficult to find a partner more devoted and more dependable than that.

Attention Church Go-ers!

Protestant Worship Service at Camp America will be at 9 a.m. starting Sunday.

Bus times:

Windward Loop: 8 a.m.
(On the hill, front entrance)

Tierra Kay: 8:15 a.m.
(Main Entrance)

Go to College!

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Photo by Army Spc. Lisa L. Gordon

Army Sgt. and dog handler Brenden Hiatt runs from Python during a training exercise.



Photo by Army Spc. Lisa L. Gordon

Python’s strength is demonstrated by the ease with which he takes Hiatt down.



Photo by Army Spc. Lisa L. Gordon

Army Staff Sgt. Robert Moore calls off his dog, Python, after a simulated attack on Hiatt.

Lighthouse Museum re-opens

Story and photos by:
Sgt. Erin Viola

After a long day at work, or a long week for that matter, most people want to go home and relax, or maybe just catch up on some z's. And, while rest and relaxation are very important, not only for one's health and well-being, but for troop morale, some people find solace in using their free time to volunteer and give back to the community.

For the past several months, Coast Guardsmen from Port Security Unit 307 have been volunteering their time to restore the Lighthouse Museum here at

Guantanamo Bay. After about 400 hours of pressure washing, chipping, four coats of paint, and lots of sweat, the Lighthouse Museum is ready for visitors once again.

The heart of this volunteer project, spearheaded by Petty Officer William Farias and Petty Officer Melissa Steinman, was based on the idea of giving something back to the community. "Volunteer work is something that both of us do normally. It kind of reminds us of home (Florida)," said Steinman.

"We wanted to get some sort of leadership project together where everyone could come out and have a good time, forget about what happens on the water, and get the whole unit together," said Steinman.

At first, Steinman thought it would be a

good idea to restore the little sea huts at Windmill beach. But after hearing about the lighthouse and the museum at an in-briefing, she knew that was the project. "We thought this would be more meaningful for us than just painting huts on the beach," said Steinman. However, Steinman did stress that those huts still need to be painted if anyone wants to volunteer.

"Originally we were going to try and restore the lighthouse, but the Public Works Department and the safety officers told us it was more of a liability as far as



The recently renovated lighthouse is once again open to visitors thanks to the efforts of the 307th Port Security Unit.



Navy Captain Robert A. Buehn Commander, U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay (left) presents an award of appreciation to Navy Captain Paul Crissy, Commanding officer of Port Security Unit 307.

Inside the lighthouse...



thanks to efforts of JTF members



A glimpse of Guantanamo Bay from inside the lighthouse.



JoAnn King, Vice President of the Officer Civilian Spouses Club and Chair of the Cultural Committee for OCSC, gives thanks to volunteers who restored the Lighthouse Museum.

having non-contractors and volunteers working on it," said Steinman.

Last Saturday, all involved with the restoration of the museum gathered for a brief appreciation ceremony led by JoAnn King, Vice President of the Officer Civilian Spouses Club and Chair of the Cultural Committee that overseas the Lighthouse Museum. "In the beginning, the project seemed a little overwhelming to me and I wasn't sure that we could do it."

One of King's main concerns was to make sure codes were followed and hazardous materials were handled properly. Thanks to the exceptional efforts of the

self-help coordinator at PWD, Leo Ludovici, things were done the right way.

Even though several hurricanes put the volunteers a little bit behind schedule, they still finished painting the Lighthouse Museum on time. Steinman said that over the past two weeks, they had about six people working every day.

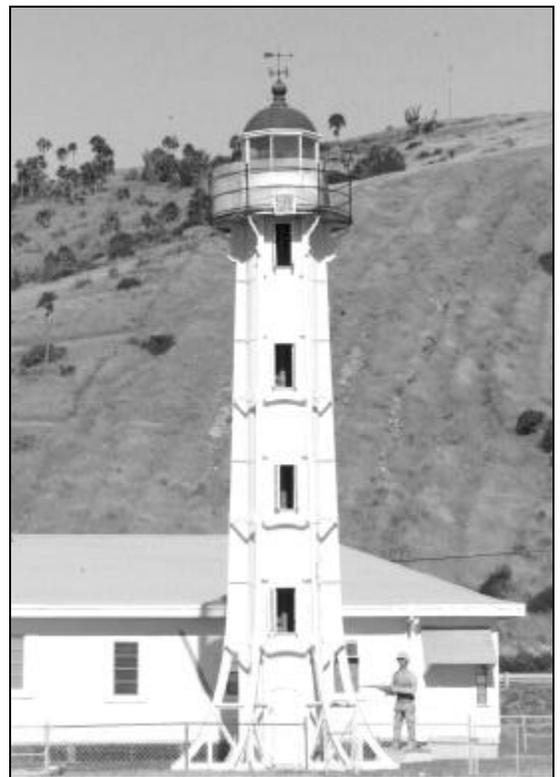
Someone, somewhere once said, "A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step." And so, a rare breed has taken that first step with the hopes that others who share the spirit of giving will continue what has been started here. Stein-

man hopes to get some grant money through the United States Lighthouse Society, so that the lighthouse can finally be restored.

The Lighthouse Museum is open for self-guided tours Saturday and Sunday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. If you would like to volunteer at the museum, contact JoAnn King at x2774.



Petty Officer Melissa Steinman and Petty Officer William Farias of Port Security Unit 307 present the sign made by several members of 307th.



Built in 1903 of riveted iron, the light house stands sixty feet tall. Just behind the lighthouse is the newly painted Lighthouse Museum.

Military family ties

By Spc. Delaney T. Jackson

For deployed service members, the chances of being with loved ones during the holiday season are very slim, and when one or more members of a family are serving in the military, those odds drop close to nil. Yet, for Navy Capt. Albert J. Shimkus Jr., Commanding Officer of Guantanamo Naval Hospital, and his daughter Air Force 1st Lt. Kathryne Shimkus, a deployment actually increased their chances of spending time together this year.

When the Joint Task Force's protocol office needed a volunteer, 1st Lt. Shimkus stepped up to the plate. Knowing her family has been in Guantanamo Bay for more than two years; 1st Lt. Shimkus looked forward to the opportunity of spending time with them. "They were in Italy three years

before (coming) here, so it's been a long time since I've been able to spend time with them."

With two children in the Air Force and another as a military spouse, the opportunities for Capt. Shimkus to spend time with his children are rare. So when he and his wife, Elizabeth, received news of their daughter's forthcoming deployment to Guantanamo, Capt. Shimkus said, "We were delighted...not many people get to be with their children on a deployment."

Although both father and daughter said they have nothing special planned for the holidays, for the Shimkus's just being with family is enough. "Just being with her is a treat, normally we're

away from family, although we miss our two other children, having her here is very special", said Capt. Shimkus. "The opportunity to serve the country and this mission with one of your children is extraordinary,

and we are savoring every moment with her. "Capt. Shimkus added lightheartedly that it also "cuts down on the phone bill."



Photo by Spc. Delaney T. Jackson

Navy Capt. Albert J. Shimkus, Jr. and his daughter, Air Force 1st Lt. Kathryne Shimkus, serving proudly in Guantanamo.

Man on the Street

Compiled by Spc. Alan L. Knesek and Spc. Delaney Jackson

This week's question:

If you could only have three CD's at GTMO, which ones would they be and why?



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Tandiwe Calvin

"Brian McKnight, because he's very mellow; Kurt Carr, because I need gospel, need the spiritual side; Four Play, because it's something that is relaxing for the mind and soul."



Army Pfc. Robin Knight

"Christina Aguilera, because it's something to relax to; The Doors, because they are something to chill to; Jennifer Lopez, because it's something to dance to."



Army Sgt. Kristie Beagle

"Pink, because she's awesome; Christina Aguilera, because she's very talented vocally; The Coyote Ugly Sound-track, because the movie was great."



Airman First Class Maria Mojca

"Christina Aguilera, because I love 'Beautiful'; Ja Rule, because he's fine; Tu Pac, because I like the mystery behind him."



Seaman Robert Evans

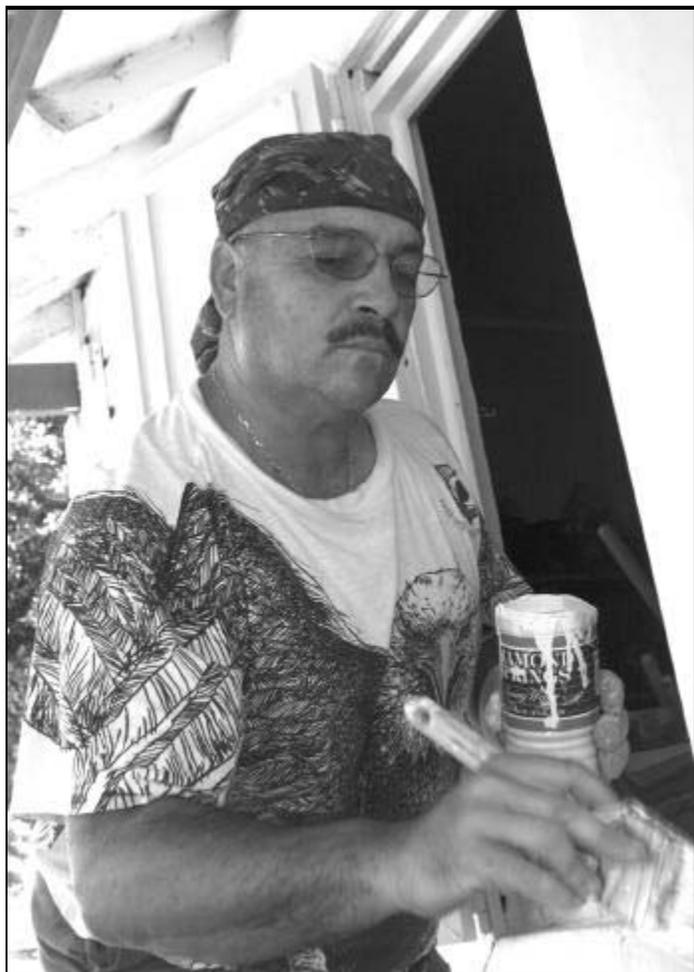
"Nelly, because all the girls get crazy when they hear it; Led Zeppelin, because I need some relaxing music down here; Dixie Chicks, because they remind me of home."

JTF Coast Guardsman gives back to Guantanamo Bay community

Story and photo by
Spc. Lisa L. Gordon

Life has come full circle for Petty Officer 3rd Class William "Papi" Farias of the 307th Port Security Unit from St. Petersburg, Florida. Son of a Cuban father and a Puerto Rican mother, Farias was born in Queens, New York, but raised as a young boy in Regla, Cuba until Fidel Castro took over in 1959. Farias describes his family as "anti-Castro" and cites Castro's control of Cuba as the reason the family moved back to the United States. After spending the majority of his life in the U.S. and serving his country not only in the Coast Guard, but also as a law enforcement officer in The Clearwater Police Department, Farias is preparing to retire from the military after his last mission, here in Guantanamo Bay.

Farias has family members that still live in Cuba and he said



Petty Officer 3rd Class William "Papi" Farias painted the storage building at Guantanamo Bay's museum just days before his demobilization.

its "ironic" that he's stationed here at Guantanamo Bay. "I could walk 11 miles and go through the gate to see my family, yet, I can't. It's kind of ironic, but at the same time it's kind of neat because I get to retire from the country of my parent's origin," said Farias. While he's proud of his roots, Farias is clear that he doesn't like to be pigeon-holed into any one ethnic category. "I don't like being called Cuban-American because I was born in the U.S. I'm an American with Cuban heritage," said Farias.

He says he has a lot to offer to the community he grew up in and would like to return to Cuba eventually. Farias said, "I'd like to go back because I'd like to be part of the reorganization of the country if that's at all possible ... I run a Latin outreach center for my department (Clearwater P.D.), so I think I could do some good. Also ... I know I could help my family. I'd just like to be a part of the ground floor ... rebuilding the country because this place is great."

Farias is no stranger to volunteer work. He's been instrumental in the development and improvement of both the Guantanamo Bay Lighthouse and Museum. Having had a long standing fascination with lighthouses, Farias began checking into the Guantanamo Bay Lighthouse shortly after his arrival here and found that it was originally put up by the Coast Guard in 1903. Seeing that the lighthouse was badly in need of some touch up work, Farias spearheaded a long standing improvement project that took both time and dedication. Farias said that he didn't realize the scale of the project he was undertaking. Due to the nature of the project and some hazardous materials issues, those involved were required to meet with multiple organizations in order to obtain work permits before renovations could begin. In addition to the meetings and permits, Farias and the other volunteers had to agree to paint the museum building and the storage building before the lighthouse could even be touched. Farias says that the project has taken much longer than expected, as they hoped everything would be painted by November first. The 307th PSU left Guantanamo Bay on Monday, December 16th but Farias left the base with the hope that someone would take over where he and his fellow volunteers left off.

Farias believes that the lighthouse renovation project has the power to unite the servicemembers as well as the civilians here at Guantanamo Bay, if people would simply donate some of their free time to give back to the community. "Our whole focus was not just to do the lighthouse because it's a Coast Guard lighthouse but to have a self help project that incorporates all the other services ... civilians alike; so that everybody gets involved with a little piece of heritage of Guantanamo Bay. Anything you want to know about Cuba is right there in the museum."

Anyone interested in volunteering their time to work on the lighthouse renovation project can call Joanne King at the Guantanamo Bay Museum at x2774.

MIUWU 212: Ready, and proud to serve

By Sgt. Erin Viola

Another fine group of sailors have arrived to protect and serve this phosphor laden bay in the name of liberty, where free spirited dolphins swim between the border of a totalitarian Communist regime and a well protected fortress of freedom. Here, guarding Guantanamo Bay's fourth fence line – the seaward lanes of approach - watching... listening... ready and waiting, is the Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 212.

As part of Joint Task Force-Guantanamo, MIUWU 212 out of Gulfport, Mississippi, arrived in Guantanamo Bay to replace the 204th. Their primary mission is to provide surface and subsurface surveillance in the inshore areas throughout Guantanamo Bay. Additionally, the 212th will have secondary mission capability in the area of command, control, and communications functions.

"This is my first command position in the Naval Coastal Warfare community," said Navy Commander Michael Moore, commander of MIUWU 212. "I love it. This is what the job is right here. No other commander could ask for a better scenario.



Serving proudly (from left to right), are Petty Officer, 1st Class Wade Treadwell, Petty Officer Shannon Tracey, and MIUWU 212 Navy Commander Michael Moore.

The way the JTF has put together the MIUWU fits right into the JTF concept."

Esprit de corps abounds in the 212. Even though about a third of the sailors in the 212 are augmentees, Commander Moore has made it a priority to bring everyone in the unit together as one. Petty Officer, Shannon Tracey, who serves as a training Petty Officer and as part of the security team, has been a driving force in creating that unity. "We work hard on our off duty hours to bring the unit together. We have a lot of new people that were never part of a MIUWU unit, so we are getting together with them and telling them the basics of what a MIUWU unit is," said Tracey. One night she gave a class on how to properly press and wear the camouflage uniform, since most of the augmentees had not worn them before. "It was really appreciated because most of the people just assume that you know how to wear it. But if you've never worn it, then you don't know what the regulations are on wearing it," said Tracey.

Teaching the augmentees what is second nature to the 212, serves as a refresher, and makes the 212 take a good look at them selves said Tracey.

Another goal for Commander Moore is training the sailors as much as possible while they are here. Petty Officer 1st Class Wade Treadwell is looking forward to the training. "I've been a first class for about ten years and I think this will put me over for Chief, said Treadwell. "I would really like to make E-7."

Although getting used to the deployment was a bit of a shock at first, for Tracey, she humbly expressed, "I'm very proud and honored to be here."

Smoking Cessation Classes

Naval Hospital, Guantanamo Bay.

The class will meet once a week for four weeks and will offer a variety of tools to assist smokers in quitting their smoking habit. To sign up, call Central Appointments at 7-2110.

Movie Schedule

Camp Bulkeley

Fri., Dec. 20
8 p.m. *Spy Kids*
PG - 98 min

10 p.m. *Trapped*
R - 106 min

Sat., Dec 21
8 p.m. *The Bourne Identity*
PG13-118min

10 p.m. *Signs*
PG13-107min

Sun., Dec 22
8 p.m. *Hannibal*
R-131min

8 p.m. *Hannibal*
R-131min

Mon., Dec 23
8 p.m. *Twin Dragons*
PG13 - 94 min

Tues., Dec 24
8 p.m. *The Wild, Wild West*
R - 99 min

10 p.m. *The Whole Nine Yards*
R - 99 min

Wed., Dec 25
8 p.m. *Reindeer Games*
R - 104 min

Thurs., Dec 26
8 p.m. *Say It Isn't So*
R - 96 min

8 p.m. *Say It Isn't So*
R - 96 min

Downtown Lyceum

Fri., Dec. 20
7 p.m. *Treasure Planet*
PG - 95 min

9 p.m. *Brown Sugar*
PG13 - 108 min

Sat., Dec 21
7 p.m. *White Oleander*
PG13 - 109 min

9 p.m. *The Ring*
PG13 - 99 min

Sun., Dec. 22
7 p.m. *Harry Potter & The Chamber of Secrets*
PG - 160 min

Mon., Dec. 23
7 p.m. *Die Another Day*
PG13 - 99 min

Tues., Dec. 24
7 p.m. *Treasure Planet*
PG - 95 min

9 p.m. *The Transporter*
PG13 - 92 min

Wed., Dec. 25
7 p.m. *White Oleander*
PG13 - 109 min

9 p.m. *Sweet Home Alabama*

Thurs., Dec. 26
7 p.m. *Brown Sugar*
R-92min

Guantanamo's Hash House Harriers push to the limit



Photo by Army Spc. Alan L. Knesek

Chief Petty Officer Richard Raymer, Nav. Sta. Brig. (left), follows closely behind Lt. Cmdr. Phillip Emanuel, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, as they reach the halfway point during the last Hash run.

By Spc. Alan L. Knesek

You may have seen the chalk drawn symbols on the side of the road and asked yourself, what are they and who keeps making them every week? To the untrained eye, these chalk drawings could be weird designs randomly placed by aliens or simply children drawing with chalk. But to Guantanamo Bay's Hash House Harriers these are the key to the race. Every week, these elite runners meet to carry on the Hashing tradition and chase the hare.

The origin of this age old tradition comes from a group of ex-patriot British businessmen and is based on an English game called Hares and Hounds. The game's premise is to catch the hare, (two people), who are given a

few minutes head start and leave a trail of white paper so the hounds, (the rest of the runners), can follow, but the hare leaves false trails making it difficult for the hounds to follow the trail.

In 1938, A. S. Gispert, a British volunteer for the Federated Malay States founded the Hash House Harriers in Kuala Lumpur after seeing a running group in Malacca playing the game. Gispert recruited a dozen other men from the Federated Malay States Volunteer Reserves, and chose the name after the mess at the Selangor Club where they often dined after training. After every Hash the runners would re-hydrate with a few Tiger Beers at the club.

The run has been modified throughout the years and the Hash House Harriers have grown from a group of British runners into an international sub-culture of self-proclaimed "drinkers with a running problem." Symbols, code words, and nicknames for Hashers have been incorporated to make chasing the hare more interesting and a lot of fun.

Hashers have recently started up the Hashes (runs) at Guantanamo Bay, and are keeping the traditions of A.S. Gispert alive.

Lt. Cmdr. Phillip Emanuel, a.k.a. 'Clothing Optional', who is assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo Headquarters, has Hashed almost every run here since the beginning, in May, totaling about 20 runs.

"We have people that walk the entire race and they keep up because of all the false trails," said 'Clothing Optional'. It's a fun run for runners of all levels. "You'll see things on a Hash run that you won't see any other way at GTMO."

The run averages between four to six miles. A conch shell is carried the entire way and at the halfway point, a cooler filled with the beverage of your choice is waiting for consumption. After a few 'beverages of choice' the run continues, leading the runners all around Guantanamo Bay. Finally they reach the end where ceremonies and singing commence. The conch shell that was carried the entire way is then filled with the "beverage of choice" and drunk. If for any reason the drink can not be finished, it is then poured onto your head or down your shorts. If a runner Hashes twice, they are then named by the elders, those already named, and are true Hashers for life. The ceremonies are then complete and the Hash House Harriers rest up for next week's Hash.

This being a world wide club, the Hashers that leave go to join a new group of Hashers and hope that those that are new here join Guantanamo's Hash House Harriers and keep the fun run running. With many people transferring out in the upcoming weeks, the fun run looks to new JTF personnel to keep the traditions alive.

The Dragons take first place in Captain's Cup Tournament

By Spc. Lisa L. Gordon

On Saturday December 7, the top two men's volleyball teams on Guantanamo Bay duked it out for the championship in the Captain's Cup Tournament.

The Dragons took the win over The Surprises with a final score of 15 - 7. During the regular season, The Dragons took home the third place trophy with a record of six wins and three losses.

The members of the team Marine Cpl. Mohamed Khattab, Spc. Eutanya Yazzie, Spc. John Mosman, Army Staff Sgt. Michael Poteat, Army Capt. Jason Hayes, and four civilian contractors: Sam, Matt, Asad, and Slayman) initially came together during informal volleyball games at the beach.

Khattab explained that the group was enjoying beach volleyball so much that they decided they



Photo by Army Spc. Lisa L. Gordon

Members of the championship volleyball team The Dragons, prepare to present their trophies to Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller. From left to Right: civilian contractor Matt, Army Capt. Jason Hayes, Spc. John Mosman, Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller, Spc. Eutanya Yazzie, civilian contractor Sam, Marine Cpl. Mohamed Khattab, and civilian contractor Asad.

would like to participate in a formal competition.

Despite coming in third during the regular season, The Dragons have a team spirit and a "can do" attitude that allowed them to remain undefeated in The Captains Cup Tournament.

"We started the competition with the attitude that we wanted to win every single game and we

did. We were undefeated and I think every single one of us gave it 110 percent, so that's why we were able to bring the cup back to Joint Task Force Guantanamo," said Khattab.

On Thursday December 12, The Dragons presented their trophies to Maj. Gen. Miller in a brief and informal ceremony.

Yazzie, the only female on the team, explained that it is a long standing "tradition" for the championship team to give their trophies to the commanding general.

The team appears to be a tight knit group that is very proud of their success. Yazzie described the season when she said, "all in all it was a good morale booster...good camaraderie. Everybody got together and had fun. It was great."

15 Minutes of Fame...

with Marine Cpl. Ryan Gorecki Joint Task Force Cmd. Element, Guantanamo The driving force behind JTF

By Spc. Delaney T. Jackson

Q: So where are you from ?

A: Chicago, Illinois ... the Windy City.

Q: How long have you been in the Marines?

A: I've been in the Marines for three years.

Q: And how long have you been here?

A: Two months, when I came down here, I was the only Marine on the plane. This is my first time working with the Army.

Q: How do you like it?

A: It gives me a better understanding of how all the branches come together as one.

Q: So what's your job here?

A: I'm a driver, I drive 'The Big Red One.'

Q: O.K., how would you rank yourself as a driver compared to others in the Joint Task Force?

A: Above normal, I've had defensive driving classes.

Q: So from one to 10, with 10 being the highest?

A: I'm a nine, I haven't had a wreck, but someone has hit me, so a nine.

Q: So people should feel safe riding with you?

A: Yes, I'm a experienced driver.

Q: So are you an only child?

A: No, I have an older brother who just re-enlisted in the Coast Guard, and a younger sister in college; all my friends hit on her.

Q: Do you have a picture?

A: No. You might try to hit on her too.

Q: Anything funny or tragic happen yet?

A: A banana rat jumped out at me while I was running ... out of a tree, that was pretty funny.

Q: A banana rat was in a tree?

A: Well, not in the tree, he was chilling behind the tree.

Q: So if you could be any animal what would you be?

A: I would be an iguana, probably ... definitely.

Q: Why?

A: Because everybody moves out of the way for you.

Q: Always?

A: Well, sometimes they hit you.

Q: Do you have any favorite spots here?

A: Phillip's Pier, we rent boats every Sunday and go down there to go tubing and skiing.

Q: So you go to clubs or anything, Tiki Bar perhaps?

A: Yeah ... the Tiki Bar, the Windjammer is not my crowd. The Tiki bar, though..just the name of it I like ... Tiki ... Tiki.

Q: What was the most fun you had here?

A: My highest point of my time out here, I'd have to say was seeing Jimmy Buffett. Definitely. I've been to the last five of his concerts and the worst seat here was the best seat back in the "States". That was the best time here so far.

Q: How do you like it here?

A: I'd rather be here than in the snow. I'll probably extend here ... there's more to look at out here, the atmosphere is wonderful.

Q: So how long do you plan on staying here?

A: As long as they'll let me, if I could do twenty years out here and retire, I'd do it.

Q: Really?

A: Oh yeah, compared to where I came from... Camp Lejeune, it's real nice here.

Q: What if they came up to you tomorrow and said, "Pack you bags, get out of here... go home?"

A: I'd beg them to stay, I'd give up a promo-



Photo by Spc. Delaney T. Jackson

This week *The Wire* lets Marine Cpl. Ryan Gorecki out of his cage for his take on Guantanamo, driving, and life in general.

tion to stay.

Q: Do you have anything you'd like to accomplish before you leave?

A: I want to find Bahama Mama and marry her.

Q: So any parting words or words of wisdom?

A: Make the best of what you've got, because time can go by slow if you don't do anything. If you stay active time will fly by, enjoy it, it's truly one of the best places I've ever been to.

Crossfire

in concert at

The Windjammer

Fri, Dec. 20

7 p.m.

Bulkeley Lyceum

Sat. Dec. 21

7 p.m.