



# the Wire

“HONOR BOUND TO DEFEND FREEDOM”

Volume 4, Issue 26

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Friday, March 12, 2004

## 661st leads the Virgin Island National Guard

By SGT Jolene Staker

The 661st Military Police Company has been a trailblazer for the Virgin Island National Guard as unit members have experienced notable firsts — and the Guantanamo mission adds to that list.

The 661st MP Co was the Army National Guard unit established in the Virgin Islands.

Unit members participated in the first call to duty when Governor Melvin Evans activated them in November of 1974 when torrential rains caused flooding.

Guantanamo is the unit's first federal mission, and they are the first Virgin Island unit to deploy.

“This was a chance for the 661st to get real world experience,” said 1SG Emil James, company first sergeant. “The unit has been based in the islands with only a minimal exposure during annual trainings. This gives



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

SPC Saidah Cowan attached to the 661st from the 384th MP Co. fires her weapon at range qualification.

them a chance to see how all that training can be applied.”

Unit members have performed annual training in Germany, Panama, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Fort Bragg, N.C., Camp Shelby, Miss., Fort Dix, N.J., Fort McClellan, Ala. and Fort Polk, La. They have done law enforcement, base security, convoy

security and humanitarian missions.

“We dug wells and built schools in El Salvador,” said CPT Donald Woodley, company commander.

While troopers in the 661st MP Co. may have had the least adjustment to make in terms of climate, there have been other adjustments for them to make. “The military environment is much different from the laidback environment we came from in the islands,” said SSG Enrique Santos. “It’s a good learning experience for every one of us.”

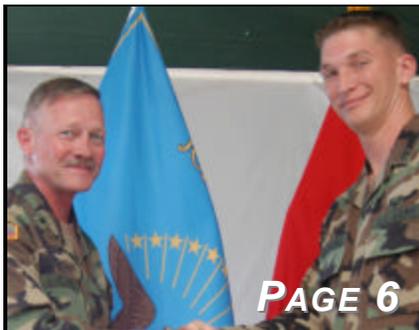
SFC Leonard Frett, mess sergeant at Café Caribe, has been in the 661st MP Co. for 27 years. “This mission has been a good challenge,” said Frett. “It has opened my eyes on what it takes to run a new dining facility.”

SPC Sylvester John has found the mission rewarding. “I’ve been able to accomplish a lot

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#### TOP JDOG



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# Trooper to Trooper

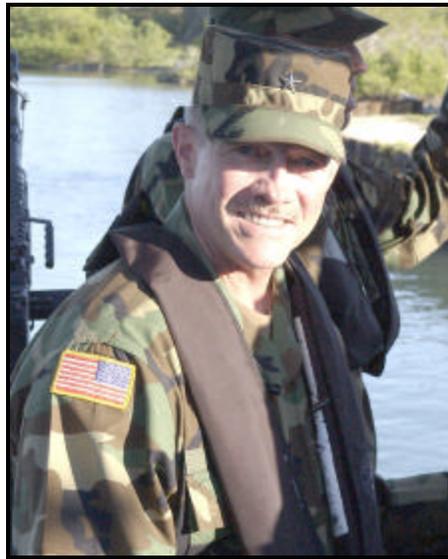
## Thanks to the employers

I'd like to take the opportunity this week to thank the employers of our reserve component troopers who are on duty here and around the world in support of the Global War on Terror. I think we all appreciate the sacrifices that our families make while we are deployed but for those who also hold jobs in the civilian sector it is a sacrifice for your employers as well. It is particularly burdensome for the small companies who depend upon their employees to keep the business afloat. And let's face it; the military has given us a lot of leadership training and experience. Consequently, I find that our troopers usually hold positions of responsibility in their civilian jobs as well.

Not long after 9/11 one of my subordinate military police battalions and two line Companies deployed in support of Operation Noble Eagle. Upon their return, the active duty higher headquarters commander for one of these units took four days from his busy schedule and visited many of the employers in the hometown area of that unit. It was a noteworthy tribute to the sacrifices made by those employers.

You can also recognize your employer. The National Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) sponsors an awards program. "This program is designed to recognize employers for employment policies and practices that are supportive of their employees' participation in the National Guard and Reserve." Their website is located at <http://www.esgr.org>. One of the most common awards is the Patriot Award. ESGR awards a certificate and a Patriot lapel pin on behalf of the Department of Defense. An online form is available on the website and you can nominate your employer for the award. By the way, all states have a branch of ESGR who will be more than happy to assist you in your efforts.

On another note, the Uniformed Ser-



**BG Mitchell LeClaire**  
Deputy Commander  
JTF GTMO Operations

vices Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 guarantees re-employment rights to troopers. The act states that you can expect to resume your civilian career as if you had never left provided you meet five guidelines:

- You must have left a full-time civilian job.
- You must have given notice that you were leaving to perform military service.
- In most cases, the total period of service must not exceed five years.
- You must be released from service under honorable or general conditions.
- You must report back to work or apply for re-employment within the period prescribed by law.

Working through your chain of command on issues such as these is recommended.

Hopefully you are also keeping in contact with your employer while you are here. An occasional note is often appreciated.

We need the support of employers to be able to protect our Nation. They have made tremendous sacrifices over the past few years. Please let them know how much we appreciate their support.

Honor Bound!

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# JTF GTMO offers prestigious awards

By SSG Patrick Cloward

Have you ever thought about what awards you might be eligible for during your tour at JTF Guantanamo but weren't sure if researching it was worth the hassle?

Though figuring out the awards process might seem daunting to some people, oftentimes it's the appropriate thing to recommend for your subordinates as a finishing touch on their service with the JTF.

But how do you go about figuring out which one is which? Well, there's a lot of paperwork to look through since there are so many selections and variations of which award is appropriate for each individual. So, in order to help you with your selection, here is some information to break down your confusion into more manageable points.

## Two Types of Medals

Generally speaking, there are two medal categories that most service members fall into here at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

### Service-specific Awards

Service awards are given

only to service-unique units assigned and/or attached to a joint task force such as this one. 'Who is that' you may ask? That would include JDOG personnel, the infantry battalion, and all Military Police companies, including, the JDOG's MP headquarters.

That means that personnel in these groups can qualify for Army Achievement Medals, Army Commendation Medals and Meritorious Service Medals during their stay here.

### Joint Awards

Joint awards are given to a JTF staff, and other Service members assigned and/or attached to a JTF as individuals. This also includes individuals assigned to a JTF Headquarters Company.

Contrary to what many believe, Joint awards do not have a higher status than the Army awards that JDOG personnel are awarded. Joint awards and Army awards have equal status.

### Impact Award

Impact awards are recommended or awarded to individu-

als who perform well in a single specific act or accomplishment, separate and distinct from regularly assigned duties, such as a special project. Impact awards are not limited to a certain number allowable for the duration of a tour, but, the more impact awards an individual gets takes away from the content in their service award at the end of their tour.

### Term of Service Award

Term of Service awards are given to individuals at the end of their tour. Only one service award is permitted for an individual's entire tour at GTMO.

### Army Superior Unit Award

Units can also receive awards. One such example is the Army Superior Unit Award (ASUA). The ASUA is given by the Secretary of the Army, for outstanding performance over a specific period of time, while serving in a U.S. Army

### Joint Meritorious Unit Medal

Troopers who do not qualify for a service unit award can still qualify for joint unit awards like the Joint Meritorious Unit Medal (JMUA), given by the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, for outstanding performance over a specific period of time while serving in a joint unit, in a joint billet.

Just like individual joint awards, the JMUA applies only to those assigned or attached to a JTF Headquarters as individuals, not as members of a service unit. The operative word is "individuals" since individual augmentees (IAs) typically qualify. The JMUA was created for just this purpose, and is equal in status to a service unit award.

Another example may apply to you. An infantryman, originally brought down to serve with his battalion could get a JMUA. To do so, he would

have to be reassigned to the JTF Headquarters Company, and listed on a specific joint duty position. This happens mostly to combat service support personnel such as medics or maintenance personnel.

### Terror war medal

The Defense Department just announced final approval of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. In consideration of new military roles in a post-September 11th environment, the Defense Department developed these awards for military members to provide tangible recognition for those serving in the current war against terrorism, a war that spans the globe and includes many diverse campaigns. The SOUTHCOM Commander will be looking at JTF-GTMO trooper eligibility for these awards in the near future.

### What about GTMO?

So what kind of awards could each trooper get while at GTMO?

First, you have to assume that you meet height/weight standards, pass your service PT test, and serve honorably during your entire tour at GTMO. If you don't meet those prerequisites, you will probably only get a counseling statement.

But if you do meet those standards, chances are you could end up with four awards: an impact award for a spectacular job on a single project; a term of service award for your overall tour here at GTMO; a unit award for being a part of a unit that performs well; and a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Although we don't really serve for the awards, it is nice to know that we can be recognized for our individual and unit efforts in support of our mission here in Guantanamo.



War on Terrorism Service Medal

(from right, clockwise) SPC Granville Simmonds, of the 661st Military Police Company, heads off the range to turn in his score card after qualifying with his rifle. SPC Misha Jones runs through Tierra Kay housing. She runs regularly to relieve stress as well as prepare for the upcoming physical training test. SGT Eddie Stout of the 661st prepares ammunition magazines for troopers qualifying with their weapons.



Photo by SPC Katherine Collins



Photo by SPC Katherine Collins



Photo by SPC Katherine Collins



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

SFC Leonard Frett, mess sergeant at Cafe Caribe, works on paperwork. He is a long-time member of the 661st MP Co. and has seen many changes over the years.

**661st from page 1**

such as PLDC and 31E training,” he said. “This with the training I have received from the mission has enhanced my military career.”

SPC Misha Jones who has only been in the National Guard for about a year and with this unit for seven months has experienced growth in areas other than just her military development.

“I have been able to experience different views, attitudes and personalities of different people,” she said. “This has been very crucial to my personal development.

“Meeting people with different religious backgrounds has contributed to my spiritual growth as well,” said Jones.

It also offers her some practical experience for her upcoming college career. “I am working on a criminology degree and this has given me hands-on experience,” she said.

Training for the national mission is important to unit members, but they also have a territorial mission. They hone their rescue and evacuation, communication, medical and security skills so that they may aid the civilian populace during hurricanes, government strikes, fires, threats of violence and assisting the Virgin Islands Police Department.

SSG David Peltier has done several territorial missions with the 661st to include Hurricane Maryland, Hurricane Hugo and a few rough depressions — which are downgraded hurricanes.

“As the military police we are basically the last people out there getting people to hurricane shelters,” said Peltier. “We were the ones out in harm’s way.”

The 661st MP Co. has had a great history and most of the officer and enlisted leadership in the Virgin Island National Guard have served in the 661st MP Co. sometime during their careers.

The unit has been awarded the Best Unit Award for its participation in the Military Police Prisoner of War Exercise “Golden Pistol 78” at Fort McClellan in 1983 and the Virgin Island Meritorious Unit Citation for outstanding performance in Exercise Ocean Venture 82.

The members of the 661st MP Co. carry on the proud traditions of those who served before them and they stand ready to answer the call to defend the nation or provide emergency services to the residents of the Virgin Islands.

# Training tomorrow's leaders today

JTF graduates  
PLDC class two



Photos by SGT Jolene Staker

(at left) SGT Heather Best (right), of the 177th Military Police Brigade, receives her certificate from MG Geoffrey Miller, JTF commander, during the PLDC graduation ceremony. Best was recognized for scoring over 270 on her PT test and was on the Commandant's list. (above) Graduates of JTF Guantanamo's second PLDC class pose for a group photo. (right) SGT Amos Brown, of the 384th Military Police Battalion, gives a short speech at the ceremony after being recognized as the class's honor graduate.



## Trooper on the Street

By SPC Katherine L. Collins

### This Week's Question:

What one message or lesson would you like your civilian employer to grasp from your deployment?



SPC Jemeel Washington,  
Joint Visitors Bureau

"Continue to support your military employees and keep them updated while they are away, because there will be more deployments."



SSG David Dion,  
C Co. 1-181st Inf. Bn.

"Thank you to all my [fellow firefighters] for all you do for me. You are my biggest supporter while on active duty, fighting for our nation's freedom. I'm deeply indebted."



MSG Edward McCurdy,  
217th MP Co.

"That everyone has to play their role in the fight for freedom, whether or not they're in the military."



SGT Robert Cavender,  
A Co. 1-181st Inf. Bn.

"You'll always find that military members get the job done, in their military and civilian missions."



SSG David Peltier,  
661st MP Co.

"Employers as a whole should realize that we come out here as a fraction of the Army of One to work together to accomplish the mission at hand."

## 258th soldier named "Top JDOG" for February

SSG Robert Stearns, 258th Military Police Company, led a 14-soldier detachment from the Joint Task Force Guantanamo on a special mission for the Joint Detention Operations Group (JDOG).

A grueling 29-hour mission that required all participants to step up to the plate and go the extra mile, Stearns' leadership was instrumental in this endeavor.

Stearns further showed his leadership and care for the soldiers at one of the stops at McGuire AFB, N.J., on the return leg of the flight. His soldiers were informed that they would spend the night in an air hanger instead of in billeting. Stearns stepped forward and offered, at his own expense, to put soldiers up in billeting.

This issue was brought to the attention of the OIC and with his and Stearns' leadership, soldiers were properly cared for and given a proper place to sleep and recover from the mission.

Stearns also willingly accepted an additional expense when he learned that the flight would not depart until after check out time. Stearns instructed all soldiers to



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

SSG Robert Stearns, 258th Military Police Company, shakes hands with BG Mitch LeClaire after receiving a coin from LeClaire for being named the Joint Detention Operation Group's "Top JDOG" for February.

move their baggage and equipment into his room and he then incurred the additional cost.

Stearns' leadership and care for the soldiers under his charge are in keeping with

the tradition and standards of the NCO Corps and the Joint Detention Operations Group. For his selfless service and willingness to take care of the soldiers Stearns is the February Top JDOG.

## DCS training prepares troopers for return home

By SrA. Thomas J. Doscher

JTF troopers know all about the training they had to complete to get to Guantanamo Bay, but what about the training they need to get back?

Deployment Cycle Support training is a three-day seminar that all JTF troopers from every branch of the service are required to attend for them to outprocess.

"The main objective of the DCS program is the successful reintegration of our men and women into their families and communities," said Georgina Frisbee, Fleet and Family Support Center JTF liaison.

Over the course of three days, troopers are briefed on a variety of subjects and attend panel discussions. The first day is spent learning about what to expect during a trooper's return

and reunion with family, preventing domestic abuse, coping with change, personal relationships, personal safety, finance, and transition information such as veterans' issues and job search information.

The second day consists of briefings from the Combat Stress Control Team and TRI-CARE representatives. The topics include stress management techniques, suicide awareness and prevention, crisis management and conflict resolution.

On the third day, troopers participate in two panel discussions. The first is a medical panel to discuss health issues. The second panel lets troopers speak directly with representatives from the legal office, the Fleet and Family Support Center, the American Red Cross, J-1 for awards and leave issues, J-8 for pay issues and the Joint Per-

sonnel and Readiness Center to discuss outprocessing.

Frisbee said troopers should have the information they need to confront problems before they leave Guantanamo Bay.

"Returning troops need to be aware of the emotional issues as well as the practical issues involved in redeployment," she said. "DCS presents an opportunity to gather information and find answers while here where services are easily accessible."

Air Force SrA. Katy Krekelberg, J-3 current operations, went to DCS training in mid-February. She said it gave her something to think about.

"We all learned some things that I'm sure we wouldn't have thought of if we hadn't attended the class," Krekelberg said. Krekelberg said the class helped prepare her for her trip home.

"I think this class prepared

me for redeployment by helping me understand the stress levels that we will all encounter and try to avoid the repercussions that could happen if we take the stress of everything back into our homes."

Frisbee said the key to getting the most out of DCS training is to have a positive attitude.

"Active participation in DCS is a great opportunity for learning or receiving healthy reminders about the redeployment experience," Frisbee said. "When service members complete this three-day seminar, reunion with family members and significant others will not be far away. They will be more aware and better prepared for their immediate future."

The next DCS seminar is slated for March 23-25. For more information, call J-3 at 5040.

# Seeing and serving God everywhere

*New Navy chaplain's assistant delivers diligence and inspiration to JTF's spiritual ministry.*

**By SPC Katherine Collins**

Serving God through military service is nothing new to Navy Petty Officer First Class Deneen Moore, but as the most recent chaplain's assistant joining JTF's spiritual ministry team, she focuses ahead with joy and anticipation to discovering the many ways God will use her talents and deep-rooted desire to serve Him in Guantanamo Bay.

Moore's military service began 18 years ago, when she stepped forward to follow in the footsteps of her father, who had served in the Navy during WWII, and two of her sisters, who currently serve on active duty in the Navy. Prior to becoming a chaplain's assistant, she served as a mechanical calibration technician during her first 12 years in the Navy. With the news that the Navy planned to disestablish this duty position, Moore began exploring her other career field options.

"I chose to become a religious programs specialist, which is what the Navy calls it, so I could serve the Lord and be in His presence full time," she said.

Reflecting back to the day she learned of the Operation Enduring Freedom mission here, Moore shared the excitement she experienced then, saying, "When I was presented with the opportunity to come here and work with the JTF, I immediately said, 'Yes.'"

Knowing that God's will for her service could deliver her anywhere, she expressed thanksgiving to God for choosing Guantanamo Bay, because of its beauty and the joint service aspect of the mission.

"I was excited about coming to the sunny Caribbean – be near the beautiful ocean," she said. "Also, this is my first time serving this closely with other branches of the military."

Moore said she is striving to do all she can to serve God inside and outside the framework of her position, as she discovers the needs of all JTF's service members.

"While I am learning more about other branches of service, I am finding that all people have similar needs when it comes to their faith. Serving God and the military in the chapel is a blessing because I am able to help others in the expression of their faith," she said.

On a daily basis, Moore assists JTF's chaplains in whatever ways possible. Among her duties, she helps prepare the chapel for worship services, operates the sound system and audiovisual equipment during services and provides



Photo by SPC Katherine L. Collins  
*Navy Petty Officer First Class Deneen Moore prepares Troopers Chapel for Sunday morning morship.*

religious literature to personnel.

In addition, Moore said she focuses on simply loving and living for her Lord while in Guantanamo Bay, looking only peripherally to where He may lead her next. She cited her family – her husband, a "wonderful man of God," and "three marvelous 'children of the King'" – as one source of strength God continues to provide to encourage and strengthen her in her faith and ministry here.

"Philippians 4:13, which states, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,' is my favorite scripture," she added. "It's one I look to as a guiding principle to renew me physically, mentally and spiritually. It is a scripture reminding me that whatever it is that I need to do here in my work at JTF and in life overall, Jesus will give me the strength to be successful."

According to Moore, it is through simple ways, such as living out this verse to others through all she says and does, that she prays she'll be effective in God's ministry here.

"Through my words and actions, I try to share [the verse's truth] with everyone I encounter," she said. "I also try to point the way to God by sharing all the evidence I witness of His active presence here. [In Guantanamo] we have the opportunity to see His beauty in the ocean breaking against the rocks, the beautiful sunsets, the stars shining at night and the iguanas that walk up to us every day. That's part of what I like to share with others."

Moore said she plans to retire from the Navy in two years, returning to her home state of Virginia. She also desires to travel all 50 states with her husband at some point in the future, seeing God's beauty throughout the nation He continues to so greatly bless.

## Heavenly Bits & Pieces

By CH (MAJ) Daniel Odean

**Never give the Devil a ride; he'll want to do all the driving!**

*We have to take responsibility for our choices and actions in life. The enemy of your soul will make sure he puts things in your way to keep you distracted from God. He wants to wreck your life! Turn to God. The words of Jesus are recorded in John 10:10 -*

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

By CH (LTC) Steve Feehan



We pray for a lot of things. The problem usually is that we think we know the right answer. We usually want what we want, and we want it now. We forget that God's answers are always wiser than our prayers.

### Investigating the passion of Jesus

With the release of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" people are asking questions about the crucifixion of Jesus. Get in on the discussion, exploring both the biblical account and the personal impact of the passion of Jesus.

Mondays/ 7PM/ The Living Room (L001 CANN)

# 1-181st snipers hone skills at Grenadillo

By SrA. Thomas J. Doscher

One shot, one kill... but not without a lot of practice.

Like the other infantry and military police units at JTF Guantanamo, snipers with the 1-181st Infantry Regiment practice like they fight.

Though not as numerous as the other specialties, snipers play an important role in JTF security.

"It augments the infantry," said "Jon," a 1-181st Infantry Regiment sniper. "We have a better view than the regular infantry."

Jon, a sniper since 1990, said having them in the JTF makes sense.

"It's low intensity warfare," he said. "It makes sense. You can discreetly reduce the threat. Instead of shooting a machine gun into a crowd to get one person, you can get him with one shot from 700 meters away. It's the smart way of fighting."

Army regulations require snipers to qualify every three months, but Jon said it's better to shoot more often.

"It's better to shoot a little a lot," he said.



"Jon," a 1-181st Infantry Regiment sniper, looks through the scope of his sniper rifle during training at Grenadillo Range March 5. Snipers augment the infantry in providing security and force protection for the JTF.

Photo by SrA. Thomas J. Doscher

"Jim," another 1-181st Infantry Regiment sniper, said snipers offer the JTF more than just an extra shooter.

"There's more to sniping than shooting," Jim said. "We're trained in observation and intelligence. We can get in, get ranges and make observations and get out without being seen."

One of the ways they remain

hidden is by wearing a "Ghillie" suit, a camouflage suit used to make the shooter all but invisible against his surroundings. Snipers traditionally make their own Ghillie suits, a process that can take 80 hours of labor, Thompson said.

"Ken," a 1-181st Infantry Regiment infantryman will learn how to make one in the course of

his sniper training.

Ken decided to become one of the specialized marksmen after shooting with some of the 1-181's snipers.

"I shot with a couple of these guys before," Ken said. "When the opportunity came up to be a spotter, they put my name in."

Ken said being a sniper is much different than what he's been trained for.

"It's a totally different kind of operation," he said. "It's observing and studying, not just shooting."

Jon said that despite what the movies say, sniping is never done alone.

"It's very much a two-man team," Jon said. "One of the misnomers of snipers is that it's a lone individual."

"We always work in two-man teams," he added.

Jim said snipers at Guantanamo are necessary and valuable.

"They have the big guns," he said. "But I'd rather have one shot from 700 yards."



"Jon," takes up a firing position in the grass at Grenadillo Range. His "Ghillie" suit camouflages him and allows him to blend in with the grass around him.

Photo by SrA. Thomas J. Doscher

## FITNESS AND RECOGNITION



Photo by SSG Patrick Cloward

### Comings and Goings...

During a visit to Guantanamo Bay, (above) members of the Committee for Homeland Security met with members of the 661st MP Co. (left to right) SPC Donell Samuel, SGT Terrance Bryan, SSG Enrique Santos, Donna Christansen, delegate to congress from the Virgin Islands, 661st Commander MAJ Kai Schjang, Spc Enisha Jones and SFC Glenwood David. (right) Coast Guard LT Michael O'Neill addresses members of the MSST 91110 during the rotation victory dinner. Up to 75 percent of the MSST will rotate home and be replaced by personnel from the same unit, enabling most members to be in Guantanamo little more than three months.



Photo by SPC Katherine Collins

## Differing weight programs spur successes

By SGT Talal Elkhatib

There are plenty of exercises for every muscle group. Some people prefer machines and some prefer free weights. Today, we'll discuss the benefits and advantages of both.

What's better? The honest answer is free-weights are better. Free-weights help out the mind and body in different ways. Even though a free-weight workout is very exhausting, it's better. When using free-weights, you're using additional stabilizer-muscles to balance and correct your form.

You're also developing your mind because free-weights help improve your connective muscle tissue, therefore improving the speed of neurotransmitters (messengers that carry signals of movement) from your brain to your muscles, making a better mind-to-muscle coordination. Machines do the same in a less powerful way.

You can do physical training almost everywhere regardless of the equipment provided, but from a personal perspective, beginners should start on machines first to perfect their form and breathing before moving on to free-weights.

Free-weights can also build strength if used correctly. The mistake most commit is trying to use too much weight too quickly. Muscle maturity is the improvement of muscle development with age, and that maturity varies from person to person. Believe it or not, men and women develop significant muscle tissue during their 30s to 40s. This is why those who have been working out for a while can exercise using heavier weight with correct form. Those of us who are younger need to learn to be patient and develop our body and not our ego.

So why use weight machines? Weight machines are good for beginner to intermediate weight trainers. Beginners should uti-

lize machines to get familiar with the exercises and slowly get stronger until they feel comfortable to use free-weights.

Machines can also be used by people who need a routine change or don't have a workout partner to spot them. Machines are also good for group or squad training such as station training. If you are training for strength and size and want to gain as much muscle mass as you can, start out using machines, and then move to free-weights.

Knowledge is power. Talk to each others into fitness and don't be shy to ask other weight trainers questions. Talk to the following veterans about muscle building: SFC Jerome Wren of the 177th MP Brigade., SGT Derek Acosta of the 384th MP Battalion, SGT Marcus Bowden, SGT Rob White, SPC Nahum Vizakis, and SPC Michael Burnes, of the 1-181st Infantry Regiment.

## SPORTS, RECREATION AND LESIURE

*Sports highlights***New York Giants add Barrett Green**

Compiled by SSG Patrick Cloward

In basketball news, **Portland Trail Blazers** point guard **Damon Stoudamire** took a drug test for a Portland newspaper columnist on Friday in an attempt to clear his name, the Oregonian reported Sunday.

Last year, Stoudamire apologized to fans after being charged with possession of marijuana following a search at an airport.

Stoudamire reportedly tested negative for five different drugs, including marijuana. According to the paper, marijuana can be detected if used up to 28 days prior to the test.

In Hockey, the **Philadelphia Flyers** shook up their defense Monday, acquiring **Vladimir Malakhov** from the New York Rangers and trading **Chris Therien** to the **Dallas Stars**.

Therien had spent his entire 10-year NHL career with the Flyers. He was the longest-tenured active athlete on any professional sports team in Philadelphia.

In football news, for the second time in four days, the **New York Giants** have added a starting linebacker, as the club

reached an agreement Monday night with unrestricted veteran **Barrett Green**.

Green, 26, spent his first four seasons with the **Detroit Lions**. In New York, he'll take over the starting weak-side position, a spot vacated when **Dhani Jones** opted to test the free-agent market.

In baseball news, **San Diego Padres** first baseman **Phil Nevin** has a strained left shoulder and is expected to miss about four weeks.

Nevin was hurt in a spring training game against Anaheim on Sunday night, a year to the day he dislocated the same shoulder, which kept him out until July 23 last season.

Nevin is expected to have his arm in a sling for seven to 10 days, then begin his rehabilitation. Going by the team's timetable, he could be back by opening day April 5 at Los Angeles. The Padres open their new ballpark April 8 against San Francisco.

In College football, **Colorado State** is tightening its football recruiting policies amid scandals at the **University of Colorado** and elsewhere.

Changes proposed by a committee headed by athletic director **Mark**

**Driscoll** have been given to coaches to review. The changes will take effect after the coaches respond, Colorado State spokesman **Gary Ozzello** said.

Ozzello said many of the changes deal specifically with drug and alcohol use and sexual harassment and assault. The changes specifically ban underage drinking, illegal drug use and taking a recruit to a bar or party where strippers are present.

In Golf, **Craig Parry** flipped his 6-iron across the 18th fairway, kicked his leg as high as he could and then swung his "Popeye" forearm through the air.

Parry holed out from 176 yards to beat **Scott Verplank** on the first playoff hole Sunday in the **Ford Championship at Doral**. His ball landed 8 feet in front of the pin, bounced twice and then rolled in for eagle on the par-4 finishing hole.

His 298-yard drive landed in the center of the fairway. Verplank, who shot a bogey-free 67 in the final round to send it to extra holes, hit his tee shot in the right rough. His second shot was rolling toward a bunker when it turned left and stopped on the edge of the green.

Compiled from ESPN.com



Photos by SGT Jolene Staker

**Form and Fitness...**

(above) SGT Heather Sittler (left) of the 384th Military Police Battalion tests for her green belt in combat martial arts by demonstrating a move with Marine Cpl. Gabriel Valdez. (at right) SPC Katherine Turner out of Fort Bragg, N.C. (left) and SGT Carrie Ziemba out of Fort Sam Houston, Texas, test for their tan belt in combat martial arts.



# Employer, employee find different roles on deployment

By SGT Jolene Staker

For most troopers, deployment has taken them away from their employers, but SPC James Berg of B Battery, 119th Field Artillery, came to Guantanamo with his boss.

SFC Michael Ross also of B Battery, 119th FA and his father own the family construction business where Berg is employed in Michigan. Ross is the project manager and Berg had worked his way up to labor foreman.

Berg joined the Army National Guard eight years ago to use the education benefits available. He was put in Ross's section. Over the years Ross came to appreciate Berg's work habits. When an opening became available in his company Ross recruited Berg to work for him.

"He was steady and dependable," said Ross. "I prefer to hire veterans. They don't mind the dirt and the water."

When Ross convinced his Dad to hire Berg, they knew it would present challenges. "We've always worked around annual training and drill weekends," said Ross. "It's always been an inconvenience."

But when Ross and Berg were deployed, it went from an inconvenience to a hardship. The family business is a small construction company. Now 25 percent of the company is here in Guantanamo.

While it may be an inconvenience to have them deployed, Ross said his Dad has never complained. "Dad has always supported me," said Ross. "My parents had to sign to let me join the active Army when I was 17. He has never asked me to get out of the military."

Ross has been in the Army for 15 years. He served two years in the active Army and then transferred to the Army Reserves. In 1993, he transferred to the Army National Guard.

Berg is three classes away from a bachelor degree in business management. When Ross gets back to his company and has a chance to reorganize he plans to offer Berg a chance to learn to be a project manager.

"He is a core employee," said Ross. "I consider it life-long employment as long as he wants to be there. We will do whatever we can to help him



Photo by SGT Staker

SFC Michael Ross (left) and SPC James Berg both of B Battery, 119th FA review Berg's leave form. "If a soldier has a problem, he [Ross] will put in the extra effort to take care of it," said Berg.

grow in the business."

This deployment has only reinforced the potential Ross sees in Berg. "Seeing what he is doing on this deployment only gives me more confidence in him," said Ross.

As far as the business at home, Ross and Berg wonder how it is going but know they have to focus on the mission here.

"I would like to thank

everyone back home, both the company and our families," said Ross. "Everyone has stepped in to fill the gap."

Berg too appreciates the support the entire battery has experienced. "I remember the day we left and how it felt to look out and see all the families there," said Berg. "I didn't expect that much support. Our family support group and everyone was wonderful."

## Reservists have assistance for civilian employment issues

By SGT Jolene Staker

Reserve military members usually leave a civilian career to serve during deployment. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act protect their jobs, but they may still run into problems or have questions about these rights.

There is a place reservists can go for answers and assistance. The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), an agency within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, was established in 1972 to promote cooperation between Reserve component members and their civilian employers and assist in the resolution of conflicts that may arise from the employees

military service.

A reservist who leaves a civilian job for voluntary or involuntary military service is entitled to reemployment in the civilian job with accrued seniority if he or she meets certain criteria.

The reservist must have left the job for the purpose of performing military service and have given prior oral or written notice to the civilian employer. Prior notice is not required only if it is precluded by military necessity or otherwise impossible or unreasonable.

The cumulative period of service or periods of service must not exceed the five-year limit. All involuntary service and some voluntary service are exempted from this five-year limit. See 38 U.S.C. 4312 (c).

Reservists must be released from their military service without receiving a punitive or other-than-honorable discharge. They must report back to work in a timely manner or have submitted a timely application for reemployment.

If the period of service is 31-180 days the application for reemployment must be submitted 14 days after the end of the service. For a period of service of over 180 days, reservists have 90 days to submit the application. These deadlines can be extended by up to two years if the reservist is hospitalized for or convalescing from a service-connected injury or illness.

Reservists may contact the ESGR at [NCESGR-OMBUD@osd.mil](mailto:NCESGR-OMBUD@osd.mil) or 1-800-336-4590.

# 15 Minutes of Fame...

## With SPC Jendayi K. K. Albert, 661<sup>st</sup> MP Co.

SpC. Katherine L. Collins

*SPC Jendayi K.K. Albert left her home in the Virgin Islands to join the Army as a means to pay for college. In addition to advancing her education to level of actively pursuing her master's degree, she completed the six-year travel adventure of her life. Albert is proud to lead the way as the first member of her family to serve in the military.*

**Q: What inspired you to join the military?**

**A:** I joined for the same reason many people join – for the college money. My mom has three kids, and I'm the oldest. Earning college money by serving in the military seemed the best thing to do.

**Q: How many years and in what branches and components have you served?**

**A:** I've served six years total — five, Active Army, and this is my first year in the National Guard.

**Q: Where have you deployed?**

**A:** I've served at duty stations in Italy, Japan, Alaska and Virginia, and I've deployed to Iran, Kuwait, Senegal, Ghana, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and now Cuba.

**Q: Why did you switch to the National Guard?**

**A:** I loved all the traveling I was doing, but I needed a break. I was looking forward to getting back home to serve in the V.I. until called to deploy with that unit; however, after only a month and a half of joining my unit, we deployed to Cuba.

**Q: What do you recall as your best military experience?**

**A:** There's so many to pick from. I'll just say all the travel in general. I really enjoyed seeing different countries and learning about their cultures. One thing I learned from all I saw is that my life is not all that hard. There are many people around the world that are far worse off.

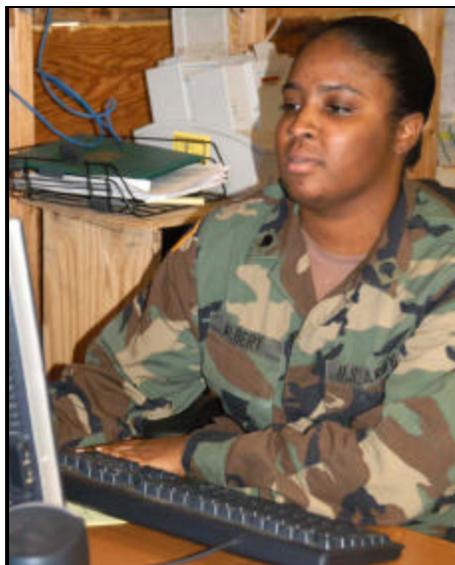


Photo by SPC Katherine L. Collins

*SPC Jendayi K.K. Albert, an administrative specialist with the 661st Military Police Company, works on her computer in the unit's command post.*

**Q: How has your military service impacted and molded you as a soldier and person?**

**A:** It's given me a lot of discipline, and it's allowed me to appreciate other people and their talents and abilities.

**Q: In what ways has your family supported you in your military service?**

**A:** My immediate family – my mom and two sisters – has supported me a lot, because I haven't been home more than three weeks out of the year for the last six years. They're always there for me. My mother calls me every morning. My sisters also call me all the time. We e-mail often too.

**Q: What is your employment back home?**

**A:** I am a crisis counselor, working in domestic violence for a non-profit organization. I did earn my college degree – in business management. I began working for the center as a budget analyst, but I thought the counseling seemed interesting. So, after training, I began doing that. I plan to continue on in the field of business management though.

**Q: What has been your greatest challenge here in Guantanamo?**

**A:** Working with other branches of service and all three components. We each have a different way of doing things, but we must pull together to work as a team to accomplish the mission.

**Q: What personal strengths do you find benefit you most in this mission?**

**A:** From my job as a sexual assault counselor, I've learned a lot of patience, which has greatly helped me here.

**Q: How do you relax when you deploy?**

**A:** During my other deployments I mostly traveled in my free time around the countries I was in and to the near by countries. It's a little different in Cuba, being on an island and all. So I sleep, watch T.V. and I go to college. I'm trying to complete courses toward my master's degree in business management.

**Q: What goals have you set for yourself while here?**

**A:** I'm trying to complete at least seven or eight courses toward my master's degree.

**Q: What has been most rewarding about this mission?**

**A:** All the friends I made here in my unit. I didn't really get to know them until we came to Cuba, because I had just joined the unit. Also, since I'd been away from home for six years, they were able to really fill me in on all that was happening and changing back in the V.I.

**Q: Looking back on your overall military experience, what makes you most proud to serve?**

**A:** I'm the first person in my family, from even generations back, to ever consider actually joining the military. No one ever imagined I'd make it this far and do all I did. So that makes me proud to be where I am today.

**Q: What are your plans for when you return home?**

**A:** I'm going to relax for a whole month or two before I go back to work. I'm going to take a cruise to Venezuela, the Cayman Islands and maybe Mexico with my mom and sisters. Then I'm going to visit my dad, who I haven't seen in six years.

# The GTMO Guide: Answers to Your Questions

Who can help me? What's for lunch? What movie's playing? Where can I find that? How does this work?

Bus stop routes include the following stops. Not all stops are listed.

## Sherman Avenue

First Street – :00; :30;  
 East Caravella – :03; :33;  
 Marine Hill – :05; :35;  
 Post Office – :10; :40;  
 Windjammer – :11; :41;  
 NEX – :14; :44;  
 Bulkeley landing – :17; :47;  
 Ferry landing – :21; :51;  
 Commissions Building – :23; :53;  
 Ordnance – :26; :56;  
 Bulkeley landing – :28; :58;  
 NEX – :32; :02;  
 Windjammer – :36; :06;  
 Post Office – :37; :07;  
 Marine Hill – :41; :11;  
 Hospital – :48; :18;  
 Windward Loop 1 – :52; :22.

Your guide to ...

## Buses

## Camp America/NEX

Camp Alpha – :00; :20; :40;  
 NEX trailer – :02; :22; :42;  
 Camp Delta 2 – :06; :26; :46;  
 TK 4 – :12; :32; :52;  
 TK 1 – :16; :36; :56;  
 Windjammer/Gym – :23; :43; :03;  
 NEX – :30; :50; :10;  
 Windjammer Gym – :35; :55; :15;  
 TK 1 – :40; :00; :20;  
 TK 4 – :46; :06; :26;  
 Camp Delta 1 – :52; :12; :32;  
 Camp Alpha – :00; :20; :40

## IG helps bring more computers to Camp America North labs

Recently, the inspector general hosted “sensing sessions” where troopers were able to voice their concerns over issues of their choice. Many sessions were recently conducted with all the companies in the JTF. Some of the troopers said that more computers in Camp America North would make life better.

In response to this query, the information was shared with JTF leadership and the J-6 staff, who worked together with Morale Welfare and Recreation personnel to determine how many computers could be added and when.

Twenty new computers arrived, were inventoried, and put on line for troopers to use within three weeks following. This is a great example of the JTF leadership team respond-

Your guide to ...

## IG

ing to what troopers said will improve their time at Guantanamo Bay.

The Inspector General is here to assist you with various concerns or issues that you feel may apply. If you believe the IG might be able to assist you, please contact us in Room 204 of the Commissions Building Monday through Saturday or in the Camp America IG office at Building 7200 Monday, Wednesday, Friday afternoons and Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings.

You can reach us by telephone at 5399 or 3501. IG assistance is available anytime by appointment.

Your guide to ...

## Movies

### Camp Bulkeley

#### Fri., March 12

8 p.m. *The Mask*  
 PG13 - 102 min

10 p.m. *Gone in 60 Seconds*  
 PG13 - 113 min

#### Sat., March 13

8 p.m. *Mission Impossible*  
 PG13 - 109 min

10 p.m. *Bounty Hunters*  
 R - 96 min

#### Sun., March 14

8 p.m. *Charlie's Angels*  
 PG13 - 98 min

#### Mon., March 15

8 p.m. *Super Cop 2*  
 R - 94 min

#### Tues., March 16

8 p.m. *Tomb Raider*  
 PG13 - 101 min

#### Wed., March 17

8 p.m. *Speed*  
 R - 116 min

#### Thurs., March 18

8 p.m. *The One*  
 PG13 - 86 min

### Downtown Lyceum

#### Fri., March 12

7 p.m. *Along Came Polly*  
 PG - 90 min

9 p.m. *Fellowship of the Ring*  
 PG13 - 178 min

#### Sat., March 13

7 p.m. *Chasing Liberty*  
 PG13 - 111 min

9 p.m. *The Two Towers*  
 PG13 - 175 min

#### Sun., March 14

7 p.m. *Welcome to Mooseport*  
 PG13 - 115 min

#### Mon., March 15

7 p.m. *Torque*  
 PG13 - 81 min

#### Tues., March 16

7 p.m. *Chasing Liberty*  
 PG13 - 111 min

#### Wed., March 17

7 p.m. *Along Came Polly*  
 PG - 90 min

#### Thurs., March 18

7 p.m. *The Butterfly Effect*  
 R - 113 min



# RUGBY is back!

Practices are every Tues & Thurs, 1800-1930, Cooper Field. No experience necessary, beginners welcome. Bring your rugby boots and water.

FMI-contact JOC Puello 4520



# Flight schedule changes continuing through May

Operations changes at the Roosevelt Roads naval base are prompting rotator flight changes for Guantanamo Bay.

Roosevelt Roads will be closing soon, and that has forced rotator flights to move to Tuesday and Friday through the end of April.

Beginning in May, the flights will revert back to Tuesdays and Saturdays, according to 1LT Jeremy Paden, JTF J-4.

Paden encouraged troopers to check with the Strategic Mobility Office, Commissions Building room 205, before making definite travel plans.

For more information, call 5154 or 5164 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday.



## Thursday Ticket

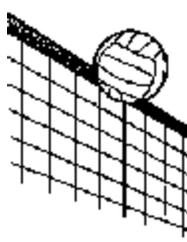
Seeking to help one another find moral direction in life? Join the chaplain and fellow troopers on Thursday nights at 7 p.m. in the Living room (L001 CANN) for the viewing and lively discussion of a contemporary movie.

## Combat stress ready to solve problems

The Combat Stress Team's main office is located at Building 3206 in Camp America. Hours are 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturdays. KB JAS hours are 8:30 a.m. until noon, Monday through Friday. Personnel are on call after duty hours by pager; dial 4084, pager

2337. In an emergency, go to the NAVAL Hospital or to the JAS. Combat stress services include walk-in consultations and triage, brief solution-focused therapy, crisis intervention, roommate contracting, anger management, command consultation and suicide awareness and prevention.

On Saturday, March 13th Club Survivor will be hosting the **B Company, 1st Battalion, 181st Inf. Regt. Volleyball Challenge.** Team sign up is Saturday at 1800. Play begins at 1830.



### LAVA LAVA ISLAND VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL needs volunteers

Directors, station leaders, crew leaders and behind-the-scenes help is needed for the school, which will be June 14-18

To volunteer, please call the Base Chapel, 2323 or contact Barbara Olsen, 2359 or 7685

**Deployment Cycle Support Program**  
*is open to troops within 90 days of redeploying.*  
*The next class is March 23 - 25*  
*Supervisors should call J-3 at 5040*  
*to sign troopers up.*



<b>Catholic</b>		
<u>Main Chapel</u>		
Wed.	5 p.m.	Holy Hour and Rosary
	6:00-6:25 p.m.	Confessions
	6:30 p.m.	RCIA (Chaplain's office)
Sat.	4:15 p.m.	Confession
	5:30 p.m.	Vigil Mass
Sun.	9 a.m.	Mass
	10:15 a.m.	Spanish Mass (Sanct. B)
M-Fri.	11:30 a.m.	Mass (Cobre Chapel)
<b>Protestant</b>		
<u>Main Chapel</u>		
Mon.	7 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship*
Tue.	7 p.m.	Men's Bible Study*
Wed.	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
Thurs	11 a.m.	Service/Sunday School
	6:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study*
* Fellowship Hall located in Chapel Complex		
<u>Camp America</u>		
Mon.	7 p.m.	Passion Study
Tues	7 p.m.	Alpha
Wed.	7 p.m.	Soul Survivor (Club Survivor)
Sun.	7:30 a.m.	Christian Worship
	9 a.m.	Protestant
<b>New Life Fellowship</b>		
Sun.	1 p.m.	Service (Main Chapel)
<b>Pentecostal Gospel</b>		
Sun.	9 a.m.	Service (Sanc C)
	5 p.m.	Service (Sanc C)
<b>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints</b>		
Sun.	9 a.m.	Sanctuary A
<b>Islamic</b>		
Fri.	1 p.m.	Classroom 12, Chapel Complex
<b>Jewish</b>		
Call 2323 for more information		
<b>Camp America Church Bus schedule:</b>		
Sun.	8:15 a.m.	Tierra Kay
The bus will return following worship.		



<b>Today:</b>	Lunch – fried shrimp; Dinner – Teriyaki steak and seafood platter.
<b>Saturday:</b>	Lunch – Stuffed Flounder; Dinner – Italian Sausage
<b>Sunday:</b>	Lunch – Chicken Fajita;
	Dinner – Chicken Cordon Bleu
<b>Monday:</b>	Lunch – Teriyaki Beef Strips;
	Dinner – Savory Baked Chicken
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Lunch – Ginger Pot Roast;
	Dinner – Roast Turkey
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Lunch – Shrimp Chop Suey; Dinner – Irish Pot Roast
<b>Thursday:</b>	Lunch – Mexican Baked Chicken; Dinner – Beef Stroganoff
<b>Friday:</b>	Lunch – Fish Almandine; Dinner – Ribeye and Lobster

