

## ***New Maritime Safety and Security Team Defends GTMO***

***By Senior Airman Neo Martin***

Troopers in a special kind of maritime team formed after the 9/11 attacks joined the ranks of the Joint Task Force (JTF) recently.

Members of the Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSST), New Orleans, deployed here to Guantanamo Bay to join the Global War on Terrorism.

The new Troopers will assume the duties of the outgoing Port Security Unit (PSU), and will be patrolling the waterways.

“It’s an honor to be serving while performing such an important mission,” Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Ron Kooper said. “We’re here like everyone else—to do our duty.”

MSSTs are part of the Department of Homeland Security’s defense of our seaports and waterways. They offer waterborne and shore-side anti-terrorism force protection for tactical shipping, high importance ships and vital port infrastructure. MSSTs are a rapid-reaction force capable of fast, nationwide deployment by air, ground or sea in response to varying threats and missions.

For many of the new Troopers, this is their first deployment.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Phil Payne was enthusiastic. “It’s cool to be a part of the (GTMO) mission defending the world against terrorism, and I’ve wondered what it was like here since I saw *A Few Good Men*,” he



**See Coast Guard, Page 4**

# Trooper To Trooper

## What is Stress?



Photo by Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres

**By Army Capt. Eduardo Caraveo**

Imagine you were a strange sort of person who whenever you came across a rubber band put it around your head.

Some bands would be big and fat, others small and thin. Before long, your head would resemble a rubber ball ... and the pressure on your brain would be tremendous.

Stress can build up like this.

Imagine each fear, problem or worry we have is one of those rubber bands. Some are big and others small, but each contributes to our overall discomfort.

Because worries and fears come gradually, people usually don't realize they are piling up. As they do, people unconsciously adapt to the pressure and try to function normally.

When people get enough worry, fear and pressure rubber bands wrapped around them, there is a sense of danger, and they tend to be more on guard. Like a cat or dog in an unfamiliar neighborhood, they are always nervous and on the lookout for problems or danger.

A person that keeps their guard up all the time puts an enormous strain on their body—it's a lot of work. Eventually

their body begins to send out signals something is wrong.

In addition to physical problems, good attitudes begin to wear thin. With less energy, enthusiasm, patience and humor, people can no longer function at their best, sometimes causing people to withdraw from the world.

Withdrawing takes people away from what they need most: Support and love. As the stress increases, people feel worse and withdraw more.

In order to maintain a healthy lifestyle, people must learn to fix the stressors within their power and avoid future stress.

Imagine you had been putting stress rubber bands around your head for 15 years, one for every worry, problem and fear you had, and kept inside. Imagine how good it would feel to have those rubber bands gradually removed. Imagine getting so healthy and skilled at handling problems and feelings, as they come up you never put another one on your head. That is what problem management is—tackling your problems as they come up.

The Combat Stress Control team can help you get on the right path.

### COMBAT STRESS

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Photos by Army Capt. Janet Schoenberg

## Navy Capt. Les McCoy: Living the American Dream in Cuba

By Army Cpl. Jim Greenhill

Commander of Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) Naval Base. Commander of the naval station. Joint Task Force deputy commander of support. Mayor of GTMO.

Four roles played by one man: Navy Capt. Les McCoy.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said McCoy, who came to GTMO in 2003 from Pearl Harbor.

On Sept. 11, 2001, McCoy woke to news of the surprise attack on America. "It's ironic to be sitting right there at Pearl Harbor," he said. The previous surprise attack on the U.S. was Dec. 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor. Both precipitated war. McCoy already knew his next posting was here at GTMO. "It was going to be more or less a quiet tour." Al-Qaida changed that. U.S. commanders sought a place for detainees. They settled on GTMO. "I was very alarmed at first," McCoy said. "But then I looked at it as an opportunity to be involved in something historic."

McCoy was already making history by being the first black commander here. As a boy in 1961, he watched his enlisted father carry an officer's luggage here. "Forty-something years later, his son can come back and command the base," McCoy said in a recent interview in his spacious Bulkeley Hall office. "That says a lot for how far our society has come."

McCoy's effort, starting with his 1979 graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy, brought him here. "This was not given to me," he said. "I earned this."

He is a Naval Aviator, a veteran of Operation Desert Shield and numerous other missions. A graduate of the Naval War College and the Armed Forces Staff College. A recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal and numerous other awards.

He recalls the intensity of flight school. "I

lost friends. In training, you die."

He has tailed Soviet ships and tracked Soviet submarines. He was aboard a vessel at sea, expecting to be attacked next after Saddam Hussein's Iraq invaded Kuwait. In the Sierra Nevadas, he played a role in three helicopter rescues in one day. He has landed helicopters at night in bad weather and near-zero visibility on small frigates. Yet one of his most powerful memories is of 17 facial expressions.

McCoy helped to rescue 17 Chinese from a sinking freighter off the Aleutian chain. He remembers, "The fear in their eyes, and the gratitude when we were able to rescue them."

In Navy officer parlance, McCoy "broke out" from the pack around him, was screened for and subsequently won a major command. He once swore he wouldn't join the military, certainly not for 26 years. But then, at 15, he watched an Army-Navy Game. "I was overwhelmed by the uniforms and the pageantry and the commitment I saw."

He thought Navy had the best uniform, a long black coat, white scarf and white hat. So he joined up. "It was an easy leap for me. It was like breathing. I didn't have a problem with authority."

He sits in a corner of the deep brown Chesterfield couch in his office. His body is still. Sometimes, his eyes look away, as though looking at the topic he is discussing. When he warms to a subject, his hands move to emphasize his words. "I have had an amazing life. I've done amazing things, and seen things that many of my peers have never seen. If my career ended today, I've had an incredible, incredible ride."

McCoy said commanding GTMO and being part of the JTF are highlights.

"I'm extremely proud of what we do here," he said. "I'm extremely proud of the people that I'm associated with and the people I lead. ... It has really changed my life, being here. I have a greater appreciation for diversity than I've ever had. There is strength in diversity."

That diversity includes Troopers, migrants and exiles in a population that can touch 10,000. McCoy sees himself—and every Trooper—as an ambassador for his service and for GTMO. "I'm very proud of what Troopers do. They are part of my community. I ask them to be responsible. We're here to support them, support their mission."

He said he particularly enjoys watching Soldiers often stationed away from water have access to the Caribbean and water sports.

McCoy sees GTMO as like Mayberry RFD, a 1950s throwback where everyone drives 25 MPH, no one locks their doors and the crime rate is lower than annual whale sightings. Yet, he said, "It's not a town: It is a military base. It's like a small community that happens to have a maximum-security facility four miles outside the gates."

The commander sees synergy between the JTF and the other elements of this unique place. Troopers get a sense of normalcy from their trips to "town." The town gets coaches, teachers, other volunteers and increased diversity. "There are much worse places to be deployed."

McCoy now is watching his third rotation cycle through. Sooner than we imagine, the Troopers of "GTMO 5" will be packing for home. He said one of his rules of life is never to say "I wish." Yet, every rotation, he has watched Troopers realize too late what is here.

"This is one of the few opportunities to experience things you may never experience again," he said. "To dive. To sail. To fish. To be around people you normally aren't accustomed to being around. A lot of people don't realize the uniqueness of what we have here until they're gone."

"Each time someone comes here, by the time they leave Guantanamo Bay they're an ambassador for this place, because they have a whole different feel for it than they had when they first came here."

# Coast Guard Holds MSST to High Standards

*Continued from Page 1*

said.

Payne said he is also excited about the opportunities offered by JTF Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Other members of the new unit have served here recently and were excited to be back.

"I'm happy to return," said Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Brandon Henderson. "I was here about six

months ago as an augmentee. I volunteered to return with my unit."

Coast Guard Command Master Chief J.R. Stafford of the outgoing unit said the transition of the PSU responsibilities will be seamless, citing the New Orleans unit's training and the previous experience of some of their members.

"I don't think the JTF will be able to notice any difference in the profes-

sionalism of the PSU team," he said. "The Coast Guard holds its members to a very high standard."

Said Coast Guard Lt. Rob Riner, MSST commander, "I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to be here. These Troopers are trained for their mission, enthusiastic, professional and well trained. This is a very unique and exciting mission, especially here at GTMO."



Photo by Senior Airman Neo Martin

Army Brig. Gen. Jay Hood, commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, speaks to newly arrived Troopers at McCalla Hangar. The Coast Guard Reservists will replace the outgoing Pacific Area Command, Port Security Unit.

## What is a PSU?

Coast Guard PSUs are deployable units organized for sustained operations. PSUs conduct deployed port security in support of requesting regional commanders. They provide waterside protection to key assets at the termination or origination point of sea lines of communications. PSUs may operate in U.S. territorial waters under the direction of a Coast Guard or maritime defense zone command or in foreign waters as part of the harbor defense command. PSUs may operate independently or with other naval coastal warfare units, including:

- Coast Guard: High-endurance cutters, patrol boats.
- Marine Corps: Fleet anti-terrorism security teams.
- Army: Military police.
- Navy: Harbor-defense commands; mobile inshore under-sea warfare units; explosive ordnance disposal detachments; mobile diving and salvage units; inshore boat units.

## MSST/PSU Capabilities

- Maritime interdiction and law enforcement.
- Anti-terrorism and force protection.
- Weapons of mass destruction detection.
- Vertical insertion (commonly referred to as fast roping).
- Search and rescue.
- Commercial port protection and anti-sabotage.
- Underwater port security.
- Canine handling teams.
- Boat tactics.
- Non compliant boarding capability.

# Battle of Cuzco Wells: Roots of Guantanamo Bay

By Senior Airman Neo Martin

When the *USS Maine* exploded in Havana Harbor, on Feb. 15, 1898, it served as the ember that blazed into the Spanish-American War.

Spain felt it had to protect its assets in the Caribbean from American aggression as the American people were goaded into frenzy by the news media; the objective of the United States was to protect Americans by eliminating the threat of the Spanish navy.

According to multiple historical websites, this is the history of the resulting war and how it affected Guantanamo Bay:

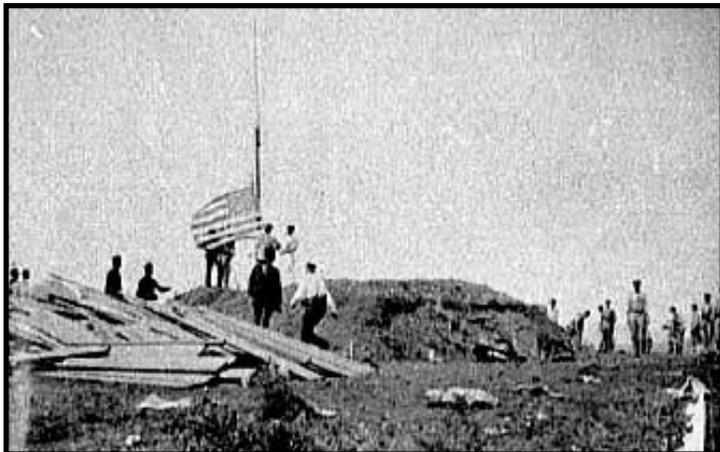
After war was declared, East Coast residents expressed several concerns. Some thought the Spanish armada would head west and attack coastal cities, as the English had done in 1812. The U.S. Navy would be required to defend the entire East Coast.

Also, troops were being assembled at Tampa, Fla., with the goal of supporting an ongoing Cuban revolution and attacking the Spanish army. If the Spanish navy could be defeated, the United States would be able ship troops and supplies to Cuba at will. If the Spanish navy could not be beaten, the United States might be prevented from landing anything at all.

Cuba was the heart of the American campaign against Spain because of the island's proximity to the homeland. The *USS Maine* was sunk off the coast of Cuba, and Americans chose to make their stand against the Spanish empire there.

## The Marines of 1st Battalion raise the U.S. flag over Cuzco Wells after defeating the Spanish defenders in the first land battle of the Spanish-American War.

Navy Photo



Santiago, Cuba, was a strategic port at the time, and the U.S. Navy was tasked with setting up a blockade. To successfully blockade Santiago, the Navy needed a secure location to anchor warships and be resupplied with ammunition and fuel.

Guantanamo Bay was selected. But the bay had been fortified with mines by the Spanish gunboat *Sandoval*.

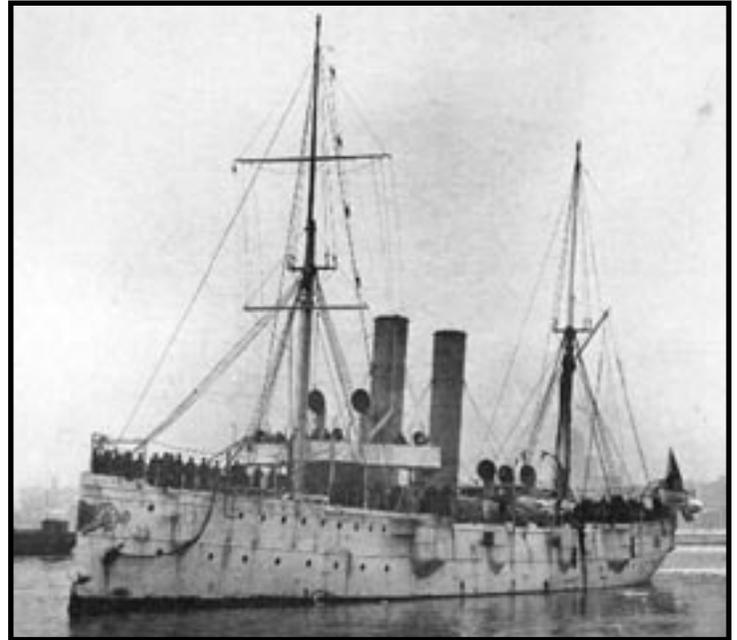
On June 6, 1898, U.S. Navy Commander Bowman McCalla gave the crewmembers of the cruiser *USS Marblehead* the order to open fire on the *Sandoval* (which was anchored in Guantanamo Bay), and Spanish fighting positions on a windward side hill.

As the *Marblehead* engaged the Spanish, two U.S. Navy schooners swept the minefield and severed Spanish telegraph cables. As the *Marblehead* bombarded the land, Spanish forces retreated inland, allowing U.S.

Marines to take Playa del Este, now known as Fisherman's Point.

By the end of the day McCalla and his men captured and secured a portion of the bay as an anchorage for the American fleet.

Four days into the battle, the Marine 1st Battalion, commanded



Navy Photo

## The *Marblehead*, commanded by Cdr. Robert McCalla, was the first American warship to fire on Guantanamo Bay during the Spanish-American War.

by Lt. Col. Robert Huntington, landed at Fisherman's Point and occupied the Spanish positions on what was later known as McCalla Hill.

The first night, the Marines fortified their positions on the hill against a Spanish counterattack. The next night, the Spanish used a three-pronged attack and battled the Marines, who successfully defended their positions with cannons, rifles and machine guns. Two Marines were killed.

The following night, the Spanish led another offensive, killing two more Marines, including the sergeant major. This prompted Huntington and McCalla to attack the Spanish stronghold of Cuzco Wells.

In the morning, the *USS Marblehead* and *USS Texas* moved into position and bombarded the fort as 160 Marines, reinforced by Cubans, took the ridgeline above the fort. More than 800 Spanish army conscripts fought the American forces. Within an hour, the American offensive successfully captured the camp and defeated the Spaniards, forcing them to retreat north.

The efforts of the Navy and Marines at the Battle of Cuzco Wells at Guantanamo Bay resulted in the United States' first land victory during the Spanish-American War.



# ba!

**Army Cpl. Jim Greenhill**

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to weather far different  
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time and not get your cer-



Photo by Army Capt. Janet Schoenberg

**For 100 years, Guantanamo Bay has been uniquely protected from pollution, maritime traffic, excessive diving and other factors that can damage the reef. The result: The waters teem with life.**

Thompson didn't say that in hopes of more paying students—he will have returned to Puerto Rico by the time this is published, where he teaches diving and climbing.

He said it because he's passionate about scuba diving and believes Troopers here can challenge themselves and gain more from their deployment by getting certified.

"Diving rocks," said Spc. Andy Choi, with the Joint Interrogation Group, who recently completed a certification course. "I'm glad I took it because I had a lot of fun and saw a lot of things I haven't seen before."

Scuba is an acronym that appeared about 1952 and is now so widely used that it's accepted as a word. It stands for Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus. Around 1958 the term scuba diver started being used to describe someone who dives with the device that allows breathing underwater. A skin diver has a face mask and flippers but no portable breathing device.

Open water scuba certification classes cost \$185 here. In addition, students are required to buy a \$50 package of course materials, to include registration.

Once certified, Troopers can choose to buy or rent the gear needed to go diving.

"It's something everybody should try at least one time," said Lucas Stowell, a recently certified civilian contractor. "We're in the Caribbean; we might as well get out and enjoy everything we can while we can."

For more information on courses, call Ocean Enterprises at 5336.

"Three quarters of this earth is covered in water," Thompson said. "If you're not diving, you're missing a heck of a lot. The moon has been more explored than the bottom of the ocean."

This a great place to start.

"Take care of the reef,"

Thompson said. "Take care of the fish. Let's keep it sweet for the next generation."

# Troopers Take Home Quarterly Awards

By Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres

A board of senior-enlisted officials from each of the armed forces selected a senior and junior service member of the quarter recently here at Guantanamo Bay (GTMO).

Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Eric Marfull and Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Hsiao Hsu earned awards after six-month stints here.

For the Service Member of the Quarter award, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marines compete by answering questions from a board of Army, Air Force and Marine senior noncommissioned officers and senior Navy and Coast Guard petty officers.

The board evaluates each service member's written nomination package, which includes information about their leadership qualities, job performance and self-improvement.

Board members ask questions on topics such as current events, chain of command, the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and general armed forces questions.

The board ultimately selects Troopers who excel in a joint-service setting.

"If someone is going to be a leader, they're going to be a good leader no matter what service it is," said Coast Guard Command Master Chief Petty Officer J.R. Stafford. "We're peeling away the blueness, khakiness, greenness of service branches and getting to the core of people taking care of their people."

## Senior Service Member of the Quarter

Taking care of his people is what got Coast

Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Eric Marfull his award.

Marfull is a small boat-coxswain with the Pacific Area Port Security Unit and section leader of more than 14 Troopers. He prepares the boats and his crew for patrol missions around GTMO; Marfull also serves as a mentor to junior Troopers.

Back home in California as a Reservist, his units perform search-and-rescue missions as well as being in the front lines of homeland security; however, in his civilian job, he puts himself on the front lines of the future of America.

"I'm a high school U.S. history teacher and see more than 150 students every year," said Marfull, admitting that dealing with students and service members share many of the same challenges.

"There are many types of personalities here, and I've certainly gained a lot as a section leader in the military," Marfull said. "I tell my troops not to take this assignment for granted, you have a mission and stick to it. This isn't playtime."

Marfull, has 12 years with the Coast Guard and plans to stay in. He recently put in an application to become an officer.

## Junior Service Member of the Quarter

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Hsiao Hsu, the junior Service Member of the Quarter award recipient, is a hospital corpsman attached to the Joint Detention Hospital at Camp Delta.

He provides medical care and treatment,

immunizations, physical examinations and preventive medicine to detainees, a mission few ever face in the Navy.

"The mission we're doing is very important," said Hsu. "The information we get from detainees minimizes future terrorist attacks and saves the lives of fellow (Troopers) serving in Afghanistan and Iraq."

During his four and half years in the Navy, Hsu has never spent more than six months in one place. That's the reason he enlisted, and that is why he is in GTMO after volunteering.

Hsu was attached to a Marine unit aboard the amphibious support ship the *USS Fort McHenry* (LSD 43).

"We took care of Marines," he said. "They're good people. If I had a choice between being stationed on a ship, Navy hospital, or a Marine unit, I'll take the Marines anytime."

Still, taking care of Marines is an entirely different mission than his job with the JTF here.

"I've learned patience—a lot of patience," said Hsu. "You have to keep in focus the fact that although you don't see the big picture, you are a small part of it."

His supervisor, Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Scott Thrasher said, "Hsu is our stellar junior performer. He is a team leader as an E-4, a position normally held by an E-5.

"His bearing and natural leadership skills is something people should try to emulate," he said.

When Hsu returns to his home unit, a Navy hospital, he is scheduled to redeploy to the Middle East with that unit.



Photo by Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres

**Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Eric Marfull:  
Senior Service Member of the Quarter award recipient.**



Photo by Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres

**Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Hsiao Hsu:  
Junior Service Member of the Quarter award recipient.**

# From Bullied to Black Belt: Trooper No. 1 in Tourney

By Spc. Chris Gardner

A Joint Task Force (JTF) Trooper has won the adult black belt sparring category at the Guantanamo Bay Martial Arts Tournament.

Half the fans at the Dec. 4 tournament at G. J. Denich Gymnasium favored Army Staff Sgt. Samuel Jones, a nuclear, biological and chemical specialist with 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry Regiment.

With 15 years' tae kwon do experience under his third-degree black belt, Jones felled his opponents by back-smashing and kick-grasping.

Feeling out opponents is his sparring secret, Jones said. "Come in, go back out, anticipate what he is going to do and capitalize on it."

Observing your opponent's form lets you know how he fights, Jones said: "You've got to try to see what they are going to do."

Jones recalled bagging groceries as a kid and saving money for the movies when one day some kids beat him up. After Jones ran and told his brother, "He beat the kids up for me." Soon after, Jones began training at a nearby dojo (karate training center). Fifteen years later, he said he hopes to start his own dojo to teach children.

"The most important thing for

any martial artist is to take what he knows and share it with the younger generation," said spectator Army Sgt. Donald Denoyer, field-artillery gunner, 367th Military Police Company. With 30 years' kenpo and kickboxing experience, Denoyer said martial arts offer the confidence boost needed to face combat.

Jones also won adult black-belt third place in forms Dec. 4. Recalling one of his past forms competitions, he said, "One time, I forgot the last five steps." Jones improvised the remaining steps, still managing to take first place.

Troopers from his company kept him motivated at the tournament, Jones said. But during forms, "If you've got a good crowd, you've got to block them out of your mind," he said.

"The supporters are key to the success of this because they motivate the people to do better," stated tournament director, Caesar Garcia, a JTF defense contractor.

Anticipating two to three tournaments yearly, Garcia plans to have another one in March. He hopes to invite a school from Fort Hood, Texas, including Shotokan karate, kenpo, tanksudo and kung fu artists.

Also the chief instructor and founder of Kanagawa Bushido Dojo here, Garcia said, "We invit-



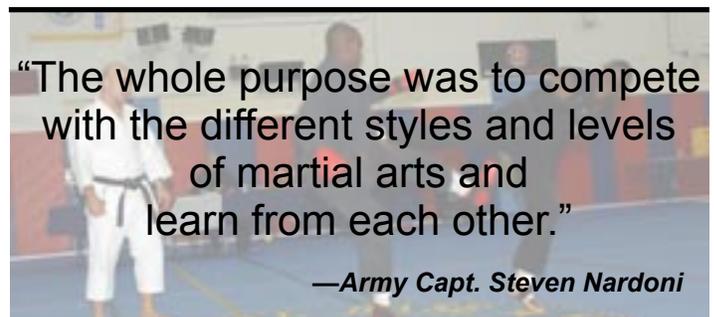
Photo by Spc. Chris Gardner

**Army Staff Sgt. Samuel Jones scores a point by closing the gap and hooking his opponent's leg for an open strike. Below left: Jones quick charges and low kicks in a separate match.**

ed all the different martial artists ... so they can ... give exposure to the systems they practice and try to network people on the island ... to continue training even while they're deployed."

Two-year Shotokan Karate brown belt, Army Capt. Steven Nardoni with the Joint Intelligence

Group won adult black-belt fourth place in both sparring and forms. "You get used to fighting your own style," he said. "The whole purpose was to compete with the different styles and levels of martial arts and learn from each other."



"The whole purpose was to compete with the different styles and levels of martial arts and learn from each other."

—Army Capt. Steven Nardoni

**Martial Arts Points of Contact.** Gracie jujitsu, Spc. Romulo Bittencourt, 3161. Shotokan karate and integrated jujitsu and jeet kune do; Caesar Garcia, 7482; Kanagawa Bushido Dojo. Tae kwon do, Chief Petty Officer Matt Brittle, 2156 or 2369.



Photo by Spc. Chris Gardner

# WORLD WIRE

... News ... Sports ... Entertainment ...

**Dec. 2:** Americans waiting longer to wed, Census data shows. ... Brian Williams takes Tom Brokaw's seat at **NBC Nightly News**. ... **Oil prices** below \$45 a barrel. ... Rx America: 44 percent of Americans are on **prescriptions**, report says. ... London, Madrid, Moscow, New York, Paris wrestling for **2012 Olympics**. ... President Bush lights **National Christmas Tree**, praises troops. ... 400-plus Soldiers **reenlist** at Fort Carson, Colo.; biggest such event in post history; off to war. ...

**Dec. 3:** Acting **Army Undersecretary** Les Brownlee retires. ... **Ukraine's** Supreme Court overturns election; to be held again. ... **Baseball steroids** scandal flares up again;

Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi implicated. ... Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange County, Calif., to pay record \$100 million to 87 **sex abuse victims**. ... U.S., Canada to clean **Great Lakes**. ... **IBM** to ditch personal computer market. ... Hundreds of items missing at **National Archives**. ... **Defense Secretary** Donald Rumsfeld to stay. ...

**Dec. 4:** Investigation of **Pat Tillman's** death to reopen. ... **Michael Jackson's** ranch again searched. ...

**Dec. 5:** Britain to host **Middle East peace conference** in London. ... U.S. visitors to have **fingerprints, eye scans** on entry and exit. ...

**Dec. 6:** **Gas** sinks to \$1.93 per gallon, nation-

wide survey says. ... U.S. **intelligence overhaul** to go ahead; Congressional bickering resolved. ... Baseball, players union get tougher on **performance enhancers**. ... Brit health officials advocate less prescription of **antidepressants**; docs told to try exercise, self-help, talk therapy first. ... **Shuttle** to fly May or June, NASA says. ... **Plastic** beat checks in 2003; debit cards key to historic shift. ... **Hamid Karzai** sworn in as Afghanistan's first elected president. ... Actor Robert Blake's **murder trial** delayed; defense computer stolen. ...

*Army Cpl. Jim Greenhill compiles WorldWire from a variety of news services.*

# WORSHIP WIRE

... Faith ... Belief ... Counseling ...

## The Christmas Shepherds

The shepherds of Bethlehem are forever etched in our mind as a part of the first nativity scene.

They also provide a great example for Christians.

First, they obeyed the call of God. "When the angels had left and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about'" (Luke 2:15).

They were terrified by the angelic visit but accepted the invitation and went to Bethlehem to see the Savior. We too are invited to come to Christ. Like the shepherds, we may fear the consequences, but may we find the courage to obey the call.

Second, they worshipped. "So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger" (Luke 2:16).

We can be certain from the message given by the angels in the preceding verses that when the shepherds came

and saw the babe wrapped in clothes, they knew this was the Savior, the Messiah, and they worshipped.

We too will find our greatest peace and fulfillment in life when we truly worship the Lord from our heart (not just going to church).

Third, the shepherds spread the word. "When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child" (Luke 2:17).

The shepherds didn't need a class on evangelism, or a lecture on Christian discipleship; they just did what came natural. Likewise, when we have received a life-changing touch from God, we will just naturally want to tell others about the Lord and all he has done for us!

So this Christmas when you see the shepherd in a nativity scene, remember their example to us all.

—Chaplain (Army Maj.)  
Steven Herman

## Padre's Corner

Are you OK?

About 25 years ago there was a book titled *I'm OK, You're OK!*

For the believer, a more honest assessment might read something like this, "I'm not OK and neither are you!"

Look around the world.

For the 2004th time, we are preparing to celebrate the birth of the Christ, and still there is so much injustice, so much religious and racial prejudice, so much violence and war. The vision of the prophet Isaiah gives us a rich and detailed description of harmony and peace: All is OK!

That is what the Redeemer came to do, to bridge the eternal gap between heaven and earth. If you are still not OK, why not consider coming to chapel this weekend, and ask the Lord to be born once again?

—Chaplain (Navy Lt. Cmdr.)  
James Dowds

# 15 Minutes of Fame

... with Senior Airman Jason Elmore ...

## Airman Inspired by Grandfather's Service



Photo by Spc. Jody Metzger

### By Spc. Jody Metzger

This senior airman from Illinois specializes in computer science. Here at Guantanamo Bay he has been working in food service for the Joint Task Force (JTF). He works in and out of the Wire, delivering food to Camp Delta detainees. Inspired by his grandfather, a World War II Navy Frogman (what is known today as a Navy SEAL) and by his own strong sense of American pride, Elmore enlisted in the Air Force.

#### **The Wire: Why did you enlist?**

**Senior Airman Jason Elmore:** Mostly because of what happened on Sept. 11. It made me realize that I wanted to do something more with my life than just go to work and go home every day. I wanted to contribute to a greater cause.

#### **Where is your permanent duty station?**

I am stationed at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

#### **What were you doing before you enlisted?**

I was going to college full time, and I was an account executive for a com-

puter corporation near Chicago.

#### **How do you compare your life before and after you enlisted?**

I am proud of what I am doing now. I am doing something important. I could see myself in the Air Force until retirement.

#### **What is your best military experience?**

Here. I volunteered to be here. I wanted a different experience, and I was excited to be apart of the JTF.

#### **What do you think about working with the JTF?**

I enjoy it. It is different from what I do in the Air Force; new environment and new people.

#### **What do you hope to gain from this deployment?**

I hope that in my time here I will mature both personally and professionally.

#### **What are your military ambitions?**

I hope to do this as a career in the Air Force. I would like to do half my time as enlisted, and then when I get my bachelor's in computer science I will do the rest as an officer.

#### **What is your Air Force specialty?**

Computer science.

#### **What do you like about being a computer scientist in the Air Force?**

It's a challenge to me. Technology is changing at a fast rate. Between being in the military and my career field, the challenge is what motivates me.

#### **What do you do here?**

Food service.

#### **Why are you working in food service if you are a computer scientist?**

Probably because they needed somebody in food service. I don't mind. It is a good experience.

#### **Is this your first deployment?**

Yes, I volunteered to be here.

#### **What do you enjoy most about this deployment?**

Getting to work with all the other services.

#### **What do you do here outside of your military duties?**

Shortly after getting here, I got my boating license, so I take the boat out and go tubing and snorkeling. I play racquetball, watch movies and recently started going to the Brazilian jiu-jitsu class.

#### **What is the hardest thing about this deployment?**

I don't consider this deployment to be that hard. I didn't leave a wife or kids behind. Just the fact this is different from anything else; different job, living conditions.

#### **What does your family think of your being in the Air Force?**

It made my mom nervous, the thought of me joining the military. But now she is more comfortable with me being in because of all the different training I have got from being in the military. Mostly because I am in a technical job and not a tactical job. My mother takes comfort in that fact. My dad says he is proud, that the military was a good choice, and that I will do good things. I hope to make him proud.

# Holiday Concert, Parade Summon Xmas Spirit in GTMO



Photos by Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres

*Jingle Bell Rock*, *Frosty the Snowman* and other Christmas favorites echoed across Sherman Ave. Dec. 4, only to end with a dose of tone-heavy guitar leads in a retro-rock live concert at the downtown Lyceum that could've had even Santa forgetting who's been naughty or nice.

Rock star Cassandra Denver and up-and-coming independent artist Shannon Eilleen topped off the night with a tribute concert for Troopers after a holiday-lights parade watched by hundreds here at Guantanamo Bay.

The parade, including golf carts, pickup trucks and boat trailers all decked out with lights, ornaments and loudspeakers pumping out holiday tunes, marched, rattled and rolled downtown. Participants sprinkled the street with sweets and goodies for spectators, while children applied their piñata candy-snatching skills to gather for winter.

The last person in the procession was Santa Claus.

At the concert, sponsored by L.A. Music Awards, Troopers and community members received more than 800 pounds of gift bags and rocked to live music.

Capt. Les McCoy, Naval base commander, received an honorary L.A. Music Award from its founder and executive producer, Al Bowman.

—Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres

## Club Survivor

Club Survivor is now open in Camp America.  
Hours: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and  
Thursday, 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.;  
Wednesday, closed; Friday and Saturday,  
5:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

## Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous meets Mondays,  
Wednesdays and Saturdays at 6:30 p.m.  
in Room 4A at Chapel Hill.

## Reef Raiders Dive Club

The monthly meeting is Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m.  
on Windmill Beach in the large cabana to the  
left. All are invited to attend. Bring something  
to throw on the grill. For more information,  
call 7315 or 5666.

# BUSES

Chart shows bus stops and minutes after the hour when  
buses are scheduled. For example, the Sherman Avenue bus  
stops at East Caravella 03 and 33 minutes after the hour.

Sherman Avenue			Camp America/NEX		
First Street	00	30	Camp Alpha	00	20 40
East Caravella	03	33	NEX trailer	02	22 42
Marine Hill	05	35	Camp Delta 2	06	26 46
Post Office	10	40	TK 4	12	32 52
Windjammer	11	41	TK 1	16	36 56
NEX	14	44	Windjammer	23	43 03
Bulkeley Landing	17	47	NEX	30	50 10
Ferry landing	21	51	Windjammer	35	55 15
Commissions Bldg.	23	53	TK 1	40	00 20
Ordnance	26	56	TK 4	46	06 26
Bulkeley Landing	28	58	Camp Delta 1	52	12 32
NEX	32	02	Camp Alpha	00	20 40
Windjammer	36	06			
Post Office	37	07			
Marine Hill	41	11			
Hospital	48	18			
Windward Loop 1	52	22			

# CINEMA

## DOWNTOWN LYCEUM

### FRIDAY

7 p.m. *First Daughter*

PG 97 min

9 p.m. *Taxi*

PG13 97 min

### SATURDAY

7 p.m. *Spongebob  
Squarepants*

PG 91 min

9 p.m. *Team America:  
World Police*

R 98 min

### SUNDAY

7 p.m. *National Treasure*

PG 125 min

### MONDAY

7 p.m. *Shark Tale*

PG 91 min

### TUESDAY

7 p.m. *Team America:  
World Police*

R 98 min

### WEDNESDAY

7 p.m. *Friday Night Lights*

PG13 118 min

### THURSDAY

7 p.m. *The Forgotten*

PG13 91 min

## CAMP BULKELEY

### FRIDAY

8 p.m. *Spongebob  
Squarepants*

PG 91 min

10 p.m. *National Treasure*

PG 125 min

### SATURDAY

8 p.m. *Surviving Christmas*

PG 91 min

10 p.m. *Taxi*

PG13 97 min

### SUNDAY

8 p.m. *Team America:  
World Police*

R 98 min

### MONDAY

8 p.m. *National Treasure*

PG 125 min

### TUESDAY

8 p.m. *Surviving Christmas*

PG 91 min

### WEDNESDAY

8 p.m. *Team America:  
World Police*

R 98 min

### THURSDAY

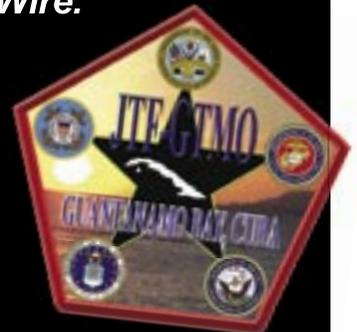
8 p.m. *Friday Night Lights*

PG13 118 min

## FOR THE RECORD

*The Wire*  
strives for accu-  
racy. When we  
fail, we accept  
responsibility for  
our errors and  
correct them.  
Please call Army  
Sgt. Scott Griffin

at 3594 if you see  
an error in *The  
Wire.*



## Fight The Flu!

**Army Sgt. Card from 143 Field Artillery, administers a flu vaccination shot to General Hood.**

U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate Airman Scott Terry, Fleet Combat Camera, Atlantic.



## Free Movie Rentals at Camp America

Troopers assigned to the Joint Task Force (JTF) can get ready for the next big thing to hit the Guantanamo Bay entertainment scene.

Free VHS and DVD movies are available at the JTF, Morale, Welfare and Recreation office (MWR) in Camp America.

The limit is two movies per day, per person.

"We have more than 140 movies and are expecting more," said Army Staff Sgt. Wilfredo Ruiz, MWR noncommissioned officer in charge.

Photo by Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres

The New Jersey Army National Guard Family Support Center provided the free movies for the Troopers. Currently, the majority are in VHS format; however, a batch of DVDs are scheduled to arrive here soon.

The JTF MWR office has care packages with food, games and toiletries for Troopers.

Troopers may call 3670 or visit the JTF MWR office in Camp America.

—Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres



# WORSHIP

### CAMP AMERICA

<b>Sunday</b>	9 a.m.	Protestant Service	Troopers' Chapel
	6:45 p.m.	Catholic Mass	Troopers' Chapel
	7:30 p.m.	Protestant Service	Bldg. 3203
<b>Tuesday</b>	7 p.m.	Alpha	Resumes in January
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:30 p.m.	Soul Survivor	Club Survivor
<b>Thursday</b>	7 p.m.	Thursday Night Ticket	Resumes in January
<b>Saturday</b>	3 p.m.	Saturday Vigil Mass	Troopers' Chapel

### NAVSTA CHAPEL

<b>Sunday</b>	8 a.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Sanctuary C
	9 a.m.	Catholic Mass	Main Chapel
	9 a.m.	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Sanctuary A
	9:30 a.m.	Protestant Sunday School	
	11 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel
	1 p.m.	New Life Fellowship	Main Chapel
<b>Monday</b>	5 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Sanctuary C
	7 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
<b>Wednesday</b>	7 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
	7 p.m.	Men's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
<b>Friday</b>	1 p.m.	Islamic Prayer	Room 12
<b>Saturday</b>	5:30 p.m.	Vigil Mass	Main Chapel

For information on Jewish services call 2323

# DINING

<b>Today</b>	Lunch	Beef Stroganoff
	Dinner	Lobster Tails
<b>Saturday</b>	Lunch	Chicken Pot Pie
	Dinner	Veal Parmesan
<b>Sunday</b>	Lunch	Stuffed Flounder
	Dinner	Sweet and Sour Pork Chops
<b>Monday</b>	Lunch	Creole Chicken
	Dinner	Baked Amantine Fish
<b>Tuesday</b>	Lunch	Chicken Afritada
	Dinner	Roast Pork Tenderloin
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lunch	Creole Baked Fish
	Dinner	Jamaican Jerk Chicken
<b>Thursday</b>	Lunch	Cajun Roast Beef
	Dinner	Roast Turkey with Gravy
<b>Friday</b>	Lunch	Mambo Roast Pork
	Dinner	Fried Shrimp