



THE WIRE



Honor Bound To Defend Freedom

Volume 5, Issue 28

www.jtfgtmr.southcom.mil

Friday, Jan. 7, 2005

Spc. James O'Dell simulates a weapons search on Army Pvt. James Divito, both corrections specialists assigned to the 525th Military Police Battalion, a new active-duty unit here.



Photo by Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres

525: Battalion born at Guantanamo Bay

By Army Cpl. Jim Greenhill

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

A new active-duty military police battalion is blazing a trail here at Guantanamo Bay (GTMO).

The 525th Military Police (MP) Battalion is being stood up from scratch.

Members will replace National Guard and Reserve Troopers walking the blocks in the Wire, part of the Joint Task Force. Soldiers arriving each week to join the 525's ranks can make a rare boast—they are a battalion's founders.

Army Lt. Col. Robert Burk arrived in August to lead a battalion that didn't exist. The 525 is scheduled to have approximately 300 Soldiers. "Not everybody gets a chance to do this," Burk said recently. The battalion had nothing in August—no personnel, no furniture, no computers, no office supplies, no equipment for Soldiers. It has been built from the ground up.

"It is unique," Burk said of his job. "You start from scratch. The heart of any unit is the people."

The battalion consists of Regular Army Soldiers whose occupational specialty is 31E (internment/resettlement specialist). The Soldiers have been drawn from the Army's regional confinement facilities at Fort Knox, Ky., Fort Sill, Okla., Fort Lewis, Wash., and from Germany and Korea. Others are from the disciplinary barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

"Obviously we are not confining U.S. military prisoners here," Burk said. So the Soldiers are receiving training designed to make them experts in high-risk detentions, enemy prisoners of war and dislocated persons such as refugees.

"We're breaking new ground," Burk said. "This battalion is a little different in its design and in its mission statement. There are folks in the MP corps and in the

Army that are looking at this battalion."

The 525 could be the model for future battalions with a similar mission.

And the 525 is deployable. "We could end up going to some distant country that has a refugee crisis," Burk said. "Look, for example, at what's happening with the tsunami right now."

Training is the 525's main activity until the first Soldiers start working inside the Wire this winter. "My Soldiers are anxious to do that," Burk said.

GTMO is a 12-month, unaccompanied short tour for most of the 525.

The battalion's headquarters and headquarters detachment and its first company, the 189th MP, activated Oct. 16. A second company, the 193rd MP, is scheduled to activate next October. ■

Read about one of the 525's Soldiers on Page 5. Read more about MPs on Page 4. Reach Army Cpl. Jim Greenhill at 3592.

Did you make a New Year's resolution?

By Army Lt. Col. Denise Gordon

JTF-GTMO Combat Stress Control Det.

Do you make them annually? Are you able to achieve them? Typical New Year's resolutions focus on living a more healthy life, e.g.. I will exercise more, drink less alcohol, smoke/chew less, eat fewer calories.

I will eat healthier food: more salads, fewer pizzas, less fried foods, more fish, less red meat. I will drink fewer sodas and more water.

Do you find yourself making the same resolutions year after year? Why is it so hard to change?

As a society, we look for instant gratification. Accepting personal responsibility is tough. We want that instant solution or someone else to blame. We know that to lose weight we need to eat less and exercise more. But we keep hoping that magic pill, diet plan or exercise equipment will melt that weight away with no effort from us. To be healthy, we know we have to practice a healthy lifestyle, but it is so much easier to ask the doctor for a pill.

Drinking alcohol may relax us. We start with one drink on weekends and then try two or even three to really relax us or join our friends. Maybe one drink in the evening will help relax us after work.

Somehow the worse the day is, the more we may feel a need to reward ourselves with a drink, or



Photo by Senior Airman Neo Martin

two or three. As for smoking, that gives us a chance to leave our work area and go outdoors to take a break and socialize.

In moderation, the eating and alcohol may not be "bad." The problem is defining moderation. I've had clients tell me they only drink one beer a night, but

their one beer comes in a 24-ounce stein. They forget to mention the chasers. Or, they say they only have one glass of wine, it just seems to be a bottomless glass.

Smoking/chewing is an addiction with no benefits: it's expensive, rots and discolors teeth and causes cancer, emphysema and chronic obstructive lung disease. If you smoke indoors, you place your loved ones' health at risk. Like any addiction, it is very hard to give up, so most people work to rationalize their actions: "You've got to die somehow" or "it won't happen to me."

Why make resolutions? Because we know we need to change. Often it takes more than a promise to oneself. We may need the support of others or professional assistance.

Here at Guantanamo Bay, help is available.

Change is possible, but it takes work and doesn't happen overnight. Perhaps that is the secret to life: It takes work and you have to be committed to achieving your goals. You have to take control of yourself and your life.

Otherwise, life just seems to pass you by as you live as an observer rather than active participant. Happy 2005! ■

Lt. Col. Gordon is the officer in charge of the combat stress control detachment. See her suggestions for sticking to resolutions on Page 3.

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Circulation: 2,100

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Commercial: 011-53-99-3499

DSN: 660-3499

Online:

www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

The Wire is produced by the 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment assigned to the Joint Task Force Public Affairs Office at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. This publication is printed under the provisions provided in Army Regulation 360-1 and reflects neither the views of the Department of Defense nor the personnel within.

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

This week's question: "Do you have a New Year's resolution?"



◀ "No, I don't believe in stuff like that. I set daily goals as opposed to yearly goals. It is easy to prioritize and keep realistic."

—Navy
Petty Officer 3rd Class
Scott Torres

▶ "No. I don't believe in those things. You shouldn't make an excuse to change your ways, you should do it on your own."

—Army Staff Sgt.
John Hann



◀ "My New Year's resolution is to remember the sacrifice and dedication of those who made us free and to use this freedom to pursue my dreams."

—Army Sgt. Jolene
Staker

▶ "My New Year's resolution is to get a 300 on my APFT (Army Physical Fitness Test)."

—Spc. Nicholas
Ochipinti



Photos by Spc. Jody Metzger

So you've made some New Year's resolutions... Suggestions on how to stick to them:

By Army Lt. Col. Denise Gordon

JTF-GTMO Combat Stress Control Det.

- **Too much, too fast, too soon:** Start with one change at a time.
- **Healthy eating:** If you want to eat more healthy food, decide what item to add or eliminate from your diet and make that change for a month. You know you can make it for one month. When the first change becomes normal, move to a second change. For example, you give up fried foods during January. In February, you decide to have a salad for lunch instead of pasta or a hamburger. By March, you are ready to reduce the amount of red meat you eat to three times each week. Most people eat at least three meals a day, so making diet changes offers many opportunities. You can decide to have fruit for dessert at lunch. You can have cereal for breakfast during the week and eggs and bacon on the weekend. Perhaps you will decide to drink only water or milk with meals, eliminating the empty calories contained in soda.
- **Smoking:** Nicotine is so addictive that many people need medical assistance to stop. Fortunately, help is available here at Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) by calling Navy Lt. Rebecca Gordon at the Naval Hospital 7-2285 or 7-2733.
- **Alcohol:** If you are trying to cut back on alcohol and finding it harder than you thought, you might need either an education program or treatment; both are offered to Troopers for free. You can discuss this with a counselor at Combat Stress Control at 3566 or schedule an evaluation with the substance abuse counselor by calling Behavioral Health at 7-2650; appointments can be arranged at Camp America.
- **Weight:** If you are serious about losing weight, several options are available. Prior to beginning a workout program, you may want to have a checkup at the joint aid stations if you think you have health limitations. You can schedule a physical fitness assessment to help design a workout schedule by calling Karissa at the Denich Gymnasium at 2193. If you need professional guidance to modify your diet, you can schedule an appointment with the nutritionist at the Naval Hospital by calling the appointment line at 7-2110.
- **Exercise:** Many of us are now exercising regularly, whether by choice or necessity. The challenge may be to continue a regular exercise program once this deployment has ended. Having someone to exercise with provides extra motivation. Have you promised yourself that even when you have passed your physical fitness or readiness test, you will continue to work out, run or swim for the health of it?
- **Support groups:** It is often easier to change your behavior when you have a support group to share your progress and frustrations. There are regular meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous at GTMO. The Tobacco Cessation Program meets as a group over four weeks. ■

Lt. Col. Gordon is officer in charge of the combat stress control detachment. See her column on Page 2.

The taxman cometh

By Army Maj. John O'Connell

JTF-GTMO Assistant Staff Judge Advocate

The end of the holidays marks the beginning of another annual event: Filing taxes.

To assist Joint Task Force (JTF) Troopers, the Naval Base and the JTF will operate two tax-assistance offices; one on the main base and one at Camp America (dates and operating hours to be announced).

Troopers who take advantage of this free service will not have to pay to have it done at home.

Everyone who earns more than \$7,950 filing single (\$15,900 married, filing jointly) needs to file a return.

Some of us who rotate out before the April 15 filing deadline can wait till we get home and have all the necessary information needed to complete a return.

If you do not choose to file while here, you may need to file for a military extension. If you are assigned to a military tour of duty outside the USA for a period that includes the due date of the return (normally April 15), you are allowed an automatic

extension until June 15.

You could get an additional two-month extension by filing IRS Form 4868 before June 15 and writing "taxpayer abroad" at the top. Form 4868 is an automatic extension.

If you owe tax, you do not need to pay by the due date when filing an extension, but the IRS will charge you interest until the taxes are paid.

If you file your tax return here, you will need certain information. If you are going home on leave you may want to bring this information back. In order to receive proper assistance in filing a return, Troopers will be required to bring the following:

- 2004 W-2s, wage and earning statements, Social Security (SSN) cards and dates of birth for each family member (if you don't have an SSN card, ensure your name and SSN match and are correct).
- 1099-INT forms (interest from savings/checking accounts).
- 1099-DIV forms (dividends, capital gain distributions from mutual funds, stocks, etc.)

• Dependent-care statement from day care providers, to include their SSN/EIN (employer identification number) and address, documenting how much was spent on qualified child-care expenses.

• Power of attorney, if married filing a joint return and spouse will not be present to sign tax return.

• Voided check or bank routing transit number and account number, if you choose to have your refund directly deposited.

• Identification card.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service has released a schedule of dates when service members can expect their W-2 information.

Reserve component members of the Army, Air Force and Navy should already have W-2 information available on myPay and their hard copies.

Active duty members can expect W-2 information to be available on myPay by Jan. 14 and a hard copy by Jan. 24. Marine Corps members, both active and reserve, can expect myPay access by Jan. 10 and hard copy by Jan. 18. ■

525: More than armed guards

By Senior Airman Neo Martin

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The 525th Military Police Battalion can trace its roots to the American Revolution.

The need for Military Police (MP) has been apparent to American commanders since the fight for independence. When the United States first engaged in war, law enforcement troops were formed to aid leaders in upholding discipline.

Gen. George Washington created a troop of light dragoons called the Marechaussee Corps on June 1, 1778, following the cruelest winter the Continental Army endured at Valley Forge, Penn.

The Marechaussee Corps maintained order and enforced laws in the American Army. While some of their duties didn't correspond to current MP roles, many of their responsibilities coincided with modern duties.

The Marechaussee Corps patrolled the camp and surrounding vicinity, checking passes and credentials while searching for spies. They arrested stragglers, rioters, drunks, deserters and spies while expelling merchants trying to cheat Soldiers.

In June 1780, the Soldiers of this early MP unit were also in combat, fighting with Gen. Nathaniel Greene's army in the suc-

cessful Battle of Springfield, N.J.

The MPs protected Washington and his center of operations during the siege of Yorktown, the last major battle of the American Revolution.

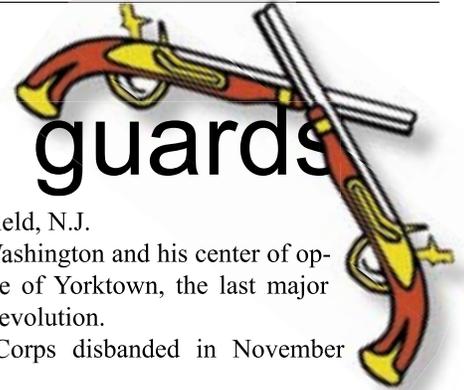
The Marechaussee Corps disbanded in November 1783.

A permanent Provost Marshal General's Office and Corps of Military Police were established in 1941, continuing the legacy of the Marechaussee Corps. Before that, except during the Civil War and World War I, there wasn't a constant MP corps or an appointed provost marshal general.

On Sept. 26, 1986, the Department of the Army activated the Military Police Corps Regiment and designated Fort McClellan, Ala., as its home.

The most recent landmark development in the evolution of the military police corps was on March 22, 2001, when the Department of the Army approved Field Manual 3-19.1. With this approval, the MP Corps bid farewell to the 1988 version and welcomed the new millennium with a revised MP doctrine, according to www.wood.army.mil/usamps. ■

Read more about the 525 on Page 1 and Page 5. Reach Senior Airman Neo Martin at 3594.



Inside the 525th MP Battalion: Spc. James O'Dell

Starting with one officer in August, the Army has been quietly establishing an active-duty battalion here at Guantanamo Bay from scratch. The 525th Military Police Battalion is part of the Joint Task Force. Soldiers are arriving every week to supplement a battalion that could become a model within the Army. Spc. James O'Dell is one of those Soldiers.

**By Senior Airman
Jon Ortiz-Torres**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

At 20, Spc. James O'Dell became part of a new chapter in the Army story and the Global War on Terrorism, volunteering to work in the Army's newest active-duty unit: the 525th Military Police (MP) Battalion.

The 525, soon to be a permanent unit in the Joint Task Force here at Guantanamo Bay, will be considered a short tour for Soldiers who will replace Army Guard and Reserve Troopers who work in detainee operations here.

Soldiers from the new unit are scheduled to begin working inside the Wire in March, but many already here on the ground are training and itching to begin their daily mission. Arriving in October, Soldiers like O'Dell have helped lay the ground work for battalion members arriving each week.

"There were a lot of empty offices and only a few of us," said O'Dell, correctional specialist. "We've been setting up and training every day these past few months."

Troopers assigned to the 525 prepare for the mission here through basic skills training and



Photo by Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres

detention-specific exercises. They come from installations across the globe.

For O'Dell, a native of Iowa, Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) brings warmth to his career. "I was looking for a change," said O'Dell, who first requested assignments to the Middle East and Korea. "It's important what we do here. It's part of the larger war on terrorism."

As a founding member of the 525, O'Dell said, "I like the idea of being in a new battalion; to be part of something new. It'll be good for my career."

As a junior in high school, O'Dell had his eyes set on the military despite the events of Sept. 11, 2001. While many see military service as a catapult for college, he had his own reasons for joining.

His uncle, a Vietnam War draftee, offered to pay O'Dell's way through college so he wouldn't join the Army. O'Dell turned it down.

"I didn't just join for a college education," he said, "I wanted to make a career out of it; 20 years sounds good to me."

Within a month of his high school graduation, O'Dell dived into basic training and then an assignment to Fort Sill, Okla., where he worked in the military detention facility.

"I've met many different types of people," he said. "Working in the prison, you get to hear and see the bad sides of the military and the penalties it entails."

O'Dell uses his experience in the detention facility as a tool in his approach toward his military career.

"You see what happened to them (military inmates) and learn from their mistakes and try to make yourself better and try to help others not to make those mistakes," O'Dell said.

O'Dell's younger brother seemed to follow his footsteps,

only he joined the Air Force, despite his big brother's heavy persuasion to go Army.

"I went and saw my brother graduate from basic training in Texas," O'Dell said. "I'm really proud he did that. Neither of my brothers ever thought about joining the military until I did."

O'Dell plans on doing as much as possible to help him get promoted while stationed in GTMO and throughout his career.

"I really like GTMO," he said. "I prefer warm weather and the fact that I can go to the beach."

He looks forward to volunteering for assignments in support of the Global War on Terrorism while stationed in GTMO. ■

Read more about the 525th Military Police Battalion on Page 1 and Page 4. Reach Senior Airman Ortiz-Torres at 3594.

2005

JOINT TASK FORCE NEW YEAR'S



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gordon Hyde



Photo by Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres

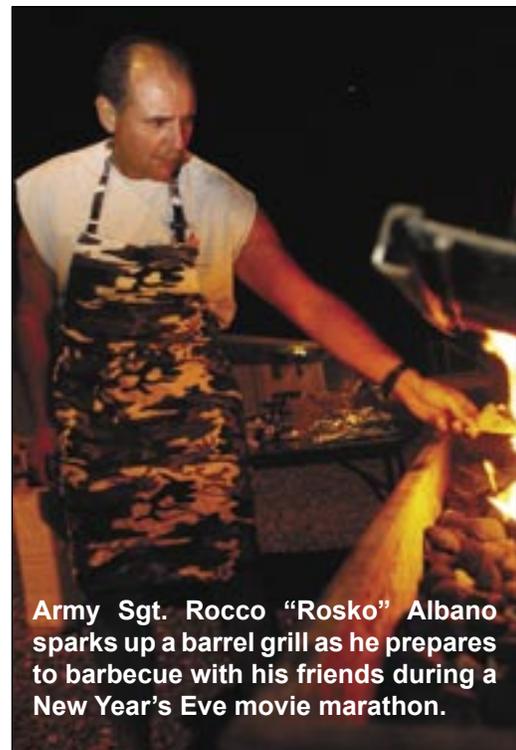
◀ Air Force Master Sgt. Gerald Baxley taps his stopwatch as he takes off on a New Year's Eve 5K run as the clock marked midnight.

◀ Seconds before the ball dropped, Troopers huddled their wrist watches to count down the end of 2004.



Photo by Army Pfc. Jessi Stone

▲ Troopers do the "Cha Cha slide" dance during a party welcoming 2005 at the base community center.



Army Sgt. Rocco "Rosko" Albano sparks up a barrel grill as he prepares to barbecue with his friends during a New Year's Eve movie marathon.

Photo by Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gordon Hyde

◀ Catching the “last” wave of 2004, Coast Guard Seaman Brannan Teachey, rides in a GTMO swell New Year’s Eve to wrap up his beach day at Windmill beach during his visit here with the Coast Guard Cutter *Vigorous*.

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Joint Task Force (JTF) Troopers celebrated the New Year in all fashions, with the exception of those who worked the night shifts to keep the critical JTF mission running. Throughout Camp America, the smell of charcoal and barbecued food filled the air. Downtown, more than 30 runners gathered at the start line of a New Year’s Eve 5K run and throughout the Naval Base Troopers found seriparties and gatherings ringing in the New Year.



Photo by Army Pfc. Jessi Stone



Photo by Army Pfc. Jessi Stone

▲ A bonfire lights up Cable Beach during the nonalcoholic New Year’s Eve party sponsored by the JTF chaplains.

The weekend of the underdog

By Army Cpl. Simon Cropp

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

I could make all kinds of predictions about who will win the Orange Bowl.

I could sit here and write this article like I understood the intricacies of the game, like I knew which players would step up and make an impact in *the* definitive college game of the year.

The contenders: Oklahoma and USC. Four Heisman candidates will be featured in this game, and both teams have emotional storylines that brought them this far.

Of course the game will be days over by the time this edition of *The Wire* flies off the shelves. I should have made predictions last week, but I forgot.

The NFL playoffs will be in full swing this weekend, however, and a lot of questions are about to be answered. Like, for example, is Peyton Manning *really* the man. Picked by many analysts as the most intriguing game this weekend, the Colts host the Broncos on Sunday afternoon in what many are expecting to be a blowout.

In most of the sports-going world this game has already been forgotten and analysts have Manning (not the Colts) moving on to play the Patriots. By himself. Who needs a team when you're the single greatest quarterback of all time?

By the time the Eagles play, starters like Donovan McNabb will have

been inactive for nearly a month. A month without an injury? It seems like since Terrell Owens got hurt the Eagles are trying to hide something. Like their shoddy offense. Without Terrell Owens in the game and McNabb sitting the last month out, don't expect these guys to go anywhere but down in the first round. The Vikings are hanging around down in the wild-card slot. Maybe they'll jump out and shock everyone.

With two seconds left in the game last Sunday, the Vikings, trailing the Redskins 21-18, lined up for an onside kick clinging to a hope they could recover and, then, one long hail Mary to Moss, they could walk away winners of this game and clinch their wild card playoff standings. Except Randy Moss skulked off the field in those final seconds, shaking his head, and effectively gutting any hope the team had. Some say it is a sign of the sorry state the Minnesota Vikings have fallen to in losing the last part of this season.

A lot of players weren't happy with the way he walked out on them, including center, Matt Birk, who confronted Moss moments after the game.

This is not
t h e

way a team is supposed to operate, so the experts would have the fans believe. It was a catastrophic breakdown. Moss just decided to take it alone instead of taking it with the team.

It is going down like this in the AFC: The Broncos will beat the Colts. Then they will go on and beat the Patriots. The Chargers will beat the Jets and then take on the Steelers. They're going to kill the Steelers. Then its going to be payback in the AFC West when the Broncos smash the Chargers and go on to kill whatever champ team the NFC puts up, unless they put up Green Bay. Then it will be an awesome rematch from 1997, and the Broncos will win it again.

That's my underdog prediction report. ■

Reach Army Cpl. Simon Cropp at 3589.

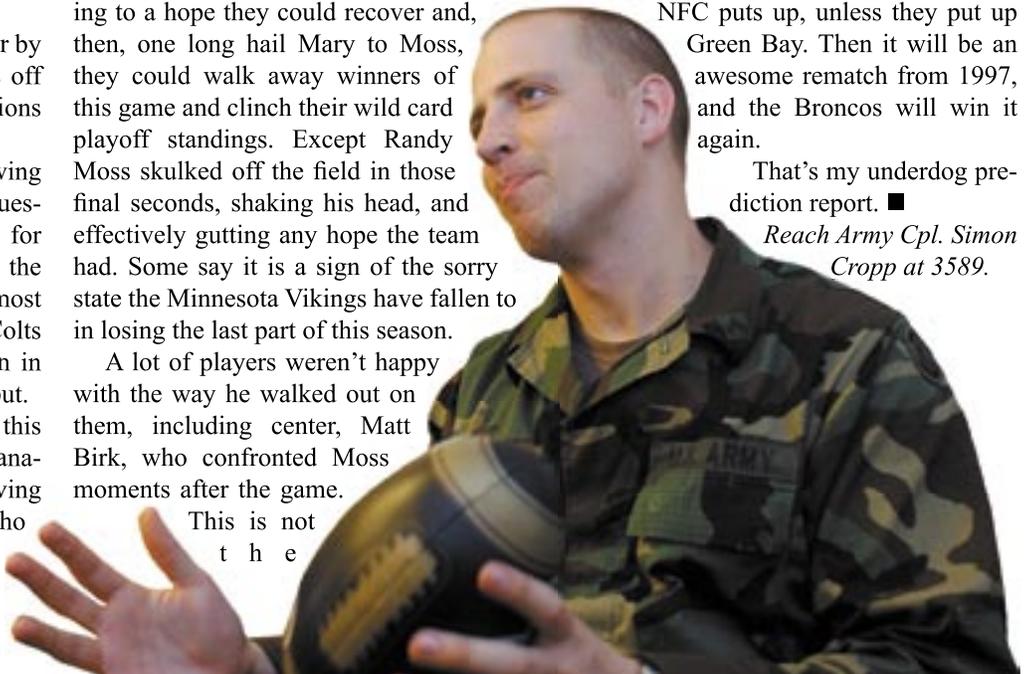


Photo by Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres

WORLDWIRE: Tsunami dominates world news

Dec. 30: The Pentagon proposes \$60 billion cuts over six years. ... Millions homeless after tsunami. ... Iraq elections on schedule. ...

Dec. 31: Brits donate to tsunami victims at a rate of \$2 million per hour. ... 67-year-old Romanian university teacher seven months pregnant with twins; had decade of fertility treatment; would be world's oldest-known new mother. ... 174 dead in Buenos Aires nightclub fire. ... Catholic Relief Services official calls tsunami "disaster

of the decade." ... Social Security underestimates USA lifespans, experts say. ... Montana Supreme Court rules universities must offer health insurance to gay employees' partners. ... Fears of mad cow disease resurface in Canada. ... Online retailers sell \$14.8 billion from Nov. 1 through Dec. 26, a 29 percent increase over 2003. ...

Jan. 1: Eating lots of fast food can make you fat and diabetic, study says. ... More than 10 percent of 2-year-olds to 5-

year-olds are overweight. ... World tsunami aid reaches \$1 billion. ... Tsunami deaths pass 140,000. ... Martha Stewart loses prison decorating contest; paper cranes not enough to beat competing nativity scene. ...

Jan. 2: Colin Powell, Gov. Jeb Bush visit tsunami areas. ... Wisconsin teen is first known to survive rabies without vaccination. ... Massive USA military relief effort for tsunami victims. ...

Jan. 3: President George Bush asks his father and President

Bill Clinton to lead tsunami fundraising efforts. ... Delta to cut domestic fares 60 percent. ... Shirley Chisholm, first black woman elected to Congress, dead at 80. ... Kuwait newspaper suggests Arabs not doing enough for tsunami victims. ... Sen. Jon Corzine, D-N.J., who recently visited Troopers at Guantanamo Bay, heads to see tsunami victims in Southeast Asia. ...

Army Cpl. Jim Greenhill compiles WorldWire from online news services. Reach him at 3592.

Reading room courtesy American Red Cross

By Spc. Chris Gardner

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Do noisy neighbors and rowdy roommates ruin your reading?

An alternative to earplugs is the American Red Cross Canteen/Reading Room at Camp America.

The room caught Camp Americans by surprise. "This was nonexistent," said Army Pfc. Chad Bisconer, a military policeman in the Joint Task Force arms room.

Planning to take Columbia College law-enforcement courses here, Bisconer said room L004 seems a peaceful, relaxing study hall. Reading increases vocabulary and brightens horizons, Bisconer said. It gives broader knowledge to Reservists who must eventually return to the civilian job market.

The air-conditioned room lined with shelves of colorful novels animated Spc. Neno Morris, chaplain's assistant, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry Regiment, who said he appreciates the quiet spot. "You have a lot of Camp America Troopers who read outside of their rooms," Morris said. This mini library provides a more contemplative environment. "There are many Troopers who would utilize this

area to gain some inner peace," he said.

The room contains more than 2,000 fiction and nonfiction books and stacks of *ESPN* magazine. A selection of 200-plus videos amused Morris. "They've got Alfred Hitchcock! Holy smokes!"

Base fire department, hospital and school volunteers periodically supply the American Red Cross room with hygiene items, popcorn and extra books, said Denise Clark, American Red Cross station manager. "Volunteers spent many hours and months to get it in order."

A great place for meetings, quiet games and study, the reading room requires Trooper integrity for maintenance.

Book and video checkouts are on an honor system, Clark said. "We want everyone to feel free to read in the canteen or take the books out to enjoy." ■

Reach Spc. Chris Gardner at 3594.

Additional Information:

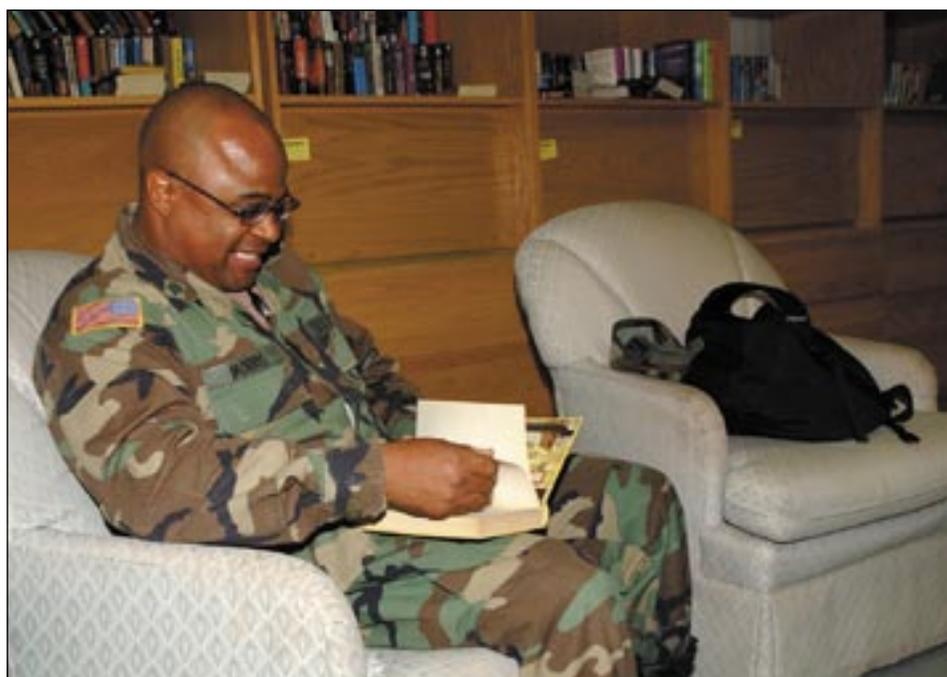
To request a visit from Chesapeake "Belle" or Bassett hound "Babs" therapy dogs in the reading room, please contact the American Red Cross at 5060.



▲ Army Pfc. Chad Bisconer browses through the reading-room. Open 24/7, the canteen facilitates meetings, games and continuing education.

"We want everyone to feel free to read in the canteen or take the books out to enjoy"

—Denise Clark
Station manager
American Red Cross



Photos by Spc. Chris Gardner

◀ News of the American Red Cross Canteen/Reading Room amazes Spc. Neno Morris, an already-cheerful chaplain's assistant, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry Regiment.

Divine Guidance

Jan. 6 was Epiphany or Three King's Day.

We can learn some lessons about divine guidance from the story of the Magi found in Matthew 2:1-12.

First, the Magi prepared themselves to receive guidance by studying the stars. If we want divine guidance we need to study his word (the Bible) as the Magi studied the stars. Often when we face a major decision or a crisis we want divine guidance. We are much more likely to receive the guidance we need if we are regular students of God's Word and his ways than if we are not.

Second, the Magi acted upon the guidance they received by embarking on a journey that followed the star. All too often, we want God's guidance, but have yet to act upon the guidance God has already provided through his word. God has pro-

vided us with much guidance including "love your neighbor" and "treat others as you would like to be treated." If we want additional guidance, we must embark on a journey to follow the guidance we already have been given.

Third, the Magi were open to additional guidance, from the wise men of Jerusalem, and from God in dreams, which enabled them to successfully complete their pilgrimage to worship the Christ child. If we would be successful in life, we too must be open to additional guidance. We never want to become like the Christians who have minds like concrete—thoroughly mixed up, and set in stone.

We too would be wise to learn these lessons about divine guidance from the wise men.

— **By Chaplain (Army Maj.) Steven Herman**



Photos by Pfc. Jessi Stone

Padre's Corner

What a great way to begin a New Year: focused on the star, the light, who is Christ! At times we may be so keenly aware of the darkness that is around and within that we feel as if we are stumbling about, without direction or hope. Just as the tiniest light pierces the darkest of nights, so the Light of Christ shines forth for all to follow as an ultimate guide. May God bless each of you and your loved ones with health, happiness, and peace in 2005!



— **Chaplain (Navy Lt. Cmdr.) James Dowds**

Worship Schedule

CAMP AMERICA

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

NAVAL BASE CHAPEL

Sunday	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
Monday	5 p.m. Pentecostal Gospel	Sanctuary C
	7 p.m. Prayer Group Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	7 p.m. Family Home Evening	Room 8
Wednesday	7 p.m. Men's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
Friday	1 p.m. Islamic Prayer	Room 12
Saturday	5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass	Main Chapel

For information on Jewish services call 2323

15 MINUTES OF FAME WITH SPC. LUIS VELASQUEZ

"We work hard, get dirty. We're just tough."

By Army Pfc. Jessi Stone

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Spc. Luis Velasquez is one of the youngest Troopers in Bravo Company.

Often referred to as "Young Buck" by his fellow infantrymen, Velasquez was home from his basic training and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) for only two days before he left home again to mobilize with 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry Regiment at Fort Dix, N.J. Straight out of training, Velasquez is putting all his knowledge to the test here at Guantanamo Bay.

The Wire: How old are you?

Spc. Velasquez: I'm 19.

How long have you been in the Army?

About a year.

How old were you when you enlisted?

I was 18. I left Jan. 28 for Fort Benning, did my three months in basic and AIT, and after AIT I joined my unit.

How long was it between when you got back and you deployed?

Two days. I was in my last week of basic when I found out I was getting deployed, and in AIT, three days before I went home, they told me I was going to Cuba.

Why did you join the Army?

Well, I like what I do: Infantry work, shooting weapons. That's basically why I joined, for the things we do. You know, we work hard, get dirty. We're just tough. That describes me, what



Photo by Pfc. Jessi Stone

I want to be.

Is this deployment what you expected it to be?

It's been a big experience for me.

Have you ever been away from home this long before?

No, never this long before.

How is your family taking it?

My mom can take it pretty hard; she wonders why I have to be away so much. I tell her I'm doing all right; I'll be home in a couple of months with money and a lot of benefits.

Do you have any other family

back home?

I have two brothers and a little sister. I'm the oldest. I asked my brother if he was going to enlist, but he said no.

Are you worried about being deployed again when you get home?

No, not really. I mean, I would like to have at least a little break, at least three months or so, you know? But if we have to go, we have to go.

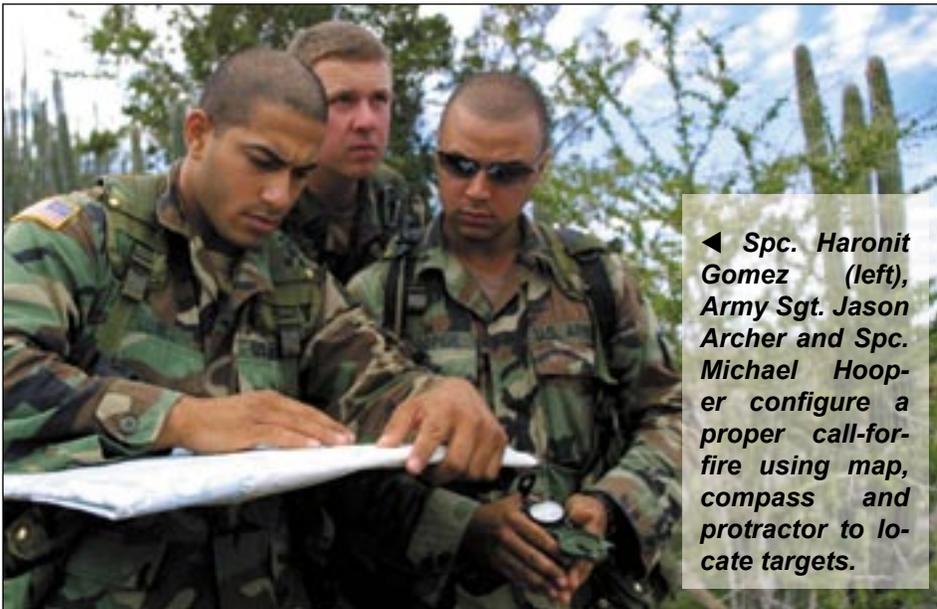
What's been the most memorable part of your deployment so far?

I work with some good guys. They are great to be around, we have a lot of fun, and we laugh all day. It makes it a lot easier to do everything we do, especially for me, who hasn't really been home in so long. I'm glad I'm with these guys.

What are you going to do after this?

I would like to go back to school when I get done with this deployment. I would like to study criminal justice. ■

Reach Army Pfc. Jessi Stone at 3499.



◀ **Spc. Haronit Gomez (left), Army Sgt. Jason Archer and Spc. Michael Hooper configure a proper call-for-fire using map, compass and protractor to locate targets.**

Photos by Spc. Jody Metzger

Mortar firing

Just latest step in infantry's training

By Spc. Jody Metzger and Army Cpl. Simon Cropp

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Troopers here at Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) recently took to the hills and honed their firing skills in a mortar-firing exercise at Hicacal Range.

The training consisted of the basics—calling in locations and bombarding enemy sites with fire from above, though in the interest of the American taxpayer, Troopers of Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 113th Regiment, used training rounds. Training rounds are less expensive and much less damaging to the ecosystem.

With a compass, protractor, map and binoculars, Troopers of Delta Company ran the call-to-fire exercise with near perfection. The training allowed the infantrymen to train with their mortar brethren in a scenario unique to the GTMO mission.

The use of training rounds allowed more than 70 members of Delta Company to train and use one of the infantry's major components in modern warfare—the mortarmen.

"It is important to train together," said Spc. Scott Rupert. "Those who fight together should train together." And that is what Troopers of Delta Company did.

Indirect fire infantry units hold important jobs within the infantry dynamic, allowing the military to wage war from thousands of meters away. This softens up enemy encampments before the infantry meets the enemy on the skirmish lines, all the while keeping Troopers safe distances from enemy rifles.

"If a Trooper knows how to do a proper 'call for fire,' they become a valuable asset," said Rupert. "They can destroy something at a distance without having to risk their lives."

The mortarmen are a specialized group attached to the infantry. The group coordinates with the larger foot-based element of Troopers through forward observers before raining destruction on the enemy encampment. The Troopers of Delta Company took a two-day class on how mortar and infantrymen work together before employing what they learned in the exercise.

"They know they have to rely on each other and learn from each other," said Army Staff Sgt. Dale Spencley. "It gives Troopers a chance to see how much their squad leaders and platoon leaders know about the mission and how good they are at their jobs. It is a boost of confidence for the Troopers."

Training like this allows for a change of

pace from the routine patrolling and guard watch most infantrymen have become accustomed to during their stay here.

"The classroom was a little boring," Spencley said but quickly added the fun soon began once they got out and put the training to use. "The Troopers love it because it is different for them."

The training consisted of three parts. The call to fire came first and this consisted of Troopers identifying a target by using a scope from a good vantage point. After forming a plan for fire, they sent information to the fire direction center, which then transmitted the message to the guns.

To qualify, the Troopers must get a hit by the fourth round. Most of the squads, Spencley said, hit between two to three rounds before they call for "fire for effect."

"The fire for effect is when you know you are on target and want to obliterate the [enemy]," said Spc. Mark Macellaro. The target is pummeled by round after round until—hopefully—it no longer exists.

"In a real combat situation, the forward observers are out there," said Spc. June Alamanzar. "They see the enemy, call it in, and the mortars take them out."

"The training we conduct here is important to the battalion," said Sgt. 1st Class John Figueroa. "Whether it is mortar fire, combat water survival, close quarters combat, hand to hand combat—it all serves to make the battalion better trained for future deployments." ■

Reach Spc. Metzger at 3499. Reach Army Cpl. Cropp at 3589.



▲ **Spc. June Alamanzar loads a 35-pound mortar round waiting for the call to fire.**

THANKING A VETERAN



Photo by Army Sgt. Scott Faddis

▲ **Brig. Gen. Martin Lucenti, JTF deputy commander, shakes hands with Maryann and Robert Waldrop before coining Navy Lt. Cmdr. Erin Felger for her hard work as part of the Detention Hospital. Robert Waldrop, Felger's grandfather, was recognized by Lucenti for his patriotism. Waldrop was a member of the 8th Air Corps during World War II and a prisoner of war.**

RECIPE

Peach Chicken

At the start of the New Year, many Troopers have resolved to begin a healthier lifestyle. Lean meats, fruits and vegetables, low-fat dairy and whole grains are the easiest ways to achieve health goals. Try this recipe for Peach Chicken with sides of fresh vegetables and whole grain brown or wild rice. Avoid processed white grains and frozen and canned vegetables, which have been so processed they have practically no nutritional value left, only starch.

Ingredients

Eight skinless, boneless chicken breast halves; one cup brown sugar; two cans sliced peaches, drained; 1/8 teaspoon ground ginger; 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves; two tablespoons fresh lemon juice.

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Lightly grease a 9x13-inch baking dish. Place chicken in the prepared baking dish, and sprinkle with 1/2 cup of brown sugar. Place peach slices over chicken, then sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup brown sugar, ginger, cloves, and lemon juice.
3. Bake for about 30 minutes in the preheated oven, basting often with juices, until chicken is cooked through and juices run clear.

—Army Pfc. Jessi Stone

MWR

- Jan. 7: Salsa Classes, Windjammer, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 12: Portrait Drawing class, Ceramic Shop, 6 p.m.
- Jan. 14: Male Softball Tournament, Cooper Field, 6 p.m.
- Jan. 15: The GTMO Half Marathon that was scheduled for Cable Beach at 5:30 a.m. is POSTPONED.
- Jan. 19: Male Softball League (start), Cooper Field, 6 p.m.
- Jan. 20: Female Softball League (start), Cooper Field, 6 p.m.
- Jan. 22: Fishing Derby, Marina, 5 p.m.
- Jan. 22: Scottish Highland Games, Cooper Field, 1 p.m.
- Jan. 25: Robert Burns Supper, Windjammer, 6 p.m.
- Feb. 6: Super Bowl Party, Club Survivor, 5 p.m.
- Feb. 11: Pool Tournament, Club Survivor, 5 p.m.

CLASSES

Beginning Watercolor Class

When: Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31 at the ceramics shop from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Space is limited.

To sign up: Go to the ceramics shop (building #4795).

For more information: Call Heather Schwartz, instructor, at 7877.

DINING

Today	Lunch Dinner	Barbecued Beef Cubes Seafood Platter
Saturday	Lunch Dinner	Baked Fish Chicken Parmesan
Sunday	Lunch Dinner	Roast Pork Loin Shepherd's Pie
Monday	Lunch Dinner	Pepper Steak Roast Turkey
Tuesday	Lunch Dinner	Barbecued Chicken Chicken & Beef Fajitas
Wednesday	Lunch Dinner	Pineapple Chicken Cantonese Spareribs
Thursday	Lunch Dinner	Caribbean Chicken Breast Salisbury Steak
Friday	Lunch Dinner	Parmesan Chicken Steamship Round of Beef

MONEY

Navy OneSource: Managing Your Money and Budget

In partnership with Fleet and Family Support Centers, Navy OneSource provides resources and information on budgeting to help you meet the challenges, balance the everyday life issues and enjoy the opportunities of military life.

Personal Finance for Everyone is an approach to finances that can work for anyone. This free audiotope or CD includes tips and strategies. Another free booklet called *Personal Budget Management* is full of tips on how to take charge of your money, including how to analyze your finances, understand the obstacles between you and your money, recognize what you can and can't control, create a budget—and stick to it.

Visit Navy OneSource Online to read or download these articles: *Getting Out of Debt*, *Keeping a Household Budget*, *Saving Money* and *TSP—Thrift Savings Plan*. These resources are just a sample of the many LifeArticles and booklets available. For more information on everyday life issues, call and talk with one of our master's level consultants.

Navy OneSource is free. It's available any time, wherever you are. From the USA, (800) 540-4123. From Guantanamo Bay, 3999. Online: www.navyonesource.com.

BUSES

Chart shows bus stops and minutes after the hour when buses are scheduled, e.g. 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	CAMP BULKELEY
FRIDAY	FRIDAY
7 p.m. <i>SpongeBob Square Pants</i> PG 88 min	8 p.m. <i>Raise your Voice</i> PG 103 min
9 p.m. <i>Seed of Chucky</i> R 98 min	10 p.m. <i>Ray</i> PG13 102 min
SATURDAY	SATURDAY
7 p.m. <i>Raise your Voice</i> PG 103 min	8 p.m. <i>SpongeBob Square Pants</i> PG 88 min
9 p.m. <i>National Treasure</i> PG 131 min	10 p.m. <i>Seed of Chucky</i> R 98 min
SUNDAY	SUNDAY
7 p.m. <i>Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason</i> R 108 min	8 p.m. <i>National Treasure</i> PG 131 min
MONDAY	MONDAY
7 p.m. <i>After the Sunset</i> PG13 97 min	8 p.m. <i>Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason</i> R 108min
TUESDAY	TUESDAY
7 p.m. <i>Raise your Voice</i> PG 103 min	8 p.m. <i>After the Sunset</i> PG13 97 min
WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY
7 p.m. <i>National Treasure</i> PG 131 min	8 p.m. <i>Raise your Voice</i> PG 103 min
THURSDAY	THURSDAY
7 p.m. <i>Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason</i> R 108min	8 p.m. <i>National Treasure</i> PG 131 min

ACCURACY

The Wire strives for accuracy. When we fail, we accept responsibility for our errors and correct them.

If you see an error in *The Wire*, call Army Cpl. Jim Greenhill at 3592.

Know a Trooper worthy of being highlighted in "15 Minutes of Fame?" Call Greenhill at 3592.