

The transformation of the JTF

By Army Cpl. Jim Greenhill

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Imagine sleeping in a tent, eating MREs, almost never experiencing air-conditioning and having no Internet access, movies or much in the way of recreation—for a full deployment here at Guantanamo Bay (GTMO).

That's how life was for Troopers here less than three years ago.

Troopers cycle through rotations with the Joint Task Force (JTF), perhaps missing the big picture of what came before and what will follow.

Three years ago—back when the JTF was called JTF 160, later joined by JTF 170—there was no *Wire*. Troopers lived in tents on a sand flat near a facility that was formerly used to house detainees.

In the three years since, the quality of life has significantly improved for Troopers and detainees alike.

Troopers moved to Camp America, where they slept in plywood SEA (South-east Asia) huts.

The SEA huts—now used as offices—still had no running water or indoor bathrooms. Those accommodations were upgraded with the air-conditioned metal buildings where Troopers now live.

Before Camp America, Troopers occupied a 78-tent city called Freedom Heights erected by Marines. A former *Wire* staffer called it, “A tent city with sun-baked tents, makeshift flooring and no running water.”

Chow? Most Troopers ate meals ready to eat (MREs). Less than three years later, Troopers eat in air-conditioned galleys where professionals take pride in the extra



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Dominic Hauser

▲ Troopers of Joint Task Force 160 and Joint Task Force 170 take down tents at Freedom Heights in August 2002. Freedom Heights was home to the military police tasked to guard the Camp X-Ray detainees at GTMO.

effort they make for holiday meals and the food they prepare every day.

Among many other improvements, military police were moved to Tierra Kay, a place that offered air-conditioning, plumbing, recreation and—most important—somewhere to decompress away from life inside the Wire.

Just as Troopers moved up to better accommodations, so did detainees, who were transferred from a facility elsewhere on GTMO to improved facilities at Camp Delta.

Among other Trooper improvements: The Mini Naval Exchange at Camp America ... access to the Internet ... Club Survivor ... volleyball courts ... a chapel ... movies at the (renovated) lyceum ... a gym

... kitchens at Camp America ... recreation rooms.

Among detainee improvements: Better living conditions ... quality medical care of the same standard as that given to Troopers, provided in a purpose-built hospital ... the opportunity to earn progressively better living conditions ... more personal items, such as prayer rugs and books.

Troopers also have more training opportunities, including the Primary Leadership Development Course for Soldiers.

It's all part of a process of continuous improvement JTF commanders call “the transformation of the JTF,” and it's continuing even as you read this. ■

Reach Army Cpl. Jim Greenhill at 3592.

Four traps to Avoid

By Army Col. John Hadjis

JTF-GTMO Chief of Staff

In Brig. Gen. Hood's first Trooper-to-Trooper of the New Year he wrote of how our mission has developed and grown.

Our commanding general (CG) discussed where the Troopers who went before us had been, where he assessed us now and where he expected us to go as the mission continues to evolve.

The continued evolution of our mission will be complex, and challenging to each of us. It will require us to be our very best.

Getting it right will do much to help our nation win the Global War on Terrorism. Getting it wrong could mean we fail our comrades at the point of the spear, and dishonor our nation and ourselves.

Pretty tough words, I know, but frankly that's the cost of screwing this thing up.

So how do we meet these challenges head on and succeed the first time in an uncertain environment?

I've got some thoughts that may be of use in your kit bag. They come from a "Get to Know Me" brief I give to folks who are new to working with me. None of it is rocket science. It is just some enduring things I've learned from some great leaders I have had the good fortune to work for and with. Embedded in them is what I believe are the fundamentals to meeting the expectations the CG has for the mission and us.

Every time I talk to new folks who are going to work for me, I tell them the four things that make me mad.

I'm the chief of staff for a Joint Task Force (JTF) on a national mission. There are a lot of things that get me focused, but only four things really make me angry. Those four things are mistreating a Trooper, civilian, family member, or detainee; being lied to; loss of a sensitive item and heat and cold weather injuries.

Every one of those things has the potential to hurt a Trooper, ruin a career or bring discredit to our mission.

Peeling back the four things exposes a couple of things that I think are fundamental to how a unit needs to operate if it wants to continue to grow and excel. Units ready to meet the challenges of a continually evolving mission have self-disciplined Troopers and take-charge noncommissioned officers. When both are lacking the potential for one of the big four to happen is high.

Everything starts with self-discipline. Troopers who believe and practice their service's values and take the appropriate measures to care for themselves, don't mistreat others, lie, lose a sensitive item or get a heat or cold weather injury.

Engaged, technically and tactically competent noncommissioned officers take charge, set high standards, purge those who lack self-discipline and supervise to ensure their Troopers meet the standard, preventing the "Big 4" from happening. They simply know their Troopers, know what needs to be done and take the appropriate action.

So if I hear about a lost weapon, an unaccounted for Trooper, or a mistreated family member I get mad. I know I'm going to find a Trooper who failed to exercise self-discipline, or a noncommissioned officer who failed to check, or both. Worse, I have some pretty strong evidence that I might not have people up to the task that our difficult mission is going to present them.

Which side do you want to be on?

I think it's an easy choice.

Don't do these four things and you'll never make me mad. More importantly, you'll be the kind of self-disciplined Trooper or turned-on noncommissioned officer we need to take JTF-GTMO (Guantanamo Bay) to the next level. Our nation will laud you for it.

Honor Bound!

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GTMO Dementors clean Mud Lobsters 37-24

By Army Spc. Jody Metzger

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs

Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) Dementors won their first rugby game against the Mon River Mud Lobsters of West Virginia.

It was their first victory—and their first game. The Dementors brought home the win as fans cheered wildly in the stands. After less than nine months together, this newly formed team rose to the occasion because of hard, dedicated practice.

The victory was even more significant given that more than 80 percent of the team had never played rugby before they came here.

“The guys from West Virginia have about an average of five to six years of experience,” said Dementors’ coach, Navy Chief Gabe Puello. “The fact that we are leading and carrying our own means that all our fitness and training has paid off.”

The six Mud Lobsters who came to



Photo by Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres

▲ A rugby player with the W. Va., Mud Lobsters breaks away from a scrum Monday at Cooper’s Field. The Dementors beat the visiting team 37-24.

GTMO for the game were augmented with players from the base.

The Guantanamo Bay Dementors have been playing officially since May. They have had no teams to play against.

On a quest to find teams to play, the Dementors sent letters to their old club teams. Their prayers were answered when one club from West Virginia requested a tournament: The Mon River Mud Lobsters of Morgantown, W. Va.

The anticipation of a rugby club coming to Guantanamo Bay started the Dementors on a campaign to earn the money that would bring the Mud Lobsters to the playing field (in rugby terms, a playing “pitch.”) The Dementors held two fundraising car washes and added their own club funds to raise close to \$2,000.

It wasn’t a minute into the game that the Dementors took the lead. Their ferociousness and spirit for the game had the Mud Lobsters struggling.

With such a physically demanding sport, it takes a special person to play, says rugby veteran, Navy Lt. j.g. Ally Wolff, one of the two women on the Dementors team. Wolff has played rugby since her sophomore year in college at the Naval Academy and loves the game. Although a rough sport, Wolff says, “It is worth it.”

If you’re competitive, said Wolff, and you don’t mind being knocked around, you would like this game. “It is important to practice with your team and learn the correct techniques,” she said. “Anyone that has any drive and willingness can play.”

In the second half of the game, rugby proved to have many interesting turns to its vastly different rules. Puello, referee and coach of the Dementors, said it’s nothing like people have seen before. Unlike football, there are no pads or protection against the hits players take. “Most people have never seen a rugby game. American football is the derivation of rugby. It was created and played in the United States in 1823 and is now practically played on every continent.”

Said Puello, “In rugby, you’re going to see plenty of tackling without any pads. You’re going to see constant movement. It’s like a soccer game, and kill-the-man-with-the-football mixed in one. It’s tackling, getting up on your feet running for 80 minutes, non-stop.”

With many different rules and technical terms, rugby is unlike any other sport. It’s a game where in the second half of the game, the referee and coach can turn player. Puello, well over six-feet tall, pulled on a jersey and headed out into the field.

And although the Dementors took victory over the Mud Lobsters, the game was not only about winning. It was about building camaraderie by working in teams.

“It is worth it,” said Wolff. “It is the camaraderie on the team. They stick together and support one another.”

Building on this victory, team members of the Dementors look forward to their next game. Their hope is to play in Ruggerfest in Ft. Lauderdale, Feb. 24-25. ■

Reach Spc. Jody Metzger at 3499.



▲ W. Va. Mud Lobsters reach for the ball during a “line out” as GTMO Dementors look on.

AROUND THE JTF

Power!

One of Guantanamo Bay's four new wind turbines spun for the first time Tuesday. The turbines are expected to provide 25 percent of GTMO's power needs. Rumor control: The new turbines are NOT actually giant cooling fans.



Photo manipulation by Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres
Original photo by Army Pfc. Jessi Stone



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Cavett Ishihara

Mini CONSTRUCTION

◀ Contractor Bertran Smith adds his personal touch to one of 18 miniature golf holes being built next to the G.J. Denich gym. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) mini-golf course is scheduled to open Friday night. Cost is \$1 for nine holes, \$2 for 18. Hours are the same as the gym. Coming next: Go-carts.

BluetoKhaki

▶ Chief Petty Officer Walt Gaines pins newly selected Chief Petty Officer Merlin Pruet. Chief Pruet transfers from the Navy blue to khaki uniform alone because his promotion came from a special selection board.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Dennis Fetter

Can you keep up?

Brig. Gen. Jay W. Hood, Joint Task Force commanding general (CG), dropped for push-ups as Troopers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company cooled down behind him. The CG had just led the Troopers on a 5K run through Camp America.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gordon Hyde

Cuban-American Friendship Day

Jan. 28 is Cuban-American Friendship Day here at Guantanamo Bay, celebrating 36 years of friendship with activities for Joint Task Force Troopers and Naval Base members.

This year's theme: "Heart to Heart, Hand in Hand; Past, Present and Future!"

Two highlights:

The Cuban-American Friendship Relay Run starts at 8 a.m. on Jan. 28. The course starts at the Northeast Gate, runs to the Windward



Ferry Landing and ends at the Windjammer. Teams can register by calling Melissa Beleman at 5815.

The Cuban-American Friendship Day Celebration is at noon at the Windjammer on Jan. 28. It includes a Cuban buffet for \$12, with seating limited to 350 people with tickets available at the Windjammer. A guest speaker is scheduled.

—Army Cpl. Jim Greenhill



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gordon Hyde

Run reveals JTF spirit

Troopers from the Joint Task Force's Headquarters and Headquarters Company chanted running cadences and—for variety—listened to a little rock 'n roll during a motivational run led by Brig. Gen. Jay W. Hood on Jan. 14. The commanding general set a brisk pace for the 5K run beside the Caribbean as the sun rose. The run continued down to Windmill Beach before turning around and zigzagging back. Hood led

Troopers on a detour that took them through the heart of the housing area. Above, runners pass laundry facilities, led by Hood and the guidon bearer. On Jan. 19, Troopers from the Joint Detention Operations Group also had a motivational run through Camp America. The runs offer some variety to Troopers' regular physical-training schedules.

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

Army Pfc. Jessi Stone asks ... "Jan. 17 was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. What do you do to contribute to your community?"



◀ "I have two girls who run track and I go out there and help them get prepared."

—Navy Chief Timothy Brandon

▶ "I sing in my church choir, and we do functions for kids."

—Navy Petty Officer Second Class Veronica Hernandez



◀ "I try to provide a positive attitude because that's what you really need around here."

—Army Pfc. Robert Yharbrough



▶ "A couple of years ago I got a \$10,000 grant for a children's writing program through my civilian employer."

—Army Sgt. Bruce Florence



Photos by Army Pfc. Jessi Stone

Valentine's Greetings

The Wire plans to include Troopers' Valentine's Day greetings in the Feb. 11 issue. Deadline: Feb. 4.

Write a Valentine's Day greeting. When it appears in *The Wire*, mail that issue home to your loved one, or tell them how to look up *The Wire* online, at www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil.

Greetings must not exceed 100 words, be signed by the Trooper and include the Trooper's unit and contact information. *The Wire* reserves the right to edit greetings for length, clarity, possible OPSEC (operations security) violations and to eliminate libelous or tasteless material.

If you'd like to see your Valentine's Day greeting to your loved one published in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and worldwide on the Internet, bring the greeting to *The Wire* office at building 4106, a SEA hut near the chaplains' office in Camp America or e-mail pao@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil.

—Army Cpl. Jim Greenhill

Most Troopers should have W-2 by now

The beginning of the new year means only one thing in the tax world: Tax statements (W-2, 1099R).

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) has compiled a schedule of dates when service members, military retirees and annuitants (recipients of income from capital investments) and defense civilian employees can access their 2004 tax statements through myPay and when they can anticipate receiving the hard-copy delivery by mail if they don't have a PIN (personal identification number).

Military members, retirees/annuitants and DFAS civilian employees will once again have access to view, save and print their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. The Internal Revenue Service has approved this version for filing with your personal tax returns.

DFAS delivers personal pay information and provides the ability to process pay-related transactions quickly, safely and securely to all its members through myPay.

The Web-based system eliminates the risks associated with postal delivery by allowing members to access electronic tax state-

ments and other financial information online. MyPay matches existing industry standards for the highest level of encryption and security. This prevents customer information from being accessed by others on the Internet.

As of this issue of *The Wire*, all Troopers should be able to access their statements through myPay. Many Troopers should have received hard copies if they are scheduled to get them. Hard copies of Marine Corps active and Reserve W-2s and of Air Force, Army and Navy active W-2s may still be en route for some Troopers.

"During the months of January, February and March 2004, an average of 1.4 million myPay users viewed their tax statements each month, and we continue to encourage users to view and print their statements online," said Jim Pitt, director of Electronic Commerce, DFAS Military and Civilian Pay Services. "Earlier access to W-2s and other tax statements is another way myPay gives users control of their pay information."

If you have any issues or concerns, your finance office stands ready to assist you.

—Air Force News Service

WORLDWIRE: Tsunami still the big story

Jan. 4: Tsunami relief effort going “exceptionally well,” Secretary of State Colin Powell says. ... Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Inc. **padded sales**, shareholder lawsuit alleges. ... Actor **Leonardo DiCaprio** makes “huge” UNICEF contribution for Thai child tsunami victims. ... Actress **Sandra Bullock** gives Red Cross \$1 million for tsunami relief; “model for personal generosity.” ... Fewer adult women using **birth control**, research says. ... Americans have \$9.9 trillion in **personal debt**. ... U.S. helicopters find dozens of tsunami **survivors** in remote places. ... USA delivering **more relief supplies** than any other nation. ... Thousands more **Marines** on way to help tsunami victims. ... “**Operation Unified Assistance**” is largest relief effort in U.S. history. **Jan. 5:** U.S. military to double to 90 helicopters supplying **tsunami aid**. ... Worldwide aid exceeds **\$2 billion**. ... Tsunami aid is largest American military operation in South Asia since **Vietnam**. ... “I’ve been in wars, and

damage. ... Ad agency Leo Burnett USA gets six-month, \$100 million extension of “**Army of One**” campaign. ... Bristol Myers Squibb selling off **Excedrin** brand for rumored \$1 billion. ... Wal-Mart expected to announce 3 percent **Christmas sales growth** over year earlier. ... Comic book pioneer **Will Eisner** dead at 87. ... Tsunami countries plead for **tourists** to visit, spend. ... UN plans **refugee camps** for up to 500,000 Sumatra tsunami victims. ... **Delta Airlines** announces fare cuts. ... **Jan. 6:** Ten former WorldCom directors agree to pay \$54 million to settle **investor lawsuit**. ... World leaders pledge to **work together** for tsunami victims. ... Canada might **outlaw** Internet drug sales. ... Most **animals survived** tsunami; sensed approaching danger, experts say. ... Chlorine gas kills eight, injures 20 after S.C. **train crash**. ... Ku Klux Klansman Edgar Ray Killen, 79, **arrested** for 1964 slaying of three civil rights workers. **Jan. 7:** *Men’s Fitness*

Mandela says **AIDS** killed his son. ... **Jan. 8:** **Too much exercise** is bad, German scientists say. ... TV commentator **Armstrong Williams** took money to push U.S. Education Department policies, reports say. ... **Jan. 9:** A U.S. helicopter with 10 people on board **crashes** while providing tsunami relief in Indonesia. ... Jennifer Aniston, Brad Pitt **separate**. ... **Jan. 10:** **President Bush** pushing domestic agenda (including Social Security and tort reform), Mideast policy and tsunami help in run-up to inauguration. ... Ten dead in California mudslide. ... Massive avalanche at Utah ski resort; five missing. ... **Jan. 11:** Michael Chertoff nominated **Homeland Security** chief. ... 30 percent of American kids are **overweight**. ... **Jan. 12:** USA unveils new **diet guidelines**. ... USA **trade deficit** at record \$60.3 billion in November. ... **Jan. 13:** Storm of outrage after Britain’s **Prince Harry** wears Nazi costume to party. ... Baseball toughens **steroid** policy. ... **Jan. 14:** Spc. Charles Graner **guilty** on all five counts in Abu Ghraib abuse. ... **Jan. 15:** Graner gets **decade in prison**. ... Mahmoud Abbas sworn in as elected Palestinian president. ... **Jan. 16:** USA to expand tsunami warning system. ... **Jan. 17:** Dr. Martin Luther



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class F.T. Eyre

▲ **President George W. Bush speaks to members of the United States Armed Forces during the “Saluting Those Who Serve” ceremony at the MCI Center, Washington, D.C., Jan. 18, 2005. “Saluting Those Who Serve” is a first time multimedia event designed to honor the Armed Forces, it is the first event in a week of inaugural celebrations.**

King, Jr.’s **birthday** celebrated across USA. ... **Titan** probe delivers stunning photos of Saturn’s moon, 900 million miles from Earth. ... Dentist discovers cause of construction worker’s toothache: Four-inch **nail** he unknowingly shot into his skull six days earlier. ... *The Aviator* takes best drama at **Golden Globes**; *Sideways* is best comedy. ... **67-year-old Romanian gives birth**; when daughter turns 16, mom will be 83. **Jan. 18:** Airbus shows off giant A380 **double-decker jet**. ... **Global poverty** could be halved by 2015, ended by 2025 if richest countries double aid, report says. ... 55 percent say **Bush will do better** in second term, poll finds. ... 90 percent survival rate of wounded service members in Afghanistan, Iraq attributed to **medevac crews**; rate was 76 percent in Vietnam. ... The temperature in Embarrass, Minn. is 54 degrees **below zero**. ... ■ *Army Cpl. Jim Greenhill compiles WorldWire from a variety of online news service.*



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Cherie A. Thurlby

▲ **A member of the Washington D.C. Park Police is escorted to the parade by a member of the Joint Task Force-Armed Forces Inaugural Committee, during the rehearsal for the 55th Presidential Inauguration.**

I’ve been a diplomat ... but I’ve **never seen anything like this**,” Powell says of tsunami

Magazine names **Seattle** fittest USA city. ... Tsunami **pledges** reach \$4 billion. ... Nelson

Beyond the sea...

A personal look at sailing classes at GTMO

Army Pfc. Jessi Stone is taking advantage of the opportunity to learn to sail here at Guantanamo Bay, just one of many recreational activities available to Troopers with the Joint Task Force.

By Army Pfc. Jessi Stone

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Spc. Jeff Zaine, of the public affairs office, and I had been talking about sailing lessons since our first week in Guantanamo Bay.

While everyone else was getting scuba certified, he and I kept saying, "We need to look into those sailing lessons; that's what we want to do rather than scuba."

Perhaps—both of us being from landlocked, arid states—scuba just didn't make much sense. There are plenty of lakes, rivers and reservoirs in Colorado and Utah, our home states, but the depths of those waters aren't what scuba is meant for. The surfaces, however, could be tamed and navigated, and I could see myself gliding on water and air on Horsetooth Reservoir beneath the jagged Rockies.

We finally called the marina in January and spoke with the instructor, Henry. Henry told us it could take up to eight classes to earn our license, no less than five, and that each class was two hours long. We scheduled our first class right away. Our work schedules would make it difficult to get our licenses before our deployment was over if we didn't get on the ball. After all, we only had a few months left, and eight classes could mean eight weeks.

Dress the part

Our first lesson was in the morning, and we rushed to get out of our offices and down to the marina. Zaine's duties kept him busy right up until the last minute, and he went in his uniform. Our wardrobes were one of the first things Henry corrected.

"The boats we'll be learning on are the smallest and the fastest," he said. "And they are also the easiest to

capsize. The next time you come, you should wear clothes you don't mind getting wet."

I looked at Zaine in his uniform and pictured the boat overturning, forcing him to paddle through the water in the heavy fabric and clumsy boots, only to stumble, water-drenched, back to the office.

Capsizing would not have been any better for me. I had once been forced to swim after capsizing a jet ski while in jeans and tennis shoes. I had no desire to relive the experience.

We began by learning the parts of the sailboat. Zaine and I repeated the names of every rope, pulley, clamp and bit of sail after Henry, only to lose them a moment later. Luckily, Henry provided us with a study guide, and recommended checking out a book from the library.

Then we climbed into the little boat. No more than four people could comfortably fit in the boat; I would not risk crowding it with more than six. It wobbled a little in the feeble waves as Henry turned it into the wind and swept us out into the bay. We gathered speed.

The color blue

Upon first arriving at Guantanamo Bay, the thing that struck me the most was the blueness of the water. I had never seen anything like it. Only once before had I seen the ocean, off the shores of Sanibel Island, Fla., murky and watery brown, with a golden foaminess shimmering on top—nothing like the ocean here. Nor did the deep, navy alpine lakes of my home compare.

So striking was the color of these waves that when I first got here I wrote to all my family and friends that I had never known the color blue until I saw the ocean here.

As we moved out onto the bay, propelled by the wind, I felt that awe for the color once again. The sun glinted off the peaks of the waves as we cut through the water, while Henry ex-

See "Sailing" in Page 13



Photo by Pfc. Jessi Stone

“Sailing” from Page 12

-plained how to assess the winds, direct the boat and manipulate the main sail. Chuckling, he would occasionally pull the sail tight, letting the boat lean far to the port, or left side, instilling in us the fear of capsizing. Then he would pop the rope which controlled the sail from its clamp, and the boat would fall back into the water, balancing itself out before it could turn over.

Reaching his arm out across the horizon, he pointed out a patch of water where the sparkling reflections of sun seemed to move independently of the water. “That is a gust,” he explained, as the light moved towards us, “Do you see it?”

We did, and moments later we felt it. The rush of air brushed over us, catching the sail and speeding the little boat forward. It did not take us long to begin sighting the gusts on our own. They came frequently.

Steering

After we had received a bit more instruction, Henry decided we were ready to take over the tiller. The tiller, a lever used to turn the rudder that hangs off the back of the boat from side to side, is the primary means of steering. If you push the tiller away from you, the boat will veer in the direction the wind is pushing you, and if you pull the tiller towards you the boat will veer against the wind.



Photos by Pfc. Jessi Stone

▲ The smaller sail in the front of the boat is called the jib. The jib can be used to pick up extra speed if the wind is weak and the mainsail is not enough.



▲ The rudder is a single paddle that hangs off the back of the boat which is moved to the port (left) and starboard (right) to steer the boat.

Pushing the tiller too far from you will cause the boat to tilt too far beneath the wind, capsizing it, but if you pull the tiller towards you when the wind begins pushing the boat over, the boat evens itself out again. Pushing and pulling the tiller in moderation causes the boat to veer either left or right, depending on whether you are sitting on the port or starboard side. To keep on a straight course, you hold the tiller firmly centered with the boat.

It sounds more complicated than it is. We each quickly learned to pull the tiller as hard as we could towards us if the boat was tilting more than we were comfortable with. If the tiller was not enough to correct the tilting, Henry, who kept control of the sail, would loosen up the sail and the boat would right itself.

Steering styles

Zaine and I had different reactions to maneuvering the boat. I took the tiller modestly, with a hint of trepidation, but as I was at the tiller my modesty quickly turned to glee as I peered across the stern (back) of the boat at oncoming gusts and little splashes from waves. I giggled when the salt water sprayed onto my hands and face, and grinned in response to Henry’s tips and corrections, eager to get things right, laughing at the mistakes I made.

Zaine took the tiller more earnestly than I, and concentrated on the task at hand. As he warmed up to the feel of it, his air became more confident but not cocky. He guided the boat across the little section of bay and then, with Henry’s skilled instruc-

tion, zigzagged the boat back into the marina.

We scheduled our next lesson for the following Friday, thanked Henry for the great lesson, and walked quietly back to the bus smiling. “Wow, that was a lot of fun, wasn’t it?” I said.

Zaine let out a little chuckle, “Yeah, it was,” he said. “I already can’t wait for our next lesson.” We both agreed we were glad we decided to take these lessons. Not only did we feel it suited us better than some of the other water activities offered on base, but these lessons were free.

On the ride home we went over the study guide and tried to remember all the parts of the boat Henry had taught us. We returned to our offices just after lunch, beaming (and in my case, a little sunburned) and discussing our pending lesson, where we would control both the tiller and the sail. ■

Read more about learning to sail here in a future issue of The Wire. Reach Army Pfc. Jessi Stone at 3589.



Padre's Corner

Today, Christian churches all over the world begin the octave of prayer for Christian unity.

Jesus prayed that his church might be one.

It is the broken and divided human being who has the need to pronounce who is in or who is out. Jesus, the reconciler, the redeemer, unites heaven and earth, and prays that all may be one.

What we pray for and about, we must work for that hope to become true and real.

May we all be one.

—Chaplain (Navy Lt. Cmdr.) James Dowds



The Joint Task Force chaplains gathered recently for a farewell party for one of their assistants here at Guantanamo Bay.

Walking on water

There is a story about an old priest who would always initiate the new priest in the parish by taking him for a boat ride on the lake.

During the boat ride, the priest would stop the engine and tell the young priest, "If you want to be a good priest you must have faith, you must be able to walk on water as did Jesus."

Then he would smile at the young priest, get out of the boat and walk a few steps on water. After returning to the boat he would encourage the faith of the young priest until he too would exit the boat, only to sink in the water.

After pulling the young priest out of the water and scolding him about his lack of faith, he would then say with a sly smile, "Now, do you want me to show you where the rocks are?"

This story and countless like it, are based upon Biblical accounts of Jesus walking on the water. For example, read Matthew 14:25-33. To me, the most amazing part of this story is not that Jesus, the divine Son of God walked on water, but that

by faith Peter was able to follow his example, and walk on water as well.

"Then Peter got out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus," Matthew 14:29.

There are times in life when, like Peter, we will be called upon to do things that are seemingly beyond our own human abilities. At those times if we turn to the Lord in faith, he will give us the strength to do that which seems impossible.

For some people, leaving home and family, school or job, and security for a deployment seemed impossible.

For some, even another day at Guantanamo Bay seems impossible sometimes.

Look to the Lord in faith, and he will give you the grace and ability to go on. If you need strength and encouragement, try coming to a worship service. If you would like to talk to a chaplain, our doors are always open. Unlike the old priest, we do not want you to sink. We are here to help you make it through this deployment.

—Chaplain (Army Maj.) Steven Herman

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 Building 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
Monday	1 p.m. New Life Fellowship	Main Chapel
	5 p.m. Pentecostal Gospel	Sanctuary C
Monday	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 ARMY STAFF SGT. ROBERT HESTON

“Without healthy troops and people taking care of them, they’re not going to be mission ready to do the job right.”

**By Senior Airman
Jon Ortiz-Torres**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Most Troopers arrive at Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) in units large or small.

But Army Staff Sgt. Robert Henson marched into GTMO on his own, as an individual mobilization augmentee. He came to assume duties as non-commissioned officer in charge of the Joint Aid Stations (JAS).

***The Wire:* Why enlist?**

Army Staff Sgt. Heston: I was 18; I wanted the discipline and a chance to see different places. It’s a family tradition: My father, great uncles and many relatives served.

How did you become a medic?

When I joined, the medical job (health care specialist) wasn’t available, so I became a mechanic. I made the switch after spending too many years with the infantry when I was on

active duty.

Do you like the medical field?

I love it. I want to become a PA (physician assistant) in the Army eventually. I’m an LPN (licensed practical nurse) now, which is right below an RN (registered nurse) and plan to finish my studies for PA school when I get back home.

What’s your job experience been like here?

We work hard, and I’ve been lucky to work with many good people. It took a lot of work getting the staff up to date with all the medical qualifications to carry out their jobs here.

Any challenges in your job?

Yes. I got here right before a rotation, so we had to outprocess GTMO 4 and inprocess GTMO 5 and later GTMO 5.5 (each Joint Task Force rotation is assigned a number and is known as “GTMO 1,” etc.). It was (hundreds of Troopers) for



Photos by Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres

each rotation.

What role does the JAS play here?

Without healthy troops and people taking care of them, they’re not going to be mission ready to do the job right.

What’s the best part of your job?

To see somebody you know was really sick or really hurt and they come back and thank you for what you did to help.

How do you feel about the Joint Task Force mission?

It contributes to the war by using the information we get here [from the detention operations] to help the troops overseas. That’s important.

Your thoughts on the Global War on Terrorism?

We should have started before Sept. 11. What we’re doing now is a great thing, and we have to keep on doing it until we are safer.

What about GTMO?

I think the area is beautiful, and you can’t beat the weather.

It’s not a job you’re going to miss when you leave, but it’s the people you’ll miss—at least those I’ve met over the past year.

What’s your off-duty time like?

I play volleyball and softball a lot. Since the football season began, however, I haven’t been doing too much, only my medical courses through correspondence.

Football? How ’bout these playoffs?

I’m a Steelers fan. It’s going to be an interesting game against the Patriots. They’ve been our rivals for years. It’s a coin toss. The game will be decided on whoever comes out stronger in the first quarter.

Word of advice for Troopers arriving to GTMO?

When you come in, listen to the people that are going out about the work and work from there. ■

Reach Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres at 3594.



SFC Todd Rundle:

An NCO inside the Wire

By Army Cpl. Jim Greenhill
JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Sgt. 1st Class Todd Rundle stands near a chain-link fence in Camp Delta, watching as a detainee on the other side of the fence chats with an interpreter.

A couple of the military police (MPs) who report to Rundle, who runs the day-to-day operations of Camp Four, also stand nearby, watching. The detainee has an issue, which is being resolved carefully, through the interpreter. The overwhelming impression on an observer is calm and patience. The Troopers stand still, imperturbable. The plain-clothed interpreter's voice is low, modulated. Perhaps as a consequence, so is the detainee's.

"Patience," Rundle later says, has been the biggest lesson of his deployment with the Joint Task Force here at Guantanamo Bay, another front line in the Global War on Terrorism. "If you're patient with the small things, they tend to work out."

Camp Four is where Rundle says he'd want to be if he were a detainee. It's the place detainees earn through good behavior. And its day-to-day operations are overseen not by an officer or a first sergeant but by the equivalent of a platoon sergeant, an E-7. The arrangement gives noncommissioned officers (NCOs) on the blocks more responsibility.

What does Rundle see when he sees a detainee?

"I see an individual," he says. "They're being treated well. They're being treated with dignity and respect as individuals. They're being treated fairly."

MPs do not discuss operational information with detain-

ees. They don't discuss current events. They don't exchange personal information. But, at Camp Four, they might exchange a few words while arranging for medications or personal supplies.

"We might talk about the weather," Rundle says. "We might talk about the ocean breeze. Whether it's cool today. Whether it's hot today."

At Camp Four, detainees wear white, which has good connotations in their cultures. They share living facilities instead of being segregated. They oversee their meal times in a recreational area instead of receiving individual meals in their room.

"It's getting back to the detainees doing things for themselves," Rundle says. "Many more of the things here are detainee driven. ... If a detainee is going to be here at Guantanamo Bay, this is the best place to be. ... If you had to be detained, this is where you'd want to be."

Rundle is a civilian corrections officer from Colorado with eight years active duty and almost as many years in the Reserve. With the 491st MP Co., he is NCOIC (noncommissioned officer in charge) of Camp Four.

His days are long—16 hours is not unusual. They include the meetings and e-mails that many Troopers deal with as part of the daily routine. Communication between shifts is very important so that everyone is well informed about what's going on in the detention facilities. Rundle walks the blocks, supervises Troopers and deals with day-to-day challenges as they arise.

Outside work, he bikes,

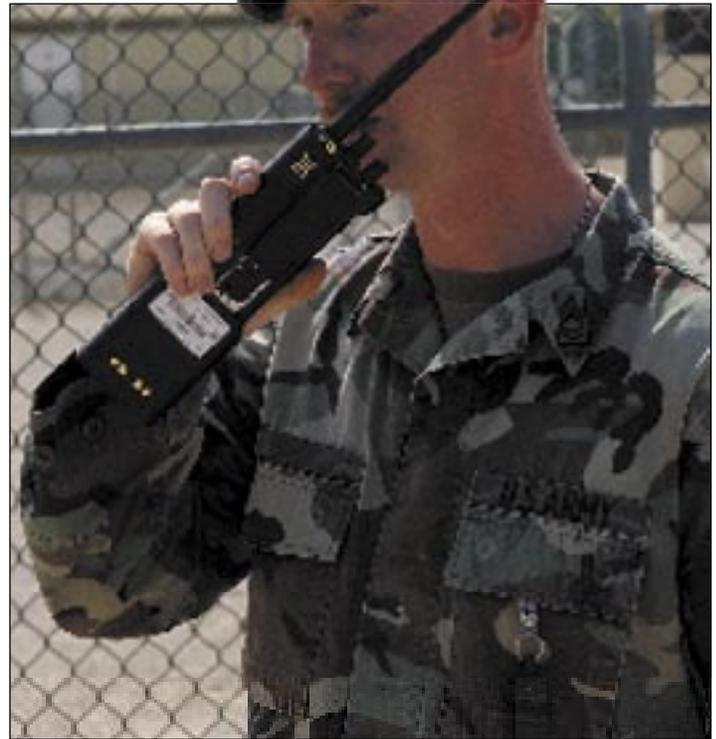


Photo by Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres

keeps physically fit and snorks. "That was a big surprise," he says. "Before I got here, I was not much of a water person. It's one thing that's maintained my level of sanity since I got here."

What does he tell friends and family about his job? "I don't," he says. "They know that I'm deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and that's where it ends. They find out that it's warm here, the water's good, the bike trails are all right."

Which, as for other Troopers, can sometimes give people a misleading idea of the workload. Rundle's weeks are typically six days.

"I do this job because I'm in the military, and this is where they sent me to do what I get paid to do," Rundle says.

But that's not all there is to it.

"This is the right thing to do," he says. "To be on the battlefield and take enemy combatants and then treat them

poorly is not going to further your goals. Everybody's entitled to basic human dignity. ... The role that is played here is just as important as those that are boots on the ground overseas. ... [Troopers] should be very proud. I can't think of any other time to where we've had the level of professionalism [as now]. When you leave here, hold your head high and be proud of what you've accomplished."

Rundle has also served in Bosnia and Somalia. He says he would like to retire in his late 50s, maybe as a first sergeant, and buy a recreational vehicle. He says that though he lives in an adjacent state, he has never been to the Grand Canyon. He says he would also like to drive to Alaska and fish.

"I would like," he says, "to travel the country I've spent so many years abroad protecting."

Reach Army Cpl. Jim Greenhill at 3592.

Thundor smites Manning

By Army Cpl. Simon Cropp
JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Last week in football: Thundor renders the infallible Peyton Manning fallible.

First year superstud Ben Roethlisberger began his rookie meltdown against the New York Jets, and Tom Brady of the New England Patriots proved again why he is a better quarterback than Manning.

“Usually when a team has backups in there, you think you can take advantage of them,” Manning said recently in a press conference. “But this is a team that can put backups in there and doesn’t seem to lose anything. It really doesn’t matter who’s in there.” So says the unstoppable, incomparable, and unequivocally best quarterback in today’s high-tech NFL.

Before last week’s game Manning said he needed to set things right with the football gods. Well, Manning didn’t set things right with all the football gods, and Thundor, ruler of all the NFL deities, struck Manning off his high horse.

“I’m trying to think of what excuses they are saying in their locker room right now,” said Tedy Bruschi, the Patriots pickpocket maniac who Sunday recovered two fumbles off the Colts. “What rules do they want to change now? Maybe it will be ‘We

can’t play games if it snows.’”

The New York Jets almost pulled off the upset of the century. Last Sunday Chad Pennington proved why he is one of the great quarterbacks. Still, the Jets lost to the Steelers in overtime, after a botched kick that would have given New York the win in the final seconds of the fourth quarter.

The Eagles rolled over the Vikings and the Falcons crushed the Rams. This brings two great quarterbacks head-to-head in the NFC Championship game Sunday. Michael Vick and Donovan McNabb are two of the premiere quarterbacks in the league. This should be a great game and given McNabb’s ability to gain no rust after a full month off, expect the Eagles to come out on top and move on to the Super Bowl.

With or without Terrell Owens, the Eagles proved last week they have what it takes. Despite Owens recent comments suggesting the team would falter without him, the Eagles are going to beat the Falcons this Sunday.

New England gained back its invincible name last Sunday with their handling of the Colts. All the doubters have been shown the light. Their defense will put enough pressure on rookie QB Roethlisberger to take the game out of his hands, and Tom Brady will remind us why he was named two-time Super Bowl MVP. ■

Reach Army Cpl. Simon Cropp at 3589.

Army Sgt. Sal Bonilla

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Last Sunday’s matchup between the Colts and the Patriots was like a train wreck.

Peyton Manning’s good fortune expired just before the game. This game was supposed to be the showcase of the unstoppable Indianapolis Colts. As it turned out, there was little for the Colts to showcase. The Patriots defense presented a 60-minute tutorial on subjects like Pickpocket 101 and Manhandling 213.

The Patriots have advanced to the AFC championship and will face the Pittsburgh Steelers in Pittsburgh. In the NFC it will be the battle of the birds, the Philadelphia Eagles will host the Atlanta Falcons.

The championship playoff matchups for this Sunday will be the top-seeded teams in the NFL. All the Hype will certainly stop on Sunday when only two teams advance to the Super Bowl.

The Eagles are no stranger to the NFC Championship game. The Eagles played in the last three championship games, and all resulted in a loss. The matchup will definitely be a game played with a lot of passion and determination by the Eagles.

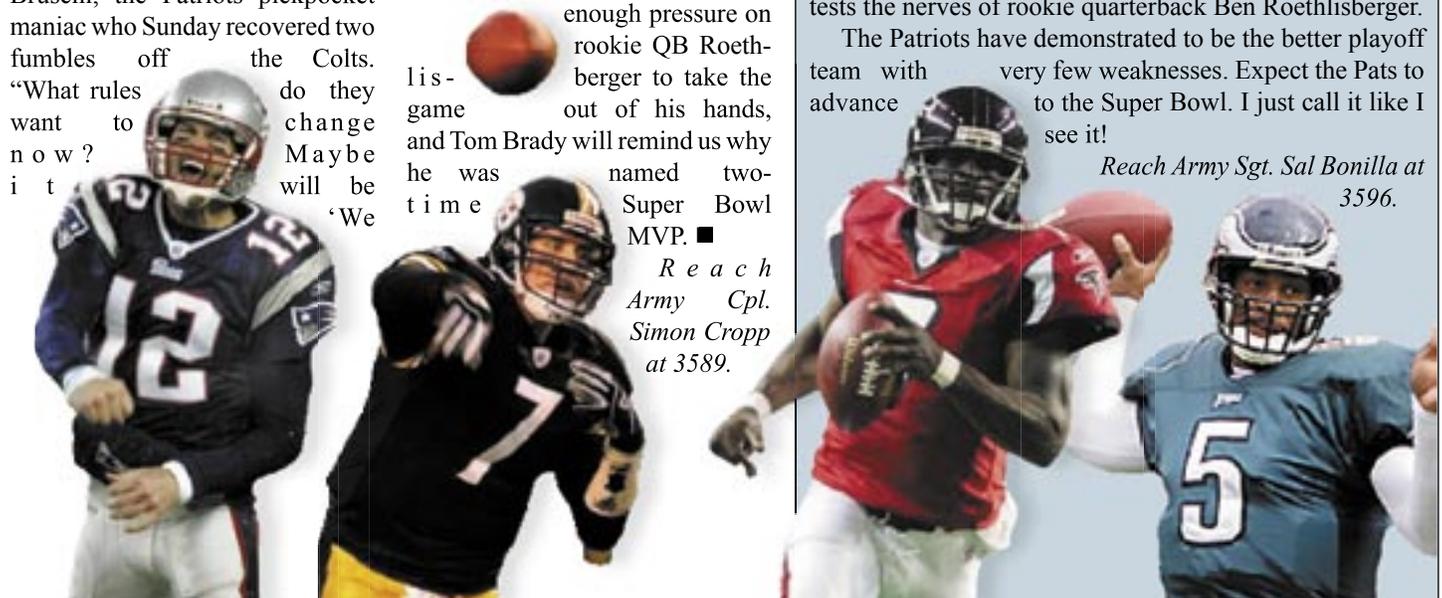
Expect the Eagles not to be denied a fourth time.

The AFC Championship game between the New England Patriots and the Pittsburgh Steelers will be a game of defense.

The Patriots suffered an embarrassing loss to the Steelers early this season and are looking for redemption. The Steelers also showed some weakness in their performance last week against the New York Jets, who nearly wiped them out of the playoffs. Expect the Patriots to come into Pittsburgh with high confidence and to take advantage of those weaknesses. Look forward to a defensive game that tests the nerves of rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

The Patriots have demonstrated to be the better playoff team with very few weaknesses. Expect the Pats to advance to the Super Bowl. I just call it like I see it!

Reach Army Sgt. Sal Bonilla at 3596.



Everybody can be great because everybody can serve

By Army Pfc. Jessi Stone

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The auditorium at Bulkeley Hall was filled with silent awe in respect as Troopers gathered to celebrate the life of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday evening.

“Everybody can be great because everybody can serve” was the theme for the ceremony that featured many guest speakers and a slideshow depicting King’s life and works.

“As a minister [Dr. King] set the standard high,” said Chaplain Arthur Wiggins in the invocation. Wiggins described King as a role model not only as a minister, but as a community-service worker as well.

Throughout the ceremony the community-enhancing works of Dr. King were emphasized, and the power every person—regardless of race, creed or gender—has to follow in his footsteps.

Navy Lt. Rachele McPherson read an essay by Coretta Scott King, the civil rights leader’s widow, about her husband’s life. The essay stressed that all faiths and paths add to the community, and that through the works of King and the celebration of his life, young people will learn about the power of unconditional love.

“We can indeed achieve the beloved community dream of Martin Luther King Jr.,” McPherson concluded.

“I’ve witnessed miraculous changes in the human rights struggle,” said Navy Chief Warrant Officer Cedric Davis, the third speaker. Davis’s speech focused on how far the human rights movement has come, and how much further it can still go.

Davis cited the recent tsunami disaster as an example of how we can use the tragedy as an opportunity to bridge peoples. He said that although some people think the tragedy has come at the worst possible time, coinciding with the Iraq war and the Global War On Terrorism, that times of trial are also times to show generosity, sympathy and mercy.

“America is a blessed nation, and God has his hand on America for a specific reason,” Davis said. America, he explained, is the best example of tolerance, equality and love in the world, with the power to help others.

“On this day you too can be great, because you are great, because you serve,” Davis concluded.

Navy Capt. Les McCoy, Guantanamo Bay Naval Station commander, was the final speaker. As his speech began, McCoy expressed bewilderment that when he was born in 1957 he would not have even had the right to vote because of his color.

“That God-given right was given to us on the backs of hard-working people,” McCoy said.

McCoy spoke of how the military has stood out for rewarding the deeds of its members without looking at color or creed. “I’m here today from the sacrifices of the past and the fairness of the military,” he said.

McCoy also praised the self-discipline and dedication of those like King who fought for equality but said that this generation still has much to do. The movement seems to have slowed down, but



Photo by Pfc. Jessi Stone

▲ Navy Capt. Les McCoy, commander of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, tells dozens of people attending a celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that there’s still work to do.

it isn’t over, he said.

“There’s still a lot of heavy lifting to do,” McCoy concluded.

“Don’t let the celebrations stop now,” Wiggins implored during his benediction. “Let the celebrations and the remembrance continue for the rest of the day, and every day of our lives.” ■

Reach Army Pfc. Jessi Stone at 3589.

The Drum-Major Instinct

The theme for Monday’s ceremony at Guantanamo Bay in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was taken from King’s speech, “The Drum-Major Instinct.” An excerpt:

“If you want to be important—wonderful. If you want to be recognized—wonderful. If you want to be great—wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That’s a new definition of greatness.

“And this morning, the thing that I like about it, by giving that definition of greatness, it means that everybody can be great because everybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don’t have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don’t have to know Einstein’s theory of relativity to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. And you can be that servant.”

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.