

Officials Announce Changes to Military Commissions Procedures

By Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON-- Changes to military commissions to try detainees from the war on terrorism will bring the proceedings closer to the traditional judge-and-jury system in the American courts, a senior official involved with the commissions said here last month.

"I've maintained consistently that we would try to make those improvements that were necessary to the process as we moved along," Air Force Brig. Gen. Thomas Hemingway, legal adviser for military commissions, said in a Pentagon news briefing. "We learned lessons when we started these (commissions in August 2004), and these changes are a result of the lessons learned."

The most significant change pertains to the commission members and presiding officer. Under the original order, the presiding officer and up to six other panel members were to rule on all decisions of law and evidence, according to a DoD news release issued last month. The same officers would have ruled on questions of law and what could be admitted in court, as well as decide a defendant's guilt or innocence and sentencing. Of these individuals, only the presiding officer was required to be an attorney.

Under the new rules, only the presiding officer will rule on questions of law. And the presiding officer will not be present for deliberations, nor will he have a vote in deciding guilt or innocence or in sentencing.

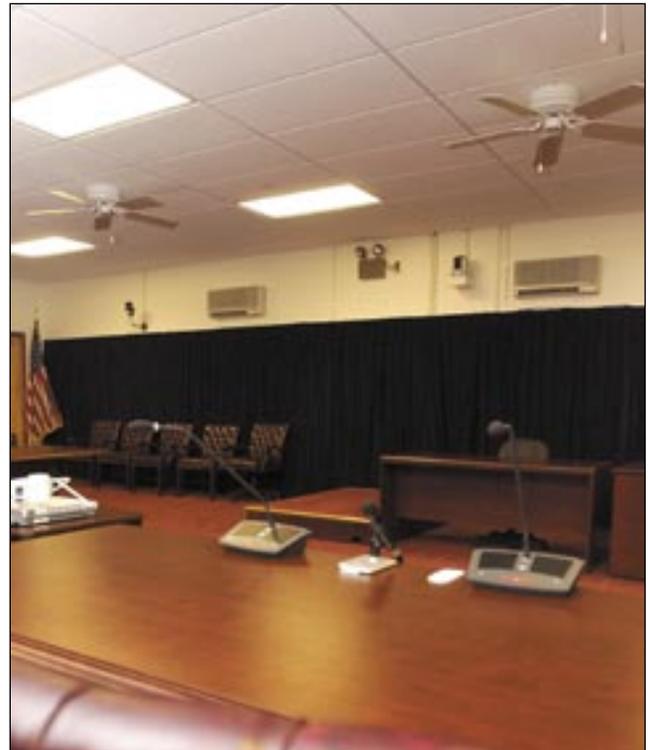
"Aligning this more in tune with a judge-jury model, I think, will make for a more efficient and orderly process," Hemingway said.

The new rules also set a minimum number of officers who can sit on the panel for both capital and noncapital cases. Noncapital cases now require a minimum of three officers in addition to the presiding officer, while seven panel members and a presiding officer must now hear capital cases.

The new rules strengthened wording concerning defendants' access to the proceedings. Under previous rules, a defendant "may be present to the extent consistent with the need to protect classified information and other national security interests," according to the release.

The new rules state the defendant "shall" be present, but with the same caveats on protecting classified information and national security interests. However, an addition to the rules states that such protected information will be excluded from a trial if "its admission would result in denial of a full and fair trial," the release stated.

The final change allows the Military Commissions Review Panel, which reviews decisions on commissions cases for legal sufficiency, to take up to 75 days from the date it receives the official transcript to review



Photos Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

The view of the commissions courtroom.

each case. Previous rules allowed the review panel 30 days from the date a case was completed to finalize a review.

Hemingway said the changes introduced last month would result in "a smoother and more efficient system for delivering the final end product - a full and fair trial."

Hearings in the first four terrorism cases began at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in August 2004 but were halted by a federal judge's ruling in November. A federal appeals panel overturned that ruling July 15, and officials have been working to resume hearings.

Hemingway gave no indication of when the legal proceedings might resume, citing ongoing cases in several other U.S. courts. "That's the \$64,000 question," he said. "As soon as we feel we have clearance from the courts, we'll be in hearings 35 to 45 days subsequent to that." ■

Practicing core values

By Navy Capt. Thomas Beall

JTF-GTMO Navy Element Commander

I read newspaper stories dealing with Guantanamo with mixed feelings. I respond to articles critical of us or our mission defensively. I want to justify my own actions and those of my “shipmates” (a Navy term which I apply to all of you who serve with me in this mission) against perceived criticism. As I think about it, though, I believe these articles are simply part of a great national debate that is going on concerning how we, as Americans, will continue to fight this war. In our democracy, this debate is entirely appropriate. Throughout our history, Americans have discussed and debated significant national issues – even in wartime. This freedom to discuss and debate is what makes our country great. We as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen or members of the Federal Civil Service take pride in defending the Constitution that makes this debate possible.

History is being written here, a history our children will read about one day. Part of that record will come from the result of the debate I just talked about. That part will be written not by us, but by the American people whom we serve. Our part will be shaped by how we do our duty here. As I tell the Sailors in the Navy Provisional Guard when I welcome them aboard, it is our actions on duty and off that will shape the history our children will read about.

Our actions derive, in part, from our core values. In the Navy and Marine Corps, we express our core values as Honor, Courage and Commitment. The Army expresses them as Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. In the Air Force, they are Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do. The Coast Guard expresses them as Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty.

While the words differ from service to service, the theme, selfless commitment to duty and responsibility, is common to us all and is captured by Article VI of our Code of Conduct:

I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

Since I was assigned to this mission, I have asked myself each day how I am helping to write the next chapter in the history of the Navy, the Armed Services, and the Nation. I ask myself, “Am I taking responsibility for my actions, and are those actions governed by the principles which made our country free? Am I embracing our core values, and am I putting them into practice?” I like to think I can answer “Yes” each day. If you can, then you are accomplishing our mission and writing a new chapter in the history of our armed forces and our country, one your children will be proud to read. Honor Bound! ■



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

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Public Affairs and the Order of the SPUR

By Spc. Dave Lankford

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Halfway down the trail to hell, in a shady meadow green

Are the souls of all dead troopers camped, near a good old-time canteen

And this eternal resting place, is known as Fiddler's Green.

Well, there aren't too many shady meadows in Guantanamo Bay, but it sure is hotter than hell, and the sun hasn't even burned off the haze of the night yet. So far this morning, I've taken an Army Physical Fitness Test and qualified with my rifle. Next, I'll have to display proficiency with several other weapons, some of which I haven't handled in over a decade. Then, I'll be tested on my ability to identify military vehicles I've never seen before two weeks ago. And this is only day one of the legendary Cavalry Spur Ride.

A few weeks ago I received a phone call

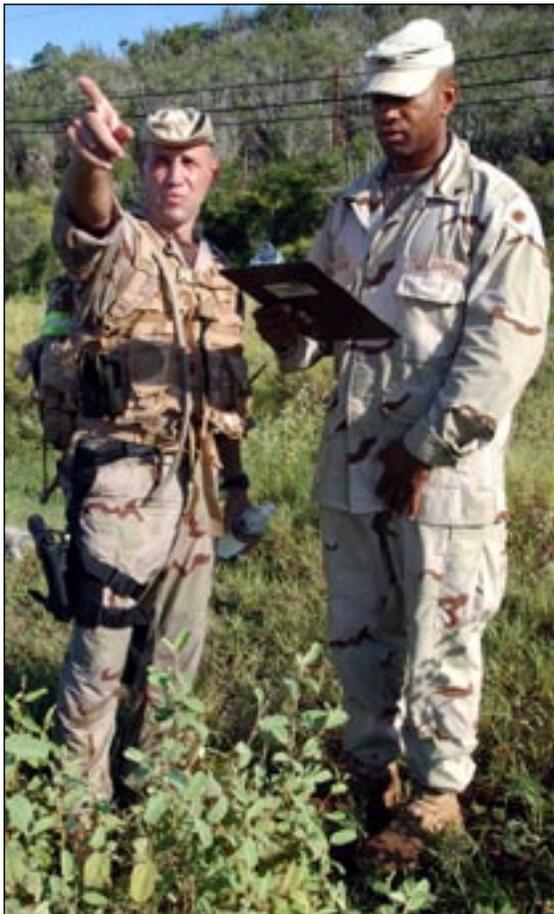
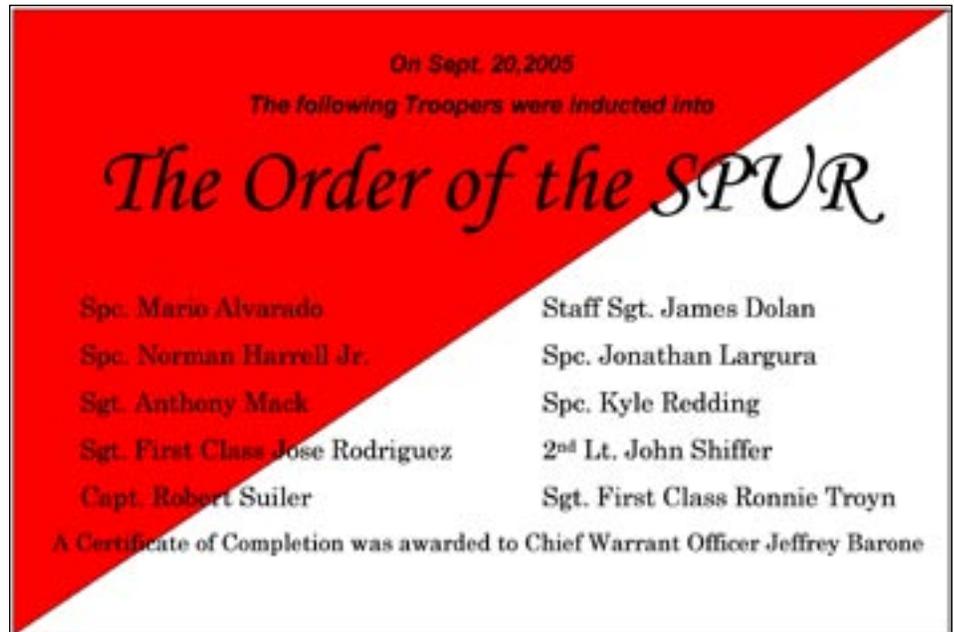


Photo by Spc. Dave Lankford

Drawing a range card is just one of the skills Chief Warrant Officer Jeffrey Barone (left) mastered to complete the Spur Ride.



from Army Capt. Thomas Osborn, B-Troop Commander.

"We have a Spur Ride coming up this month. We'd love for you to do a story about it, and we would like to nominate you as a candidate to earn your spurs," said Osborn.

Naturally, I said yes. Cavalrymen have coveted the spurs for over a hundred years. They are a symbol of leadership and proficiency, and they are only awarded once Troopers have proven to their leaders they are dedicated to the Cavalry way of life. I had set out to prove my dedication with the attention I paid to every word I'd written about the Troop.

I immediately began brushing up on tasks that were at one time second nature to me, as offers began pouring in from throughout the Troop to help me with the more Cavalry specific tasks.

I was granted permission to do PT on my own in order to train for the event. Though I've never failed a PT test before, I wasn't taking any chances. The effort paid off. I completed all three events with ease and even managed to shave a full minute off my run time.

M16 qualification came next in the morning's schedule of events.

Though I had not zeroed or qualified since arriving at GTMO, I was confident with my weapon and my skill behind it. After shooting a perfect score from the prone supported position, there was no pressure at all in the unsupported portion of the qualification.

Up next was weapon proficiency testing. Fortunately, I was given ample time by the leadership of B-Troop to brush up with the weapon systems I hadn't handled in a while. Small arms common to the light infantry came back to me with a few hours of practice. One larger weapon took a little more practice, but with the help and guidance of Bravo Troop, I was able to score a first time "go" on all five weapon systems.

Next, came my greatest challenge of the entire event, vehicle identification. To be perfectly frank, as a former light Infantryman, I rarely came into close contact with any heavy armored vehicles, especially enemy. If we heard tracks coming, we got out of the way. Again, the Cavalry came to my aid.

When it came time to be tested, I was nervous but fairly confident in what I had learned. The test standards are to score 18 out of 20, and not miss any American vehicles. I was certain that I had only missed two vehicles, neither of them American, when the last vehicle flashed on the screen. I quickly scanned the body, turret and weapons. I was sure it was a BMD or a BMP, but before I could count the wheels, the image

(continued on page 9...)

More to vets than you think

By Spc. Timothy Book

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Army Veterinary Hospital, located off Sherman Ave. close to the Naval Hospital, looks like a normal clinic from the outside, but there are aspects about it many may not know.

The Army is the only service to have veterinarians. The Army Veterinary Command (VETCOM) provides military veterinary services in support of the United States Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) and Department of Defense.

The Veterinary Hospital provides animal care as one would expect, but one of their priority missions is food safety. "It's a role that, to most people, they are surprised we do that," said Capt. Jeff McCollum, the OIC for the Veterinary Hospital. "But, if you think about it, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) employs a lot of veterinarians who inspect plants and ensure food safety."

"In the Army, it's not a very visible part of what we do, but it's actually considered our priority mission because of Force Protection," McCollum said. "If we don't have a safe food supply, it can affect the mission."

The Vet Hospital has Troopers who work as food inspectors. They inspect food as it arrives on the barge. "They check the temperatures of the food as it arrives, making sure the food is safe and didn't get damaged in shipment," said McCollum. They also inspect the Commissary to ensure proper hygiene practices are followed as well as proper storage. "They inspect the MRE bunkers to make sure that supply is safe. Sixty percent of my personnel are not in this office. They're all over the base."



Photo by Modesto G. Gamas Jr.

Food inspectors ensure the quality of incoming produce.



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

Capt. Jeff McCollum checks on an iguana that had a fractured leg and an amputated leg.

VETCOM is also involved in biomedical research and development. "Some of the things that have come out of those labs are well known," said Staff Sgt. Keith Panaro, a senior animal care technician for the vet hospital. "The ointment that's used on burns, Silvadine, came out of those labs." The R&D labs use animals as models for their research. "The result of that is improving and developing medicines that are able to save human lives."

Of course, the Vet Hospital does deal with animal medicine. "We have two missions involving animal medicine: privately-owned animal care and government-owned animal care," said McCollum.

"Here, that care mostly involves military working dogs," McCollum said. "It could also involve Navy-owned animals like horses or Child Development Center classroom pets." Working dogs are used for multiple roles. "Explosive detection is the primary mission these days," he said. They are also used for drug detection and patrol or sentry duty. "They're usually trained to specialize in one type of detection and then also as a sentry."

The Veterinary Hospital also provides care for privately-owned animals. "We have 440 pets registered here," said McCollum. "That consumes a large part of what we do here at the clinic. They are not our primary mission, though. If we have an issue with a

working dog, they have to come first."

The clinic is unique in that it is a full service veterinary hospital. "Most places have other (civilian) vets available. Here, what can people do? They can't go to Cuba," McCollum said.

The clinic provides preventative as well as emergency care. "A lot of it is minor sick call, and, of course, there's major care surgery. If they need it, that's what we do here. There's nowhere else to go," said McCollum.

There are cases unique to GTMO. "We have toxic toads here. It's interesting for a dog to see a toad in their backyard. They want to play with it," McCollum said. When the toads get scared, they secrete a toxic substance. "If the dog puts the toad in its mouth, it can be poisoned. We had one recently. We were able to save him, but it was a close call."

The wildlife mission is also unique. "We have threatened species here, like the Cuban Iguana. We do treat the wildlife here, which can be challenging because they're wild and not used to being handled," said McCollum.

While the veterinary hospital takes great pride in their veterinary medicine duties, including domestic and wild animals, they also care for people by ensuring a safe and nutritious food supply. ■

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

Spc. Dave Lankford asked Troopers around the JTF, "What is your favorite regularly sponsored MWR event?"



◀ "I like the different sporting events like flag football, basketball and dodgeball. They (MWR) do just about everything."

—Army Sgt. Larchesia Sturkie

▶ "I like the movies. I like going out to the Lyceum with my Sponge Bob blanket. I like action, but I love horror.."

—Navy Seaman
April Rodriguez



◀ "I like the different musical artists MWR brings down here. I'm really into the music scene."

—Air Force Master Sgt.
Jesse Keeling

▶ "Honestly, it's the runs. Every month there is an MWR-sponsored run. I like getting out and running with the group."

—Army Staff Sgt.
Mario Canedo



Photos by Spc. Dave Lankford

Keeping Camp Delta supplied

By Spc. Jeshua Nace

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

If you painted a picture in your mind of a supply section, it might look much like a bunch of Troopers sitting around doing paperwork, but not the supply section of the Joint Detentions Group (JDG). They are constantly on the move supplying all of the camps by themselves.

There isn't any one normal day in the supply shop. Someone is always on call. When new supplies come in they can spend up to 16 hours a day getting the supplies inside the wire.

Every single day of the week, Camp Delta is supplied by JDG supply with water and anything else needed. The mission never stops. "We are always dealing with new situations and special circumstances," said Spc. Pena Lopez, a supply specialist.

JDG supply isn't only about pens and paper. They supply all of the items the detainees need to survive and remain comfortable such as prayer rugs, toothpaste, clean linen and the clothes they wear.

"Our mission is to support Camp Delta and make sure the detainees have all the amenities they need to go through their detention comfortably and safely," said Lopez.

Planning ahead is a necessity at Guantanamo Bay. The JDG supply section has to order all goods far ahead, especially their special orders on the Internet. It can take up to or more than a month for supplies, brought in by a barge, to arrive.

The hardest part about the JDG supply section is that their numbers are always changing. With Troopers arriving and departing, the size of their section fluctuates from month to month. However, no matter what their size or manpower is, they always get the job done, according to Army Sgt. Jason Battles, supply NCO.

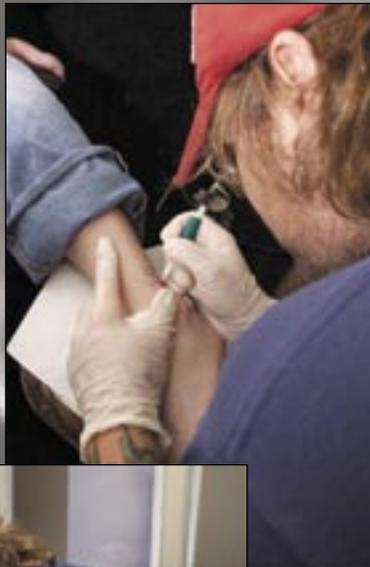
There is an important message for all Troopers to remember. No matter if you're an infantryman, medic or a supply specialist in the JTF, we are all part of one team. On this team, everyone relies on one another and every job is important. ■



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace

Spc. Pena Lopez hands off cases of water to Spc. Enrique Ostojic that will be distributed inside the camps.

TROOPER'S INK.



▲ Army Sgt. Leonard Rader has a tattoo he had made in honor to



▲ Tyler Green owner of "Port of Worcester Tattoos" performs some of his handiwork on Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Emily Otis as well as the arm of Mia Barbera during a tattoo session held at the Windjammer.



▲ Navy Hospital Corpsman Joe Brown of the Detention Hospital displays his Navy Anchor.

By Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The word "tattoo" comes from the Polynesian word "tattow" meaning to mark the skin. The word itself has been around the military since 1644. Sailors of the world have been tattooing themselves since the 1700's. Most thought of it as the ultimate souvenir to bring back from a foreign land.

Tattooing was first seen in America during the Civil War. Martin Hilderbrandt, one of the pioneers of the art, started tattooing Confederate and Union Soldiers while traveling from one camp to the next. Becoming more proficient in the art, he would later go on to design the modern tattoo gun.

During the Spanish American War, 80 percent of enlisted men in the U.S. Navy were tattooed according to a report done by the Census Bureau. Many of the de-

signs they chose were patriotic or sentimental. Often they would select a design based on superstition, such as a pig on your foot to prevent drowning.

In the early 1900's, the Navy instituted a regulation for those wanting to enlist. If someone had an obscene tattoo it had to be altered before they could be accepted for service. Many young men did just that; they went out and had their tattoos of women covered up—just so they could join.

In the 40's, you could find a tattoo parlor in every major city in the United States. The designs of that era included everything from beautiful women to the war campaign that individual was participating in. The era spurred a lot of new artists. One prolific tattoo artist known to Sailors and Marines in the Pacific for his old school style designs was "Sailor Jerry." He is responsible for tattooing many

servicemen passing through Hawaii in this time period.

The tattoo world has changed a lot throughout the years. This country has seen many wars and the spirit to show your pride in service has remained.

Tattoos are regulated in the military. Army Regulation 670-1, Chapter 1-8, section e, states that tattoos on the head, face and neck are prohibited, as well as any indecent, racial extremism and ethnic hatred designs. This list is very extensive and well-defined as to what is permissible and what is not. The other four services have similar policies and they should be read if you are thinking of getting a tattoo.

One thing for sure is there is no shortage of pride in the military. These Troopers who display this with their patriotic designs are proof of that. ■

(globalseejej.org; dreadloki.com; tattoojohnny.com; were used for the facts in this article.)

▲ A
Ca
off
fall



▲ A member of 1/18 Cavalry Regiment, Alpha Troop displays a tattoo commemorating his service in the Marine Corps.



▲ Spc. Manuel Acuna of 1/18 Cavalry Regiment, Alpha Troop displays a Cavalry tattoo he had done while home on leave recently.



▲ Army Sgt. Justin Behrens of JTF-PAO shows off a tattoo of his alma mater, which is a military college.



▲ Army Staff Sgt. Jeremy Tilt of 1/18 Cavalry Regiment, Alpha Troop shows off a tattoo he had done in honor of a fallen Marine.



▲ Army Staff Sgt. Joseph Olachea of HHC J6 displayed a tattoo he had done by a street artist who used a guitar string.



▲ Navy Petty Officer First Class David Rodriguez of the Staff Judge Advocate office displays his tattoo. This image was used for a World War II recruiting poster.

Rams keep win streak alive

Commentary by Sgt. Natasha Monroe

JTF-GTMO Combat Stress

The MWR-sponsored Captain's Cup Flag Football League featured a series of highly competitive games this past week. Starting off on Monday, the **Gators** defeated **MCSFCO** 24-6 followed by the **Renegades** slipping past **JTF-HHC** 20-14 and the **Freakin Chickens'** 20 points went unanswered by the **95 Charlies**.

The following three match-ups turned out scores that led to bragging rights and new rivalries: Team **NEX** one-upped **JTF Med** 13-7, **Security** came out on top of the 1/18th Cav's **Mercs** 21-12, and Naval Base Hospital's **USNH** dominated **Blitz** 30-0.

Wednesday evening began with the **Renegades** defeating the 95 Charlies 20-12, JTF Med redeemed their previous performance with a 31-0 win over the Freakin Chickens, and NEX slipped past the Gators 14-13.

The final night of play kicked off with **Security** using lethal force on the gridiron to take a 42-8 win over MCSFCO, followed by another goose-egg for Blitz as they endured Mercs' 32 points.

The game of the week was the final game on Thursday, hands-down. The match up was between USNH and JTF-HHC. JTF-HHC showed up fearless and ready to face USNH's undefeated record. JTF-HHC scored early in the first quarter with a Herman Kirkland touchdown to Alan Epley. While JTF fans viewed this as setting the pace, USNH fans knew from experience

the game would be more complicated than that. The 12th Man factor only fanned the flames as the teams battled it out on the field. USNH's Antonio Parker showed up late to the game, but once he was on the field his running game proved to be perhaps the biggest threat to the JTF-HHC.

The two teams fought their way down the field toward each goal line, only to find the opposing team standing stubbornly in their path. Flags flew and t-shirts were pulled in a competitive struggle for a win. Stout defense on the field led to interception after interception by both teams, stalling the other team's offense. Efred Cornejo and Christopher Coleman pulled down important interceptions for HHC. However, even those and Kirkland's long passes to Epley throughout the game, just couldn't pull out a win for HHC.

It was a dogfight 'til the end, but as USNH's Parker pointed out in his post-game interview, "When you really work together as a team and you are constantly motivating each other, that attitude leads to success." Rams QB Kevin Brooks agreed with his teammate saying the key to their success was the team's winning tradition. "It's been over two years and our team is undefeated," said Brooks. "We just want to keep up that winning streak." Determined to keep their 32-0 win streak alive, USNH did so Thursday night by pulling off the 24-19 win over JTF-HHC. ■

Sports News

NFL

■ Chad Pennington, QB of the New York Jets, might miss the rest of the season with a (possible) torn right rotator cuff. Jets sign veteran QB Vinny Testaverde to fill the void.

■ New England Patriots lose safety Rodney Harrison to a season ending knee injury suffered during the game against Pittsburgh.

MLB

■ The Atlanta Braves have captured their 14th straight division title (MLB record). Five more than any other team in any other professional sport.

NHL

■ Jeremy Roenick (Los Angeles Kings) suffered another concussion in a pre-season game against the Phoenix Coyotes. He will miss the remainder of pre-season.

Golf

■ The U.S. team was victorious taking home the President's Cup, defeating the international team. The last time the U.S. has won in an international tournament was the 2000 President's Cup.

NASCAR

■ Jimmie Johnson took the lead in the Nextel Cup standings. Rusty Wallace follows closely, by only two points.

NFL Picks

Week 4

Shay vs. Conrad

Monday Night

Green Bay at Carolina

Shay:

Panthers

Conrad:

Panthers

Last Week

(9-5) Shay vs. Coleman (8-6)

Picks submitted by Spc. Ian Shay and PS3 Peter Conrad

Shay	vs.	Conrad
Bills	Buffalo at New Orleans	Bills
Jax	Denver at Jacksonville	Jax
Bucs	Detriot at Tampa Bay	Bucs
Bengals	Houston at Cincinnati	Bengals
Colts	Indianapolis at Tennessee	Colts
Patriots	San Diego at New England	Patriots
Seahawks	Seattle at Washington	Seahawks
Rams	St. Louis at N.Y. Giants	Giants
Ravens	N.Y. Jets at Baltimore	Ravens
Raiders	Dallas at Oakland	Raiders
Falcons	Minnesota at Atlanta	Vikings
Eagles	Philadelphia at Kansas City	Eagles
49ers	San Francisco at Arizona	Cardinals
Open Date: Chicago, Cleveland, Miami, Pittsburgh		

The NFL finally found some steady footing in week three. Teams played like they're expected to as long as you're not counting Miami's big upset over Carolina. The Patriots had another late game comeback win against the Steelers. In Philadelphia the T.O. and Moss show wasn't as big as the hype led it to be.

Each week, Troopers can submit their names and football picks for the upcoming issue of the Wire to Spc. Ian Shay. Submit your picks by noon Monday to Shay via email on the global. If you cannot contact him via email, you can call his office ext. 2171. Each week, one name will be picked to challenge Shay's picks in the upcoming issue.

Free night fishing trips sponsored by MWR

By Spc. Timothy Book

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Twice a month on Fridays, MWR sponsors night fishing trips. These trips are great stress relievers for everyone.

If you are an avid fisherman, these trips are a great opportunity to get out on the water in the best spots. There is plenty of room on the pontoon boats to find the right spot to cast. A spinning outfit works great out there, too. If you saw that Tarpon we published a few weeks back, it was caught with a surface lure and a spinning rod.

Although actively fishing using lures, spinners and spoons is very enjoyable, these outings are great for a more relaxed approach. This type of fishing could be called Zen and the Art of Fishing. Simplicity is key. Put bait on your hook, cast your line and wait. The fish here make it pretty easy. It doesn't take a lot of finesse. When a fish bites there's no guessing; the end of your rod will bend. Set the hook and hang on, these fish definitely fight hard. There may be a better way, but usually one can have the most luck with a one-ounce sinker and a chunk of squid on a 1/0 hook.

Recently, this writer attended one of the trips and everyone on the boat seemed to have a great time.

While you're waiting for fish to bite, MWR provides a decent amount of snacks to munch on and plenty of water and soft drinks. There are many fish out there and they must be hungry because everyone in the boat caught a lot of fish.

The skippers all know where to go to catch the most fish or the largest fish. On



By Spc. Dave Lankford

Guantanamo Bay has something for everyone. Some like to fish; some like to relax.

this particular trip the skipper went to spots familiar to him. He also offered to go to other spots. So if you have a favorite spot, don't hesitate to ask.

For those who are new to fishing or have never fished, these trips are a great chance to get your feet wet, so to speak. You will find most fishermen are more than happy to help newcomers. The skippers are also quick to offer help or suggestions. Don't worry about buying any new equipment, either. They provide rods and tackle (if you're really new to fishing, that means hooks, weights and everything else you'll need to fish).

Even for those who don't like to fish, these trips can be a lot of fun. Guantanamo

Bay is beautiful at night. The water is placid and anyone who has been out there would agree; any time spent on the water is time well-spent.

Of course, an excursion like this where everything is included would cost a lot, right? Leave your money in your pocket, it doesn't cost anything! You do have to reserve a spot, though. Stop in and sign up at the Liberty Center early. The trips fill up quickly.

Guantanamo Bay is one of the best places for fishing. The night fishing trips are a great way to unwind, enjoy the evening air and catch a lot of fish. So go out and have some fun already! ■

Order of the Spur

(continued from page 3)

vanished from the screen. Did it have five or six wheels? Was it a BMD or a BMP? I guessed five...it had six.

At first, I was devastated. One wheel, I kept telling myself, just one wheel. Unfortunately, in the heat of battle, that one wheel could be the difference between allowing an enemy vehicle to advance, or worse, injuring or killing friendly forces. There is simply no room for error in the duties of a Cavalryman. My ride was over.

Of the more than twenty candidates who started the Spur Ride early Monday morn-

ing, only eleven were awarded spurs. For the rest of us, we may have one more opportunity in January. Hoping to get another chance, I have already begun preparing in the event I get the call. More importantly though, if I'm ever tasked to follow the Cavalry into battle as a photojournalist, I will know I can lay my



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

◀Spc. Dave Lankford qualifies at the pistol portion of the weapons proficiency testing.

camera down and fight side by side with my brothers in arms.

With the experience gained and the friends made during this Spur Ride, hopefully, I will earn my Spurs in January. I'd like to believe when my time comes, whether it be in a *roaring charge* or *fierce melee*, I may be welcomed in to *drink again with friends at Fiddlers Green*. (Italicized text is from Fiddlers Green—author unknown.) ■

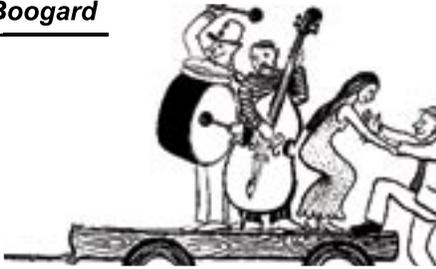
Getting on the bandwagon

By Navy Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Steven Boogard

NAVBASE Chaplain's Office

As a kid growing up in a small city in America, it was a great event, like our Sunday football games today, when the circus came to town for the young and the old alike. Circus day began with a parade, which was led by a large horse-drawn wagon, on top of which the band sat and played. Prior to the arrival of the circus, children competed for the privilege of getting on the bandwagon.

All of us, as small children, climb aboard the bandwagon of life and learn very quickly that every day is not a circus day, and that life is a series of challenges and responses. In the military today, we learn that our response to daily challenges determines whether we get on the bandwagon, watch the parade of life as a spectator or miss the circus altogether.



A great Army General, Omar Bradley, once said: "Respond in time. For when we choose the easy way out, we are rudely awakened." The positive attitudes of confidence, enthusiasm and assertiveness can furnish essential horsepower to move our personal bandwagon.

Confidence often arises out of courage, discipline and adversity. It is the knack of acting on our beliefs, rather than climbing on any old bandwagon that happens to come along and offers a chance for a

free ride. In the long run, Mommy always said, "there are no free rides in life."

Enthusiasm is a joyful response to the world around us. It is a cheerful appreciation of the fact that good work is good fun, that behind the circus days are days of discipline and effort.

Assertiveness, the third motor of our bandwagon, is a quality of seeking out opportunities rather than waiting for them. Again in the military, how we seek to advance ourselves either in rank, education, or both, involves getting all you can out of life. Blessed are those who would not leave well enough alone. Assertiveness is not overturning the bandwagons of others in the process of our own advancement in life.

Enthusiasm, confidence and assertiveness must be blended together, like instruments, to make the awesome sound of a fine symphony orchestra. In the end, we will be more responsive to our own lives and the lives of those around us. ■

✠ Padre's Corner ✠

Mt. Everest

By Navy Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) S.J. Vanden Boogard

NAVBASE Chaplain's Office

Many years ago there was a song on the top ten charts that contained the line "I want to climb the highest mountain." In my lifetime there were many people who took the challenge to scale Mt. Everest, the world's highest peak. When asked why they would want to take so much risk and preparation to achieve this, one member of the successful team party replied: "Because it's there."

In the course of one's life there is a never-ending series of big and little Mt. Everests. The very fact that we are members of the human race means that we have many peaks to scale just at work alone. Being assigned to JTF-GTMO and working inside or outside the Wire can be a peak in itself. Some will say it may not require the effort and hard work of climbing Mt. Everest. But, each task well done, each job completed, each act of discipline, forces us to be "Honor Bound."

Being "Honor Bound" causes us to set up high goals. We seek out opportunities because they are there. Blessed are those who will not let well enough alone. We need perseverance and patience—like the mountain climber who may be able to take only a few steps upward in an hour. We need enthusiasm. We need the self-confidence that comes from having done a job well. We need the kind of effort, for example, that enabled our country to astonish the world with its ability to construct whole air bases in "miraculous" time during World War II. We need curiosity—the kind that makes a person do something worthwhile "just to see if I could do it." A successful tour or deployment to JTF-GTMO is just that opportunity "just to see if I could do it." Though the challenges of our job may often seem flat and routine, each task accomplished with enthusiasm, determination and cheerfulness prepares us for the long and interesting journey in life.

When we set up our goals and try to achieve them with positive attitudes, we will then have the faith that will move mountains—not in a literal sense, but in a far more meaningful way. ■

CAMP AMERICA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant Worship	Troopers' Chapel
	10 a.m.	Protestant Service	Troopers' Chapel
	6:00 p.m.	Confessions	Troopers' Chapel
	6:30 p.m.	Catholic Mass	Troopers' Chapel
	7:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Troopers' Chapel
Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	Bible Study	Building 3203
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Soul Survivor	Camp America North Pavilion

NAVAL BASE CHAPEL

Sunday	8 a.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	9 a.m.	Catholic Mass	Main Chapel
	9 a.m.	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Sanctuary A
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Protestant Sunday School	Main Chapel
	10 a.m.	Protestant Liturgical	Sanctuary B
	11 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel
	1 p.m.	Gospel Service	Main Chapel
	5 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
Tuesday to Friday	7 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	7 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
Wednesday	12 p.m.	Daily Mass	Cobre Chapel
Friday	7 p.m.	Men's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
Saturday	1 p.m.	Islamic Prayer	Room 12
	4:30 p.m.	Confessions	Main Chapel
	5:30 p.m.	Vigil Mass	Main Chapel

Jewish Services held every third Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Naval Base Chapel complex.

Hebrew classes are being offered at the Naval Base Chapel complex Thursdays 7-8 p.m. in Room 11.

15 Minutes of Fame

with Army Sgt. 1st Class Ronnie Troyn

By Spc. Seth Myers

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

There are some who join the service, do their duty, and leave, comfortable that they did their part. Then there are others who not only stay in; they exemplify everything it means to be a superior Soldier. They work hard to improve themselves and benefit their fellow Troopers. One of these model Soldiers is Army Sgt. 1st Class Ronnie Troyn, a platoon sergeant for Bravo Troop, 1/18th Cavalry Regiment.

Troyn has accomplished much in his career. What is most notable is his recent accomplishments. During his time here, he has been promoted to sergeant first class, attained his spurs in the most recent "spur ride" and achieved the position of platoon sergeant.

According to Troyn, his greatest accomplishment since he was here was his promotion to platoon sergeant. This is not to discredit the other accomplishments, though. He is proud of them as well.

"[Being promoted to sergeant first class feels] awesome. It's a large step. I'm only 30 years old, and I didn't think I was going to be making my E-7 in 12 years," said Troyn.

The spurs are especially precious to him because with all the changes happening to the 1/18th Cavalry Regiment when they get home, he felt the need to achieve his spurs before these changes occur. If he didn't, he might never have that chance again. He did succeed, though, and he couldn't help but feel a great sense of accomplishment upon receiving them.

Troyn has always been a "go-getter." He has been in the Army for 12 years and this is his third deployment. In fact, he even volunteered for this deployment and has tried to volunteer for Iraq. He had to sign a waiver to come here, but why would he do this? The reason itself reveals a more personal side to Troyn.

"[I volunteered for] my soldiers. I made a promise to my guys and I have a pretty good bond with them. I was the best man at one of their weddings," said Troyn. "[I promised them] if they went, I'd go."

He works very hard to take care of his Troopers and always thinks about how to help them before helping himself.

"I want the guys who have kids to go on leave first. They get the holidays and first dibs. The [young Troopers], where this is their first mission, they get second choice- and I pick last," said Troyn.



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

It isn't just his own Soldiers whom he care about. He helps any Trooper he can. During the spur ride, he helped out two Troopers, who weren't his, get through the events by providing motivation and support.

With his new position of platoon sergeant he has learned even more about the rewards of helping Troopers.

"I now know what it is like to be the one in charge and to be able to promote and give my Soldiers orders. My first sergeants and sergeant majors told me 'There is no greater honor and no greater feeling,' and there isn't. There is nothing that compares to when you can stand there and see that look in their face. They walk by after getting promoted to sergeant and say, 'Thank you Sgt. Troyn,'" said Troyn.

Troyn cares for his family just as much, if not more, than he does for his Troopers. He loves his mother and younger brother very deeply. He even has his younger brother's name tattooed on his leg.

Troyn was an active duty Soldier in the beginning of his career, but for a short time he left the service. He soon discovered that the military life was really his calling though, and he rejoined as a National Guardsman.

"I left active duty and I regretted it a little bit, but I wanted to stay in the military, so I joined the National Guard," said Troyn. "I took a three-month break [when I left active duty], and then I decided I missed it too much, so I

went back."

The meaning behind his service is so much deeper than that, though. He firmly believes in the greatness of our country. He even has a statement he lives by which he considers to be one of the greatest things about our country.

"Different types of people pray at different steeples, that should be the positive, not the negative unequal," said Troyn. "That is the best thing about our Armed Forces. You have so many different ethnicities and opinions, that if we all just stick together, we accomplish the mission. If the whole world did that, maybe the world wouldn't be so messed up."

He continually demonstrates his faith and love for our country with more than just his philosophy and spoken word. He conveys this with every action he does in his military career. Yet, it is with a few words that he has shown how much this country means to him.

"I'll keep doing this until I stop getting teary-eyed when I hear the National Anthem at Angel games," said Troyn... And I'm sure he will. ■

15 Minutes of Fame

Know a Trooper worthy of being highlighted in "15 Minutes of Fame?" Call Master Sgt. Stephen Miller at 3594.

AROUND THE JTF



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace

▲Distinguished guests render their salute to the National Anthem during Capt. Mark Leary's (center) change of command ceremony.



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

◀Staff Sgt. Jeremy Patterson, of JTF-PAO prepares to make a special delivery to Maj. Edward Johnson, HHC Commanding Officer, during the HHC picnic.

Chief selectees were pinned recently at a ceremony at the Windjammer. ▼



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Andres Eguigure swears in during his reenlistment ceremony Sep. 25 inside Camp Delta. ▼



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers