



# GTMO welcomes incoming troops

**By Spc. Seth Myers**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

A new rotation of HHC Troopers and Navy Provisional Guard arrived here Feb. 10.

This wave is one of the first here representing the new rotation, which will soon take the reigns and responsibility of the JTF mission.

It is not only a time for these Troopers to begin their GTMO experience, it is time for the veterans to welcome them to the GTMO family and impart the knowledge they have gained during their time here.

“By now, you should be 50 percent complete with your left seat right training and have made your way around the island at least one time. Your head should be spinning in circles with all the information your counterpart is trying to give you. Just know that what you are feeling thousands of troops have felt in the past. Our mission here is vital to our nation and the Global War on Terror and you will make an impact on it. You have become part of a professional organization that is like no other in the world, be proud of the JTF, your service and of yourself,” said Army Sgt. Maj. Chris Jones, J3 Operations Sergeant Major.

This is a crucial mission and requires a steady hand, discipline, hard work and, most of all, professionalism.

“As you know, we are in the world’s spotlight and your actions, both on and



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

**New Sailors arrived here Feb. 10. These Sailors will replace the previous rotation of Navy Provisional Guard Bravo Company.**

off duty, reflect not just on you, but on our nation and its people. We cannot accept anything less than total professionalism here in the JTF. Be that professional,” said Jones.

Yet, amidst all the work that will be required of new Troopers, there is much on the island to keep them motivated.

“Gitmo has lots to offer to troops. Enjoy your deployment and do something for yourself. Get out and enjoy what this island offers, go to college and take a correspondence course,” said Jones.

As the incoming troops get settled, keep a few things in mind. Guide your counterparts and make sure they are

prepared for this mission in every way: the mission, their morale and welfare. Explain the meaning of the slogan that has been adopted here and why it is spoken.

“Honor Bound to Defend Freedom. Think about those words, they are pretty deep and as each day goes by they will have more of an impact on you and how you perform your duties. By the time you leave here (don’t start thinking about that quite yet) these words will be forever engraved in your mind, heart and soul. Honor Bound and welcome to Gitmo,” said Jones. ■

# “Engaging” the media

By Maj. Gen. Jay Hood

JTF-GTMO Commander

*“I hate newspapermen. They come into camp and pick up their camp rumors and print them as facts. I regard them as spies, which in truth, they are. If I killed them all there would be news from Hell before breakfast.” ... General William Tecumseh Sherman*

One wonders what General Sherman would have had to say about the Defense Department’s hugely successful media embed initiative in Operation Iraqi Freedom, or the fact that we’ve had over 500 members of the national and international media visit Joint Task Force GTMO since operations began here about 4 years ago.

Americans consistently list the armed forces among the most respected of their institutions. Troopers here at JTF GTMO are honored members of another great generation of military professionals who are conducting their mission with diligence and discipline, and keeping the public informed concerning the progress that we’re making.

You are writing history here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo with your sacrifice and your commitment to service. As the President of the United States said last week to a national audience, you are “standing watch over the world’s most dangerous terrorists in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. You are serving with courage and determination – and you’re helping to bring us to victory in the global war on terror.”

As are your comrades in arms serving in places like Iraq and Afghanistan, Troopers here at JTF GTMO are our most effective spokespersons. The media is a very valuable institution of our society and we must continue to engage them to ensure that the American people have a timely and accurate picture of our mission and the progress that we are making on their behalf. It is important that our Troopers, the brave men and women who ensure the safe, secure, humane, care and custody of all the detainees at JTF GTMO, engage the media and help keep the public informed about our mission. When you (Troopers) communicate with the media, keep in mind that you are not simply speaking with a reporter across the table, but you are essentially communicating with a world-wide audience. You are representatives not only of your unit, but your service, your family and our country on whose behalf you are deployed.

When communicating with the media we balance operational security concerns with the continued need to demonstrate to the American public the professionalism and readiness of our forces. The news media helps us communicate with the American people. In our current struggle against a very cunning enemy who continually seeks to utilize the media to his advantage (hunger strike, claims of torture), you are helping the American people gain an understanding of the new nature of our adversaries with your commitment to the truth. Don’t underestimate your media engagement contributions that have resulted in the continued overwhelming support of the American public for our mission. The media engagement that Troopers perform on a weekly basis with national and international media, providing relevant and accurate information concerning our detainee mission, allows the American people to sift through the second and third-hand misinformation and distortions often planted by adversaries to divide and deceive the public.

You are performing everyday in one of the most dynamic, unique, closely scrutinized joint assignments in the history of our country. Utilizing discipline and skill you ensure that all the detainees in custody at JTF GTMO are treated humanely, and that their cultural and religious practices are respected. Operations at the JTF are constantly in the news and are reported on around the world. Not all of the reporting on the JTF is accurate or positive, and some of the reporting is not based on fact. When you read blatant allegations sourced to detainees or third-hand information it might cause frustration, and that’s okay. But you have to get over it quickly, remember that you’re a military professional deployed on behalf of the American people. Remember that the American people hold you and your service in high regard, and expect you to continue to perform your duties in keeping with the finest traditions of military service. That means that we’ll continue to engage the media with the facts as we truthfully describe the JTF mission, our Troopers, and our progress.

Honor Bound! ■



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# Fun on the water

Coast Guard PSU-305 gave two families a tour of the Guantanamo Bay waters Feb. 11.

*Photos by Army Spc. Timothy Book*

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office



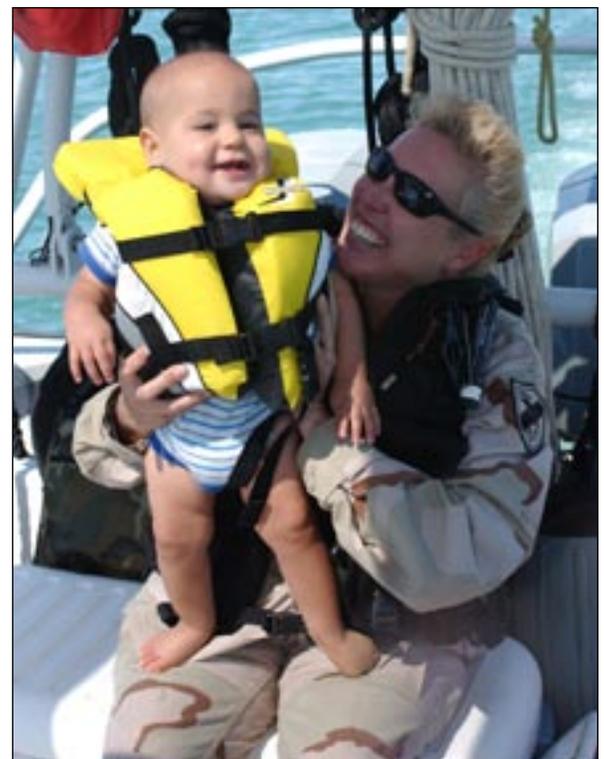
▲Chief Petty Officer Dean Dillingham, coxswain, and Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class John Tolson, boatswain's mate, let the kids take turns at steering the boat. This was the unit's way of thanking the Amaio and Ivey families for their time and effort during the holiday season. He said "On Christmas Day, our unit had a group picnic and these families brought down some cookies and pies and spent some time with us."



▲Roberta Ivey (left) and Jennifer Amaio (right) watch the kids and the bay from the bow of the boat. Ivey said they were moved by the fact the unit just arrived with Christmas only a few weeks away. "Being military wives, we know what it's like when our husbands are away. We also wanted to give them a little back for what they do." Laura Puchner also helped, but was not present for the ride. Amaio said they were additionally thankful for the help they received from the unit with a recent boating incident. The unit came to help when the boat her husband, Tony, was on overheated. He and Mark Ivey work at the Naval Hospital.



▲Mark Ivey takes his turn with the kids.



▲Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Paige Meads, port security specialist, holds the youngest of the Ivey family.

# Army biathlete takes on world in XX Winter Games

By Jack L. Gillund

Army News Service

TORINO, Italy (Army News Service, Feb. 13, 2006) – Army World Class Athlete Spc. Jeremy Teela faltered at the firing line and finished the Men's 20-kilometer individual biathlon competition in 51st place Saturday during the XX Winter Olympics.

Competing at the Cesana San Sicario venue, 5,348 feet above sea level in the Italian Alps, the Vermont National Guard Soldier had hoped to be closer to the 14th-place individual biathlon finish he had at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. Still, he came to the Games understanding he had to maintain the right attitude if he wanted to be successful.

"All I can really do is my best," he said before the start of the race.

With the return of biathletes that included Ole Einar Bjoerndalen of Norway – who came to Italy within striking distance of becoming one of the most successful athletes in the history of the Winter Olympic Games – and Michael Greis of Germany – currently ranked first in the individual in World Cup standings and fourth overall in biathlon competition – Teela understood his competitors would be tough. That, combined with the altitude of the venue, may have contributed to his demise.

"I kind of faded in the end," he said about his performance. "I don't know if I

did too much or not enough preparation. I just didn't have the storage in the legs that I needed."

Competing in a sport that combines the heart-pumping action of cross-country skiing with the calm nerves of a marksman takes complete concentration, said the 29-year-old WCAP athlete. During the event, Teela demonstrated just how true that statement is. After missing five of 20 targets throughout the competition, which added five minutes to his time, his speed on the cross-country course wasn't enough to overtake the leaders. If he had shot clean, he would have finished in the top 10.

The Men's Individual biathlon competition is a timed event. Competitors start by skiing a 4 km loop and then shooting at targets 50 meters away. They repeat that sequence (alternating firing in prone and standing positions at targets that are 4.5 and 11.5 centimeters in diameter respectively) until they have shot four times. Each missed target adds one minute to the athlete's time. The competitors finish the competition by



Photo by Jack L. Gillund

**Spc. Jeremy Teela crests the top of a hill in the Italian Alps during the Men's 20 kilometer Individual biathlon competition at the XX Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy, Saturday. After missing five of 20 targets, adding five minutes to his overall time, Teela wasn't able to catch the leaders. He finished the race in 51st place out of 88 competitors.**

skiing one final four kilometer loop.

Eighty-eight competitors from 37 countries took part in the competition. Greiss won the Gold. The Silver went to Bjoerndalen. Halvard Hanevold of Norway took home the Bronze.

Three other biathletes competed for the United States with Teela: Jay Hakkinen, of Kasilof, Alaska, finished in 10th place, Lowell Bailey of Lake Placid, N.Y., was 27th and Tim Burke of Paul Smiths, N.Y., finished 58th. Teela, although a member of the Vermont National Guard, claims Anchorage, Alaska, as his home.

Teela is scheduled to make his second biathlon appearance at the Games Tuesday as a competitor in the Men's 10-km Sprint. He said he's going to include as much rest as possible in his preparation for that event.

"It's shorter and faster but harder at this altitude," he said about the upcoming race.

For information about the Army World Class Athlete Program, visit <http://army-wcap.com>. For a complete listing of Winter Olympic events scheduled to be televised, visit <http://www.Army.mil/olympics2006>. ■

## It started as a controlled burn

By Army Chief Warrant Officer Lisa Skiöldhanlin

JTF-GTMO Safety

In the last quarter of 2005 we experienced an exceptionally high amount of rain. So much rain fell that we almost set a new record. But the green is not here to stay. Slowly but surely GTMO is going back to its normal desert-like climate. All you have to do is look at your back yard, if you have one, that now has turned brown and does not require any mowing. The golf course is losing its color, as are the hills. This is nature's way and natural, but a burnt back yard or charred hillside is not.

Due to the dry grass and vegetation, a flame from a BBQ or careless cigarette can easily start a fire. It may seem insignificant but a man-made fire does harm the ecosystem here and affects both plant and animal life. All too often, a small fire grows larger and often out of control. This was brought home to me years ago when I talked to a fire chief in northern New Mexico beside a burnt 150 plus acre area. His response to my question 'what happened' was "well, it started as a controlled burn".

Be safe and keep an eye on all open fires and those renegade cigarettes.

# American Legion commander visits

The American Legion recently decided to visit GTMO to meet with Troopers, Legionaries and American citizens. Their mission was to promote American Legion resolution 169; its purpose is to unite America and encourage Americans to become more vigilant to ultimately win the war on terrorism. "GTMO is a vital part of the mission and knowing what is going on here helps us convey that message to others and it adds credibility to what we are saying," said Bock. Photo: Maj. Matthew Edwards and Tom Bock, American Legion National Commander.



Photo courtesy of the American Legion

## A legion of those who care

By Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

There are many organizations supporting troops and families in times of need. One such group, which does more than your average charity, is the American Legion. Founded in 1919 by Veterans returning home from WWI, their idea was to start an organization

that would bring veterans together. Many bonds were formed between troops in that time period and they did not want to lose them. Thus the American Legion was formed.

In the '20s, the Legion was very active and created its own American Legion Baseball Program. Over half of all pro players have played in this program. During the 40's changes

needed to be made to the Legions charter to allow WWII veterans to join. The American Legion made history in 1944 when they campaigned for the creation of the G.I. Bill.

Made up of current and former service members, the Legion's membership rules are simple. If you served in the Armed Services, regardless of your position, you can become a member.

They are the largest of the service organizations. Their membership numbers have reached 3 million and counting. The Legion's main principles are to take care of the veterans, chil-

dren, standing up for America and their position on national defense.

Legionaries devote countless hours of volunteer service toward helping Veterans and families.

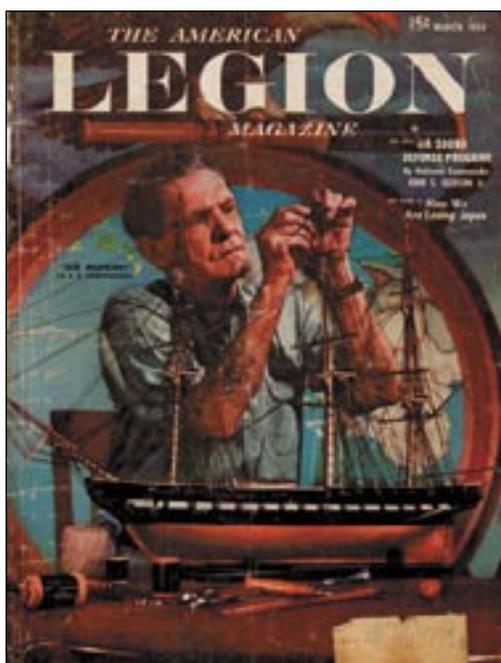
One example is a recent lobbying effort. The American Legion led, along with nine service organizations, the effort to get Congress to approve assured funding for

the VA, so money will be available to care for our nation's heroes. Their care for troop's family members goes above and beyond. The Legion

has created a family support network for families in need if their spouse is deployed, assisting with household chores to monthly expenses.

The Legion continues to stand tall in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, tackling veterans' issues and supporting those who are still in the fight.

For more information visit [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) and check out what Commander Tom Bock has to say about his recent visit to GTMO ■



# MONSTER MACH



This vehicle rolls around the Camp 6 construction site and flattens the ground.

▲A giant crane is used by contractors to construct Camp 6. The crane was needed to lift the prefabricated cells into place.



▲Members of the Camp America fire department stand in front of their fire truck. These firemen are part of a team that stands by in case of an emergency.



▲A ferry that travels across the water at Guantanamo can transport supplies and equipment. ◀This mechanical structure, a War II styled guard tower, keeps the site secure.

# CHINES



▲A bobcat with a special attachment is used to drill holes into the ground; a fence will be placed around the motor pool to secure the vehicles inside.



...els between the Windward and Leeward sides of  
...hold large military vehicles, including school bus-  
...ical guard tower is replacing the old fashion World  
...d towers that are used inside of Camp Delta. The  
...s the Trooper safe from the environment.



◀The backbone of every motor pool; the hum-vee makes off-road easy for Troopers on patrol.

# NFL free agency has got fans buzzing

Commentary by Spc. Ian Shay

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

With the passing of Super Bowl XL and the Pro Bowl in Hawaii, football fans will have to wait another six months to see their teams in action. But even though you won't see your teams on the field, the off-season is also entertaining, thanks to free agency in March and the NFL draft in April.

Like most fans, I have my ear to the rumor mill and my eyes on the Internet in hopes of finding out what moves my favorite team is making this year. Whether or not your team won the Super Bowl or even if they didn't make the playoffs, the free agency market is up for grabs.

This year's free agency market has some notable players possibly making it onto the auction block. Topping my list is Shaun Alexander.

1. Running back **Shaun Alexander** made a big statement during the Pro Bowl when he was seen wearing a Carolina Panthers hat. Last year, he finagled his way out of a franchise tag, and without the tag, Alexander is available to all 32 teams come March. Although, at 29 years old, some teams will be weary of the aging back, ignoring the fact he ran for almost 1,900 yards this season.

2. Patriot's kicker **Adam Vinatieri**, is my number two pick, but could easily slide off the list because last year Vinatieri got the tag, which means the Patriots will have to shell out a lot of money to keep him on the team.

3. Jet's defensive end **John Abraham** should be a great pickup for a team in need of a speed rusher. Abraham tallied 10.5 sacks last year and has over 50 in the past six years. He is injury prone so teams will have to take the chance.

4. **Chris Hope** is a little known Steelers safety who gets overshadowed by Troy Polamalu's hair. Hope recorded more tackles and more interceptions



**Terrell Owens (left) might be the best wide receiver in the game, but if he sticks with Drew Rosenhaus any longer, he might not have a job to go back to.**

than Polamalu and if the Steelers don't keep him, Hope will be a hard hitter looking for a home.

5. **Kyle Vanden Bosch** had a huge comeback year recording 65 tackles and 12.5 sacks, which got him a Pro Bowl spot. Injuries plagued him but if this past season was any indication, he will be one of the top defensive ends in 2006.

6. **LeCharles Bentley** is a Saint and well, no one wants to be a Saint these days. Bentley is a former guard who likes to play center and is a tough player to have up front.

7. **Antwaan Randle El** is a playmaker. A quarterback in college, who switched to wide receiver and with that, has many talents teams cannot overlook. He played great in the playoffs and the Super Bowl. He isn't the biggest guy but in 2005, it was the little guys who were making all the big plays.

8. San Diego Chargers QB **Drew Brees** and Colts WR **Reggie Wayne** take the eight spot. Of course, they will most likely be picked back up by their own teams, but if not, their talents fit well on any team.

9. WR **Terrell Owens**, who was sort of with the Philadelphia Eagles

this year, looks to be a free agent if the Eagles can't manage a first round pick for him. He is arguably the best wide receiver in the game - when his mouth stays shut.

10. Last on my list is Carolina Panthers' linebacker **Will Witherspoon**. Witherspoon is a fast, undersized linebacker who can get to the QB. He's still very young and the NFL is hurting for some good linebackers.

There are many other players out there looking to make a fresh start in some new colors. You will just have to cross your fingers and hope your favorite team uses their money wisely. ■

## U.S. Olympic medal count

Gold 6

Silver 3

Bronze 1

torino 2006

# Army offers language course

By Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Army developed a new learning tool for deployed Soldiers. Breaking the language barrier between locals and Soldiers will no longer be a problem. The Army recently signed a 4.2 million dollar contract with Fairfield Language Technologies. The program referred to as, "Rosetta Stone" is a computer based language immersion program.

Currently, this program is the number one language-learning program in the world and is used by many corporations and universities around the world. Their way of teaching people new languages is based on the skills you used to master your first language, like listening, speaking, reading and writing.

This training is being offered to all Soldiers, active and reserve worldwide, at no cost via Army e-learning. Currently, 26 languages are available. Military leaders have agreed that foreign language skills are important and a program such as this is a valuable tool for our service members. More than 200,000 Soldiers have used it and that number continues to grow. Many units preparing to deploy are using these courses as pre-deployment train-

ing. Many Soldiers have used this program successfully while deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

First, in order to access the system, you must register at the Army e-learning site [www.atrs.army.mil/channels/eLearning/smartforce](http://www.atrs.army.mil/channels/eLearning/smartforce), and have a current AKO account. The process takes about fifteen minutes. Once the confirmation is received on your AKO account, that information is used to log onto the system to begin the course work. This new way of learning has saved Soldiers countless hours of wading through paperwork and the hassle of getting the required courses. Courses are three to four hours in length depending on course content.

Once you have completed a course, a record of it is immediately sent to your official training record. Most colleges are accepting these courses for credit. This type of learning will also attract new recruits who are already computer savvy.

The Army continues to strive toward be-



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

▲ Army Sgt. Amber Bastian, 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, logs on to AKO to look at the Rosetta Stone language courses being offered.

ing technologically advanced.

The name Rosetta Stone comes from a stone that was carved by priests in Egypt in 196 B.C. The writing on it was done in two languages and three different scripts, so priests, government officials and rulers of Egypt could read it. These writings were a way to honor the Egyptian Pharaoh of that time period. ■

# President's Day; honor your forefathers

By Spc. Ian Shay

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Every third Monday in February our country celebrates President's Day, the holiday officially known as Washington's Birthday. The holiday, which was originally commemorated during the last year of Washington's presidency, was set in place to honor our first president, George Washington.

In 1796, many Americans celebrated the holiday on different dates. Some celebrated it on Feb. 22, while others celebrated his birthday on Feb. 11. The reason for the controversy was simple. According to the old calendar, Washington was born on the 11th but when the calendar was changed, his birthday landed on the 22nd.

In the 19th century, Washington's Birthday was solidified as an unofficial American holiday. In many areas, political figures held speeches and ceremonies to honor Washington and taverns across the country would run dry from celebration.

The holiday would soon change with the emergence of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was born on Feb. 12th. With Lincoln's birthday so close to Washington's the country started to honor both men on the same day. A year after his assassination, Lincoln's birthday was honored by Congress. His birthday did not become a federal holiday, but was a legal holiday in several states.



In 1968, legislation was passed which affected the date of Washington's birthday. It was shifted to the third Monday in February, even if the holiday did not land on the 22nd. The act was set into place in 1971 and is still known as Washington's Birthday federally, but some states honor it legally as President's Day.

Our country has had many great presidents with many different viewpoints, who have come from all walks of life. As Americans, it is important to look back and honor our past leaders and all they have sacrificed for the good of the American people. ■

# New ministry team arrives

By Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ron Martin-Minnich and Army Staff Sgt. Antonio Dates

JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain & Chaplain Assistant

On Feb. 9, 2006, two new Unit Ministry Team (UMT) members arrived at GTMO – Chaplain Lt. Col. Ron Martin-Minnich and Staff Sgt. Antonio Dates. Both of the men are from the 29th Infantry Division (Light), Maryland Army National Guard (MDARNG).

In March, they will assume the duties of the Director and NCO-IC of the JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain.

Chaplain Martin-Minnich is originally from Pennsylvania and was born in Pottsville (famous for Yuengling Beer).



He was ordained in 1978. Martin-Minnich has been a chaplain in the MDARNG since June of 1985 and has served as the Major Subordinate Command (MSC) Chaplain of every MSC in the Maryland Guard.

He was the first National Guard Chaplain to serve as the Task Force Chaplain for the Multi-national Force and Observers peacekeeping Mission in Sinai, Egypt from Jan. to July 1985. He is married and has two sons. One of his sons is a Military Policeman also serving in the MDARNG. He has most recently served as the Deployment Cycle Support Chaplain for the National Guard Bureau in Virginia and was deployed to the Pentagon following the 9/11 attack.



Photos by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

Dates is a native of Maryland and entered the military in 1976. He graduated his basic training unit as “Trainee of the Cycle”. He was promoted to Staff Sgt. in 1982 and became the Communication Section Chief for the old Maryland Army National Guard 58th Support Battalion. He completed the Advanced NCO School in 1984. He left the National Guard briefly after completing the advanced course.

In 1990, Dates returned to the MDARNG as the Brigade Chaplain Assistant for Headquarters, Third Brigade of the 29th Infantry Division (Light). This was the first time he and Martin-Minnich served together as a UMT for a period of almost three years. During those years, this UMT completed JRTC at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. Dates plans to continue serving in the National Guard as a Chaplain Assistant until age 60. He has been married for 21 years and has 3 children and 2 grandchildren. He is a retired telephone switch engineer with Lucent Technology and a minister with the Calvary Christian Church. ■

## JTF Prayer Breakfast



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

▲ Director of Public Affairs, Army Lt. Col. Jeremy Martin, leads Troopers in prayer during the quarterly JTF Prayer Breakfast.

### CAMP AMERICA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<b>Sunday</b>	9 a.m.	Protestant Service	Troopers' Chapel
	6 p.m.	Confessions	Troopers' Chapel
	5 p.m.	Catholic Mass	Troopers' Chapel
	7:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Troopers' Chapel
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:30 p.m.	Soul Survivor	Camp America North Pavilion

### NAVAL BASE CHAPEL

<b>Sunday</b>	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
<b>Monday</b>	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
<b>Tuesday to Friday</b>	7 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	7 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
<b>Wednesday</b>	12 p.m.	Daily Mass	Cobre Chapel
<b>Friday</b>	7 p.m.	Men's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
<b>Saturday</b>	12:30 p.m.	Islamic Prayer	Sanctuary C
	4:30 p.m.	Confessions	Main Chapel
	5:30 p.m.	Vigil Mass	Main Chapel

Jewish Shabbat Services held every second Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Naval Base Chapel complex Room 11.

# 15 Minutes of Fame

## with Army 1st. Sgt. Efren Cornejo

By Spc. Seth Myers

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

HHC troops know him well. Troopers see him at the head of their PT formations early in the morning. He organizes various training events and ensures everything is performed to standard. This is Army 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Efren Cornejo, HHC first sergeant.

Cornejo joined the Army when he was 17 and has served diligently as a fire support specialist for 18 years. He took a break in service after his first seven years of active duty, but he was too patriotic to stay away for long. He enjoyed serving his country and reenlisted in the National Guard.

“When I got out, I missed [being in the military], so I went into the National Guard. I really missed that military way of life,” said Cornejo.

He spent the beginning of his military career with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division and has been on various other deployments. He has been to Panama and the Persian Gulf. His service to his country extends beyond his military

service, though.

“I am a member the regional Special Response Team (TCA/SRT) and the National Tactical Team (BORTAC).

BORTAC is a rapid response unit capable of executing both foreign and national level domestic operations. Over the last decade or so, BORTAC has conducted several high-risk operations and has operated extensively overseas. Some of these operations have included providing support to counter-narcotics operations conducted by the US Department of State, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and other Federal law enforcement organizations. When we are not working a special mission, we are training or doing border patrol operations,” said Cornejo. “I get a big sense of pride and honor knowing I am still doing something for my country. These types of teams attract some of the greatest law enforcement officers in the nation. It’s a good feeling to know if you need back-up your teammates will be there

for you and you will do the same for them. Thank God, I love the job, the people I work with and doing what I do.”

Amidst all he has done throughout his military and civilian career, when asked what he considers his greatest accomplishment, he simply responded, “serving my country.”

Cornejo was recently pinned and officially received his first sergeant diamond. He attributes



Photo altered by Spc. Jeshua Nace

this, and much of his success, to his troops.

“It is a big accomplishment and I owe it to my troops. Without them, I wouldn’t be able to stand out. You can issue all the orders you want, but if you can’t motivate your troops and they aren’t disciplined, you won’t make it,” said Cornejo.

Whether he is here leading HHC Troopers or home working for the regional Special Response Team and the National Tactical Team, Cornejo is serving his country in many ways. Both a patriot and a leader of Soldiers, he is setting a high standard, which will be adopted by the leaders of the incoming troops. ■



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

### 15 Minutes of Fame

Know a Trooper worthy of being highlighted in “15 Minutes of Fame?” Call Army Sgt. Jessica Wilson at 3594.



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

▲Army Sgt. Charles McDaniels, J8, serves some of the burgers and hotdogs he grilled during the JTF-HHC BBQ held at Windmill Beach.

►Spc. Joshua Hawkins, J4, enjoys a game of horseshoes with his fellow Troopers. The horseshoe pit is set-up in Camp America.



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

▲Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class James Bryant swears in during his reenlistment ceremony in Camp Delta Feb. 10.



Photo by Army Sgt. Dave Lankford

# AROUND THE JTF

►Construction workers weld together pieces of the new IDS fence being built for security of the detention facilities. The fence sensors will ascertain what is coming in contact with the fence.



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace