

THE



15 Minutes of Fame, pg. 11

Honor Bound To Defend Freedom

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Friday, September 15, 2006

JTF-GTMO prepares for Ramadan

By Navy Cmdr. Robert Durand

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Director

When the new crescent moon appears around September 24, the Islamic month of Ramadan officially begins. For observant Muslims, it is a time of fasting, worship and contemplation in recognition of the month that the Holy Quran was revealed by God through the angel Gabriel.

For Joint Task Force-Guantanamo, it means ensuring that those Muslims who desire to fast during Ramadan have the opportunity to observe one of the five pillars of Islam. Fasting during Ramadan is practiced not only by Muslim detainees, but by Islamic service members and civilians who support the JTF mission.

"We uphold the highest values of the American military by caring for our detained enemy combatants in a manner that is safe, humane and respectful of their religious beliefs," said Army Colonel Wade Dennis, commander of the Joint Detention Group.

Observant Muslims practice "sawm," or fasting, for the entire month of Ramadan. This means that they may eat or drink nothing, including water, while the sun shines. When the sun sets Muslims break the fast with a meal called "iftar." Then, in the morning before dawn, they eat another meal called "suhoor."

Seaside Galley and the JTF will work around the clock to prepare meals for the



The symbol of the Muslims. When there is a crescent moon it means that Ramadan is coming.

detainees, civilians and Troopers located within the JTF. In addition to the normal menu consisting of halal-certified meats, vegetables, fruits, drinks and fresh bread, detainees will receive Ramadan-specific foods.

Special meals will include a pre-dawn meal that consists of dates, honey and some light beverages. In the evening, the post-sunset meal and midnight meals will be a traditional Ramadan meal that includes sweets, dates, nuts and honey.

For those detainees who are not Muslim or for those who choose not to participate in the fast, meals will be served at regular hours. For those in the guard force and food preparation, this means there will be four meal delivery periods instead of the usual three.

Fasting does not generally carry health risks. Those detainees fasting during Ramadan receive a double portion meal in the evening to ensure they have the nutrients and calories they need to stay healthy. Health care professionals from the Joint Medical Group will counsel and monitor those who fast to ensure that they do not jeopardize their health.

Fasting is an important part of many religions, and serves many purposes. While they are hungry and thirsty, Muslims are reminded of the suffering of the poor. Fasting is also an opportunity to practice self-control and to cleanse the body and mind.

Ramadan, the month of fasting, ends with the festival of Eid al-Fitr. Literally the "Festival of Breaking the Fast," Eid al-Fitr is one of the two most important Islamic celebrations. ■

HISPANIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Sept. 15 – Oct. 15, 2006
Hispanic-American Heritage Association
Dinner Dance: September 30
(See the Insert Page for details)

Navy Wide Examinations: Are You Prepared?

**By Navy Master Chief Petty Officer
William Conley**

Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion
Command Master Chief

The time is NOW for Navy E3s hoping to pin on their third class crow.

Almost six months have passed since the March Navy-wide exam was completed. In June, the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion promoted 7 percent of the guard force to the next higher pay grade. Our goal over the last two months has been to ensure all our Sailors have the necessary tools to compete against their peers in this September exam. Within the next few days, your preparation time will have run out. TOO LATE!!!

Several factors are involved in any promotion cycle, but there is only one factor Sailors can control, their test score! To change a great quote ever so slightly, "If you're not studying, just remember – someone, somewhere, is studying, and when you all meet on exam day, given roughly equal ability, the Sailor that studied the most will win." Given the hours you work and the limited time off, you must apply greater self-control in your study habits.

The Joint Detention Group guard force is second to none! We can present accolades worth one or two points toward your advancement for your outstanding performance. We can guide you to any and all study materials required for your rating. Our first class petty officers have established study groups for Sailors who cannot get to the Basic Military Requirements study sessions, which are provided by the Naval Station-GTMO Hospital.

You can't throw a dead Banana Rat without hitting a Master-At-Arms at Guantanamo. It appears



that we have a monopoly on MAs, which is great for trying to establish study groups. The Navy-wide advancement exam for E4 is this Thursday. No matter where you are on active duty in our Navy, no mater which area of responsibility, the doors get locked at 7 a.m. and the test begins. At 7 a.m. all your regrets are worthless, excuses irrelevant!

Around you every day are changes. These changes range from small and few to large enough that the media takes notice; they challenge your mental state and keep you in a constant state of flux. You have to adapt to the constant rate of change. What does not change? Every March and September we hold promotion exams. Our Sailors are smarter, our ratings are tighter, and to advance you must score high. Within each and every Sailor lies the capacity to be promoted.

Like this article, your time is running out. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink, meaning we can provide the direction, but we can't force you to study. Best of luck to all of you preparing for this September's exam cycle! ■

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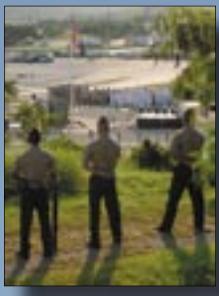
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POW, MIA honored in ceremony



Brandon McGuire

**Story by Army Spc. Philip Regina
Photos by Army 1st Lt. Anthony John**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

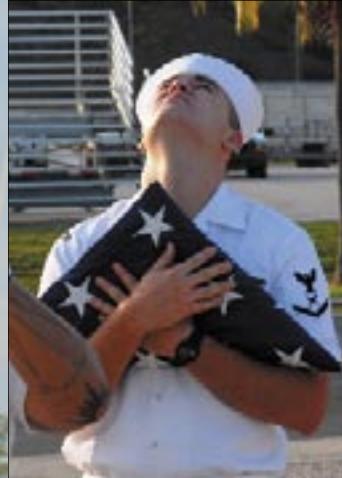
U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo held a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action ceremony Wednesday at the POW/MIA memorial across from the Downtown Lyceum here.

The ceremony was held to honor and remember lost and missing Troopers from past and current conflicts.

Army Brig. Gen. Edward Leacock, executive officer of Joint Task Force GTMO and Navy Cmdr. Jeff Hayhurst, executive officer of NAVSTA GTMO contributed their remarks at the ceremony.

A 21-Gun Salute was then conducted by Marine Corps Security Force Company.

Students from W.T. Sampson Elementary School submitted essays for the ceremony, with the winners being presented at the ceremony. The winners were Marissa Kaiser, Christina Motes and Jason Perez. They were then given the opportunity to contribute their own remarks to the ceremony.



Marissa Kaiser



Christina Motes



Jason Perez

Put your butt down! Smoking cessation

**By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Jim Brown**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The smell of exhaled smoke and the "pinch between your cheek and gum," can provide pleasure, relief and relaxation for most tobacco users. However, the insidious drug, nicotine, can be as difficult to elude as an iguana bent on suicide - all while exposing others to second-hand smoke or disgust. Luckily, Guantanamo Bay Naval Hospital has a program to weaken the clutch of this deadly habit.

Weekly, Navy Lt. Jason B. Ellis leads classes in tobacco cessation at the hospital here. Meetings are held Mondays from 4 p.m. to approximately 5 p.m. The cessation program consists of one class per week over a four-week period. The meetings are designed to aid in cessation by providing various treatment

programs. Smokers, dippers and chewers all can benefit from the various therapies employed in the program.

"Treatment options we offer are the Zyban pill, nicotine replacement patches, nicotine gum and nicotine inhalers.

By far, Zyban is the most requested option. Many tobacco users express concern over the potential for withdrawal symptoms as a factor when they try to quit tobacco.

This medication helps alleviate some of

the concern so the student can be successful," stated Ellis.

Although ceasing to use tobacco products can be difficult, the program has proved successful.

"Overall, the quit rate here

in Guantanamo Bay is over 20 percent. While this may seem low, it is actually higher than our national average," said Ellis.

When you are fed up with discolored teeth, bad breath and an increased risk of esophageal, lung and mouth cancer, give the tobacco cessation program a try.

"Most tobacco users will go through several quit attempts before becoming totally tobacco free for good. The lesson here is that even if you are not successful quitting this time, you should continue to pursue it until you are tobacco free," said Ellis. For additional information, call Ellis at USNAVHOSP GTMO at ext. 72285. ■



Network News

GTMO welcomes new IAM

By Air Force Capt. Troy Townsend

JTF-GTMO Information Assurance Officer

JTF-GTMO received the latest in a long line of information assurance managers this past week with the arrival of Air Force 1st Lt. James Northamer. Northamer has several years of information assurance experience under his belt, and is looking forward to taking the reigns down here at GTMO.

While the new IAM gets acquainted with the island, let me leave you with some final thoughts. First, I know the conversion to CAC login was not easy for everyone, but thanks to the efforts of the information technology officers and the J-6 personnel, we are fully compliant and the network is completely CAC enabled. This has done great things for our security posture, so thank you for your cooperation in making this happen.

Second, please remember that the network is for official use only. Last week we had two cases of "questionable content" being surfed on the internet. There are plenty of MWR computers available for surfing chat sites, Bas Rutten Fan Clubs and other personal or entertainment sites.

Lastly, the way ahead looks bright. Look for some changes to the detainee information managing system network in the coming month as J-6 works to improve the speed and performance of that network. Also, expect some minor changes to your desktop once information assurance finishes testing software that provides some neat security features. Also, proxy servers are being researched which will further secure the network and improve the speed that web pages will load.

Thanks for a great deployment and be nice to the new guy!

If you have a topic that you'd like us to address in an upcoming column of Network News, send your request to: j6-ia@jtf-gtmo.southcom.mil. ■

Building for a better tomorrow

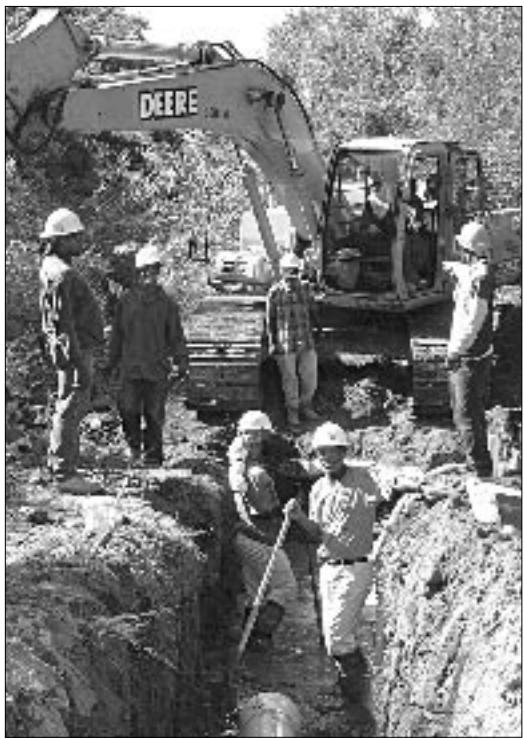


Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Watterworth

◀ Contractors from Island Mechanical, (from left to right) Max Neggie, Victor "Police" Tucker, Wilbert "Top Dog" Winter, and Leadman Noel "Macca" Brown, stand on the pipe trench as Henry "Foreman" Weir and Dwight "Sasa" Robinson adjust the new pipe down in the trench. The pipe will replace the old black one currently on the east side of Kittery Beach Road. The project's expected completion date is mid-October.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Watterworth

▲ Contractors from Island Mechanical, (from top to bottom) Henry "Foreman" Weir, Dwight "Sasa" Robinson and Wilbert "Top Dog" Winter, maneuver a hose to pump water from the path of a new pipe.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Watterworth

▲ The scaffolding erected around the guard tower in front of Camp V is expected to come down with its completion by mid-October.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Watterworth

▲ Plumbers and carpenters from Island Mechanical, (from left to right), David Newman, Kirnard Nelson, Andrew Taylor, Collin Frazer and Devon Scott, prepare a ditch for new pipe running through Tierra Kay housing last Thursday.

F-4 PHANTOM

PHOTOS BY NAVY CHIEF PETTY



M'S FACELIFT

BY OFFICER TIMM DUCKWORTH



Crooks steals attention of JTF audience

By Army Spc. Philip Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Shanna Crooks, a rock/pop singer from south Florida, wowed a willing Joint Task Force crowd at Club Survivor with soulful songs Sunday.

Crooks, who is based out of Nashville, was accompanied by a full band.

Crystal Hoyt and Trevor Rosen, Crooks' backup singers, also contributed their own original music to the show, adding elements of country, rock and soul to Crooks' show.

The band is comprised of professional musicians, all of whom reflect not only the eclectic nature of the show, but also the eclectic music scene of Nashville. Almost every member of the band played in a multitude of other bands.

She works hard and tours hard. Although she may not have achieved the same commercial success as other singers her age, she more than makes up for exposure with raw singing talent.

While most singers shy away from taking up the reigns of the queen of soul (Aretha Franklin), Crooks belted out her very own rendition of "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" beautifully. ■



Photo by Army Spc. Philip Regina

Singer Shanna Crooks delights the crowd that came to see her at Club Survivor, Sunday.

Security bulletin: Operations security

By Frank Perkins

JTF-GTMO Special Security Office

You've heard the old slogan, "Loose lips sink ships." That statement is as true today as it was many years ago. You are deployed to a foreign location with a highly visible mission, and all your time is consumed with working, living and staying on the base. The daily drudge bogs you down and there is minimal variety. During your phone calls, cyber chats and e-mails back home you start running out of things to say to your family. How many times can you tell them about that iguana you almost ran over on the way to work? How many times can you tell them you love and miss them? You probably don't spend a lot of time telling your spouse about the great diving and fishing you're enjoying during your off time. Eventually your conversations start to turn to your work and what you are doing. It's not something you

do intentionally, but it's what you know; it's your routine; it's your comfort zone. The mission is your world while on deployment and it's what you share with family and friends. Family will always be interested in you, where you are, where you're going, and what you're doing. If the roles were reversed, you would be interested in those things too.

The media, as well as foreign intelligence services, want to know exactly the same things and they know which phones and computers are used for morale calls back home and will go to great lengths to monitor them. Always practice good OPSEC and be cognizant of your conversations and correspondence to the folks back home. Everyone must do his or her part in protecting our most valuable resources - you.

The point of contact for OPSEC issues is Mr. James Morales at ext. 9908. Remember, mission first, security always! ■

Chief of the Army Reserve on Sept. 11

By Army Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz

Commanding General, United States Army Reserve Command

On this, the fifth anniversary of the tragic day of September 11, 2001, I am immensely proud of the performance of Army Reserve Soldiers in prosecuting the Long War. Since America and its coalition partners liberated the peoples of Afghanistan and Iraq from tyrannical rule, nearly 160,000 Army Reserve Soldiers have answered our nation's Call to Duty. Such a figure reflects the operational nature of the Army Reserve, as well as the patriotic spirit which flourishes in the ranks of our warrior-citizens.

The events that transpired on Sept. 11 will forever be embedded in our collective memory as one of our Nation's darkest mornings. That day made it evident that we were no longer safe to confront the threats of the post Cold War security environment from afar. It has been our Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines with their boots on the ground that made, and will continue to make, progress in this global war.



On September 10th, 2001, the Army, and indeed, the Army Reserve, was a different force than the one we have today. We were focused and trained to fight a major land battle, against a near-peer foe. Sept. 11 led to a monumental shift in how we organize, train and mobilize the force.

Presently, we are realigning our command and control structure, divesting ourselves of Cold War-modeled units and perhaps most importantly, we are embracing the Army Force Generation

Model. This five year model will not only provide our Nation with trained and ready forces when required, but will also introduce a greater sense of predictability and stability into the lives of you, the Soldier, as well as the lives of your family members.

Americans must never forget the tragic loss of lives on that early September morning, nor must we lose sight of what our fighting men and women have accomplished since then in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Today, I urge all Americans to pause and remember those innocent lives that perished in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., as well as to give thanks to the more than 2,600 fighting men and women who have sacrificed their lives in service to our country; 121 of whom served in the ranks of the Army Reserve. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank you all for your selfless dedication and service to our country. May God bless you as he continues to bless the United States of America. ■

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jim Brown asked Troopers, "What did you do to commemorate 9/11?"



"I observed a moment of silence while at work."

-Army Sgt. Deverick Wheatley, Command Element



"I stood at attention during the moment of silence in remembrance."

-Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Doris Valladares, Joint Detention Group supply specialist



"I watched CNN specials on 9/11."

-Navy Chief Petty Officer David Macon, Command Element



"We observed the moment of silence at work. Being a New Yorker and being there when the Towers went up, it hit me kind of hard."

-Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Laurie Batts, Postal Group

SEPTEMBER 11TH PENTAGON ATTACK REMEMBERED

By Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ron Martin-Minnich

JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain

At approximately 9:40 a.m. on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, Flight 77 hit the Pentagon. One hundred twenty-five Pentagon employees – military and civilian – perished in the attack. Hundreds suffered injuries. Fifty-nine crew and passengers and five terrorists were aboard the airplane; all died immediately. I was not present at the Pentagon at the time of the attack, but I served in the office of the U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains in support of Casualty Assistance for 29 days following the attack as did many members of the National Guard. I will never forget one of the active duty soldiers who told me his story.

The soldier was a Ranger who sat next to me during the October 2001 Memorial Service on the grounds of the Pentagon. Eighty-five of us chaplains, from three branches and multiple components, were assigned to sections among the 10,000 plus in attendance to provide religious support during the service. The Ranger's hands were still bandaged from burns he received rescuing people from the Pentagon. Seated next to him was a young medical student who witnessed the attack on his way to medical school and stopped to provide medical care to the victims of the attack. The Ranger was angry about things that had been said by members of his Critical Incident Stress Debriefing following the attack. He had mistakenly left the debriefing instead of staying to the end. He proceeded to relay to me because I was a chaplain what he should have completed in the debriefing.

He had returned into the Pentagon despite directions not to go back in. He could not stop making sure everyone who could be rescued was rescued. An injured and burned young female non-commissioned officer was near death and breathed a prayer to her Lord for help. The Ranger appeared and brought her to safety. She referred to the Ranger from that day on as her "Angel." She was the last injured soldier to come out of the Pentagon alive following the attack. Although he never saw her after the rescue, they maintained in communication by phone. The Ranger could not smile on that day - in spite of the life he had saved. He could only think about the tragedy. This memory will always stay with

me. It was months before I could sleep well again.

One afternoon by chance I turned on The Oprah Winfrey Show. The Ranger was on her show being honored for his rescue of many people following the attack. She recounted the story about the female NCO and then brought her out on stage to embrace the Ranger. Her arms were still bandaged from her burns. The Ranger smiled as he embraced the fellow soldier he had rescued for the first time since the attack. He had recovered from the trauma of the attack and was able to celebrate her recovery.

Sept. 11 holds many memories for us – both negative and positive. I prefer to focus on the positive memories, like that of the Ranger. It reminds me of the power of faith as an instrument of healing. It reminds of the ability of good to always succeed even when evil tries to do its worst. It reminds of why I have chosen to serve my country and to never forget the lost lives of my fellow citizens who perished on that day. ■

CAMP AMERICA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Troopers' Chapel
	5:45 p.m.	Confessions	Troopers' Chapel
	6:30 p.m.	Catholic Mass	Troopers' Chapel
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Bible Study	Camp America North Pavilion

NAVAL BASE CHAPEL

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	8:15 a.m.	Confession	Main Chapel
	9:00 a.m.	Catholic Mass	Main Chapel
	9:00 a.m.	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Sanctuary A
	9:30 a.m.	Protestant Sun. School	Main Chapel
	10:00 a.m.	Protestant Liturgical	Sanctuary B
	11:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	Gospel Service	Main Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	7:00 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
Monday	5:15 p.m.	Confessions	Main Chapel
	6:00 p.m.	Mass	Main Chapel
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Men's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
Friday	1:15 p.m.	Islamic Prayer	Sanctuary C
Saturday	4:15 p.m.	Confessions	Main Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	Vigil Mass	Main Chapel
	6:15 p.m.	Confessions	PPI Chapel
	7:00 p.m.	Mass	PPI Chapel

Jewish Shabbat Services held every second Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Naval Base Chapel complex Room 11.
For more information, call ext. 3202 or ext. 2323.

15 Minutes of Fame with Navy Lt. Donna Baptiste

By Army Spc. Philip Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

With each passing decade the U.S. continues to evolve and the threats to the U.S. change. In 1963, one of those threats was the Cuban Missile Crisis, making Guantanamo Bay the forefront of defense against this threat. Now, 43 years later, Guantanamo Bay is yet again at the forefront of defense, but the threat has changed.

Navy Lt. Donna Baptiste, current operations officer of the Joint Detention Group, has been a part of this forefront since childhood.

Baptiste's father, Navy Senior Chief (retired), Robert Baptiste was stationed here in 1962, during the infamous Cuban Missile Crisis. He was a seabee, part of a construction battalion charged with the responsibility of building defensive bunkers along the ridgeline. Upon finishing construction, March 31, 1963, the ridgeline was officially renamed "Baptiste Hill."

Remnants of these bunkers still remain along Ridgeline Trail. These bunkers, which once served as an integral means of defense for GTMO, are now merely hollowed out shells of their former selves.

Today, Baptiste's daughter continues this tradition of safeguarding the U.S. Although she may not be building bunkers, her role in safeguarding freedom is no less important.

Lt. Baptiste has been a part of the JDG for a little over 14 months. But this was not her first experience here at GTMO. She was stationed here 21 years ago as a Petty Officer 2nd Class. She was also involved in the Haitian migrant operations here in the 90s.

With her father serving a full career

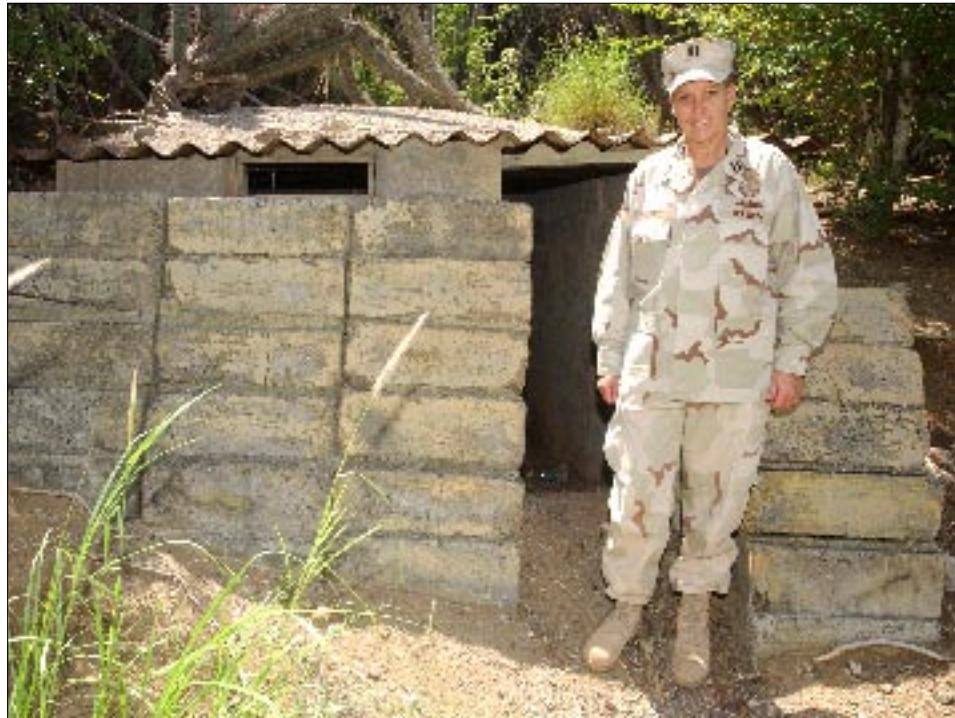


Photo by Army Spc. Philip Regina

A tradition of pride and service in the safeguarding of America runs strong in the Baptiste family. Navy Lt. Donna Baptiste stands next to a bunker built by her father, Navy Chief (retired) Robert Baptiste, during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

enlisted with the Navy and with a full career in the Navy herself, Baptiste's entire existence has been tied to the Navy.

"A lot of people grow up in the same town, go to the same school, and have the same friends throughout their childhood. Most people have a place that they can call home. For me, the Navy is 'home,'" explained Baptiste.

Although Baptiste has served 25 years in the Navy, her most recent GTMO experience has also been her first experience in a Joint Task Force.

"Working with the other services is truly enlightening. Seeing how the Army operates gives great insight on a few things that the Navy could stand to adopt. It's also very rewarding to be a part of the highly important mission that takes place here," added Baptiste.

"The detention camps here are paramount in the safeguarding of U.S. ideals. The intelligence gathered from the dangerous individuals detained therein aid in the dangerous mission of Troopers stationed abroad. With the threat of terrorism all too real, the mission taking place here is essential," said Baptiste.

From the ridgeline bunkers built 43 years ago, to the detention camps of today the Baptiste family has epitomized the Navy's dedication to safeguard freedom. ■

15 Minutes of Fame

Know a Trooper worthy of being highlighted in "15 Minutes of Fame?" Call Army Spc. Dustin Robbins at ext. 3589.

★★★ PHOTO OF THE WEEK ★★★



Army Sgt. Elton Rush took this picture of the space shuttle Atlantis rising through the blue skies of Florida from a passenger seat on a returning rotator flight Sept. 9, 2006.



Photo by Army Sgt. Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs

◀ Filipino Contract workers perform maintenance to base facilities by pressure washing TK housing complexes and bringing out their true color.



Photo by Army Sgt. Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs

▲ The American flag flies at half mast over GTMO in remembrance of the 9/11 attacks.



Photo by Army Sgt. Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs

▲ Troopers were presented with awards by Brig. Gen. Leacock at McCalla Hanger Monday. From left to right: Capt. Jeffery Bosque, Joint Service Achievement Medal and the Joint Service Commendation Medal; Capt. Nolan Fajota, JSCM; Capt. Esther Green, JSCM; Tech Sgt. Cheri Walker, JSCM; Tech Sgt. Leslie Jackson, JSAM.

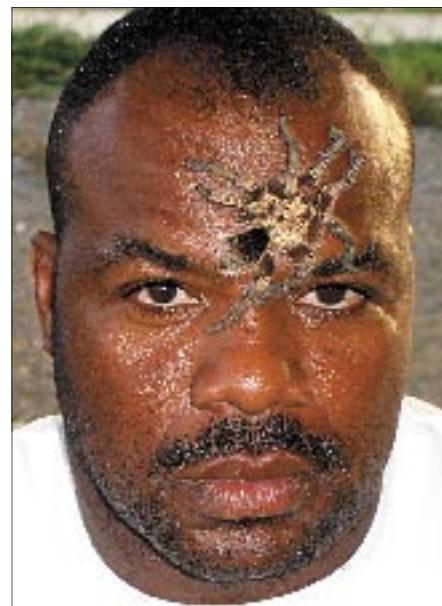


Photo by Army Sgt. Damon Fowler

◀ Army Sgt. David Evans, sits calmly as a Tarantula walks across his face.