

# THE WIRE

A News Magazine

HONOR BOUND TO DEFEND FREEDOM

Joint Task Force  
Guantanamo's  
Finest News Source



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# Things I learned after 14 months in GTMO

By Army Col. Lora L. Tucker

305th PCH Commander

As the 305<sup>th</sup> Joint Information Bureau/Press Camp gets ready to “stand in the door” (it’s an Army thing!) and depart Joint Task Force-Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, I would like to personally thank all the Troopers that stand the watch here at JTF-GTMO. No matter what job you are performing, it’s an important piece of the machine and **everyone** makes a difference.

We are without a doubt detaining the right men, at the right time, in the right place and we are doing it humanely and ethically. America, our allies, your family and friends should be incredibly proud of you as you continue to serve your country and keep us safe from those that would certainly do us harm.

As a commander and as a member of the JTF Public Affairs team I would like to share with you three lessons that I have learned the past 14 months.

## Number One:

The Manchester Document is alive and well. Our enemies have done their homework and know how to use our democratic system of justice to their advantage. They know how to use the press and internet technology to wage a war of words and misperceptions.

This war of words and perceptions is a critical battle that we must continue to fight. JTF-Guantanamo is leading this fight by being transparent and open to the media, distinguished visitors, members of Congress and foreign dignitaries.

To the new public affairs team, continue to fight the good fight. We wish you the very best and we know you will do great and wonderful things this next year in the foxhole, to champion the information war.



## Number Two

Joint duty is the experience of a lifetime. As a member of the U.S. Army I had never used terms like “all hands”, “head”, “rope yarn”, “Bravo Zulu” and “Fair Winds and Following Seas.” I had never worked for or been promoted by a Rear Admiral, nor had I ever had the privilege of commanding Sailors as part of my unit.

This has been an incredible 14 months of joint service. It has made me a better officer, a better leader and I have learned that every service has its own traditions and intricacies that make “us” a great team. Go Army... Beat Navy!!!!

## Number Three:

(OK there are several here) Don’t feed the Iguana’s ☺ Ask Cmdr. Capra about his attack Iguana that forced him to stay inside his quarters. When the loud sirens are going off, it’s probably a good idea to stop diving and get out of the water. Last but not least, J.F.K. said it best: “Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.” Continue to learn and lead the way. I wish you all “fair winds and following seas.”

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# 241st assumes the PAO mission

**By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Don't be surprised if you sense a new flavor when you pick up your next issue of *The Wire*. As you notice subtle changes in story bylines, media from around the world will get a taste of Cajun country charm as the 241st assumes responsibility of Public Affairs (PAO) at Joint Task Force (JTF) GTMO.

Twelve Troopers from the 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Carville, La. arrived on April 23 to begin their one-year deployment here at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO). The 241st will join augmentees from other military services to man the JTF PAO.

Army 1st Lt. Kevin Cowan, the command information officer in charge for JTF PAO, said the Troopers of the 241st are ready to use their diverse skills and knowledge to carry on the mission at GTMO.

"We have a diverse background of skills in our unit. We have a journalism major, a couple of Soldiers with English degrees and we have previously deployed personnel that have been through deployments and can help those who have not deployed," said Cowan. "We also have personnel that work full time in a public affairs environment."

Cowan mentioned that he will be tasked with ensuring that command information is properly disseminated. However, a major part of the unit's overall mission will be conducting media relations operations.

"We are going to be divided by our military occupational specialty, and Troopers will be augmented to all three of the components," said Cowan.

Cowan explained that the 241st mission at GTMO is broken down into three components- media relations, broadcasting and *The Wire*. The media relations team will work with civilian media from the U.S. and abroad. The team will also field initial contacts, arrange transportation and lodging, coordinate media interaction with

subject matter experts and ensure that media safely return back to their home stations. He added that the media relations team will also coordinate transportation for the media during Commissions.

Soldiers from the 241st will also write stories for *The Wire* covering various events such as Trooper promotions, change of command ceremonies and other public interest pieces that keep Troopers informed of various events and happenings around GTMO. Cowan mentioned that broadcasters will be tasked to record various events around GTMO, and to market the video to various civilian and military markets.

Cowan said the unit first learned of the deployment on Feb. 14 of this year, and unit members had a little over a month to prepare before they left on March 31. At the time the unit learned of the deployment, Cowan mentioned they were in the midst of trying to overcome two obstacles that could have affected their ability to deploy.

He added the unit's greatest challenge was filling vacancies and replacing equipment destroyed during Hurricane Katrina.

"We were shorthanded when we got the notification of the deployment because a unit reorganization in October doubled the number of slots in our unit, but didn't give us the Soldiers to fill them," said Cowan. "We also lost all of our equipment except for one camera set. We basically had to start from scratch."

Cowan mentioned that the unit's last deployment was during Hurricane Katrina, where its members covered various media events on the state level. He added that the skills acquired and lessons learned during Katrina will be essential to the mission at GTMO.

The 241st will replace the 305th Press Camp Headquarters who will return to their home state of Hawaii after a 14-month deployment. Army Sgt. Maj. Oscar Diaz, public affairs non-commissioned officer in charge of the 305th Press Camp Headquarters, HI, said he has mixed

feelings about leaving GTMO. Diaz said he does miss his family, but he also wishes he could stay to make sure everything goes well during the mission.

Diaz added that the 241st will face many challenges. However, he is confident that they will be able to carry on the mission.

"Working with the media is a challenge because you have 25 different personalities and needs you must attend to," said Diaz. "However, they will get used to the media relations team and the media relations team will get used to them."

Cowan said that the unit began communicating with members of the 305th prior to mobilizing in March. Cowan added that he and the unit's first sergeant, Patrick Sellen traveled to GTMO as part of a leadership visit. During the visit, Cowan said they were given an overview of the mission and were able to begin coordinating with the leadership of the 305th.

"By us going down and talking to leadership there, we were able to get answers to questions and take back information to the home unit," said Cowan. "We needed our personnel focused on preparing for the deployment, rather than focusing on lingering questions regarding their mission."

Cowan mentioned that he and unit members are excited about this opportunity to become a part of history.

"The mission here at GTMO is beneficial not just for the United States, but for the world. This is a different battle field we are fighting on than 50 years ago, since some detainees were instrumental in many of the global incidents that have occurred around the world," said Cowan. "Our unit members are going to grow individually, and we will learn a lot about ourselves and our jobs. Our goal is to become as proficient as possible in our jobs, and the on-the-job training we receive will be invaluable when we get back to our home unit." ■

# Flying CWO Test Program teaches Sailors to fly

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Trevor Anderson

[www.defenselink.mil](http://www.defenselink.mil)

Enlisted Sailors E-5 to E-7 can now wage the Global War on Terrorism from the skies as Chief Warrant Officers through the Flying CWO Test Program.

The test program is accepting applications from qualified Sailors who wish to pursue a career in aviation. Once selected, they will be commissioned as CWO2 and sent to flight school where they will learn to fly the P-3C, EP-3E, E-6B, or one of the current H-53 or H-60 helicopter variants.

The next board will be held July 16. Sixteen more candidates will be selected for commissioning. The deadline for packages is June 16.

“We’re looking for motivated, hard-charging candidates,” said Lt. Cmdr. Mike Giannetti, the reconnaissance community aviation detailer. “If you’re interested in flying Navy aircraft, this is a fantastic opportunity to accelerate your life.”

“In July, 2006, the Flying CWO Test Program board selected 14 candidates to be commissioned as CWO2,” said Giannetti. “After completing CWO indoctrination, they reported to flight school in Pensacola, Fla. where

they will earn their wings of gold as Pilots or Naval Flight Officers,” he said.

“This is a great opportunity for someone who didn’t have the opportunity to attend college or flight school before enlisting and for Sailors who joined the Navy with aspirations to fly,” said Giannetti, also an EP-3E pilot.

“We just want to get the word out to encourage Sailors to put a package in. It’s a great way to start a career in aviation,” he said.

Candidates must be commissioned by their 27th birthday, have an associates degree and be eligible for a secret clearance. They must also physically qualify for aviation duty in accordance with the Navy Manual of Medicine.

Interested Sailors who are over age 27 may submit an age waiver, but must meet all other requirements.

Sailors from SEAL, SWCC, EOD, Diver, Nuclear and MA communities are not eligible for the program.

For more information on the Flying CWO Test Program, including NAVADMIN 013/07, which outlines the program and a fact sheet with answers to frequently asked questions, visit <https://www.npc.navy.mil/officer/aviation/flying+cwo+program.htm>. ■

# Security bulletin: Blowing In The Wind

By Frank Perkins

JTF-GTMO Special Security Office

Hurricane season is rapidly approaching (June-November), and now is a good time to destroy excess classified and non-classified documents, magnetic media and other material. It is far easier, to destroy material well in advance rather than recovering them along the roadways, shorelines and fence lines after they’ve been distributed by Mother Nature.

**Rule of Thumb:** Objects blown over the GTMO fence line are probably non-recoverable and a possible source of national embarrassment. If you’re outside pondering the meaning of the NAVSTA Siren Alarm tone, it’s probably too late. Refer to appendix 4 of the IOF SOP, FLAGS, STORMS, BELLS, SIRENS, ETC on the public drive for information

pertaining to inclement weather.

Take the time to check your work and storage areas for material that is outdated, superseded, no longer pertinent or extra copies. As you’re checking your areas, remember that hurricanes bring high winds as well as flooding from storm surges. Identify those assets that may require evacuation to higher ground. Ensure safe combinations are correct and on file in the security office.

Additionally, there may be long periods without electricity. Utility closets and areas where circuit access panels are located should be free of clutter (flags, guidons, colors, poles, maps, boxes, bulk office supplies, etc). Utility workers need unimpeded access to these areas. Avoid the pack rat mentality. Destroying excess material allows for better protection, reduces needed storage space and reduces administration workload.

“Burn Bags” (brown paper bags marked with red stripes) are used to identify material as being classified. All classified material pending destruction should be placed in Burn Bags. Burn Bags are not GSA-approved security containers and must be stored in a secure area. Use an enclosed vehicle when transporting Burn Bags to the IOF for bulk destruction.

SECRET and CONFIDENTIAL material require no “Record of Destruction”; TOP SECRET requires written verification indicating the ID of material destroyed, number of copies destroyed, two cleared witness signatures and date of destruction. Special Program and Special Access Program material may require written verification.

See your Command Security personnel for further guidance. Mission First- Security Always. ■

# Network News

## Blogging while at GTMO

**By Air Force Capt. Kenyatta Craten**

JTF-GTMO Information Assurance Office

Web logs, or blogs are a popular way to stay in touch with people back home. They allow you to post thoughts and experiences onto the web so that friends and family can read about all the exciting things you are doing while deployed here. What bloggers need to remember is that the information posted on the web is available for *anyone* to read. Naturally, this raises some concerns for network security and operations security. In fact, many locations have a policy that prohibits members from posting to blogs while deployed.

Since no official policy has come down regarding blogging at the Joint Task Force level, here are some pointers to make sure that your postings do not jeopardize the safety of your fellow servicemembers and civilian personnel here.

From a network security standpoint, blogging sites are increasingly dangerous because they are breeding grounds for exploits and viruses. Because of the popularity of the blogging sites, viruses can spread very quickly as people from all over the world pass through the site. Additionally, someone can exploit a specific target by placing malicious code on a site that is known to be frequented by, in our case, deployed members at GTMO. A couple months ago, a blogging/chat site that was created by a deployed Trooper had to be blocked because malicious code was embedded into advertisements appearing on the site. If you are going to blog, the best

advice is to choose a well-respected site that allows you to limit who views your postings. Then, refrain from allowing anyone to post images, movies etc. that could contain malicious code to your site.

Blogging also has many operations security concerns. "Troopers must practice operations security at all times. OPSEC is an analytical process used to deny an adversary critical information about our planning processes and operations. Your blogs, [like] this article, will be available to anyone with Internet access including our adversaries. In order to keep you, your family and our mission safe, do not reveal your city, or the names and ages of your children or spouse. In addition, Department of Defense policy dictates that no critical or classified information can be in blogs, as well as no speculation on incidents

that are still under investigation." said OPSEC Jim Morales, the OPSEC program manager.

In many respects, the easiest thing is to simply refrain from blogging while deployed. The information that can be gleaned from many blogs over a period of time

adds an element of unnecessary risk to what the JTF-GTMO mission is trying to accomplish. However, if you are going to blog, blog safe!

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@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:j6-ia@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil).

**Network Fact:** The Pentagon's primary Internet backbone, the Global Information Grid, comes under siege some 3 million times a day by outsiders looking for a way to penetrate military networks. (Source: *Government Computer News Aug. 21, 2006*.) ■

*From a network security standpoint, blogging sites are increasingly dangerous because they are breeding grounds for exploits and viruses.*

# Browns, Raiders address quarterback issues with draft

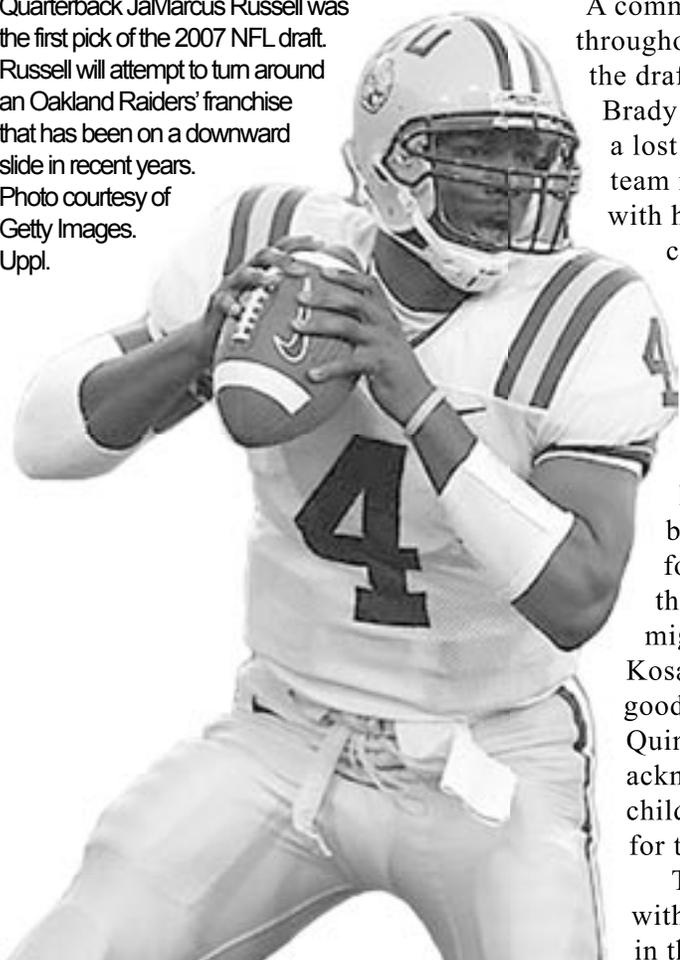
*By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeff Johnstone*  
JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

After watching this weekend's much awaited NFL draft, I, like so many other rabid NFL fans around the world were left to wonder which teams would make good choices, and which teams would make you wonder if maybe their choice, somehow, wasn't the best possible one.

As a self-admitted Sunday morning quarterback, armchair head coach or backseat owner, whatever you want to call me, I was impressed with two teams in particular.

These two teams not only addressed immediate needs, but they used the draft to do it. That's

Quarterback JaMarcus Russell was the first pick of the 2007 NFL draft. Russell will attempt to turn around an Oakland Raiders' franchise that has been on a downward slide in recent years. Photo courtesy of Getty Images. Uppl.



kind of the old fashioned, pre free-agent era way of doing things.

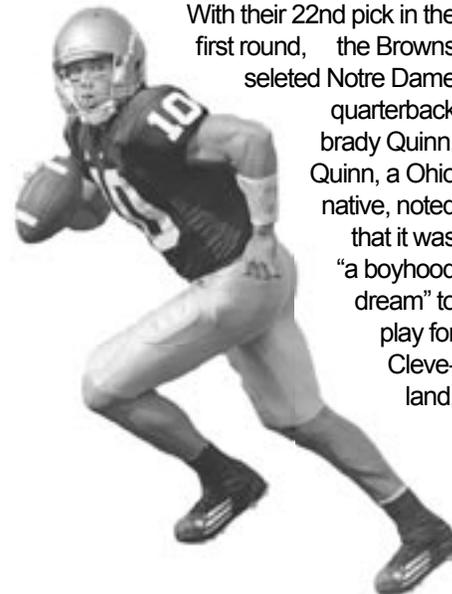
One such team, the Cleveland Browns, made some off-season strides towards improving their respective franchise.

The Browns made two key selections in the first round to better their team. With the third overall pick in the draft, they selected offensive tackle Joe Thomas from Wisconsin.

With Thomas, the Browns continue to improve one of the game's most under appreciated positions in terms of the average fan. Cleveland then went on to draft one of the more heralded quarterbacks who was still, surprisingly, on the draft board upon trading with the Dallas Cowboys for their 22nd pick.

A common theme throughout the first round of the draft was the sight of Brady Quinn looking like a lost child as team after team made pick after pick with his name not being called. Quinn was widely considered a top ten selection, but had to wait until the 22<sup>nd</sup> pick before Cleveland traded up to pick him. Quinn should be a good match for a Browns team that has struggled mightily, since Bernie Kosar retired, to find a good fit at quarterback. Quinn, an Ohio native, acknowledged it was a childhood dream to play for the Browns.

The Oakland Raiders, with the top overall pick in the draft, selected



With their 22nd pick in the first round, the Browns selected Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn. Quinn, an Ohio native, noted that it was "a boyhood dream" to play for Cleveland.

quarterback JaMarcus Russell from LSU. While the Raiders, like Cleveland, have struggled in recent years to find a good match at quarterback, they made a solid choice in Russell. Russell, with a collegiate record of 25-4 with LSU, set the school record for QB completion percentage with an impressive 67.8 percent.

On the flip-side, depending on how you feel about him, Randy Moss is no longer a Raider.

Moss, one of the most talented receivers of the last ten years, was a locker room nightmare for the Vikings and Raiders. He's been such a distraction, that the Raiders dealt him to the New England Patriots for a fourth round pick in next year's draft. Do you wonder if maybe Moss wishes he was still wearing black now that Oakland has a quarterback with the strength to launch the ball downfield consistently to accommodate the deep threat ability Moss possesses? If not, and he's glad to be in New England, he'd better perform on the field and stay quiet in the locker room, or Bill Belichick will deal him fast. ■

# Scoring clinic at the diamond

Untouchables defeat W.T. Sampson, 26-8

By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeff Johnstone

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Intramural softball action continued at Cooper Field Wednesday night, as the W.T. Sampson High School Pirates went head to head with the Untouchables. While this contest may not have been a nail-biter by any stretch of the imagination, it featured some impressive plays by both teams, despite what the final score indicated.

Pitcher Chuck Savinon led his band of merry batters and fielders out to the diamond, obviously not taking their younger opponents lightly. The Pirates, donning jerseys emblazoned with nicknames like "Corn Dog" and "Ludacris," took the field ready to prove that a victory over the Untouchables was in fact, not out of reach.

Unfortunately for the Pirates, the Untouchables can be a force, and proved to be pretty tough to beat. After leaping out to a multi-run advantage early in the contest, the Pirates were merely looking to get to the batter's box and attempt to get back into this one.

The Pirates impressed the crowd by cutting what looked to be an 'untouchable' lead to 8-3, but they soon found themselves trailing 14-6 after their opponents unleashed another scoring barrage on them.

With a rabid crowd in attendance that could have made the famous Philadelphia Eagles' fans blush, the Pirates showed signs of frustration, but they never

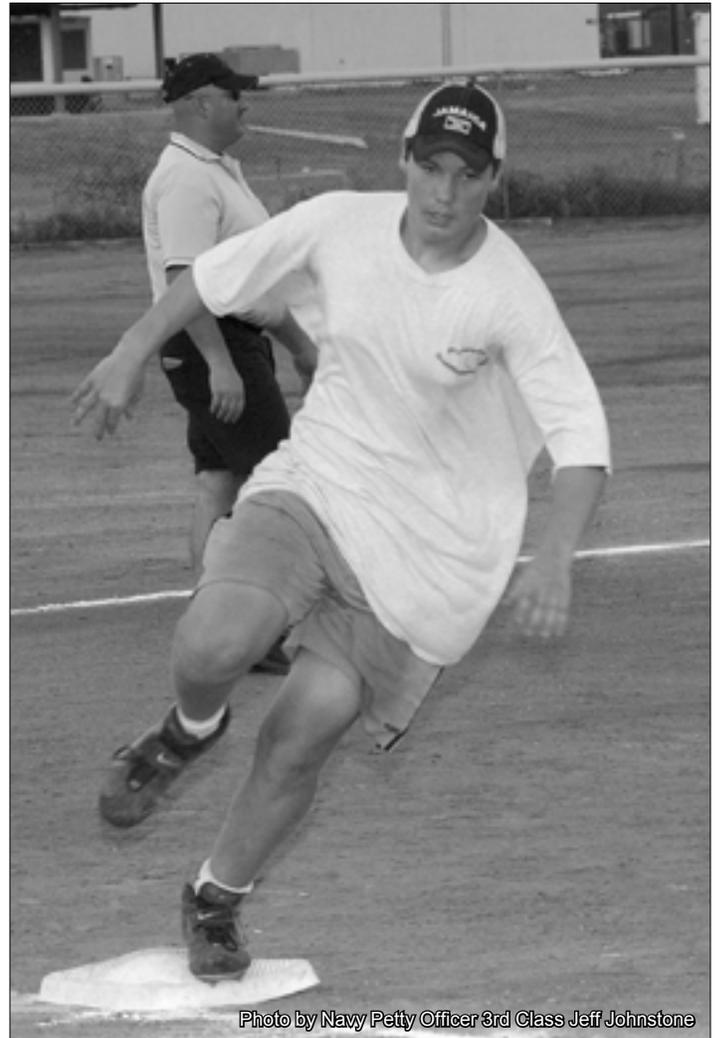


Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeff Johnstone

W.T. Sampson's Jackson LeVault rounds third base on his way to a scoring run for the Pirates.

gave up. Even trailing as far behind as 17-6, this observer was looking for the 'mercy rule' signal, but it never came.

The softball gods were not smiling on the Pirates, as ball after ball sailed between fielders or simply rolled out of their gloves. Awareness on the field was a weakness as well, as player after player for the Untouchables snuck across home plate unbeknownst to the Pirates. They seemed to be confused as to where to throw the ball.

A notable tragedy occurred when a hit soared right to the glove of the Pirates' pitcher, only to drop to the ground and roll just out of reach, allowing a base hit for the Untouchables that could have been a sure out.

The Pirates managed two more runs in the closing minutes, proving their determination to continue the battle, but eventually ran out of innings. The Untouchables claimed victory, 26-8. ■



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeff Johnstone

Chuck Savinon of the Untouchables, focuses on an incoming pitch during Wednesday nights game against W.T. Sampson. Savinon and his teammates picked up a convincing win, 26-8.

# Team Rootberry

Team Rootberry (Jonathan Root and Bill Berry), an extreme juggling and comedy duo from Orlando Fla., performed for the crowd at the Bayview club, Thursday Apr 26.

Their show combined extreme tricks such as juggling circular blades, lit torches, and sword swallowing, as well as the grand finale, juggling a chain saw. The extreme performers put on this show with simultaneous comedic banter on going between them.

Rootberry has performed for audiences worldwide, and has captured various awards among their juggling community. Putting on a show for the troopers is something very special for them.

"There is nothing like performing for military personnel," said Root "We've been to Europe a few times and got to perform in Italy and Germany for the guys stationed there."

"When we found out we could perform for the guys here, we were stoked to come down," explained Berry.

"We know it can be difficult to serve in the military," said Berry, and anytime we can perform for the troops and make their lives a little easier, it is a wonderful feeling for us." ■



Photos by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeff Johnstone and Army Pfc. Daniel Welch



# Cinco de Mayo

## *A celebration of Mexican victory*

By Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Jeff A. Johnstone



Cinco de Mayo (May 5) is a historical day for Mexico for two important reasons. First, Mexico achieved recognized independence from Spanish colonial rule on May 5, 1821.

Secondly, Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of Mexico's victory over the French during the Battle of Puebla in Mexico on May 5, 1862. Led by Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza Seguin, Mexico's forces triumphed over French forces in Puebla, Mexico. The victory proved to be one of the most significant in Mexico's military history.

In 1861, Napoleon III, Emperor of France, sent his soldiers to Mexico to collect some debts. A former Mexican president had initially agreed to pay these debts in installments.

It was revealed that Napoleon's true goal was to conquer the Mexican government and set up a monarchy similar to the one France had in place, and expand control through Central and South America.

Gen. Charles Ferdinand Latrille de Lorencez, infamous for his disdain for Mexico and her people, led French forces into Mexico, occupying Veracruz on Dec. 8, 1861. The occupying French army won several victories over Mexico's forces. Mexico's victory over France in the Battle of Puebla proved

to be a huge morale boost for the country. Seguin's forces were outnumbered 6,000 to 4,500. Puebla was heavily fortified, and when the French forces ran out of ammunition, Mexican soldiers took to the field to drive the enemy away. The body count saw France lose 462 men while Mexico lost only 83.

Following the victory, Mexican President Benito Juarez named May 5th a national holiday, and Cinco de Mayo is celebrated to this day. Celebrations combine lively music and dancing with food and beverage. Cinco de Mayo is celebrated heavily in Mexico, most prominently in Puebla, the site of the battle.

In the U.S., the holiday is observed by Americans of both Mexican and non-Mexican descent. Often, Hispanic pride and culture is the subject of celebration, simply because the holiday's history is unknown or hasn't been taught. Many schools celebrate the week of Cinco de Mayo by teaching young students the significance of Mexico's historic military victory, as well as the contributions of other famous Hispanic figures who shaped history.

A Cinco de Mayo dinner will be held at the Bayview Club at 7:00 p.m. Roasted pork enchiladas and tequila marinated chicken will be available. The cost is \$12.50 per person. Call 75604 for more information. ■

# Getting to know your LES

**By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The first and 15th of each month are the most anticipated days for many Troopers awaiting receipt of their military pay.

While many Troopers are vigilant about making sure those funds reach their bank account, some overlook the importance of reviewing their Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) to ensure its accuracy.

The LES is a comprehensive statement of a Trooper's leave and earnings. It shows entitlements, deductions, allotments, leave information, tax withholding information and Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) information. An LES is printed on DFAS Form 702, and Troopers can access a copy by mail or by setting up a myPay account through the Internet.

According to O'Neil Steer, a personnel specialist first class at the Customer Service Desk here, a Trooper's pay is his or her responsibility. Thus he said, Troopers are encouraged to review their statements to prevent any over or underpayments.

"They (Troopers) are usually very particular about starting entitlements, but fail to apply the same attention to detail in stopping them, resulting in overpayments," said Steer. "The LES is fairly easy to read, but not all entries are as clearly represented as the individual might expect. Service members are encouraged to learn how to read their LES properly, and can seek training from their chain of command."

Steer mentioned that Troopers are usually prompt in consulting administrative personnel

whenever there are adjustments and fluctuations in their pay. He also says that the myPay system provides a convenient and efficient way to review statements.

"Members can access their pay information via the Internet through myPay, in most cases they are made aware of changes to their accounts immediately," said Steer. "As a result, we have a lot more customers verifying the changes in entitlement earlier to prevent over and underpayments."

Steer mentioned that if a Trooper is underpaid, their entitlement will always be there until it is claimed.

"An entitlement never goes away, and this is also true for an overpayment," said Steer. "If a member is overpaid, collection will systematically recoup the debt after 60 days, or they can have the overpayment rescheduled. In the end it will be collected. The best way to prevent overpayments and underpayments is to monitor your pay, know your entitlements, verify your entitlements, and report all changes."

Steer mentioned that the most overlooked information on an LES is the remarks section, which is where all payroll and personnel actions processed during the pay period are printed.

"This section reflects changes to pay grade, entitlements and allotments," said Steer. "It also includes overpayment information, leave period being charged and important web pages."

According to Steer, once a Trooper becomes familiar with the content of the LES, they will

be able to identify inaccuracies. Since the information on an LES should remain the same from month to month, military personnel should review the following information every pay period:

- Check their LES the next payday following promotions.
  - Make sure their date of rank is correct to ensure proper payment.
  - Make sure the box listing years of credible service is correct since entitlements increase with years of service.
  - Review leave information to be aware of your current leave balance.
  - Ensure their marriage status is correct since it could result in too much money being withheld from their paycheck.
  - Ensure the number of exemptions is accurate, particularly after a dependent change.
  - Make sure the postal identifier of the state where a Trooper claims domicile is correct. Since several states do not have a state income tax, Troopers should understand that there are legal and ethical ways to establish domicile in a state.
  - Troopers should review their Basic Allowance for Quarters to make sure they are being paid the correct amount of money for housing based on the zip code of their home address.
- Steer said that Troopers are encouraged to consult their administrative office regarding any payment issues. Troopers should also file away their LES to ensure it does not get into the wrong hands, since the LES does contain a Trooper's full name, as well as a Trooper's Social Security number. ■

# Reunion Issue #2

**By Army Chaplain (Maj.) Daniel Jones**

JTF Command Chaplain

If you have children, there are some basic behaviors that can be expected.

1) Some children get angry about their parent being gone. Toddlers and preschoolers may act like their parent is a stranger. They don't understand duty or mission.

2) Elementary school children and teenagers may understand, but show anger or fear by "acting out."

You need to get reacquainted and take things slowly. Children are able to adjust to change better than we are, but you have to give them time. The younger your children are, the harder it is for them to put their feelings into words. This is why they misbehave, show anger, shyness, and fear toward us when we return.

Counselors through Fleet and Family Support Centers, Family Assistance Centers, and Childhood Development Centers can assist us with understanding our children's reactions and suggesting methods to help them overcome the problems of reunion and reintegration.

The most important reaction to avoid is becoming a stern and strict disciplinarian as a reaction to your children misbehaving upon your return. They so desperately want us to love them and become reconnected with that love.

Discipline can be interpreted as hate and disapproval to a child. This can only amplify their misbehavior. Again, time and support from our friends, family, chaplains, counselors, medical staff, and child psychologists are all resources we should consider if our reunion with our children is difficult and sustained for more than a couple of weeks. ■

## SURVIVING SEPARATION

**By Army Chaplain (Maj.) Daniel Jones**

JTF Command Chaplain

### Tip #2 for Success:

Take it easy and let things happen naturally. Don't rush the process of reunion and try to do everything you've wanted to do in 24 hours. The more you give yourself time to ease back into your family and home routines, the easier it is to adapt to any changes and to adjust your past behaviors. ■

## WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

### Saturday, May. 5

Partly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80's, and lows in the mid-70's.



Isolated T-storms

Sunrise: 6:30 a.m.

Sunset: 7:25 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 30%

### Sunday, May. 6

Chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80's, and lows in the mid-70's.



Isolated T-storms

Sunrise: 6:29 a.m.

Sunset: 7:26 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 30%

### Monday, May. 7

Chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80's, and lows in the mid-70's.



Scattered T-storms

Sunrise: 6:29 a.m.

Sunset: 7:26 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 30%



# MOVIE REVIEW CORNER

This week's movie review of "The Number 23" by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Gary Keen

If you must go see The Number 23, expect to see a 97-minute elementary math game of 'find the number 23.' Then mix that with the director tying all the scenes into knots, hoping to stun you with some mind-bending final twist. Then, voila, you have another crappy Joel Schumacher movie.

The main character, Walter Sparrows (Jim Carrey) is an ordinary guy who loses his grip on reality when he becomes obsessed with a detective novel his wife, Agatha (Virginia Madsen), buys him for his birthday. As Walter reads the novel, he finds strange parallels between his life and the hard-boiled detective Fingerling (also played by Carrey), who has a growing obsession with the number 23. More and more, Walter begins to notice the occurrences of 23 in his own life.

Carrey worked hard trying to make this movie better, but it didn't help with him thrashing his character about wildly and at times, using his comedic persona to show Walters' sense of humor. Like some wild scene from Ace Ventura Pet Detective, Carrey obliterates Walter's full-blown insanity into a wave of tics and spastic flopping that leaves me feeling sorry for him. Because I know he's going to take the fall for this movie, I'll give it two stars. ■

**- The Number 23 -**  
**Rating: ★★☆☆☆**

**Rated: R**  
**Duration: 97 minutes**

## Boots on the Ground:

"If there is one thing you would NOT change about GTMO what would it be?"



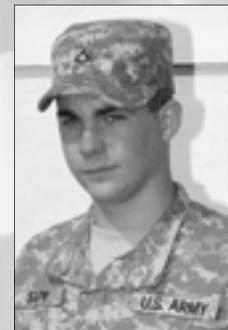
**"MWR Benefits."**  
 -Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Heather Hermes



**"The liberal beaches."**  
 -Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Quinton Harris



**"The Beaches"**  
 -Army Pfc. Calvin C. Blair



**"The NEX/Commis-sary"**  
 -Army Pfc. Dustin L. Sapp

# The Time is NOW!

By Army Chaplain (Col.) Ray Bailey

When I was younger, there was a popular song that went something like this: “Time is on my side.” Then, the backup singers would chime in, “Yes it is, yes it is.” Well I want to tell you that time is not on your side, no it isn’t, no it isn’t. If you don’t believe it, look at your body or stomach. Everything is headed south. The fact is, your boat is sinking.

I heard about a clock that was advertised as the perfect gift idea. The digital clock, by punching in your age and your gender, would constantly remind you of how many years you could expect to live. It displays your running time (based on life-expectancy tables) in hours, minutes and seconds. This clock would tell you exactly, down to the last second, how much time you have left. No, it won’t. No one knows how long he or she has left.

Whatever you need to do, you need to do it now. There are times when you just need to do something. Make an effort and decide to do it now—not later. A boat in a harbor is safe but over time its bottom will rot out. If you just sit—pardon the bluntness—your bottom is going to rot out. Get on with it. Your favorite song should not be *Sitting on the Dock of the Bay*. “One of these days” becomes none of these days.

A teacher asked her class what each wanted to become when they grew up. A chorus of responses came from all over the room. “A football player,” “A doctor,” “An astronaut,” “The President,” “A fireman,” “A teacher,” “A race car driver.” Every one had answers except one little boy named Johnny. The teacher noticed that Johnny was sitting there quiet and still. So she said, “Johnny, what do you want to be when you grow up?” “Possible,” Johnny replied. “Possible?” asked the teacher. “Yes,” Johnny said. “My mom is always telling me I’m impossible. So when I grow up, I want to be possible.”

Everything is possible today. Do it today. You can’t promise you’ll do it tomorrow, just say you’ll do it today. Maybe you didn’t do it yesterday, but you can do it today because today, it is possible. Whatever you’re struggling with, you can do it today. “Today I will be a great Trooper.” “Today I will not overeat.” “Today I will not criticize.” Whatever it is, you can do it today.

Make sure you understand the best way to live life is in the present. There is a story about a young clock. The young clock got a little stressed out. He began to think introspectively about how many times he had to tick. If he had to tick twice per second, that would be 120 ticks per minute. Then, he took it further. He would have to tick 7,200 times in an hour, over 172,000 ticks in a day and over 1.2 million ticks a week.

Overwhelmed by all the ticking, he became stressed and depressed. So he went to see the clock psychiatrist. He told him how many ticks he had to tick and wondered how he was going to do this. The clock psychiatrist rubbed his numerals and wisely asked, “Young clock, how many ticks do you tick at a time?” The clock responded, “Just one.” The clock doctor said, “Then that is what you have to focus on. Tick one tick at a time and you’ll be ticked off the rest of your life.

That’s the way it is with you and with time. Take it one day at a time and sometimes one step at a time. I don’t know what your past is, I don’t know what your future will be, but I can tell you with God’s help, today is possible. “It is no secret what God can do. What he’s done for others, he’ll do for you.” ■

## CAMP AMERICA WORSHIP SCHED-

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Troopers’ Chapel
	5:45 p.m.	Confessions	Troopers’ Chapel
	6:30 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>	8:00 a.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	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
<b>Monday</b>	1:00 p.m.	Gospel Service	Main Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	7:00 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
<b>Mon. to Fri.</b>	6:00 p.m.	Daily Mass	Main Chapel
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 p.m.	Men’s Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
<b>Friday</b>	12:30 p.m.	Islamic Prayer	Sanctuary C
<b>Saturday</b>	4:15 p.m.	Confessions	Main Chapel
	5:00 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

Photo and story by Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

ARMY SPC.  
BARBARA TORRES

The seasons come and go here as time passes quickly for some, slowly for many. Focuses change, priorities shift and things you might have thought to be impossible are suddenly staring straight in your face. It's no doubt that a year spent from your loved ones is going to be a year full of challenges, if for nothing else but that reason alone. Nevertheless, we all have choices and the choices we make, good or bad, will teach us things. The things we learn here will likely help us throughout the rest of our lives, but only if we choose to accept the lessons.

Army Spc. Barbara Torres has not always had the most charmed life, but she certainly has done the best with what she has. With a prideful and thick-skinned tone, she explained a little about herself.

"I have four kids and two grand-kids and am a single mother," said Torres.

At the age of 38 you can imagine the challenges she faced raising and providing for all of them.

"I had to work two jobs and still try to be a mother and a father figure at the same time."

Torres explained how she always did her very best for her children. "Time

management is obviously a big part of the life I've had." If there was one thing that changed Torres' life forever it was the obvious, "becoming pregnant." But as she explains a little further, the source of her strength and ability to persevere becomes abundantly clear.

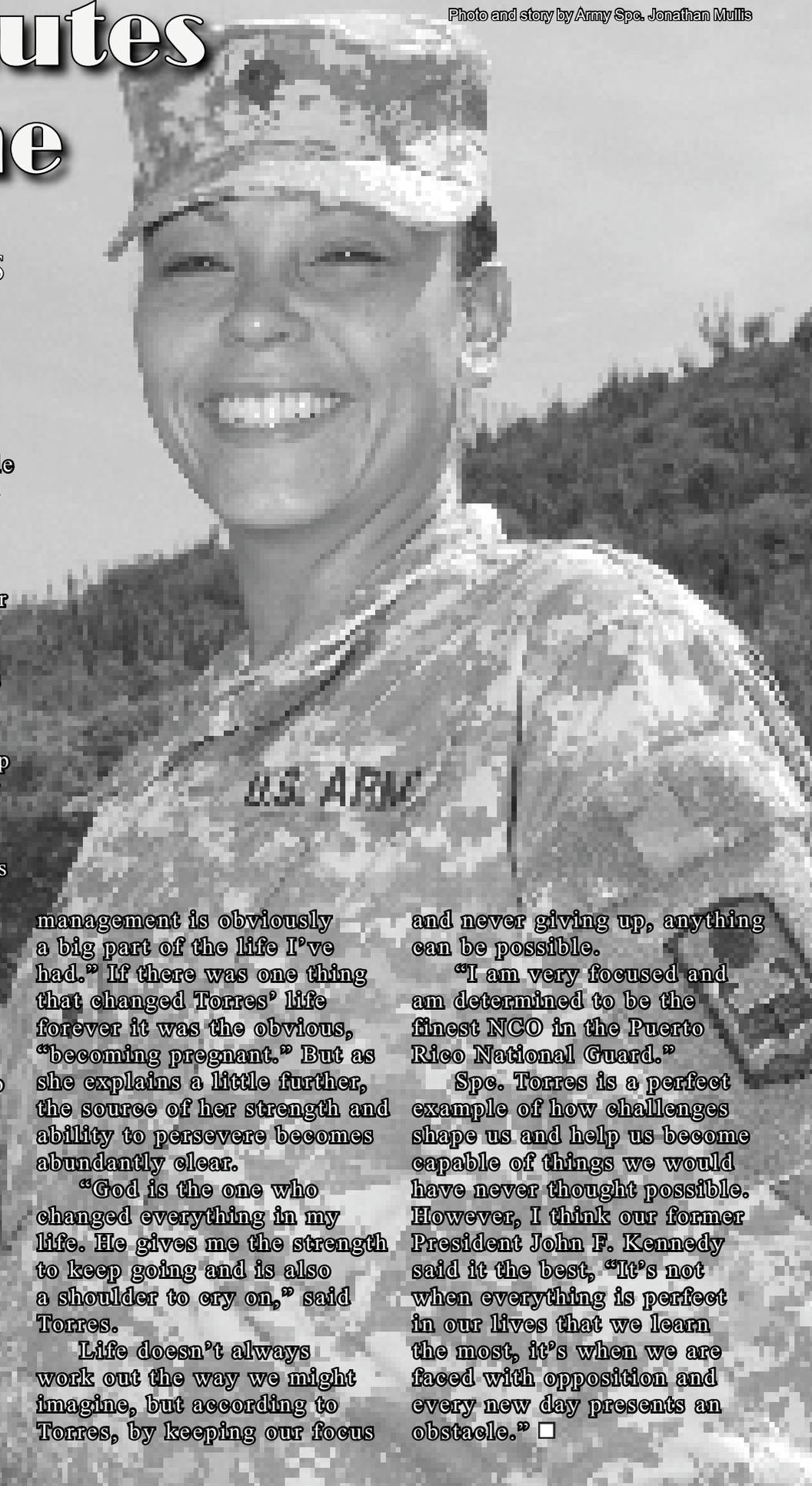
"God is the one who changed everything in my life. He gives me the strength to keep going and is also a shoulder to cry on," said Torres.

Life doesn't always work out the way we might imagine, but according to Torres, by keeping our focus

and never giving up, anything can be possible.

"I am very focused and am determined to be the finest NCO in the Puerto Rico National Guard."

Spc. Torres is a perfect example of how challenges shape us and help us become capable of things we would have never thought possible. However, I think our former President John F. Kennedy said it the best, "It's not when everything is perfect in our lives that we learn the most, it's when we are faced with opposition and every new day presents an obstacle." □



# AROUND THE JTF



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Thompson

A photo of Charlie Company 1-65 Infantry run, led by Cpt. Alvin Aponte April 27.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Thompson

Navy Capt. Michael L. Reynolds congratulates Navy Lt. Gregory V. Winger on receiving the Joint Service Commendation Medal.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Thompson

The Honorable Keith Eastin, Asistant Secretary of the Army tours GTMO and some of the detention centers.



Photo by Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Juana Hernandez-Vazquez signs her re-enlistment at Camp Delta Tuesday.