

THE WIRE

A News Magazine

Joint Task Force
Guantanamo's
Finest News Source



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Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

Understanding your players: Teamwork

By Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The United States military is the strongest, best equipped and most well-trained fighting force the world has ever seen. But without good teamwork, all of the elements mentioned above can go by the wayside. Teamwork is the integral piece of an effective, cohesive unit.

All of us have been a part of a team at some point in our lives and can remember working with others to achieve a shared team goal. Teamwork is an essential element of success here at Guantanamo. We work with "teams" of Troopers everyday and all teams have multiple positions and roles. A key to building a good team is determining which Trooper to put in what position and then making sure each Trooper knows his or her role.

Good teamwork creates group synergy so that the combined effects of individual contributions far exceed the sum of their individual efforts. There is shared responsibility and togetherness between members of a well-knit team. The basic principle here is that individual contributions alone will not be as productive as all of us working together as a team.

Good team players put the team ahead of their own personal goals. Their focus is team accomplishment and finding ways to make sure the team is successful. As we have seen several times in the world of athletics, an athlete can put up great numbers but be harmful to a team's harmony. For example, National Football League receiver Randy Moss has been able to capture many headlines for his on-field achievements, but his teams have never performed at a championship level. The



Photo by Spc. Shanita Simmons

same can be said for a unit that has Troopers who excel in their jobs, but are, nevertheless, detrimental to unit success because of attitude, lack of military bearing or inability to get along with others.

In my experience in the military, I would rather have a team (unit) that gives 110 percent effort all the time, than a group of individuals who have maximum ability, but only give minimal effort. For example my own unit, the 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, came to Guantanamo, initially, with only two job-qualified Troopers. Through their hard work and determination they did not let what others considered an overwhelming obstacle stand in the way of mission success. Even with out formal job training, this group of hard-working Troopers did not skip a beat in assuming the mission responsibilities left by the group that preceded them.

In closing, I encourage all of you to think about your unit first and about how you can make your unit better in all of your military actions. If we all can do this, we will continue to set the military performance standards for the entire world.

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European leader notes improvements



By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

A top European security leader noted improvements in the issue of long-term detention during a visit to Joint Task Force Guantanamo detention facilities June 20.

The visit was the second for Madam Anne-Marie Lizin, the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly's Special Representative to Guantanamo and President of the Belgian Senate. Her previous visit was in March 2006.

During the visit, Lizin toured Camp Six, Guantanamo's newly completed detention facility that has decreased the detainee population in the older camps, and observed improvements in the medical capability.

Lizin said that while the military has made improvements to the detainee's quality of life, the issue of the detainees' long-term detention remains unresolved.

"The detainees are treated humanely," said Lizin. But she took issue with the length of time detainees remain while the Global War on Terror continues with no

end in sight.

Military officials have long stated that under the Law of War, it is the right of any nation to detain combatants until the end of hostilities. The Global War on Terror has introduced a new "long war" that may continue for years into the future.

"The problem is the relation between here and the judiciaries within the U.S. that are not being consistent," she said.

Lizin reiterated that any unreasonable delay in the detainees' confinement should be a concern for the military since it may have adverse affects on the execution of the mission at Guantanamo.

"The medical care is better than last year," she said, noting new medical equipment and facilities. "You can be in good physical and mental condition, but you can deteriorate when you do not have an explanation of how long [detention] will take."

Lizin mentioned that the question of how to prosecute the detainees is an American issue that needs to be decided by US government and military officials.

Lizin's Guantanamo visit occurred a day before she was scheduled to appear

at a public hearing before the U.S. Helsinki Commission on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. June 21. Her address to this commission is entitled, "Guantanamo: Implications for U.S. Human Rights Leadership." Lizin was also to speak at the National Press Club on issues regarding Guantanamo detention practices.

Lizin said she planned to speak on how an international legal process could address terrorism on a more global level. Lizin added that she also plans to discuss how the United States could work with other countries to implement more expeditious transfer procedures.

Lizin said she hopes her discussions will help the committee better understand how to address the issues at Guantanamo. However, she said change will begin once the Law of War is adapted to the reality of the present situation, and that is not yet the case.

"The case to be fixed is to try to transfer the detainees in a better way, to determine who will decide whether to release some more information about them, and to try to be clearer on the reason why it is correct from a U.S. point of view to keep people here," said Lizin.

Lizin is also Chair to the Parliamentary Assembly's General Committee on Human Rights and was appointed by that body Special Representative on Guantanamo in February 2005 by the OSCE.



Kickin' the habit: Tobacco Cessation

By Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Tobacco users are dying – dying for an extra drag or a quick dip. Dying to satisfy a Pavlovian response. Dying from addiction.

Tobacco users are looking to release a trigger that's been installed through a combination of social routines, peer pressure and addiction. The trigger is pulled and BANG – the lighter snaps open, the flame leaps, the cigarette is lit and you take a nice, long satisfying drag of carcinogens that have the sole purpose of causing your bodily functions to cease.

These patterns of behavior – a vicious cycle of negative actions that become a lifestyle habit – are positively altered using a transtheoretical behavioral change model (this means progress is made through a six-stage process; Google it).

The staff of the Navy Hospital and Joint Aid Station is interested in stopping that cycle of self-defeat.

"Tobacco use is a readiness issue," said Lt. Cdr. Lauretta Huff, Health Promotion Director at the Navy Hospital here. Tobacco use causes lung cancer, emphysema, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and low birth weights.

We've all been through situations of stress and we all need relaxation. We all have ways of coping in those situations – meditation, counting to ten, alcohol, taking three extra breaths, exercise, blind ignorance and stubborn refusal to accept our reality – but tobacco use is the one that leads to cancer. It breaks down the body, infects the lungs and limits natural ability.

Tobacco users suffer micro-vascular changes in their bodies leading to diminished lung function and reduced sexual desire. Also, it's disgusting to a lot of people. Socially speaking, tobacco use now has a stigma attached to it. Picture a man smoking a rank cigar in a crowded restaurant and you won't think he's the most popular guy. Think of the woman driving in her car with her windows cracked, cigarette in hand, baby in the back seat. Is anyone giving her a 'mother of the year' award? Not likely. What about the Joe with the big wad of dip in his lip? Not the brightest of smiles on him.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Paul Hurlburt is the Tobacco Users Cessation Coordinator at the Navy Hospital. He has 25 years of experience working in the cardiopulmonary field and has seen the end effects of long-term tobacco use. "The cessation program is a means of assisting with quitting any

type of tobacco product," Hurlburt said.

The first step of the program is an assessment of Troopers' readiness. That follows with education and awareness of tobacco use. Next, the coordinators will help Troopers set a date to quit. Multiple methods of quitting are discussed, including cold turkey, medication and nicotine replacement. The four weekly classes (Mondays at 4 p.m.) are a supplement to the chosen method of quitting.

Hurlburt is dedicated to the program and willing to cater to the schedules of Troopers looking to quit. If Troopers can't make it to the Monday classes, Hurlburt will find another time to help them out.

"We also have two Joint Task Force facilitators who were recently trained up to help out with the program," Hurlburt said, bringing the on-base total of Tobacco User Cessation Coordinators to 10.

When you're ready to quit, call Hurlburt at 7-2350. It may take a while and it may take more than one attempt. The positive effects of quitting tobacco happen very quickly – foods taste and smell better, your body feels more capable – you might even start enjoying those PT runs.

For more info, visit 1800quitnow.org or cdc.gov/tobacco.



Image by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

Network News: *The Five Pillars of Information Assurance*

**From the JTF-GTMO
Information Assurance Office**

At the Information Assurance Office, we are often asked what exactly Information Assurance (IA) is. Admittedly, IA is a nebulous term that's probably best defined by looking at the official Department of Defense (DoD) textbook definition: "Information operations that protect and defend information and information systems by ensuring their availability, integrity, authentication, confidentiality and non-repudiation."

The terms at the end of this definition are the five key pillars of the IA program. Here's what each means in the context of IA:

Availability: information services are there when you need them.

Integrity: Information has not been modified during transmission or processing.

Authentication: a security measure designed to establish the validity of a transmission, mes-

sage, or originator, or a means of verifying an individual's authorization to receive specific categories of information.

Confidentiality: people who don't have the appropriate clearance, access level, and "need to know" do not access the information.

Non-repudiation: the sender of data is provided proof of delivery and the recipient is assured of the sender's identity so that neither can deny having processed the data.

So, what exactly is IA? IA is the function of providing/ensuring these things. These five pillars identify the fundamental purpose of the Joint Task Force-Guantanamo IA program (and all DoD IA programs). By providing and ensuring these services on our information and information systems, we can be confident that JTF-GTMO's networks and information are secure.

If you have any questions or concerns about a computer security issue, please feel free to contact the JTF-GTMO IA Office at j6-ia@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil or ext. 3333.

Security bulletin: In the Line of Fire

By Frank Perkins

JTF-GTMO Special Security Office

Your risk of becoming an intelligence target increases greatly when you travel abroad. Most foreign security and intelligence services have various means of screening incoming visitors to identify persons of potential intelligence interest.

While traveling abroad, you are on the other country's home turf, where the local security and intelligence services have many resources available. They can monitor and, to some extent, control the environment in which you live and do your work.

As an American government official, scientist, or business traveler, you can become a target of

the local intelligence or security service in almost any country.

Some of the activities that may be directed against you will be quite sophisticated, and you are unlikely to notice them or to identify them for what they are. Others may be crude and obvious.

Hotel and conference rooms abroad may be wired for audio and visual surveillance. It is noteworthy that legal restrictions against technical surveillance that apply in the United States have not been adopted by other countries with which we have close trading ties.

The U.S. Government, as a matter of policy, does not identify publicly which foreign countries represent the greatest intelligence threat. To do so would

create a false sense of security when dealing with any of the unnamed countries.

The reality is that most technologically advanced or developing countries, including some democratic countries that are closely allied with or supported by the United States, place a high priority on acquiring U.S. technology by both fair means and foul.

Serious security incidents should be reported to the nearest U.S. diplomatic facility when traveling overseas. After returning from your trip, report any suspicious things that occurred to your organization's appropriate security component immediately.

Mission First - Security Always!

Taking it to *le cercle** - still an American pastime?

Foreign-born players prolific in NBA; Eva Longoria spoken for

By Army Spc. Daniel Welch

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Tour boats, freshly adorned with the silver and black spur of the National Basketball Association's San Antonio Spurs, floated lazily down that city's River Walk last Sunday, June 17th. The boats, filled with Spurs players and staff, were celebrating, along with their fans, their four-game sweep of the Cleveland Cavaliers in the NBA finals, and their fourth championship in just nine seasons.

The Spurs found success by playing altruistic, team-oriented basketball. As ESPN basketball analyst Mark Jackson puts it, "They are extremely modest and so annoyingly unselfish that this team is severely under-appreciated."

They also have the interesting distinction of being the only team in the NBA to boast of not one, but two foreign-born players to win the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player (MVP) award. This year the award went to the French-born point guard Tony Parker, and in years 2003 and 2005, to superstar Tim Duncan, born in the US Virgin Islands.

Parker is just another result of the growing international popularity of the game and the globalization efforts on the part of the NBA to bring the sport to all corners of the globe.

Before the 2002 entry draft, the league saw only a trickle of players coming into the NBA from outside the US. However, that season the league saw a staggering 17 foreign-born players enter the NBA. 2002 also signified the end of American dominance in the international basketball scene when that year's team finished a lowly sixth in the World Championships.

Much of this swing towards foreign players (mostly, though not exclusively, European) is due primarily to the fundamental team skills they showcase.

In 2002, U.S. head coach George Karl remarked, "I find it kind of sad, but the fundamental play of the [foreign] players is a lot more sound than that of the players

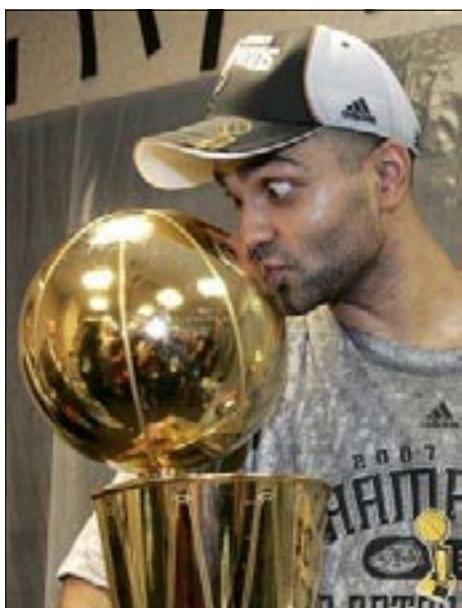


Photo courtesy Reuters/Lucy Nicholson

San Antonio Spurs Tony Parker kisses the Larry O'Brien Trophy after defeating the Cleveland Cavaliers to win the NBA Finals series in Cleveland, Ohio, June 14, 2007.

coming up in this country. Those players are spending 10-11 months a year in the gym in structured games, and we don't see those kind of players in this country."

Many writers also consider the trend of high school players skipping college and making the early jump to the NBA as a factor that is diluting the quality of the American-born talent pool. The writers believe that premature exposure to the professional game is stifling their development. ESPN columnist Chad Ford writes that teams are seeing the results of weak drafting and are recognizing that high-school players in the NBA, for the most part, have a hard time adjusting to the game.

Steve Nash, who was born in Johannesburg, South Africa and is a Canadian citizen, was the first foreign-born player to win the NBA season MVP award, winning in both 2005 and 2006. Before coming to the NBA, Nash was virtually unknown, having played high-school ball in Canada, and college-ball at tiny Santa

Clara University before being drafted 15th in the 1996 draft by the Phoenix Suns.

Likewise, Dirk Nowitzki, of the NBA's Dallas Mavericks, whose early life saw him playing for various German youth teams, only came to the attention of NBA scouts after a Nike camp in 1998. Taken ninth overall by Dallas, Nowitzki has been a mainstay of the Mavericks, winning the season MVP award this season, 2007.

Detroit Pistons president of basketball operations, Joe Dumars, explained to reporters that, "[Foreign-born] players are all learning about playing basketball with the fundamentals of passing, shooting, dribbling and defense, and too many guys here are playing to get themselves on highlights at 11."

While foreign-born players still make up a small percentage of the NBA, 13 out of the 30 teams in the league currently boast at least one international player in their starting five. The champion Spurs have three, with Argentinean Manu Ginobili joining Tim Duncan and Tony Parker.

Ginobili explained to reporters, "At the beginning [of this trend], there were foreigners, but just to help the team. But now they're All-Stars. Now there are players who are respected world-wide. I think it's a great help to the whole NBA world."

As international players continue to battle American-born players for starting jobs in the league, Nowitzki sees their prominence growing, "This is just the start of these players coming to the NBA, the players are getting better younger and competing internationally from the time they are 16-17 years old."

So, as the celebrations in the heart of Texas die down – and all eyes focus on next season – many in the NBA community are wondering just what international player will step up next and continue to fuel the emergence of foreign-born stars in what remains, at least for the present, the world's premier basketball league, America's NBA.

**Le cercle* is French for 'the hoop.' Seriously.

NEX celebrates Father's Day with 3-point contest

By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeff Johnstone

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs

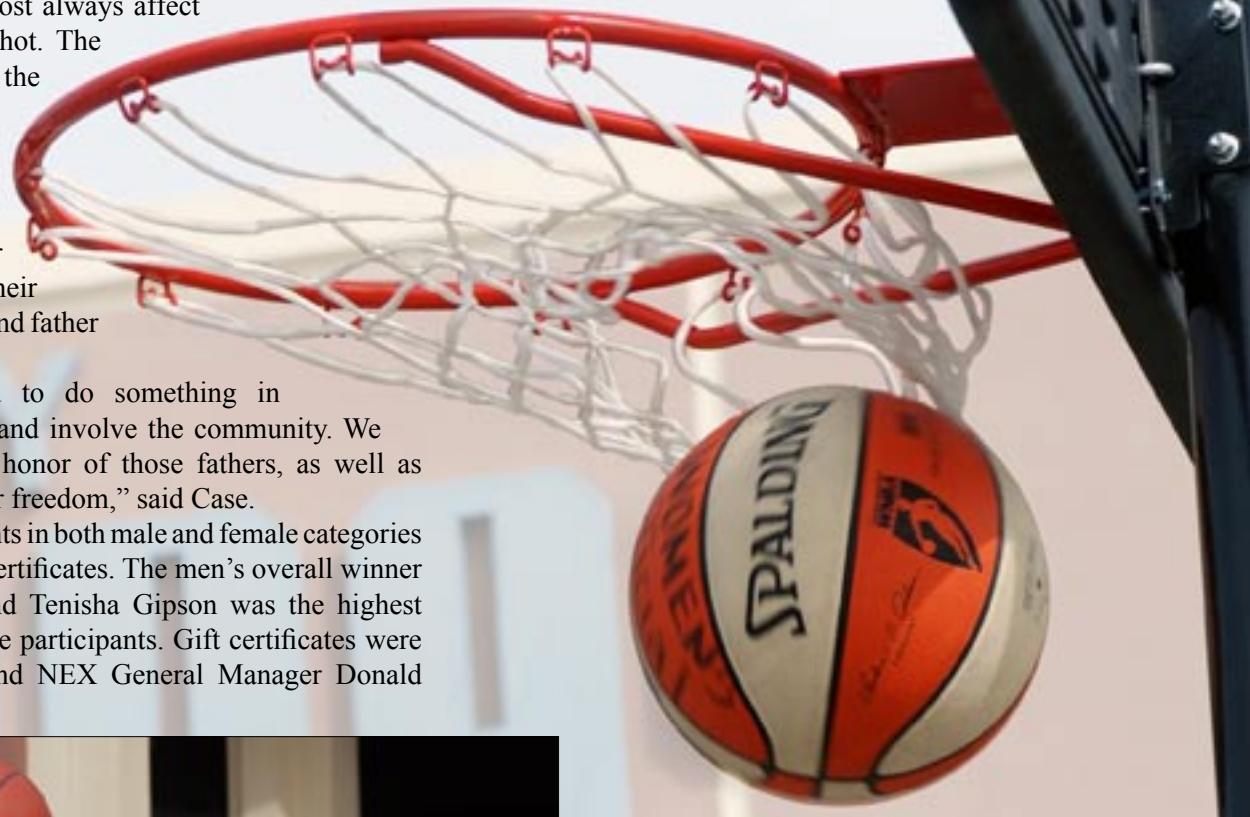
Navy Exchange (NEX) Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) and New Car Sales (NCS) hosted a 3-point contest in celebration of Fathers' Day on Saturday, June 16, at the main exchange parking lot. Over 30 participants flooded the front of the NEX to try their hand at the winner's prize, a \$200 NEX gift certificate.

The rules for the contest were simple: sink as many buckets from behind the arc as possible in two minutes. While this may sound easy, it's not. The burden of having to sink as many shots from that distance as possible in such a short period of time will almost always affect the mechanics of the shot. The most baskets scored for the day was 16.

According to Kitty Case, NEX store manager, the event was an opportunity for the NEX to show their appreciation to fathers and father figures on GTMO.

"We (NEX) wanted to do something in conjunction with NCS and involve the community. We chose Fathers' Day in honor of those fathers, as well as mothers who defend our freedom," said Case.

Top scoring participants in both male and female categories received the \$200 gift certificates. The men's overall winner was William Moore and Tenisha Gipson was the highest scorer among the female participants. Gift certificates were handed out by Case and NEX General Manager Donald Mohlman.



Photos by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeff Johnstone

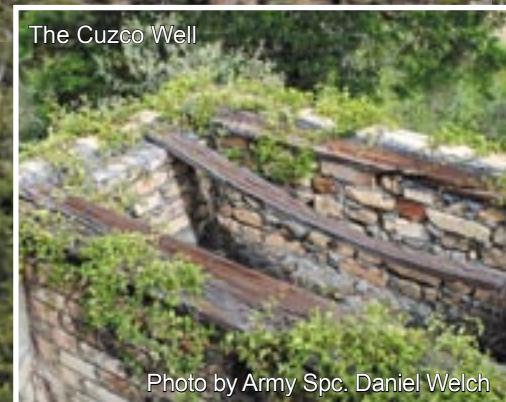


Photo courtesy USMC History Division

Staff Sgt. John H. Quick received the Medal of Honor for actions during the Battle of Cuzco Well. The plaque stands on the top of a hill on the battlefield to honor the heroic actions of Quick and Pvt. John Fitzgerald, who was also awarded the Medal of Honor.



Photo by Army Spc. Daniel Welch



The Cuzco Well



Photo by Army Spc. Daniel Welch

Photo courtesy of Spanish-American War Centennial web site



Marines prepare to engage the enemy during the action in Cuba.

The Battle of Cuzco Well

On June 14, 1898, the United States solidified its presence in Cuba when US Marines engage Spanish forces in a series of actions in and around the Cuzco water wells situated in the hills overlooking Guantanamo Bay.

The Marines were already encamped in the area now known as McCalla Hill, a position they gained after Navy ships softened up the area with their guns. The Marines were in the best position they could find, although it was an unenviable one considering the rough brush and cacti growing in and around their camp. This terrain gave the Spanish forces up in the hills great cover from which to engage the Marines below. Over the course of three days preceding the Cuzco Well action, the Spanish attacked and retreated several times. The Marines suffered few casualties, and because of the attacks, reinforcement and re-supply efforts were difficult.

In response to the constant Spanish attacks, Col. Enrique Thomas, who was in command of 50 Cuban officers and guerillas attached to the Marines, advocated an attack on the Spanish at Cuzco. They thought that by destroying the wells, the only significant fresh water source in the immediate area, they could push the Spaniards back to Guantanamo City.

Two companies of Marines and Cuban guerrillas marched three miles from their encampment to the Cuzco valley. The Cubans, who were in the lead, were spotted by the Spanish and began taking fire. In the meantime, the Marines came up behind their Cuban counterparts and began firing on the Spanish positions. The USS Dolphin supported the attack from the sea.

Unfortunately, as the Marines moved closer to the Spanish positions, they began taking friendly fire from the Dolphin. Staff Sgt. John H. Quick and Pvt. John Fitzgerald climbed to the top of one of the hills overlooking the bay in order to signal the Dolphin to adjust fire. Because they placed themselves directly in the line of enemy fire, both were subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery.

By 3 p.m. that day, the Spanish were routed, and were forced to retreat back to Guantanamo City. The Marines captured 18 Spanish soldiers and filled up the wells with rubble to deny future Spanish access to that water. In the battle, the Marines killed 58 Spanish soldiers and injured 150, without losing a single man.

Today, some 109 years later, the United States still maintains its foothold – by treaty now – on the former Spanish territory of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. **Story by Army Spc. Daniel Welch**

Historical information provided by Marine Staff Sgt. Kaveh M. Wooley and the Spanish-American War Centennial Website



Photo by Army Spc. Daniel Welch

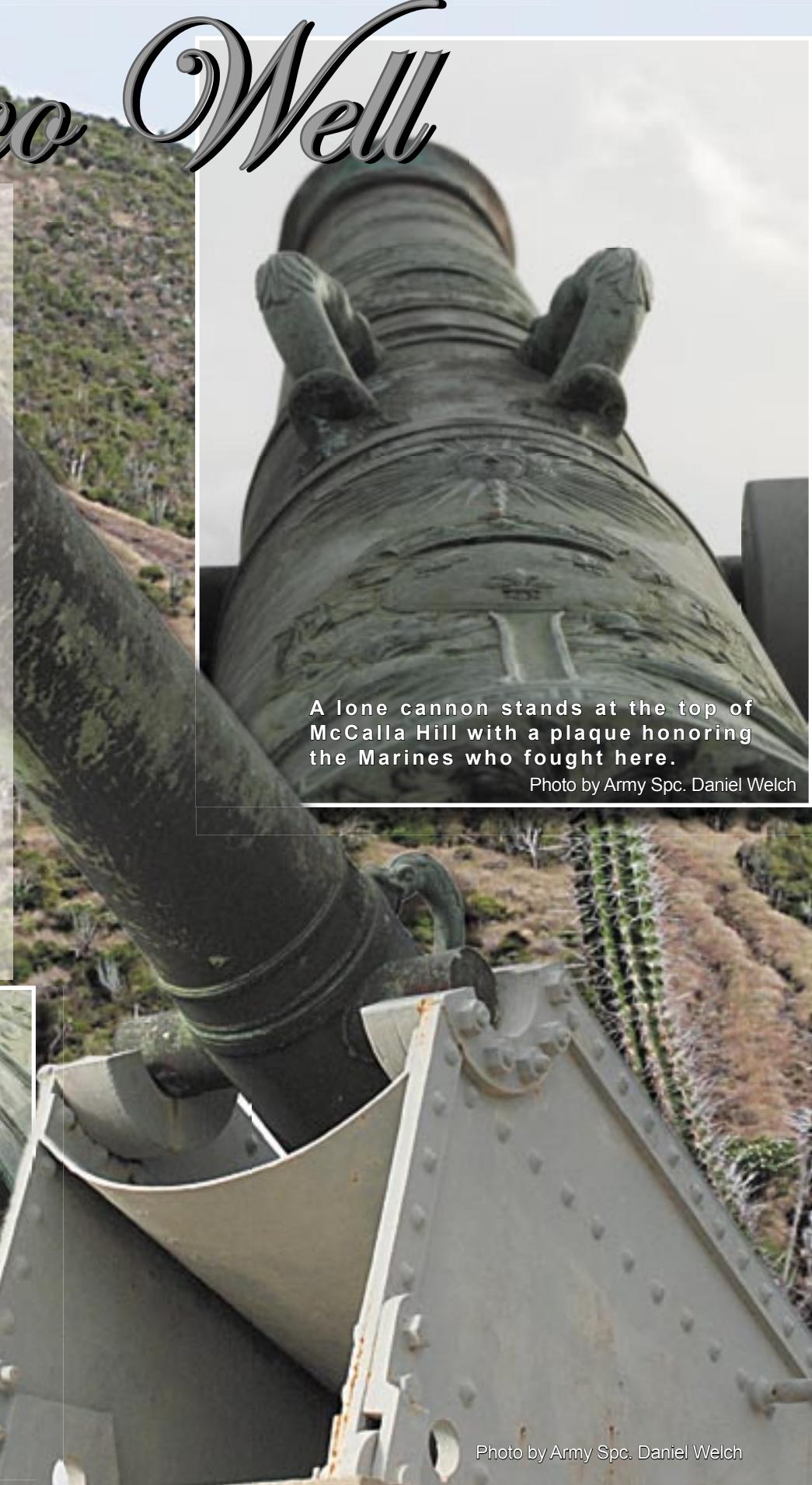


Photo by Army Spc. Daniel Welch

A lone cannon stands at the top of McCalla Hill with a plaque honoring the Marines who fought here.

Photo by Army Spc. Daniel Welch

Detainee Transfer Announced

Released by the Department of Defense

The Department of Defense announced Tuesday, June 19, the transfer of six detainees from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Two detainees were transferred to Tunisia and four detainees were transferred to Yemen. These detainees were determined to be eligible for transfer following a comprehensive series of review processes at Guantanamo Bay.

Approximately 80 detainees remain at Guantanamo who the U.S. government has determined eligible for transfer or release. Departure of these remaining detainees is subject to ongoing discussions between the United States and other nations.

Since 2002, approximately 405 detainees have departed Guantanamo for other countries including Albania, Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives, Morocco, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and Yemen.

Approximately 375 detainees remain at Guantanamo.

Army Secretary affirms commitment to Soldiers, families

By Donna Miles

Army News Service

With more than 140,000 Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, "we can never take our eye off the ball," the Army secretary designate told a Senate committee yesterday, but he also reaffirmed that taking care of Soldiers and Families remains his top priority.

Pete Geren, acting secretary of the Army since March, told the Senate Armed Services Committee he's committed to being an advocate for the men and women in uniform and the Families who stand by them and to "make sure their voices are heard."

"I've watched Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen go off to war, and I've watched the Families stand steadfast and unwavering in their support of their departed loved ones and live with the uncertainty of whether he or she would return home," he said.

The certainty they live with, he said, is knowing that they'll miss celebrating birthdays, holidays, anniversaries, grad-

uations and other important events as a Family, as well as the regular ups and downs of everyday life.

It was difficult when deployments were 12 months, he said, and even more so with extensions to 15 months.

Mr. Geren said he's too often watched Families live with the loss of their loved one who didn't return.

"I've been inspired by the selfless service of our Soldiers and humbled by the sacrifice in their Families," he said.

The country "cannot do enough" to support these troops and their Families, Mr. Geren said, and he promised to continue working on their behalf as Army secretary.

"When I came before you seeking confirmation as undersecretary of the Army (in February 2006), I told you my top priority would be taking care of Soldiers and their Families," he told the committee. "I reaffirm that commitment today with a greater understanding of that responsibility."

Part of that promise, he said, means ensuring troops get the

training, equipment and leadership they need to wage the war on terror and defend themselves.

"They count on their Army leadership back home to move the bureaucracy on the home front," he said. "They count on their secretary and their chief to stand up for them, get them what they need when they need it."

"We must act with urgency every day to meet their needs," he said.

That's particularly important, he said, at a time when "we must expect that our future offers an era of persistent conflict."

"We will continue to ask much of the Army Family," he said, noting that more than half of all Soldiers are married, and more than 700,000 children have Soldier parents.

"We must meet the needs of our Families - provide them with a quality of life comparable to the quality of their service and sacrifice," he said. "It's the right thing to do, and the future of our all-volunteer force depends on it."

Multiple celebrations honor military fathers

By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Distance from their families was not an obstacle for many Troopers as they celebrated Father's Day Sunday, June 17. Many Troopers looked forward to receiving packages and web casting with their families and many attended events around Guantanamo Bay to commemorate the day.

Army Capt. Glenvil Gregory, a Joint Task Force (JTF) chaplain, said his Gospel Service parishioners recognized fathers by sponsoring a luncheon where they were served a home-cooked meal. He added that the day is set aside not only to honor fathers, but all men who act as a father figure in a Trooper's life.

"Serving in the military affords Troopers the opportunity to display their leadership skills as they work together to complete their mission," said Gregory. "Providing meals like these help build morale and shows Troopers that we care for them. The luncheon provides a family-type setting where they can be recognized for their role as fathers."

Many fathers, like Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Owen Butters, an administrative assistant for the expeditionary guard battalion here, said celebrating Father's Day with others makes being away from home a little easier.

"I have been deployed every Father's Day. My daughter is six, and I have missed all six so far. When you've got a child that idolizes you and thinks you are their best friend, it hurts them when you are away," said Butters. "I got an e-mail card from my daughter last night, and I am celebrating with others, so this has been a good Father's Day."

One National Guard unit brought a taste of their culture to Guantanamo as they celebrated Father's Day at Phillip's Park. The Puerto Rico National Guard sponsored a picnic where they enjoyed a day filled with ethnic food, dancing and games for children and adults.

Army 1st Sgt. Jose De Jesus, JTF HHC 1st Sgt., explained that family is very important in the Spanish culture. In Puerto Rico, Father's Day is a time when families come together to honor their fathers. To maintain tradition, De Jesus said the Puerto Rico National Guard invited their extended JTF family to join them in celebrating the day.

"This is my second time being mobilized. It's never easy to be away from the family, that's the only thing that bothers me," said De Jesus. "Being able to spend the day with my extended family makes all the difference."

Although many Troopers were on the receiving end during Father's Day, others sent packages and messages to their husbands

and fathers.

Air Force Master Sgt. Vanessa Freeman, superintendent of the Joint Personnel Reception Center, said she has not spent Father's Day with her father in 15 years. However, she never forgets to call and send him a gift. Freeman mentioned that having a husband at home who is playing "Mr. Mom" during her deployment causes her to appreciate the day even more.

"Now that I am able to see the impact my husband has on our family, I now appreciate everything my father was trying to instill in me," said Freeman. Since her children are young, Freeman added that she mailed her husband a package filled with various gifts for Father's Day.

Although spending time away from home can be difficult, many Troopers are reassured by knowing that their mission here will benefit their families. Their families know it too and demonstrate that knowledge and love with the many cards and gifts they send to their husbands and fathers.

Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons



Reunion Issue #9

By Army Chaplain (Maj.) Daniel Jones

JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain

As different Joint Task Force personnel get closer to returning home, it is important to realize that our young men and women have brilliantly performed some very tough missions. This could not have been possible without everyone's efforts to remain safe.

However, the mission is not complete until each person is home and re-adjusted safely. Each person must remain focused and maintain their situational awareness, not only for the return trip, but also throughout the year.

Now is not the time to relax your safety focus and have an accident. Upon returning to home station, personnel may let down their guard against the normal hazards common to the home environment. The periods of leave and travel for some well-deserved rest and family time, along with the other recreational activities, increase the threat of accidents. Personnel returning home may find themselves in weather related conditions that they have become unfamiliar with.

Be aware of getting tired by driving for long periods of time. No trip through the base takes longer than 20 minutes. Vehicles left in storage need to be checked before use. Check fluid levels and air pressure in tires. Make sure blinkers and brake lights work. Re-orient yourself with mirrors and other vehicle characteristics prior to driving. It is recommended

that personnel planning to operate a motorcycle either on or off their home installation take the local Motorcycle Safety Course as refresher training. After having been at Guantanamo Bay for a while, and never being able to drive over 25 mph, it's quite a transition to suddenly be able to drive 65, 70 or even 75 mph on the Interstates and highways.

SURVIVING SEPARATION

By Army Chaplain (Maj.) Daniel Jones

JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain

Action Item #9 – Plan any trip home before you travel

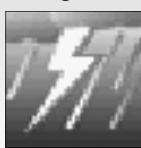
The Army Combat Readiness Center (formerly The Army Safety Center) has a link at the top of its web page to assist the service member in dealing with this issue. This program is called "POV Risk Assessment Tool (ASMIS2): <https://crc.army.mil/home/>. For Navy personnel The Navy Safety Center web site has very similar web tools located at: <http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/ashore/motorvehicle/toolbox/default.htm>.

WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com

Saturday, June 23

Isolated thunderstorms possible. Highs in the low - 90's, and lows in the high-70's.



Isolated T-storms

Sunrise: 6:22 a.m.
Sunset: 7:43 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 30%

Sunday, June 24

Isolated thunderstorms possible. Highs in the low - 90's, and lows in the high-70's.



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:22 a.m.
Sunset: 7:43 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 20%

Monday, June 25

Isolated thunderstorms possible. Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the high-70's.



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:22 a.m.
Sunset: 7:43 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 20%

Tuesday, June 26

Scattered thunderstorms possible. Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the high-70's.



Scattered T-storms

Sunrise: 6:23 a.m.
Sunset: 7:44 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 60%

Wednesday, June 27

Scattered thunderstorms possible. Highs in the low - 90's, and lows in the high-70's.



Scattered T-storms

Thursday, June 28

Isolated thunderstorms possible. Highs in the low - 90's, and lows in the high-70's.



Isolated T-storms

Sunrise: 6:23 a.m.
Sunset: 7:44 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 30%

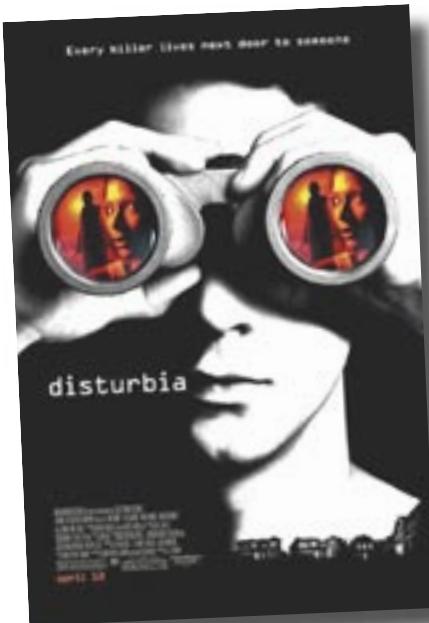
Friday, June 29

Partly cloudy. Highs in the low - 90's, and lows in the high-70's.



Scattered T-storms

Sunrise: 6:24 a.m.
Sunset: 7:44 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 30%



MOVIE REVIEW CORNER

Disturbia

By Army Spc. Daniel Welch

Rated: PG-13

Duration: 104 minutes

It seems that Hollywood has long had a fascination with producing gore filled slasher films – movies that barely have a semblance of plot aside from grotesque and gruesome death sequences. But in this all too-crowded genre, it was a breath of fresh air to see a movie like “Disturbia” released.

“Disturbia” plays as a 21st century homage to Alfred Hitchcock’s thriller, “Rear Window.” The movie initially centers on Kale (Shia LaBeouf) who has been sentenced to house arrest (and a tracking ankle bracelet) for punching out his Spanish teacher. His mother Julie (Carrie-Anne Moss) further separates him from the world beyond the hedges of his house by cutting the cords to his video games and internet access.

Feeling the effects of being trapped in his house, Kale begins to spy on his neighbors with binoculars. He becomes infatuated with Ashley (Sarah Roemer), the daughter in a family that just moved next door. He also notices what appears to be suspicious behavior by another neighbor, Mr. Turner (David Morse), after watching a news report on missing young women from the area, and then seeing a young woman run screaming from Turner’s house.

The charm of this movie is how seamlessly it moves from a movie about teenage angst to a full-blown slasher horror flick. The gore is toned down, with much of the violence implied as opposed to being thrown in the viewer’s face, an approach by director D.J. Carusso that effectively adds to the rising tension as the movie progresses.

The movie also asks some interesting questions regarding just how invasive technology has become, and how lost we feel when we’re deprived of it.

Newcomers LaBeouf and Roemer do a wonderful job as the protagonists in this movie. LaBeouf should become better known later on this summer with roles in a string of movies, including the upcoming “Transformers,” and a voice role in the animated “Surfs Up.” He has also signed on to play in the fourth installment of the Indiana Jones series, due out in summer, 2008.

So if you are looking for an interesting and thoughtful thriller, check out “Disturbia.”

Rating: ★★★★☆

Boots on the Ground:

“What do you think of the new digital camouflage uniforms?”



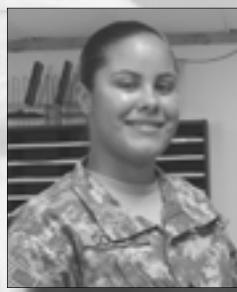
“Hurry up and get them for the Navy! Go Navy!”

-Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Aaron Seamon



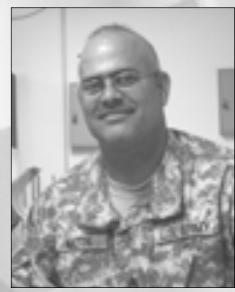
“I would rather have the Desert Combat Uniform.”

-Army Staff Sgt. Ricardo Nathan



“I like them because I don’t have to iron them.”

-Army Sgt. Ziomanie Cosme



“They are comfortable and light.”

-Army Staff Sgt. Rafael Matos

The angler's guide to GTMO

Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeff Johnstone

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Gary Keen

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Being Deployed to Joint Task Force – Guantanamo (JTF-GTMO) Bay can be tough. Whether you work inside the wire or support Troopers working there, you need to find a constructive hobby to alleviate the stress of family separation and isolation on a small base.

Troopers here are lucky in the aspect that we work and live around a bay that would excite even the most avid of anglers. Yes, I am talking fishing, the greatest sport to ever grace the ocean floor with lead weights and steel hooks. Guantanamo Bay has a wide variety of fishing excursions that will appeal to expert and novice fishermen alike.

For those of you who are less experienced or if you just want to orient yourself to the bay and its indigenous fish, you can go on a Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) sponsored fishing trip. MWR offers day and night fishing trips for all Troopers free of charge.

They provide you with everything you need such as fishing rods, tackle, bait, pontoon boat rental and even the captain. You can sign up at the Deer Point, Marine Hill and Camp America Liberty Centers. Remember, these fishing trips are very popular and free, so you should sign up at least a week in advance.

If you are a seasoned fisherman, then you may want to rent your own boat from the MWR Marina. Boat rentals cost from two to \$20 dollars an hour, depending on the type of boat, with a discount if you rent for a full day. You'll need to have a boating license, which is issued at the Marina. To get your license, you must take a two part test, which includes a thirty-question written section and a basic boating skills section that emphasizes being able drive a boat up to a pier on both the port and starboard sides.

You can get a study guide from the Marina or any of the three Liberty Centers. The study guide can also be accessed on the JTF intranet.

The Marina also sells a variety of fishing equipment and bait like ballyhoo, squid and herring. If you do not want to go through the trouble of buying, selling or shipping your fishing equipment (when you leave Guantanamo), you can check out your equipment free of charge from the Camp America Liberty Center.

Fishing in Guantanamo Bay is a fun and relaxing hobby, but you need to keep up to date on the latest outdoor recreation and wildlife instructions like Naval Base Instruction 1710.10J, which is referenced in the boating license study guide.

If you're up to the challenge, you can even win prizes at the 4th of July Fishing Tournament sponsored by the MWR Marina. The Tournament starts on June 29th and continues through to July 1st. Weigh-in will be based on each competitor's five biggest fish. Registration is ten dollars per person with prizes going to first, second and third places. For more information or to sign up, contact the MWR marina at EXT: 2345.

15 MINUTES OF FAME

NAVY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS RODERICK CAMPBELL

By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeff Johnstone

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

“Join the Navy, See the World!” This catchy recruiting pitch has been used for decades to entice young men and women to join the world’s finest Navy. For Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Roderick Campbell, the opportunity to travel and see the world played a major role in his decision to join the U.S. Navy. While military life may be tough on Troopers everywhere at times, it is not without its rewards. While still on his first enlistment, Campbell has managed to do very well for himself both professionally and personally.

Campbell, a transfer clerk and personnel representative with the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion here in Guantanamo Bay, cites traveling and seeing the world as something he’s always wanted to do, but never had the chance.

“I just wanted a chance to do something different, so I joined the Navy,” said Campbell, a native of Millen, Ga.

Campbell’s career path has enabled him to visit some of the most beautiful parts of Europe. He has been a crewmember aboard USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67), USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) and USS George Washington (CVN 73). Campbell said he had the opportunity to enjoy port visits to Rome and Naples in Italy, as well as to Souda Bay, Greece. Australia and Japan top his wish list of future port visits or duty stations.

Campbell said that while serving in Guantanamo, the opportunity to work with the other services has been a professional high point, and is something he’d like to do again in a future assignment.

“You learn a lot about the other services and how they operate,” said Campbell. “There’s cohesion, and you can see we are all here to accomplish the same mission. I wouldn’t mind going to a command where I was one of only a few Navy members, like an Air Force Base. I’d like to stand out a little more and have the chance to pick up some joint service awards. Since I’ve been here working with the other branches, I’d like to return to that same kind of atmosphere.”

Another high point for all Troopers in their military careers is the opportunity for advancement. Campbell was recently advanced to the rank of petty officer second class during a time in which advancement to the next level is particularly tough in his field of work.

“Our rating (Personnelman) is pretty locked up right now for advancement,” said Campbell. “It can be tough and it can take a while for Sailors to advance beyond the E-4 and E-5 ranks.”

Campbell’s advancement cycle saw only 30 Sailors advance to the rank of petty officer second class. Campbell said he was provided an hour per day during working hours to study for his exam. The studying and hard work paid off for him.

Many shipboard commands require Sailors to earn their enlisted surface/air warfare pins once they put on the E-5 rank. Campbell accomplished that goal while on CVN 73 as a petty officer third class.

Campbell credits much of his success to his parents and the example they set for him.

“I’ve never seen anyone who worked as hard as my parents,” said Campbell. Their work ethic made me strive to work that much harder.”



AROUND THE JTF



Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

It's not trash day - just the opposite. Local workers have been removing old furniture from Tierra Kay housing in order to upgrade and improve quality of living. Look for updates on more quality of living improvements in future issues.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Thompson

The Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion Commander shows Air Force Gen. Norton Schwartz, commander, U.S. Transportation Command, a thriving garden being cultivated by detainees in Camp Four. Transportation Command assists in all detainee air transportation.



Photo by Army Spc. Daniel Welch

After being pepper sprayed during a non-lethal weapons class, Thursday, June 21, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Breanne Smith must complete various tasks including striking a rubber mat with a plastic baton.