

THE WIRE

Joint Task Force
Guantanamo's
Finest News Source

A News Magazine

CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.
The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

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- Vargo Takes Over JDG
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The best & the brightest



By Navy Capt. Ronald Sollock

JTF-GTMO JMG Surgeon

As Commanding Officer of Naval Hospital Guantanamo, and Surgeon of the Joint Medical Group, Joint Task Force, it has been my privilege and honor to have led, and also to have met or worked alongside, some of the best and brightest men and women in the United States military.

These words convey a simple but sincere farewell message, but most importantly, my heartfelt gratitude to each of you. As I leave behind 24 hour, seven-day a week (and perhaps one of the most challenging medical operations in the world), I cannot help but reflect on your character, outstanding performance and subsequent accomplishments.

I leave with an indelible image of your professionalism, integrity, and ethical practices that have delivered safe and humane care to detainees in a manner that is unparalleled and beyond reproach. You are driven by conviction, moral rectitude and an understanding that what you are achieving is for the greater good. Your dedication to this operation will have a long lasting impact on the organizational effectiveness of Joint Task Force Guantanamo and U.S.

Government policy.

Your rewards are truly internal rewards, for there is no compensation, adulation, or promotion that will ever compensate you for your sacrifices. In fact, the greatest recompense for you, and the one you will carry with you beyond endless times, is the knowledge that your actions and performance reflected integrity, honor and loyal adherence to ethical and moral principles. You are without a doubt the future leaders of our military and nation, as you have embraced the values of selflessness and love of country.

On a personal level, this experience has also solidified my conviction that the reason I am able to return home to our safe and secure land of personal freedom and liberties is precisely because of your selfless commitment to defend these very freedoms we often times take for granted. Your actions embody sacrifice and determination. You have honorably postponed or abandoned personal goals and chosen to publicly and proudly wear a military uniform that symbolizes unity, shared values, and shared goals that are essential for embarking on this mission – that is, coming together to fight the Global War on Terror.

JTF-GTMO

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Vargo assumes command of JDG



Photo by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

Col. Bruce Vargo accepts the JDG guidon from Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby. (Top right) Vargo addresses the assembled Troopers of the JDG.



Photo by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger

Rear Adm. Buzby presents Col. Dennis with an award for his service as commander of the JDG.

By Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Col. Bruce Vargo assumed command of the Joint Detention Group (JDG) in a ceremony held at the Bulkeley Lyceum Saturday, June 30. Rear Adm. Mark Buzby, commander, Joint Task Force-Guantanamo, presided over the ceremony.

“We have turned a corner, no one can assail that,” Buzby said, addressing the accomplishments of outgoing JDG commander Col. Wade Dennis. “As for accomplishing the mission, I am eternally proud.”

Dennis took a few moments to show his own appreciation of the Joint Task Force. “Adm. Buzby, I really like your style. I wish I could’ve worked for you longer,” Dennis said. Dennis will be moving on to Pennsylvania where he’ll attend the Army War College.

Dennis also expressed his admiration of the Soldiers and Sailors of the JDG. “I am in awe of your self discipline and dedication,” Dennis said. “You performed magnificently. I am proud of you and proud to have served with you.”

Vargo then extended his appreciation of Dennis and the hard work done during his command tour with the Joint Task



Photo by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger

Col. Wade Dennis departs from the change of command ceremony. Dennis will now move to Pennsylvania to attend the Army War College.

Force.

“We shall endeavor to execute the Joint Detention Group mission with the professionalism you have come to expect from Col. Dennis and his team,” Vargo said.

“To the Soldiers, Sailors and civilians of the Joint Detention Group: I am honored to be taking command of an organization that is rightly regarded as one of the best,” Vargo said. “I can think of no greater honor than serving among you today.”

Guantanamo key to war on terror

Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Gary Keen



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeff Johnstone interviews Brigadier Gen. Rodney L. Johnson about his views on the JTF mission and the Global War on Terror.

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeff Johnstone

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Guantanamo may be eight time zones from Afghanistan, but it's a key battle in the Global War on Terror, according to the Army Provost Marshal General.

Brigadier Gen. Rodney L. Johnson, also Commanding General, United States Army Criminal Investigation Command, believes the Guantanamo mission is at the heart of the fight against terror and the protection of our nation.

"Never misjudge your importance to the war effort by your proximity to the battlefield. We're a long way from the front lines of Iraq or Afghanistan, but this is still a very important mission. These young Troopers have stepped up to the plate and are supporting our nation. We are a nation at war, and we are a military in support of a nation at war. This mission is a very important part of making sure we never have another 9/11."

Iraq and Afghanistan are combat operations. Guantanamo is a "like-combat operation," explained Johnson.

Guantanamo was opened in January 2002 so that unlawful enemy combatants could be safely kept from the battlefields and interrogated for strategic intelligence fed back to the front lines.

According to Johnson, for America to succeed in the Global War on Terror, the mission in Guantanamo is critical. Detainees that Joint Task Force Troopers contend with every day pose a continuous challenge.

"It would be a challenge in any environment," said Johnson. "Our Troopers handle detainees that openly hate us and what we stand for as Americans, yet they always maintain profes-

sionalism."

Johnson praised Guantanamo's Troopers for their openness to visiting groups, attorneys and media.

"I know one of the things often said down here, and it couldn't be truer, is that 'this is the most transparent detention facility in the world,'" said Johnson. "Guantanamo has been looked at time and time again. The Troopers are clearly operating under a microscope daily and performing a tough mission, and they're doing a great job."

Some detainees have been in the detention facility as long as five years and have a very good understanding of the facilities' operating procedures. This is yet another challenge Troopers must face as they spend long hours walking their tiers.

"I would say the most important thing for Troopers to do is to maintain situational awareness," said Johnson. "Putting in 12 hour days with a clientele that doesn't necessarily like you is a dangerous environment. In that kind of environment, Troopers can't let their guard down for a second.

"This is a battle of wills," continued Johnson. "The detainees are there 24 hours a day with little to think about other than 'what can we do to get these Troopers to react?' They may try to get them to react by throwing bodily fluids at them or by name calling. What's so impressive is that these young Troopers maintain their cool under pressure. I'm happy we've been able to maintain that in this environment."

Photo by Army Sgt. Joseph Scozzari



Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby greets Brigadier Gen. Rodney L. Johnson at the beginning of his GTMO tour.

Comfort doing great work in the Caribbean

Photo by Navy Petty Office 1st Class J. Slauchenhaupt

By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Tyler Jones

USNS Comfort Public Affairs

The Military Sealift Command (MSC) hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) weighed anchor and left the Bay of Amatique, July 2, after completing five days of training and humanitarian assistance operations in several Guatemalan cities.

Throughout the five days, military and civilian teams from Comfort provided medical care, including primary adult and pediatric services, vaccinations and preventive medicine education.

“The response that we got from the local population was incredible,” said Capt. Bob Kapcio, mission commander. “We knew that the response was going to be good when our teams arrived at Puerto Barrios the first day. We were getting off the buses, the people were cheering.”

Missions were conducted at four worksites around the eastern coast of Guatemala. Teams of Navy, Coast Guard, Army, Air Force, U.S. Public Health Service and Canadian Forces medical personnel, partnered with volunteers from non-governmental organizations such as Project Hope, to care for more than 20,000 patients.

Simultaneously, Seabees from Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 202, along with volunteers from other Navy communities and MSC civilian mariners, renovated a children’s hospital



in Puerto Barrios. The crew completely restored two operating rooms, refurbished a playground, and painted the entire hospital.

The turnout at the medical center in Livingston was so great that the mission was extended to a fourth day.

“The overwhelming response we received during the whole mission was incredible,” said Kapcio. “We probably could have stayed another two or three days, to be honest.”

Medical services were also provided to Guatemala’s more rural population in the town of Morales, where Comfort teams worked hard, in heat indexes in excess of 110 degrees, to provide the population with quality, no-cost health care.

One citizen, identified only as “Helen,” hand-delivered a letter to the crew thanking them for

their efforts.

“Our country doesn’t have very good medical care,” said Helen in her letter. “These two public hospitals that you saw are the only ones in this area. People have come from five hours away to come to these hospitals ... God bless you for helping us and taking the time to come here.”

Comfort will continue its goodwill mission next in Panama, where many of the same services will be provided to the people of that country.

Comfort is on a four-month humanitarian assistance deployment to Latin America and the Caribbean providing medical treatment to patients in a dozen countries. While deployed, Comfort is under the operational control of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command, and tactical control of Destroyer Squadron 24.

Fifth Wimbledon

By Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Tennis superstar Roger Federer is on the verge of winning his fifth Wimbledon title in a row. Wimbledon is tennis' most prestigious title and is played at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London, England. In the modern era of tennis only Sweden's Bjorn Borg has won five Wimbledon titles in a row. America's Pete Sampras won four in a row and seven Wimbledon titles altogether. As remarkable as Federer's achievement looks to be, his relatively short career is even more impressive.

Federer is 25 and he already has ten Grand Slam championships [The Australian Open (3), Wimbledon (4) and US Open (3)]. He has 48 tour wins and posts a career record of 513-107 with most of those losses coming in his first six years as a pro. Over the last four years, Federer is 277-20 for a winning percentage of 93%. Federer also has 7 doubles titles to his credit with a 104-68 record. To date, Pete Sampras has won the most Grand slam titles with 14; however, if Federer keeps up his current pace of slam victories he will shatter this record in the very near future.

Federer is a Swiss-born tennis player who turned Pro in 1998 at the age of 17. After a few rocky seasons Federer won his first tour title in 2001 and his first Grand Slam in 2003 at Wimbledon. Since then has set the tennis world ablaze. The only Grand Slam title that has eluded Fe-



Roger Federer kisses his trophy after winning one of his Wimbledon titles. Federer's relatively short career has been as equally impressive as his string of Wimbledon victories.

Photo from espn.com

derer so far is the French Open, which he has lost to Spain's Rafael Nadal in the finals each of the past two years.

Federer has earned \$31,237,103 in his nine years plus as a professional tennis player. He's topped the money list in tennis every year since 2003 earning a record \$8,343,885 in 2006. He is sponsored by numerous top-line companies to include Nike, Rolex and Wilson.

On the doorstep of his 11th Grand Slam title, Federer may be the most impressive sports star today. You can match his numbers up against any other sports star today and you would have a tough time finding a more accomplished athlete than Federer. So if you have nothing going on Sunday morning, turn on the tube, have breakfast at Wimbledon and watch Federer indelibly cement his place in sports history.

Fenceline Run/Walk challenges Troopers



Photos by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

Various Guantanamo residents participate in the Marine Corps Fenceline Run/Walk Saturday, June 30. Over 230 participants made the run near the Cuban border.

By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs

A significant number of Joint Task Force Troopers were among the 230 participants who gathered at the Northeast Gate in Guantanamo Bay to participate in the Marine Corps Fence Line Run and Walk on Saturday, June 30. Among the runners and walkers who rose early in the morning to brave the winding roads and steep hills that run along the Cuban border was one Trooper, Army Spc. Wilfredo Turell, who has become well-known in the local racing circuit.

Turell of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion-65th Infantry Regiment, was the first to complete the five-mile run in just under 30 minutes. Turell said his reason for entering the run was to get another opportunity to train for the Army 10-Miler in Washington D.C. later this fall.

"I feel good. It was hard. I am going to

Washington in October," said Turell. "It was good for me because I need to train hard and this run is a good way to train."

While runners like Turell entered with specific goals in mind, most Troopers considered the "fun run and walk" to be just that – a good time to congregate with people, get some rigorous exercise, and take in the beautiful views.

"The fence line is not something people see everyday," said Marine Staff Sgt. Kaveh Wooley, who coordinated the fence line run. "This race was an opportunity for people to do a little physical fitness while they sight see."

Wooley added that the Marines have sponsored the Fence Line Run for the past two years as a way to raise funds for their annual Marine Corps Ball. Although a date is not yet set for the ball, Wooley said the event usually occurs around Nov. 10, which is the Marine Corps birthday. In addition to



sponsoring runs, the Marines have raised funds by selling T-shirts and flags that have flown over the Northeast gate. Wooley said that on Aug. 4, the Marines are tentatively scheduled to sponsor a 22.1-mile event in which participants will have the option to run or ride bikes.

Marine Corps Fence Line Run/Walk Top Finishers:

Females:

Amber Dach: 42:20
Alissa Chumley: 43:24
Cynthia Rabell: 45:34

Males:

Wilfredo Turell: 29:38
Rafael Rivas: 30:27
Jonathan McComb: 31:21

Diablos defeat Seadogs at Zaiser

By Army Sgt. Jerry Rushing

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs

Catcher Frank Lennon's two-run home run led the Diablos to a 10-8 victory over the 525 Seadogs in Morale, Welfare & Recreation baseball action Sunday at Zaiser Field.

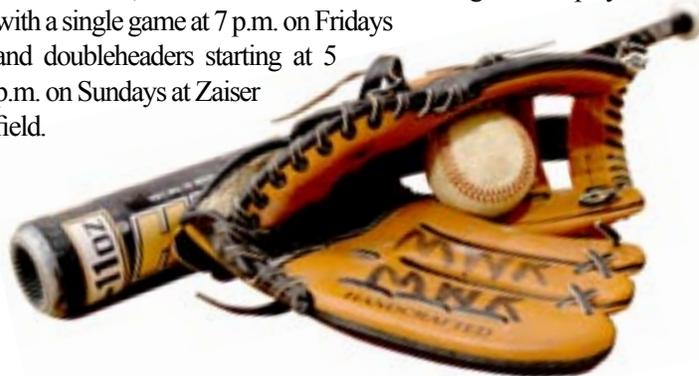
The win evened the Diablos record to 1-1, while the Seadogs fell to 0-1.

The Diablos were led at the plate by Lennon, who went two-for-three at the plate knocking in four runs. Ryan Sparks picked up the win, pitching five and one third innings, allowing six hits and striking out four. Patrick Sellen pitched two thirds of an inning, earning his first save of the season.

For the Seadogs, Ben Curtis went two-for-four at the plate, scored

two runs and swiped three bases. George Howard knocked in three runs, while Isiah Douglas added two RBI's.

All Morale, Welfare and Recreation baseball games are played with a single game at 7 p.m. on Fridays and doubleheaders starting at 5 p.m. on Sundays at Zaiser field.





INDEPENDENCE DAY EXTRAVAGANZA!

One of the hallmarks of American Independence is the freedom to choose – and choice was definitely the order of the day, July 4, at Guantanamo Bay. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen were everywhere from 10 a.m. on to 10 p.m, running an Amazing Race, popping each other at Paintball, putt-putting at Mini-Golf, cruising the Carnival and watching brilliant fireworks from the Bayview/Tiki ramparts. Freedom to choose – a distinctly American idea!

Security Clearance FAQ-Part 1

By Tony Camera

JTF Security Manager

The J2 Security section gets many questions on a daily basis about security clearances. Below is a list of the most common questions asked along with answers to those questions. If you have a question that is not answered here please contact a member of the J2 Security team.

What is a security clearance?

A security clearance is a determination by the United States government that a person is eligible for access to classified information.

What are the levels of security clearance, and how are they measured?

Security clearances can be issued by many United States government agencies, including the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the Department of Justice, and the Central Intelligence Agency. Department of Energy clearances include the "Q," "R" and "L" levels. Most security clearances are issued by the Department of Defense and include Confidential, Secret and Top Secret.

What type of information is requested on a security clearance application?

The amount and detail of information varies with the level of clearance requested. It may include family information, past and current work history, locations you have lived, roommate names, financial history, travel history, groups or affiliations, and more.

What is an interim security clearance?

An interim clearance is the first step toward obtaining a final clearance and is issued fairly quickly. An interim is issued once a review of the application is completed and the candidate is determined eligible. An interim clearance allows someone access to collateral classified information (at the level requested without a caveat) while his or her final clearance is being processed. For example, a person with an Interim Secret may have access to a document marked "Secret," but not a caveated one, i.e., "Secret COMSEC." Interim Secrets are not issued automatically and can be denied. A denial, however, does not mean that a final will

not be issued. It means there is something on the application which must be first reviewed and investigated fully. Interim Top Secret clearances must be requested by the security manager or SSO. An Interim Top Secret is equal to a final Secret.

Obtaining a Clearance

Can I obtain a security clearance on my own?

No. You must be sponsored by a government entity.

Can non-US citizens obtain security clearances?

Very rarely. In extreme special circumstances and only with the permission of the government entity owning the classified information can a non-US citizen obtain a clearance. This person would be a world class scientist, dignitary, or other high level friend of the US government.

What types of things can prevent someone from receiving a security clearance?

For collateral (TS, S, C) clearances, all requested information must be disclosed honestly. Falsification and felonies are two items which may cause the government to deny a clearance. Issues such as financial trouble, including insufficient funds, bankruptcy and bad check writing, illegal drug or heavy alcohol use, excessive foreign contact or unexplained affluence must all be explained and investigated thoroughly before a decision can be made and a security clearance granted or denied.

Clearance Process

How long does it take to process a security clearance?

The average time to process a security clearance is presently 18 months. However, the length of time is widely varied depending upon the level of clearance and the issues involved. Three distinct parts of the process are: pre-investigation (filling out the appropriate forms), investigation (the Office of Personnel Management conducts the background check on the individual) and adjudication (an Office of Personnel Management representative reviews the investigation results along with other information and makes a determination on

clearance award).

How is a security clearance investigation carried out?

Agents or contract agents with the Office of Personnel Management use both electronic and human means to investigate each clearance candidate. The Defense Security Service (DSS) no longer conducts personnel clearance investigations.

For what reasons could an individual be denied a security clearance?

Basically, there is no one thing that will result in denial of a security clearance and there are not many instances in which a person's clearance is denied. Clearance adjudicators use a documented guide and "formula" to determine whether or not the individual is eligible for a security clearance. In an applicant, they look for honesty, trustworthiness, character, loyalty, financial responsibility, and reliability. On cases that contain significant derogatory information, further investigation is usually required. There are, however, four criteria which will positively result in the denial of a clearance: an individual convicted of a crime and sentenced to prison for more than one year, an applicant is (currently) an illegal user of, or is addicted to, a controlled substance, the subject is mentally incompetent, or the individual has been discharged or dismissed from the armed forces under dishonorable conditions. When there is an issue with a candidate and more review needs to occur prior to granting or denying a clearance, the paperwork is forwarded to the Department of Hearing and Appeals (DOHA) for further processing. DOHA puts all the information together, provides its recommendation and then goes to the requesting government agency for a final decision. Once the decision is made, the applicant is notified. In addition, the applicant is allowed a detailed appeal process.

Can a naturalized person get a Personnel Clearance?

Yes. A naturalized person is to be treated as a US citizen. However, the naturalized person may have to provide information on his or her clearance application regarding foreign relatives, associations, etc.

BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS

By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Does your world at Guantanamo Bay seem to be getting smaller and smaller by the day? Has movie night at the Lyceum and shopping trips to the Navy Exchange become a little mundane? Why not broaden your horizons by tapping into the resources available at the Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR) Community Library.

Whether you're in search of a particular book or looking for a quiet place to webcam your family, the community library offers many services to help meet Troopers' needs. The library contains thousands of books ranging from college texts to novels that Troopers can check out for up to 30 days. Additionally, the library provides downloadable audio books and DVDs as well as wireless access to better serve its patrons.

MWR Community Librarian Maxine Becker said that her staff is always on hand to educate Troopers on all the reference materials available through the library.

"It is important to have access to practical information that fulfills Troopers' curiosity, broadens their horizons and helps Troopers locate other forms of leisure entertainment," said Becker. "Whether a Trooper is seeking resources for educational purposes or self improvement, a good librarian will try to evaluate his or her needs and have the resources available to meet those needs."

In 2003, Becker came aboard as the first professional librarian here. At the time, many of the library's materials were outdated and the facility was unable to accommodate the growing population. With the economic backing of the MWR program, the library now offers more than 14,000 books and 23 computers to serve its patrons.

Becker said Troopers can access the library's online catalog by typing in a title, author or a subject of interest. The library's database will connect Troopers with various publications including books, periodicals and journals. Becker added



Librarian Maxine Becker organizes library resources.

Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

that the library has designated sections where Troopers can review periodicals and access audio, fiction and non-fiction books.

If a Trooper is planning a trip or seeking information on their next duty assignment, there are books on hand to help locate hotels, find entertainment and learn about an area's local geography. Troopers can take the learning process a step further by checking out the wide variety of language CDs ranging from Farsi to Spanish.

As Troopers look toward their next promotion, Becker said she is also available to help them get to the next level in their career.

"This may be a Navy library, but I am here to serve anyone who is working towards a degree or another promotion," said Becker.

Becker said her staff can assist with providing proctors for the Air Force promotions exam and other exams being administered through distance education programs. Interested Troopers should contact the library at 74442 to obtain a list of qualified proctors and exam administrators.

The library also has a large variety of College Level Examination Preparation books on hand to help Troopers gain credit without attending a full college course. Troopers interested in taking practice tests

for college and graduate level exams can access these resources at the library.

Becker said the library is continuously trying to find ways to accommodate Troopers who are unable to stop by during the day. One way is by making reference services available after the library closes.

Baxter said that Troopers needing assistance with research or locating a book can e-mail any requests to BeckerMA@usnbgmto.navy.mil. While Troopers are working during the day, Becker said that library staff can search for resources that will answer their requests.

"If you work during the night shift and sleep during the day, a Trooper can let me know what they are looking for and I can find it for them," said Baxter.

Thanks to the ever evolving information age, Becker said she is able to direct Troopers to a wide variety of online reference materials they can access from their rooms or workstations.

For Troopers who are looking for entertainment, the library offers a large variety of DVDs that can be rented for up to three days. Troopers without Internet access in their rooms can visit the library to use a PC phone or webcam.

The library is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on Sundays and all holidays, including Christmas, from noon to 9 p.m.

Reunion Issue #2

From the JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain's Office

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 our return.

They so desperately want us to love them and be-

come 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 do not improve after a couple of weeks.

SURVIVING SEPARATION

From the JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain's Office

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.

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com

Saturday, July 7

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



Scattered T-storms

Sunrise: 6:27 a.m.
Sunset: 7:44 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 30%

Sunday, July 8

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



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:27 a.m.
Sunset: 7:44 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 20%

Monday, July 9

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



Isolated T-storms

Sunrise: 6:27 a.m.
Sunset: 7:44 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 20%

Tuesday, July 10

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



Sunrise: 6:28 a.m.
Sunset: 7:44 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 20%

Scattered T-storms

Wednesday, July 11

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



Sunrise: 6:28 a.m.
Sunset: 7:44 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 40%

Scattered T-storms

Thursday, July 12

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



Sunrise: 6:28 a.m.
Sunset: 7:44 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 60%

Isolated T-storms

Friday, July 13

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



Sunrise: 6:28 a.m.
Sunset: 7:44 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 30%

Scattered T-storms



FF2

MOVIE REVIEW CORNER

Rated: PG
Duration: 122 minutes

By Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

In all its ridiculousness, the first “Fantastic Four” movie wasn’t that bad, but it was no landmark as far as comic book films go either. “Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer” is an average sequel to that below-average original.

A mysterious chrome being with feet glued to a chrome surfboard arrives on Earth leaving odd weather patterns and large, gaping holes in the ground in his wake. We’re told that this “Silver Surfer” is the herald of a world-devouring cloud of space gas known as Galactus. Gassy Galactus apparently eats planets with the gusto of a glutton at a buffet, because he chows down on a new planet every eight days.

The Silver Surfer is initially unwelcome because he interrupts the wedding of Reed Richards (Ioan Gruffudd) and Sue Storm (Jessica Alba). Apparently Reed and Sue are having trouble dealing with the price of fame, amazing super-powers and good looks. Ben Grimm (Michael Chiklis) doesn’t mind because he’s dating a hot blind chick. Johnny Storm (Chris Evans) is upset because the hot-Army-girl-who-doesn’t-know-how-to-wear-a-beret doesn’t like him.

“Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer” was made – or intended to be made – on a grander scale than its big-screen predecessor. The epic scale is established by using as many different locations as possible (why exactly does the U.S government have a giant military complex in Siberia, anyway?). The epic battles promised in the trailer amount to little more than a near-catastrophic ferris wheel accident and a Johnny Storm smackdown with the Silver Surfer.

Oh, and Dr. Doom is back. Instead of being the green Darth Vader he was intended to be, he’s just a smarmy piece of Euro-trash portrayed by a smarmy Australian (Julian McMahon). We know he’s evil because he tells us so. I’m not making this stuff up.

The Silver Surfer himself is a bit of a triumph, though. Using motion-capture technology (performed by Doug Jones), we’re treated to the best effects – and acting (thanks to the voice of Laurence Fishburne) – of the film. Though not quite the ponderous intergalactic wanderer from the comics, the Earth-disrupting Silver Surfer is never the less engaging and interesting.

Other than that, Alba whines, Gruffudd acts nerdy, Chiklis acts gruff and Evans acts . . . well, like a spoiled actor. It’s hard to feel bad for the Four when a creature like the Silver Surfer shows up and convinces you that he’s been brutally tasked to bring destruction to other planets in order to save his own.

“Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer” is definitely not a great movie, but it’s not horrible either. It’s standard popcorn fare that anyone can feel safe taking the kids to see. Just cover their eyes during the bachelor party dance sequence; it’s that bad.

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Boots on the Ground

By Army Spc. Jamison Self

“What does the 4th of July mean to you?”



“A time where we reflect on our Founding Fathers and the sacrifices of all of the Americans who fought for it’s freedom.”

-Navy Lt. j.g. Michael Quigley



“It’s a celebration of our country and the freedom we have.”

-Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Emily Otis



“It’s America’s Independence Day! It’s a great day and a good day to play dominos!”

-Army Sgt. 1st Class Raul Gonzalez



“It stands for rights, our freedom and everything that we have fought for and our Troopers have died for.”

-Navy Seaman Nehru Dawson

God, not devil, is in the details

By Army Chaplain (Maj.) Daniel Jones

JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain

Have you ever heard the expression, “The devil is in the details?” Even if you haven’t, I’m sure you can understand that not taking care of all the details can ruin even the best made plans. I’m sure we’ve all been on vacation when suddenly someone in desperation suddenly shouts, “I forgot to ...” That’s why we make lists, send out email after email, call people on their cell phones, etc., in order to make every effort to ensure that all the details have been taken care of through and through. Even then, if something escapes us or someone doesn’t follow through, we can easily become upset and angry.

It may be that we come to a point where we say the devil is in the details because it seems as if things are not working out as we planned.

However, we also need to stop and realize that

Brothers-in-arms reenlist on July 4

By Meghan Vittrup

American Forces Press Service

More than 600 troops were expected to re-enlist, and more than 100 others expected to become U.S. citizens in an Independence Day ceremony at Camp Victory, Iraq.

Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of Multinational Force Iraq, made the announcement during an interview today on Bill Bennett’s nationally syndicated radio program.

Petraeus and his senior enlisted leader, Army Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Hill, decided to hold this year’s ceremony after the success of a previous ceremony in 2003 for the 101st Airborne Division.

“On the Fourth of July back in 2003, we had a re-enlistment ceremony. The

God is in the details of our life and eternity. He did not forget any details. Our God continues to be in the details of our lives since He has promised to work all things out for our good and the good of the Kingdom. What are you going through in your life right now? What problems, hurts, and frustrations are you trying to deal with or overcome? What circumstances just don’t seem to be working out? What brokenness are you attempting to work through? Many times we feel that life is not easy and that the devil must be in the details because things seem so unclear and “messy.” But God is really the one in the details: loving us, forgiving us, working things out for our own good, and giving us the strength to continue.

Don’t give up! It’s tempting to throw up our hands or throw in the towel and give up. Don’t give up! Instead, remember our God has not only been in the details of our lives, He will remain in the details.

idea was we would try to get 101, given the unit designation, to raise their right hand. And I think we had something like 150 that did,” Petraeus said. “I think it’s going to be somewhere close to 600 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who are going to raise their right hand on the Fourth of July here and sign up for another tour in the armed forces.”

Many non-citizen service members in Iraq also will become citizens during the event.

“There is going to be a citizenship ceremony, as well, which will be exciting. A lot of great young men and women in uniform who I can’t say are Americans yet, but they are serving and they have the American flag on their right shoulder. They have served our country, and now they will truly become citizens of our country as well,” Petraeus said.





15 MINUTES OF FAME

ARMY SPC. WILFREDO TURELL

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Gary Keen

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office



“I have wanted to run the Army Ten Miler since I first arrived at Gitmo in March. I am very proud to be representing the Puerto Rico National Guard and the Army.”

What do you feel like doing after working a long 12 hour shift under the summer sun of Guantanamo Bay?

Well, if you are Army Spc. Wilfredo Turell, you run 12 miles and you do it everyday. That’s what it took to finish first in the Army Ten mile pre-qualifier here at Guantanamo last May. Turell finished the race with a blistering time of 61 minutes, 14 seconds.

Turell is a member of C Company, 1st Battalion - 65th Infantry Regiment, Puerto Rico National Guard. He leaves in October with

nine other Troopers to represent Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay in the Army Ten Miler in Washington D.C. on Oct. 7.

“I have wanted to run the Army Ten Miler since I first arrived at Gitmo in March. I am very proud to be representing the Puerto Rico National Guard and the Army.” said Turell.

His current goal is to finish in the top 100 and improve his time at that distance.

What does it take to do this?

“I run 10 to 12 miles everyday, I don’t drink

alcohol or smoke, I stay well hydrated and eat lots of fruit.” He added that having routine medical check-ups and high quality running shoes are important as well.

Turell started running track and field in high school when he was 16 and at age 37 now, he does not show any signs of slowing down any time soon.

When Turell is not deployed with the National Guard he works as a police officer in the city of Ponce, the second largest city in Puerto Rico. Even with the demanding hours required

of him by the Ponce police department, Turell finds time to train and run races including the Marathon La Guadalupe en Ponce, which he has run three times. Turell clocked his best time in that race last December. He was the first resident from Ponce to cross the finish line at two hours and fifty two minutes.

Turell attributes his successes in running and racing to his wife and four children, saying “Without the support of my family, I could not do this and by doing this, I am teaching my children to lead a healthy lifestyle.”

AROUND THE JTF

THE



Photo by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger

The Amazing Race took place during the 4th of July celebration. Over ten events had two-man teams vying for first place. Amanda Flora and Waylon Bader took first followed close behind by 2nd place winners Cara Thompson and Sarah Stannard, with Jason Portier and Patti Geistfeld coming in third.



Photo by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

Sailors fire ceremonial cannons into the bay at Guantanamo during Independence Day celebrations Wednesday.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeff Johnstone

Joint Task Force-Guantanamo Deputy Commander, Brig. Gen. Cameron Crawford (center) poses for a photo outside Camp Delta with members of the Oregon National Guard annex Monday, July 2.