

THE WIRE

A News Magazine

Commissions reconvene
Southern Sounds rocks Gitmo
Boat Parade floats by
Capt. Leary on Cuban relations

Leading goes beyond rules and regulations



By Army Command Sgt. Maj.

Donald Troxler

525th Military Police Battalion
Command Sergeant Major

Our regulations spell out what leaders must be, know, and do, but what can't be explained comes from within. It comes as result of sacrifice with no immediate or external rewards. I learned this lesson from my father and it has shaped me as an individual and a military leader.

In 1986, I returned to New London, Conn. and visited Dad, also known as First Sergeant. He was U.S. Army retired with 20 plus years of service, an Army boxer, and a veteran of Korea and Vietnam. It wasn't until I set an azimuth on a career in the U.S. Army that First Sergeant revealed the profound lesson that has shaped my life and career.

On this day we talked about this great man's life as a Soldier. We traveled through his career from his days as a boxer to his retirement as a first sergeant. Little did I know that I would learn my greatest lesson in becoming a Soldier and then lose this man of wisdom all in the same night. You see, First Sergeant taught me how to care about Soldiers. He told me that there is not a manual anywhere that can teach this four letter word with genuine authority. This ability comes from within. It is your caring deeds

that will stimulate the growth process in you and in your Soldiers.

First Sergeant remembered distinctively how while in Korea, one of his Soldiers left his own fighting position after observing First Sergeant fall due to injuries from the advancing adversary. Dad recalled that it was without hesitation that his Soldier came to his aid. When asked why, the Soldier simply said, "I had to."

A few days later the same Soldier approached First Sergeant and said that he had been thinking about his question of why he came to his aid despite the imminent danger of leaving his covered and concealed position.

"When I saw you fall, First Sergeant, all I could do was reflect back on all that you had done for me and my family – both on and off duty. You were always there and so I had to . . . I had to be there. Leaving you out there would have been shameful. Even more so, my wife would never forgive me for leaving behind a man of greatness," the Soldier said.

We ended our conversation with Dad telling me that this was the most important lesson he learned throughout his career. We exchanged hand shakes, and like a scene from a movie he passed away that very same night of cardiac arrest. We buried Dad with military honors in Hartford, Conn. and I left him taking his most profound lesson with me: to unconditionally care for Soldiers, their families and our community without ceasing and without expectation of reward.

Believe it or not, the core of who we are reveals itself in our ability to care. Caring lasts a lifetime and affects the support of our profession for generations. The differences we make with our actions are everlasting and it's through our actions that unconditional caring reveals itself.

This is leadership beyond rules and regulations. I am proof of this. Unconditional caring . . . is it in you?

The rewards are priceless.

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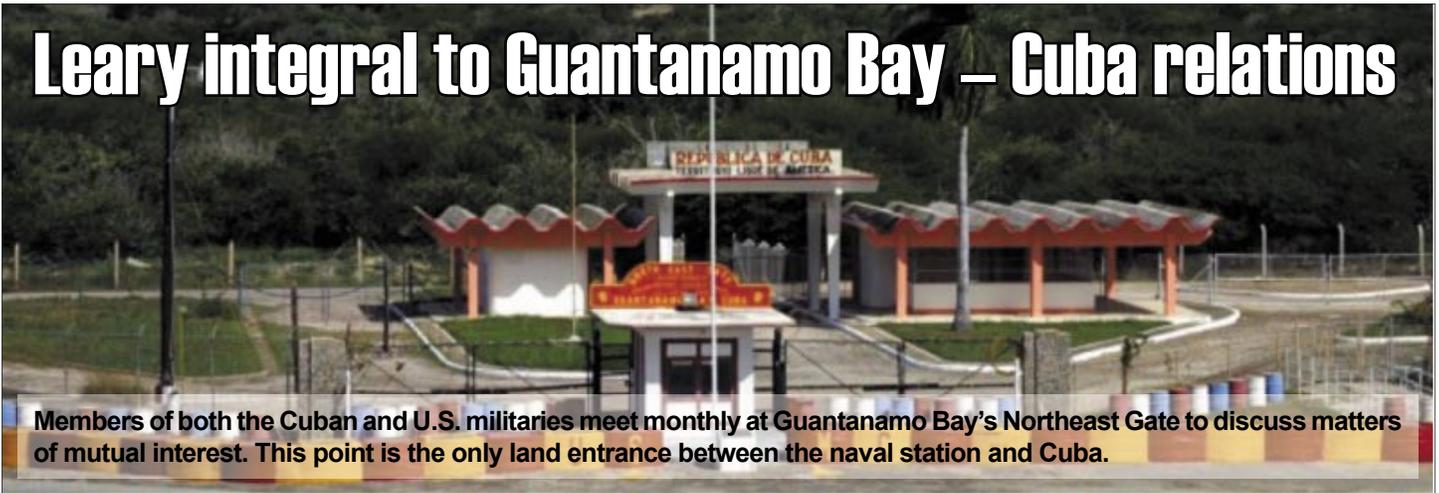
ON THE COVER:

Two guitars and a drum set wait for their chance to rock as Southern Sounds prepares to perform for the Troopers at Club Survivor Sunday, Dec. 9, 2007. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)



The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regards to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by the Document Automation & Production Service with a circulation of 1000.

Leary integral to Guantanamo Bay – Cuba relations



Members of both the Cuban and U.S. militaries meet monthly at Guantanamo Bay's Northeast Gate to discuss matters of mutual interest. This point is the only land entrance between the naval station and Cuba.

JTF Guantanamo file photo

By Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Navy Capt. Mark Leary was surprised to learn, upon hearing of his assignment as commander of U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, that he would be expected to meet regularly with representatives from the U.S. State Department. This was typical, he was told, for all overseas commanders. He soon learned that these meetings would be anything but typical.

“He said something about, ‘when we go to the monthly fence-line meeting,’” Leary said. “I said, ‘Wait. What do you mean fence line, and what do you mean we?’ I didn’t even realize we [the U.S.] had any sort of relationship with Cuba.”

At 8:45 a.m. on Oct. 16, 1962, National Security Advisor McGeorge Bundy alerted President John F. Kennedy that a major international crisis was at hand. Two days earlier a United States military surveillance aircraft had taken hundreds of aerial photographs of Cuba. Central Intelligence Agency analysts, working around the clock, deciphered in the pictures conclusive evidence that a Soviet missile base was under construction near San Cristobal, Cuba, just 90 miles from the coast of Florida. The most dangerous encounter in the Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union had begun.

For 13 days that October the world waited, hoping for a peaceful resolution to what was later dubbed the ‘Cuban Missile Crisis,’ as the intensity of already strained American-Cuban relations heightened. The United States moved swiftly, creating a quarantine zone around the island nation

by deploying fleets of U.S. Navy vessels to Cuba’s perimeter. Following heated debates, and a suggestion from Cuba’s president, Fidel Castro, that the Soviets initiate a nuclear attack should the U.S. decide to invade, a resolution was reached whereby the U.S. would lift its quarantine, provided the Soviets removed their missiles from Cuba.

Despite the de-escalation of the nuclear threat following the crisis, American-Cuban relations remained shaky. For those growing up in the Cold War’s shadow, attacks on U.S. soil seemed a very likely possibility as U.S. trade sanctions against Cuba drove Castro closer and closer to the Soviet Union.

Forty-five years later Americans may no longer be conducting civil defense drills – school children are no longer taught to hide under their desks after sirens sound – but the Office of Foreign Assets Control reported in 2004 that it still commits approximately 17 percent of its workforce to enforcing the embargo against Cuba. Though trade and diplomatic relations have not been normalized between the two nation states, the naval station, and especially its commander, play an integral role in the status of Cuban-American relations along the naval station’s fence line.

Though decades of tension and miles of land mines still mark the U.S.’ original land lease with the Cuban government, Leary meets monthly with Cuban military leaders at the Northeast Gate, the naval station’s only land entrance into Cuba. Discussing emergency procedures for incidents such as wild fires or medical emergencies, Leary’s focus is to ensure the pressured relationship between governments does not endanger

those living here on either side of the fence.

This fence line meeting was originally established as a means to repatriate Cuban migrants who had been intercepted at sea and brought to the naval station, but has evolved into a forum to discuss operations at the naval station with the Cuban military.

“We actually told them the JTF would be coming here,” Leary said. “As a matter of fact, there is apparently an interview with Raul [Castro] who said if a detainee escaped from the JTF and made it into Cuba, they would be happy to return him.”

Leary uses these monthly meetings to inform the Cuban military of new construction projects on the naval station’s leeward side, especially those related to any mass influx of refugees

“The naval station will have the buildings here to support a mass migration, not just from Cuba, but from anywhere,” said Leary. “We have a history of being reactive to major incidents and it is my goal to make our operations more proactive. Maybe we won’t be 100 percent prepared, but we can be at least 70 percent prepared.”

Very few decisions are made on the Cuban side at these meetings, Leary said, as most major resolutions must be made in Havana. However, as a result of these small meetings, Cuba allows naval station aircraft to fly in Cuban airspace in cases of medical emergency. Cubans also join the naval station fire department in joint fire fighting exercises – advances that enhance the naval station’s readiness to perform its missions and ease tensions with a ‘cold war’ adversary.

Information from cubanmissilecrisis.org contributed to this article.

Bin Laden's driver accused of active terrorist involvement



Salim Ahmed Hamdan, pictured at far left in this court room sketch from June 2007, was charged with Conspiracy and Providing Material Support for terrorists in a military tribunal held Dec. 5. U.S. authorities claim that Hamdan was Osama Bin Laden's driver and also actively involved in terrorist activities.

By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

A military commissions judge in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, heard testimony from witnesses Dec. 5 during the first military tribunal held since World War II.

The Military Judge, Navy Captain Keith J. Allred, presided over the hearing where he heard evidence to determine whether Salim Ahmed Hamdan, a 37-year-old native of Yemen, was an unlawful enemy combatant.

Hamdan was charged with Conspiracy and Providing Material Support for terrorists and could face life in prison if convicted. Hamdan was captured in 2001 by Afghans operating with U.S. forces operating south of Kandahar.

U.S. authorities claimed that Hamdan was not only a driver for al Qaida leader Osama Bin Laden, but was also actively involved in terrorist activities. Hamdan's defense counsel argued that he took no active part in

Bin Laden's plans to attack the U.S. and should not be linked to such activities based solely on being his driver.

Defense attorneys also argued that Hamdan, who has been detained in Guantanamo for the past six years, should be declared a prisoner of war and afforded greater protections than those detainees at Guantanamo who are designated as enemy combatants.

Government prosecutors called witnesses during the two-day hearing to support their argument that Hamdan is an unlawful enemy combatant eligible to face a military commission. The hearing concluded Dec. 6 with the judge saying he would issue a written ruling on the jurisdictional issue the following week.

Said Boujaadia, a detainee held at Guantanamo, testified on Hamdan's behalf after receiving immunity covering his testimony from the Convening Authority of the Office of Military Commissions. This grant of immunity prevents the government

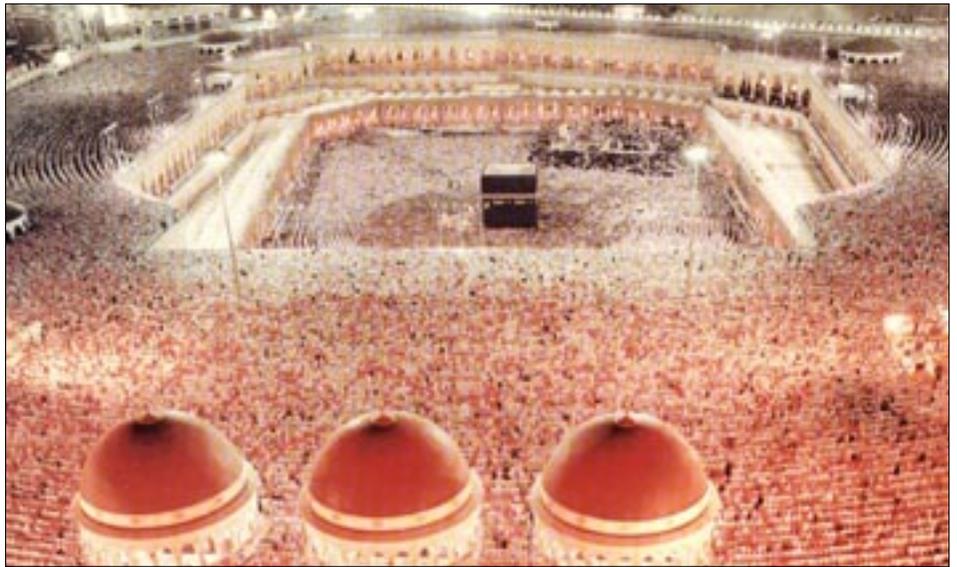
from using testimony given by Boujaadia against him at a later commissions hearing.

Boujaadia, who was captured in 2001 at a checkpoint on the main supply route between Pakistan and Afghanistan, said he saw Hamdan lying face down on the floor of a building shortly after the two were apprehended. However, Boujaadia could not speak to whether Hamdan was an al Qaida member, nor did he recall seeing Hamdan's car, which was confiscated by Afghan forces.

Although Boujaadia claimed days passed before U.S. forces showed up to investigate, a U.S. Army officer, whose forces were engaged in a gun fight with Taliban and al Qaida operatives, said he met with Hamdan shortly after his capture. Hamdan's capture occurred after Afghan forces stopped the vehicle in which Hamdan was riding, searched it and confiscated

Continued on page 13

Hajj and Eid al-Adha mark the Islamic calendar this month



www.islamicinstitute.ca

By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class
William Weinert

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

“For Hajj are the months well known. If anyone undertakes that duty therein, let there be no obscenity, nor wickedness, nor wrangling in the Hajj and whatever good ye do, (be sure) Allah knoweth it. And take a provision (with you) for the journey, but the best of provisions is the right conduct. So fear me, O ye that are wise.”

– Qur’an, chapter 2, verse 197.

Dec. 10 was the first day of the Islamic month of Dhul-Hijjah, and time for the Hajj, Islam’s most holy journey. The Hajj takes place during the twelfth month of the Islamic Lunar calendar, which is based on the phases of the moon. For the thousands of Muslims active in this month’s voyage to Mecca, it is the event of a lifetime.

The fifth of the five pillars of Islam (the building blocks of the Islamic faith), Hajj is a mandatory pilgrimage to Mecca for all Muslims at least once in their lifetime if they are healthy enough and can afford the journey. The other four pillars are Shahadah (affirmation to God), Salah (pray five times daily), Zakah (giving alms to the poor) and Swam (fasting). All are meant to bring people closer to God.

Hajj is associated with the life of the prophet Muhammad, but the rite of pilgrimage was thought to be ancient even during his lifetime. It is believed that the ritual can be traced all the way back to the time of Abraham, nearly 4,000 years ago.

It is believed that the angel Gabriel taught the rites of pilgrimage to Ishmael, Abraham’s son. For centuries before Islam became an organized faith, tribes from all over the Arabian Peninsula converged on Mecca annually and prayed at the Kaaba (the cubical building that all Muslims pray towards), which held hundreds of idols. These idols represented the faiths of each of the Arabian tribes, including images of Jesus and Mary and the creator, Allah.

In 632 the prophet Muhammad organized the first official Hajj when he and a group of followers traveled from Medina to Mecca thus establishing the Hajj as one of the five pillars of Islam. The prophet Muhammad also cleansed the Kaaba by removing the old idols and established it as the House of God.

Hajj participants join thousands of other pilgrims from around the globe and converge on Mecca for a week of atonement with God. To show unity and equality among the social classes, participants dress in simple garments consisting of two white sheets of un-hemmed cloth. Throughout the week, the faithful participate in rituals such as circling the Kaaba counter-clockwise seven times, kissing the sacred black stone on the corner of the Kaaba, running back and forth between the hills of Al-Safa and Al-Marwah and drinking from the Zamzam Well. The faithful also travel to the plains of Mount Arafat to stand vigil before proceeding to Muzdalifah where they collect stones that are used in the symbolic stoning of the devil.

Muslims cannot make the Hajj any time they wish. Every country where Muslims live and worship is allotted a certain number of pilgrims to make the journey. This is meant to prevent overcrowding and allows for the city of Mecca to make adjustments for proper accommodations, health care, security and food for all who are making the sacred journey.

“The goal of the Hajj is to purify your sins and ask God for forgiveness. It is not a free ticket to heaven, you really have to mean it and all you can do is ask,” said Mr. Zak, Joint Task Force Guantanamo cultural advisor. “Observing the five pillars only counts for five percent of the ticket to heaven, the other 95 percent is all in how you mean it in your heart and in your daily dealings with people.”

Following all the Hajj activities, pilgrims sacrifice animals to symbolize God’s mercy on Abraham when he replaced Abraham’s sacrifice of his son with a ram. After the animals are sacrificed, the meat is distributed to the poor and a four day feast – the Eid al-Adha – begins on Dec. 19.

Throughout the feast, families spend a lot of time visiting and bestowing gifts of money on their children. Muslims all over the world take four days off work to celebrate Eid al-Adha.

Muslim detainees at Guantanamo Bay will be provided with an hour of quiet time from 7-8 a.m. on the morning of Dec. 19, for the Eid prayer. On the third day of the celebration, Dec. 21, a special feast meal will be served to the faithful.

Is there a David to slay the Patriots' Goliath?

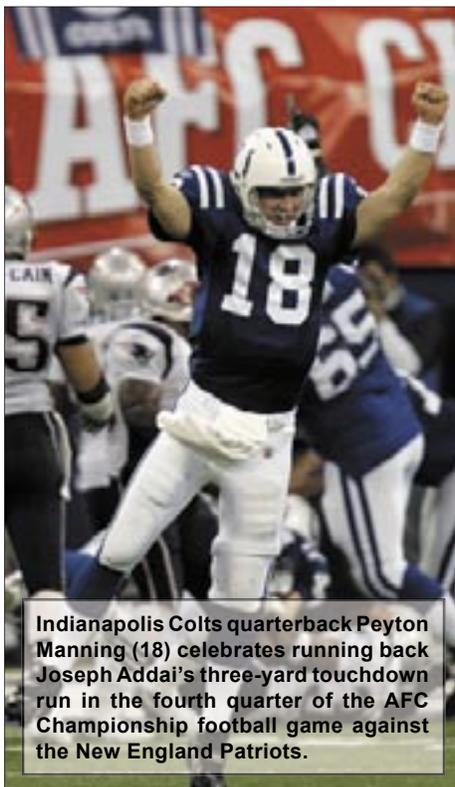


Jacksonville Jaguars wide receiver Ernest Wilford (19) is tackled by Indianapolis Colts cornerback Kelvin Hayden (26).

AP Photo

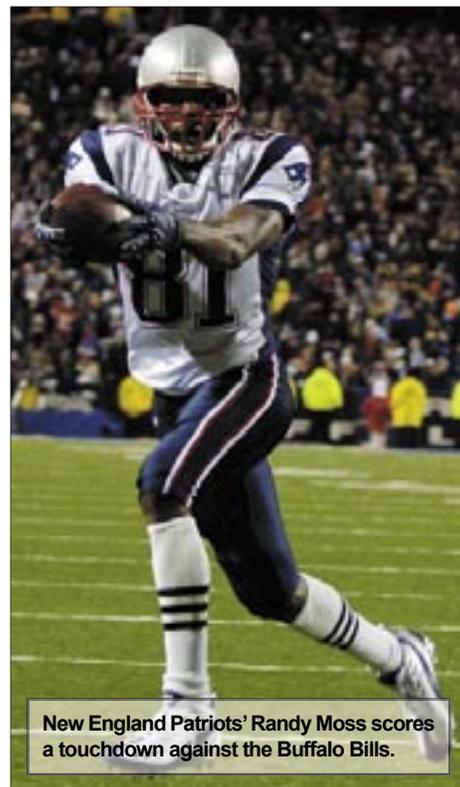
By Army Spc. Lavelle Jones

525th Military Police Battalion



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning (18) celebrates running back Joseph Addai's three-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter of the AFC Championship football game against the New England Patriots.

AP Photo



New England Patriots' Randy Moss scores a touchdown against the Buffalo Bills.

AP Photo

The Goliath during this NFL season has far and away been the New England Patriots. With Tom Brady and Randy Moss spearheading the offense this team is well on its way to putting up some unprecedented numbers. By the time this season is over they could have the record for most victories (19) surpassing the 1972 Miami Dolphins (17) in their record setting undefeated season.

The Patriots are on pace to eclipse the juggernaut offense of the 1998 Minnesota Vikings which featured ...you guessed it, Randy Moss, along with Chris Carter, Dante Culpepper, and Robert Smith. That team put up an eye popping 556 points. With the Patriots sitting at 503 points with three games left, it is conceivable that the record will fall. This is not the only NFL record threatened by the Patriots.

The touchdown passing record set by the Colts' Peyton Manning (49) in 2004 could go down. Brady has thrown 45 touchdown passes so far through 13 games. Manning could

lose still another record to Brady. His 2004 passer rating of 121.1 is at risk. Right now, Brady is sporting a passer rating of 123.5.

Jerry Rice's 22 touchdown receptions during the 1987 campaign for the San Francisco 49ers could go down as the Patriot's Moss has 19 so far. Brady loves throwing to his new weapon, especially when teams have to guard him one on one.

So it looks like we should give the Patriots the trophy right now... right? What David can possibly beat this giant of a team? Well, whoever it might be will need to have some pretty solid rocks (running game) to aim at this behemoth. The slingshot (quarterback) must also be sturdy and able to hold up under pressure.

Well, heavy is the head that wears the crown, but the Indianapolis Colts don't appear to be going down without a fight as they feature the third ranked offense with one of the best quarterbacks of all time along with a worthy replacement to Edgerrin James in Joseph Addai at running

back. They also have the NFL's second ranked scoring defense.

The Pittsburgh Steelers (who were just beat by the Patriots last weekend) boast one of the leagues strongest rushing attacks which can keep explosive teams off the field. The Jacksonville Jaguars have just as strong a running game and a quarterback who takes care of the ball (only one interception for the season so far).

A couple other teams that could challenge for the Championship are the Dallas Cowboys with its second rated scoring offense and the Green Bay Packers which has the fourth best offense and the wily veteran Bret Favre to boot. They also parade a strong defense which is rated sixth in the league in points allowed.

As you can see the list of contenders is short and the obstacle is humongous. It will take a team with the heart and arsenal of a David to knock down the Goliath that is Tom Brady and the New England Patriots. Only time will tell.

Two weekend events attract committed athletes



Rafael Rivas blisters the pavement en route to victory, Dec. 8, in the Morale, Welfare & Recreation 26.2 mile marathon. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker)



Melissa Belleman receives first place recognition from Audrey Chapman, Morale, Welfare & Recreation fitness coordinator, for winning the the marathon in the women's division. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker)

By Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

– MWR marathon –

26.2 miles is a long way to run yet hardy athletes rose to the challenge early Dec. 8 in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Annual Marathon. JTF Troopers, naval station personnel and civilians ran the full distance as individuals or as members of four-person teams, with each running a little over six and a half miles.

The first place individual winners in the men's and women's divisions were Rafael Rivas and Melissa Belleman. Both are frequent entrants in area races and are almost always top finishers.

Rivas said that this race serves as a training tune-up for the Lincoln Marathon that he intends to enter in May 2008.

Rivas finished in 3:17:50 and Belleman followed at 3:58:00.

Rounding out the individual results were Jesse Nordlandeo at 3:58:00 and Kevin Dent at 4:21:18. There were no other female finishers.

First place honors in team race went to Donald Troxler, Ted Trahan and Roberto Serrano. Serrano distinguished himself by running two legs, since one of the original team entrants did not show.

The teams of Kevin Gordon, Brian Backhaus, John Sherer and John Burber and Scott Anderson, Steve Ready, Joe Browning and Joe Glueckert came in second and third respectively.



Members from the Goon Squad (red) and the Regulators (blue) scramble for the ball during Guantanamo Bay's African American Association sponsored basketball tournament, Dec. 8. (Photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard)

– GAAA basketball tournament –

The Guantanamo African-American Association sponsored a basketball tournament Dec. 8 at the Denich Gym. Five teams – JIG, Warriors, Bandits, Goon Squad and Regulators – vied for respect in the single-elimination event. Three of the five teams featured female players along with their male counterparts making this a truly representative sports activity. Top honors went to the Bandits who bested the Warriors with a score of 44 to 37.



2007 Guantanamo Boat Parade

Waves lapped at the bottoms of boats as their brightly lit hulls glided across the water, illuminating the night with hundreds of twinkling bulbs. Splashes of color made their way across the bay as the tide gently rolled the lights' brilliant reflection onto the rocks beneath Deer Point. A glimmering procession of yachts, cruisers and dinghies floated through the night carried by the melodies of Hispanic Christmas carolers, maracas and drums. Parading along the shoreline, the vessels cut through the glass beneath them sending tinted ripples collapsing into one another. They turn from their course and fade into the distance becoming blurred spectrums on the horizon. (Photos by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin and Sgt. Sarah Stannard)

SOUTHCOM Deputy Commander and *Southern Sounds* spread holiday cheer



Cody Powell, John Rowley, Cheri Kenyon, Janet Allen and Jacque Brunner of Southern Sounds perform rock n' roll standards at Guantanamo Bay's Club Survivor, Dec. 9, to the delight of Troopers.

Story and photos by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

On a quest to spread some holiday cheer throughout the Caribbean, a group of musicians from U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) in Miami, flew here Dec. 9 to entertain the Troopers at Guantanamo Bay's Club Survivor.

The band, Southern Sounds, was accompanied by the deputy commander of SOUTHCOM, Air Force Lt. Gen. Glenn F. Spears, who conveyed his gratitude for the great work our Troopers do on a daily basis.

"The mission of JTF Guantanamo is fabulously important and I appreciate your sacrifice. Our mission is to say thanks to everyone deployed," said Gen. Spears. "I've been around for 30 years and never before have I seen a group of people with more professionalism."

The band formed last April to perform at official SOUTHCOM functions. They came together in response to an e-mail that was distributed throughout SOUTHCOM advertising the formation of a band. Six people with a shared interest in classic rock 'n' roll showed up and started jamming to their favorite rock songs. Soon a real band emerged.

"The deputy commander wanted to do a holiday cheer tour and he brought us along to make it more fun," said drummer Cheri Kenyon.

The tour began Dec. 8 with visits to four different locations within SOUTHCOM. Spears and Southern Sounds first stopped to visit Troopers in Honduras, before arriving here. The tour ends with performances for Troopers in Manta, Ecuador, and Bogotá, Colombia.

"It's one thing to play for the folks back at SOUTHCOM and it's quite another to play for deployed troops. It's like a world tour," said rhythm guitarist Cody Powell.



Air Force Lt. Gen. Glenn F. Spears, deputy commander of U.S. Southern Command, expresses his gratitude before a special music concert at Guantanamo Bay's Club Survivor, Dec. 9, to the JTF Troopers for all their great work.



John Rowley, lead guitarist of Southern Sounds, shreds out a solo during the band's performance.

J2 introduces new security programs

By Anna Ratcliff

JTF Guantanamo Security Office

There are two new programs that the Joint Task Force Intelligence Directorate is implementing – the JTF J2 Badging Office and the Entry and Exit Inspection Program.

The JTF Badging Office opened its doors Oct 1. The badging team has streamlined many of its internal processes in order to provide efficient service to its customers.

The new office serves as a central hub for all JTF badge requests. Badge requests are required for incoming employees, badge extensions, information updates, professional military visitors and professional civilian or contractor visitors. Although the standard length of time needed to process badge requests is two business days, the Badging Team has been able produce results in half that time.

Commands should have identified a primary and an alternate person assigned to request JTF Badges. If you are unsure who your command primary or alternate requestors are, please contact the JTF Badging Office for assistance. Badge requests can be emailed to jtfgtmo-j2-badging@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil.

Federal contractors who have official visitors can now route all their Visitor Requests and badging requests through the above email as well. Official visitors will receive the appropriate JTF badge which will expire at the end of their visit. Please keep in mind that ESCORT badges are no longer being issued by the Badging Office. Companies will be responsible for returning the badges to the Badging Office within one business day in order to assure proper deactivation of the badge.

Third Country National badge requests should also be routed to the Badging email account. The TCN badge requests have been slightly

modified. For the latest TCN badge request form please contact the Badging Office.

There are several updates to the different badges that are provided. First, Naval Station (NAVSTA) badges are no longer necessary for JTF members; they can use their JTF badges to get on and off island. Personal visitors who are sponsored by JTF personnel will need to bring a copy of their approved NAVSTA Entry Clearance Form in order to receive a Visitor's Badge. Finally, family members, ten years and older, who are a part of the JTF living in Gitmo are authorized a JTF badge when they present their NAVSTA Entry Clearance to the badging office.

There are some processes that have remained the same. For example, if your badge is lost you must do the following: file a security report with base security and obtain a command or company counseling statement and badge request from your command. These three items must be presented to the JTF badging office in order to receive a new badge.

The JTF badging office has two locations. The primary office is located upstairs in Bulkeley Hall Room 228 and the satellite office is located at the Air Mobility Command (AMC) Terminal on the leeward side. The satellite office is manned during all inbound AMC rotator flights scheduled every Saturday and every other Tuesday. The Badging Office located in Bulkeley Hall is open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., but is closed on holidays. You can talk to any one of the badging team members by calling 5109, 5105 or 6022 (Leeward Office).

The Entry and Exit Inspection Program (EEIP) is a new program in place to assure proper transmission of classified material to and from JTF Guantanamo facilities. The program

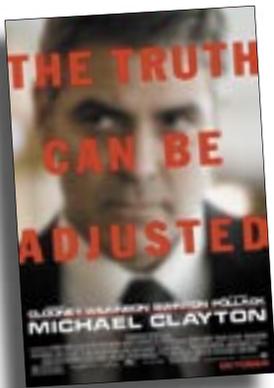
is also designed to detect and deter prohibited items from entering and exiting JTF facilities. The program employs inspectors who monitor random sites to assure proper transmission of appropriate material.

Classified materials must be transported properly. Couriers must possess a valid DD Form 2501, Courier Authorization Card or an original, valid courier authorization letter. Courier cards can be obtained at the JTF Site Security Office.

Classified materials must be wrapped in accordance with DoD regulation 5200.1, Chapter 7 (Transmission and Transportation [of Classified Material]) and JTF Guantanamo Entry and Exit Program SOP. Items must be transported in two sealed wrappings or containers. The inner wrapping or envelope must be sealed and marked with the highest classification level. The outer wrapping should be sealed in order to avoid undetected deliberate compromise. Items may risk confiscation if a security violation is found.

To detect prohibited items from entering or exiting a JTF facility, briefcases, purses, gym bags, packages, etc. are items that are subject to inspection. Wireless access devices such as Blackberry devices and two-way pagers, cameras, digital storage devices including thumb drives and iPods, weapons, alcohol and drugs and pornography are items that are unauthorized items to and from facilities under JTF oversight.

If you have any questions regarding how material should be transmitted or which items are prohibited in and around JTF facilities please contact the JTF Security Manager, Tony Camera, ext. 9757, JTF Site Security Office; Tyrone Bumpus, ext. 9824 or EEIP/ Badging Senior Site Representative, Anna Ratcliff, ext. 3460 or 84211.



Michael Clayton is supposed to be pretty good ...

By Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

... Unfortunately I haven't seen it. Seriously.

It's a funny story, actually. I went to the Bulkeley Lyceum on Monday all excited to see the movie. I'd read some advance reviews (yes, I am a film geek; hence the reason I do this

column) and everyone was talking Oscar buzz about the flick.

I was curious about the plot, so I Googled the movie (I Google everything nowadays. I once Googled "Bubblegum Tate" just to see what I could find. The answer is pretty astounding). What I found at Rollingstone.com was this:

"Michael is a fixer at a New York law firm, the janitor in expensive suits who covers up the dirty deeds of [despicable] clients. Forget his gambling debts, his faults as a divorced father, his troubled cop family: Michael is in spiritual hell, rotting from the inside. The fact crystallizes when the firm's boss (the great Sydney Pollack, a skilled director who can act the pants off any role – did you see him in the last season of "The Sopranos?") hands him his toughest assignment: Put a lid on Arthur Edens (Tom Wilkinson, a consummate actor in his prime), a top litigator who's been deflecting a huge class-action suit. Arthur, off his meds and stripping at depositions, is suddenly switching sides. Like Peter Finch in "Network," Arthur is as "mad as hell." Like Paul

Rated: R

Running Time: 120 minutes

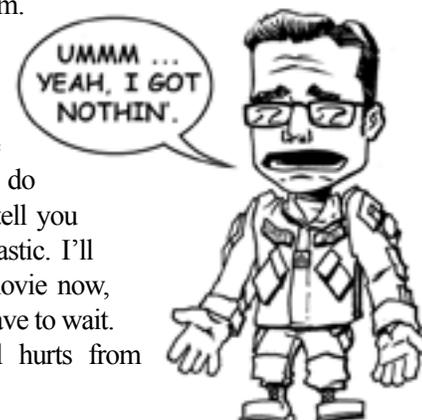
Newman in "The Verdict," Michael is forced to examine himself for the presence of a conscience. Clooney, dropping the charm to expose raw nerves, inhabits this burnt-out case with haunting brilliance. It's a bone-deep performance that raises the bar in scenes with Wilkinson, Pollack and Tilda Swinton, as a lawyer who'd literally kill to win. Here's a movie that means to shake you, and does."

That's my kinda feature! So we loaded up the minibus with three entire people and drove out to Bulkeley. After tripping up the stairs – yes, *up* the stairs – I settled in with my popcorn to enjoy a film being called "a smart must-see thriller" by About.com and compared to Sydney Lumet masterpieces by the Boston Globe.

By the time 8:30 p.m.

rolled around, we figured out that the guy who runs the projector wasn't going to make it and threw in the towel. So the most I can do is quip a few quotes and tell you that the popcorn was fantastic. I'll definitely be seeing the movie now, but sadly the review will have to wait.

Also, my big toe still hurts from tripping up the stairs.



Griff caricature by Griff

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com

Saturday, Dec. 15

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high-60's.



Isolated T-Storms

Sunrise: 6:27 a.m.
Sunset: 5:24 p.m.
Chance of rain: 30%

Sunday, Dec. 16

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high-60's.



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:28 a.m.
Sunset: 5:25 p.m.
Chance of rain: 20%

Monday, Dec. 17

Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the high-60's.



Scattered Showers

Sunrise: 6:29 a.m.
Sunset: 5:25 p.m.
Chance of rain: 30%

Tuesday, Dec. 18

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high - 60's.



Sunrise: 6:29 a.m.
Sunset: 5:26 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 20%

Partly Cloudy

Wednesday, Dec. 19

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high - 60's.



Sunrise: 6:30 a.m.
Sunset: 5:26 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 60%

Scattered T-storms

Thursday, Dec. 20

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high - 60's.



Sunrise: 6:30 a.m.
Sunset: 5:26 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 40%

Scattered T-storms

Friday, Dec. 21

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high - 60's.



Sunrise: 6:31 a.m.
Sunset: 5:27 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 10%

Partly Cloudy

Driver from page 4

SA7 rockets that were in the trunk. These were the same type of rockets that had been targeting US and coalition forces in the area.

The Army officer said Hamdan was not wearing a black Turban head dress which was typically worn by Taliban members fighting U.S. and Coalition forces. The Army officer added that Hamdan was immediately identified as an Arab.

Dr. Brian Williams, a University of Massachusetts – Dartmouth assistant professor, who has studied terrorist groups linked to al Qaida, supported the defense assertion that there were individuals working for Bin Laden who were not actively participating in terrorist activities.

Hamdan told a government agent, who interrogated him in Guantanamo Bay during three separate sessions, that he had made an “oath of allegiance” to Bin Laden and pledged to fight Jihads against Jews and crusaders as long as he could pull away if al Qaida fought certain Muslim groups. Robert McFadden, a Department of Defense agent, said Hamdan left Yemen in 1996 and headed to Jujikistan to fight on the Jihad front. He was later introduced to Bin Laden who paid him \$200 to \$300 a month plus \$100 for housing to be a driver in his security force.

Hamdan admitted to agents that he was tasked with picking up weapons and ammunition from a Taliban warehouse and knowingly delivering the equipment to al Qaida storage facilities. He also admitted to being a driver for the al Qaida leader before and after the Sept. 11 attacks against the United States.

The defense countered by saying that Hamdan’s employment as a driver did not directly link him to Bin

Laden’s terrorist activities. However, the prosecution believed that a video shown in court of Hamdan and Bin Laden walking together during a Muslim feast shows that he played an essential part in protecting Bin Laden.

McFadden countered that argument by saying that someone who worked as closely with Bin Laden as Hamdan would also have knowledge of his terrorist activities.

Hamdan was aware of Bin Laden’s involvement in attacks on the U.S. embassies in the East African nations of Tanzania and Kenya and the USS Cole, and he admitted to FBI agents that he drove Bin Laden to a news conference where he warned of an impending attack. Although Hamdan said nothing to indicate he was involved in planning terrorist attacks, he did admit to hearing Bin Laden say he thought the Sept. 11 attacks would result in 1000 to 1500 deaths, but was pleased to hear there were more.

Although the prosecution presented witnesses who corroborated the assertion that Hamdan had knowledge of terrorist activities, the defense contended in closing arguments that no evidence was presented that proves he purposely engaged in providing material support to any terrorists.

Military Commissions Chief Prosecutor Army Col. Lawrence Morris said he was pleased with the presentation of evidence by the government, as well as by Hamdan’s counsel. He stated that a favorable ruling for the prosecution in this case will resolve a major legal issue that could otherwise impede the military commissions process.

“Our best hope and expectation is to find lawful jurisdiction in this case. This will also open the path to trials in other cases,” said Morris.

Boots on the Ground!

By Army Capt. Cara Thompson

Who are you rooting for to get to the NFL playoffs?

**Navy Petty Officer
2nd Class Mark Allen**



“The Patriots, to prove Bill Belichick is not a cheater.”

**Army Staff Sgt.
Thomas Macagg**



“The Patriots, it’s a given. They’re the team to beat.”

**Navy Seaman
Frank Jones**



“The Cowboys, I just like that team.”

**Navy Seaman
Brett Gipson**



“The Green Bay Packers, My dad and I root for Bret Favre.”

JOY COMES FROM GOD AND FROM EACH OF US



www.bishopstrowandboreham.org

By Army Chaplain (Maj.) Daniel Jones
JTF Guantanamo Command Chaplain

It's Christmas time. This is a beautiful and exciting time of year for most people. However, it can be a very strange time for those who are deployed. Although we celebrate apart from our nuclear family, we do have our shipmates and battle buddies to spend the season with.

One of the ongoing events that tend to conjure up memories and feelings associated with this time of year is the singing of carols and songs. One of my favorite Christmas carols is "Joy to the World."

Although it is sometimes difficult to find joy in the midst of war and the daily battles that occur at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, I am looking forward to singing this great song once again this year. Why? Simply because it speaks of the joy of the world that we, service members on duty in Gitmo, can share and enjoy even here.

Joy is one of those things that you can't buy or seek out because it just seems to happen as we walk the path of life.

My youngest daughter, Sophie, taught me a lesson about joy one summer afternoon. When she was four years old, Sophie caught her first fish without any help from me or her older sisters. Her reaction was simply joy. I can recall Sophie holding her pole in one hand with the little perch flopping – or being flopped – as she danced. I will never forget that scene of pure joy. Joy is like that, it just kind of happens.

Joy is something that can be received and given especially during the holiday season. We can give by exchanging gifts or candy, or by simply giving a holiday greeting of "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays." We can also brighten someone's holiday with a simple smile or by saying, "How ya doing?" or "Welcome back!" or "Hey I missed ya, how was

leave?" Now I realize that most people won't break out in dance like Sophie, but their hearts will know joy because someone cares about them.

We can feel joy through the words and actions of other people, or as a result of an event that happens along the road of life that just brings it to us. Whether we are viewing a sunset, watching a baby curly tailed lizard come out and play, or simply sitting at Seaside looking out over the Caribbean, that joy can exist in our lives.

The Christmas present is full of potential joy as it lays on the floor or shelf. It is only when we actually open it that things happen. After the recognition and anticipation of a gift, the joy comes when our eyes view the unexpected.

Christmas is indeed a time of joy. God sent joy down at Christmas for all of us to take pleasure in and share. Even here at Gitmo, the joy of Christmas is alive and well in each of us.

Cayanne is one hot pepper in the gym and in life

Story and photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

In the world of young officers, a few distinguish themselves quickly because of their life achievements. A fine example of one of these accomplished young people is one Guantanamo's most finely tuned athletes, Navy Ensign Cayanne McFarlane.

Born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska, McFarlane is the oldest child of two free-spirited hippies that named her after the cayenne pepper. Her wandering parents traveled to Alaska over 30 years ago and built an A-frame house as a temporary winter residence. They ended up staying for 29 years. McFarlane's only sibling is a younger brother who attends St. Andrews University in Scotland.

"My family is not military but they are very happy, excited and supportive of my career," said McFarlane.

McFarlane has been extremely athletic since childhood, competing in both basketball and track throughout her formative years.

"I was supposed to go to Florida to play basketball but tore my ACL in my junior year of high school," said McFarlane.

After her basketball dreams fell through, McFarlane weighed other college options that could highlight her athletic ability. That's when the Navy called.

"The Naval Academy recruited me for their track team and I thought of the free school and the guaranteed job afterward, so I jumped at the chance," McFarlane said.

Looking back on her time at the academy, McFarlane commented, "It was definitely not your normal college experience because I ran varsity track for four years."

In track, McFarlane's original calling was as a sprinter, but she converted her skills into that of a thrower. With her success in the 20 pound hammer events, McFarlane's athletic ability pushed her to the top, as she became the track team's captain her senior year.



Navy Ensign Cayanne McFarlane squats over 200 pounds during her routine afternoon workout. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)

After graduating from the Naval Academy in May 2006, McFarlane moved to her first duty station at the Navy Information Operations Command in San Antonio. There she immersed herself in the world of information operations. When she heard about the opportunity to serve as a member of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, McFarlane jumped at the offer and is currently midway through a six month tour as an individual augmentee.

When her time here finishes, McFarlane plans to continue her education at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

In the future McFarlane hopes to transfer the skills she's learned during her

military service to a career in government service. While weighing her post-military employment options, McFarlane does not exclude the option of staying in the Navy and has aspirations of one day becoming an admiral.

In her spare time, McFarlane is the ultimate physical fitness machine. She lifts weights six days a week, dances, runs and even participated in last month's bay swim, finishing in two hours. Her regular workout routine consists of swimming laps in the morning and lifting weights in the evening. She also enjoys 'talking smack,' making others laugh, and playing any sport she can, including basketball – her first love.

AROUND THE JTF



◀ Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Pat Williams and Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Lisa Patricelli serve up their 'base famous' cake, Dec. 6, at a reception following the ceremony transferring authority from Port Security Unit 308 to Port Security Unit 313. The pair, who decorate wedding cakes in the Seattle area, brought all of their own cake baking and decorating supplies with them while deployed here. (Photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard)

▶ Troopers from the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, sponsored by the Navy's race car team, traveled to Homestead, Fla. to attend the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Nov. 17, 2007. (Photo by Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Ben Kline)



◀ Army Chaplain Daniel Jones shares encouraging words as choirs from various faiths came together to sing the closing hymn "Joy to the World" during the Multi-Faith Musical Holiday Concert held Dec. 9. Choirs from the Gospel, Catholic, Protestant and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints services came together to sing praises in celebration of the Christmas season. (Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons)

