

Volume 8, Issue 44

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THE WIRE

A News Magazine

Chief Of Naval Operations
New Year's Resolutions
JAS Operations
Tax Information

Setting Service goals means sacrifices



**By Navy Master Chief Petty Officer
Rick Beaber**

JTF Joint Intelligence Group Command
Master Chief

I hope everyone has had a great holiday period up to this point and will have a Happy New Year as well. Now is the time to reflect on the great year we have had and to set goals for the coming year. You can call setting goals making New Year's resolutions, but sometimes those do not work out and we lose steam and forget about them, so let's look at setting some goals that we can focus on.

I would like to give you some advice on your career. To achieve positions of power and influence, there is a price to be paid – sometimes it's obvious, but often it is more subtle and difficult. Be ambitious in pursuit of your goals, but be thoughtful about what you seek. Let your chain of command know what you want and you will be surprised to find that often they will be your biggest supporter. Some skill fields are notorious for their limited opportunities. If you are in one these you may want to look at another field, or find out how you can become the best at that field.

Determine what success means to

you. What do you want to be and what will you value when you look back on your career? Determine what sacrifice means to you. It's been my experience that Troopers perform better when they're familiar with the seas or roads ahead of them. 'Sacrifice and hard work' are indeed formulas for success but no one ever sat me down and explained to me exactly what that meant. To a degree, my leaders couldn't do that for me, because they didn't know (any better than I) what was most

important to me. Often our personal lives pay a tremendous toll because of sacrifices we make in choosing to serve our country.

Pursuing your military goals during war time can be harsh and unforgiving, and the effects may last well beyond your term of service. I have yet to meet anyone who has not suffered loss or sacrifice of some sort – be it four years or 20, everyone pays a toll. This year, you have the watch and many of you are making the sacrifice I have talked about. The defense of the nation comes at a price that someone must pay. That is why we do what we do, and it must be done.

When setting your goals look for balance, find what's right for you and pursue it relentlessly. Find a mentor to help you with this. If you do not have one, then find someone you look up to and ask him or her to help guide you, even if is only for a short time. You might be surprised at the results! Communication is the key for you; each time you learn something new pass it on and soon you will be doing the mentoring. So look to set your goals this year on something you want. I wish you the best of luck in all that you do and thanks for taking the watch this year.

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ON THE COVER:

The sun sets over the Guantanamo Bay horizon, drawing another year to a close. It holds in its rays the optimism of a new beginning and the hope for a prosperous future. (Photo by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger)



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.

CNO discusses JTF's role in the maritime strategy

By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class
William Weinert

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

With the exception of an occasional tropical storm, it's not often that something shakes up Guantanamo Bay quite like a visit during the holidays from the United States Chief of Naval Operations.

Adm. Gary Roughead assumed the office of Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) on Sept. 29, 2007 where he serves as the President's principle maritime advisor and commanding officer of the U.S. Navy.

Roughead toured Joint Task Force Guantanamo Dec. 22 where he visited with Troopers and learned firsthand about the nature and quality of the work they do here.

"What strikes me most about what I've seen in Guantanamo is the extraordinary professionalism of everyone with whom I've come in contact," said Roughead.

His tour included visits to the Joint Task Force detention facilities, including the detainee hospital and culminated in an open-forum event at the Windjammer Ballroom, where he honored Trooper's questions and concerns.

"The opportunity to come down, to walk the ground, and talk to the Troopers that are actually doing the work really gives me the



Commander, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Rear Adm. Mark Buzby shares a private moment with the Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Gary Roughead, Dec. 22. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Billings)

opportunity to be better informed on a lot of the issues that we are going to face in the future," Roughead said.

Prior to his arrival, Roughead's last perception of Guantanamo Bay was based on his experiences here decades ago as a young officer conducting training operations. Although much has changed since the last time he visited, he had a pretty

good idea of what he might see.

"With the strong leadership that we have here, and with the professional Troopers on the ground, I knew that I was going to like what I saw," said Roughead

Changes occurring rapidly to the Navy's strategic mission were very much on Roughead's mind in his conversations with Troopers. He emphasized the broadening of the Navy's mission as it becomes more integral to joint service endeavors like Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

"Joint Task Force Guantanamo fits into the maritime strategy as an expeditionary capability. It brings with it not only the ability to conduct professional and humane detainee operations, it also blends in the legal and the medical dimensions."

Recognizing the importance of the Joint Task Force's mission, Roughead said that the detainee operation and the lessons learned from intelligence gleaned here are key to winning the Global War on Terror.

"The Troopers here are doing extraordinary work in an environment that we normally do not experience. The work that's being done here and the types of operations that we're involved in are the way of the future," said Roughead.



Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead listens to a briefing on Joint Task Force Guantanamo operations, Dec. 22. Roughead visited Guantanamo Bay and met with servicemembers, civilians and families, as well as learned about Joint Task Force operations. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Billings)

Guantanamo detainee charged with war crimes



This commissions courtroom at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba is the site of the commissions proceedings until the Expeditionary Legal Complex is completed later in 2008. At that time, commissions proceedings, including impending trials such as the future prosecution for war crimes of Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed Haza al Darbi, will transfer to the new site. (Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Thompson)

U.S. Department of Defense News Release

The Office of Military Commissions announced Dec. 21 that charges have been sworn against Guantanamo detainee Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed Haza al Darbi of Saudi Arabia. The accused, al Darbi, is the brother-in-law of the Flight 77 hijacker al Mihdhar. Flight 77 is the plane that hit the Pentagon on 9/11.

The sworn charges are: conspiring with others to attack civilians, to murder in violation of the law of war, to destroy property in violation of the law of war, to hazard a vessel and to commit terrorism, and Providing Material Support to Terrorism. Mr. al Darbi was allegedly involved in planning attacks on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and off the coast of Yemen.

It is alleged that the accused, al Darbi, traveled to Jalalabad and met with Osama bin Laden, trained at al Qaida's Jihad Wahl training camp and later served as a weapons instructor at another al Qaida training camp. From 2001 through 2002, it is also alleged that al Darbi moved money from al Qaida into financial institutions for expenses related to a plot to attack a vessel in the Strait of Hormuz or off the coast of Yemen.

It is further alleged that al Darbi joined in preparations for an al Qaida terrorist operation by traveling to several countries to purchase a GPS device, a boat and other equipment in late 2000 or early 2001. The boat, named "Adnan" would be loaded with explosives for future terrorist operations. The accused, al Darbi, ultimately registered the boat in his name as the "al Rahal" under the Sao Tome flag, and also purchased an additional boat to instruct Yemenis how to swim and operate a boat. In the spring of 2002, al Darbi departed the United Arab Emirates on board the boat "al Rahal" destined for Yemen, diverted the boat to Somalia due to concerns with his own passport, and during this time discussed travel plans

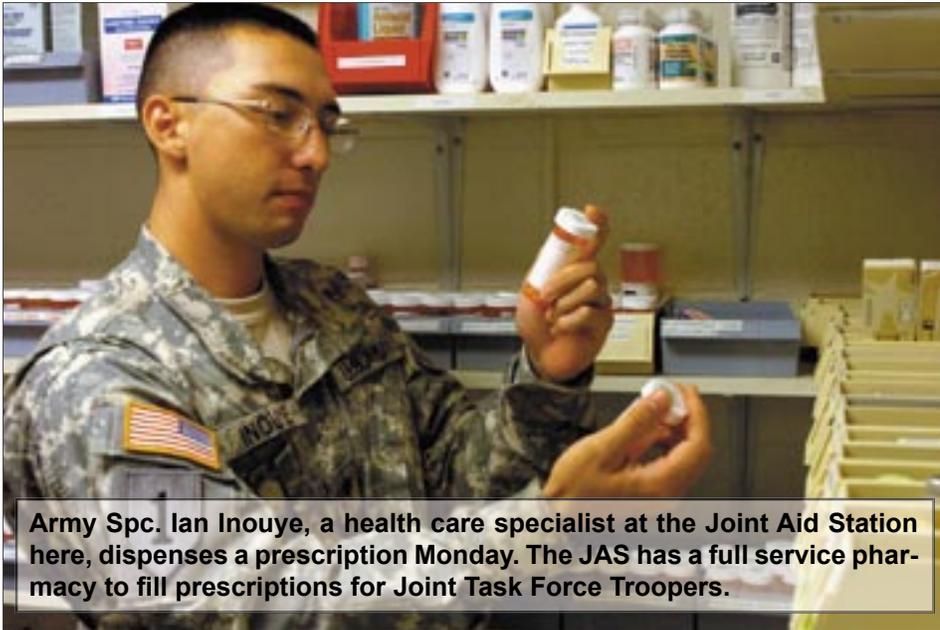
by satellite phone with Walid al Shiba.

In accordance with the Military Commissions Act of 2006 and the Manual for Military Commissions, sworn charges must be forwarded for review by the Legal Advisor to the Convening Authority. The Convening Authority may then refer any or all charges to trial by military commission, or may dismiss charges or specifications. If the Convening Authority decides to refer the case to trial, she will designate commission panel members. A military judge and trial dates will be designated at a later time.

Brigadier General Thomas Hartmann, Legal Advisor to the Convening Authority, has stated that these War Crime courts are now moving intensely forward in open courts and with more due process than any war criminal has historically received. As the Military Commissions continue, our uniformed service members, including judges, prosecutors and defense counsel, will conduct these trials with the dignity, fairness, and respect for law that defines American military justice.

The sworn charges are only allegations that the accused has committed a war crime under the Military Commissions Act, and the accused is innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The JAS has the cure for what ails you



Army Spc. Ian Inouye, a health care specialist at the Joint Aid Station here, dispenses a prescription Monday. The JAS has a full service pharmacy to fill prescriptions for Joint Task Force Troopers.

**Story and photo by
Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

You know the old adage, ‘An apple a day keeps the doctor away.’ *Yeah, I know that one too, but I’ll tell ya’ I have had been so sick I thought nothing would cure me, least of all an apple.* I know I’m not the only one who’s ever felt like that, so the next time you’re sick don’t try an apple, try a the Kittery Beach Joint Aid Station (JAS). They have the cure for what ails you.

“We can do so many things here; it’s really like a one-stop medical shop,” said Army Capt. Michael Smith, a physician’s assistant and officer in charge of the JAS.

This walk-in style clinic is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day and provides sick call attention, as well as dental and vision services. The JAS is outfitted with one doctor, two physicians’ assistants and two independent duty corpsmen. The corpsmen have are able to treat patients in much the same way the

physician’s assistant does.

Most patients should be seen during sick call hours, Smith said. During this time JAS staff can diagnose illness and injury, write referrals to specialists, refill prescriptions, give light or limited duty orders and provide lab work for blood and other samples. There are designated sick call hours, and JAS staff recommends you use them. However, if Troopers just can’t make it there during designated times, they will see patients during non-sick call hours. Sick call hours are from 7 a.m. – 10 a.m. Monday through Friday; 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 7 a.m. to noon on Saturday. There is no sick call on Sunday. The JAS is open half days on holidays.

The JAS maintains a full pharmacy and can fill all prescriptions from health care providers on island, and most from state-side doctors.

Full vision services are also offered through the JAS. An optometrist visits the clinic on Thursdays and can provide

Troopers with eye examinations, prescriptions and corrective lenses. Appointments are made on a first come, first served basis and should be made by calling the JAS.

Troopers can also get many dental services through the JAS. Exams, cleanings and fillings are all done in the clinic and referrals can be made to the U.S. Naval Hospital, Guantanamo Bay for more involved dental treatment. Dental appointments are made by calling the JAS. The JAS dental clinic is open Monday and Tuesday from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. and on Thursday from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

The JAS also provides Troopers with full physicals, pre- and post-deployment health assessments, immunizations and in-and-out medical processing from the JTF. Troopers should call to make appointments for these services.

“Troopers should also be maintaining their medical records here,” Smith said. “There are many who keep them in their personal possession, but they should really be keeping there here, in the clinic,” said Smith.

Emergency services are offered directly by the JAS, though transport from the clinic to the hospital is available in extreme cases. Smith recommends Troopers in need of emergency care call 911 or visit the hospital’s emergency room. He stresses, however, that these services are for emergencies only and most Troopers should seek treatment first at the clinic.

The JAS can also write referrals to naval station dietary and nutritional specialists for Troopers trying to lose weight.

For more information about JAS services, Troopers should call 3395 or stop by the clinic on Kittery Beach Road, directly across from Tierra Kay housing.

NFL playoff picture unveils before us



Tennessee Titans quarterback Vince Young (10) is sacked by New York Jets defensive end David Bowens (96) in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Nashville, Tenn., Sunday.

AP Photo



Washington Redskins wide receiver Santana Moss (89) is brought down at the 1-yard line by Minnesota Vikings' Dwight Smith on a 5-yard pass from Todd Collins in a NFL football game Sunday.

AP Photo

By Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

With one week left in the NFL regular season the playoff picture in both conferences is almost complete. Five of the six spots in each conference are locked up leaving one position available. I will breakdown those scenarios as well as give you a complete look at the playoff picture.

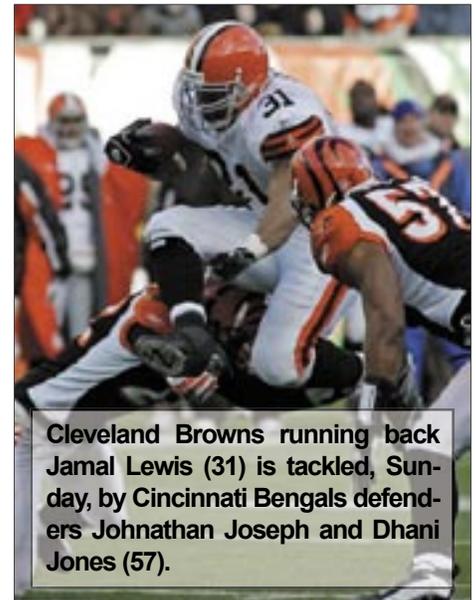
Let's start off with the AFC where the Tennessee Titans and the Cleveland Browns are the two teams battling for that final playoff spot. The Titans are in with a win or a tie and a Cleveland loss. The Browns are in with a Tennessee loss or a win and a Tennessee tie or a Cleveland tie and a Tennessee tie. The Titans play the Colts in a Sunday night showdown and the Browns play the 49ers. If both teams win the Titans are in. If both teams lose the Browns are in.

The rest of the AFC looks like this: The New England Patriots (15-0), whose quest for a perfect season continues, are the number one seed, have a first round bye and have the home field advantage throughout the playoffs. The number two seed belongs to the Indianapolis Colts (13-2) who have won six in a row and will also enjoy

a first round bye. The number three and number four seeds are still up in the air between the surging San Diego Chargers and the Pittsburgh Steelers (10-5) who have lost two of their last three games. The number five seed goes to the one team in the AFC who nobody wants to play and that's the Jacksonville Jaguars (11-4).

The NFC is a little more complicated. There are three teams left in the hunt for that last playoff spot. The Washington Redskins are in with a victory over the Dallas Cowboys or a tie and a Minnesota loss or tie or a Minnesota loss and a New Orleans loss or tie. The Minnesota Vikings can get in if they can beat the Denver Broncos and the Redskins lose, or a tie and a Washington loss. The New Orleans Saints can weasel their way in with a win over the Chicago Bears and a Redskins and Vikings loss.

The remaining NFC picture is locked in and looks like this: The Dallas Cowboys (13-2) are the number one seed and have home field advantage throughout the playoffs and a first round bye, which they need to heal some injuries. The number two seed and a first round bye goes to the Green Bay Packers (12-3) who look to



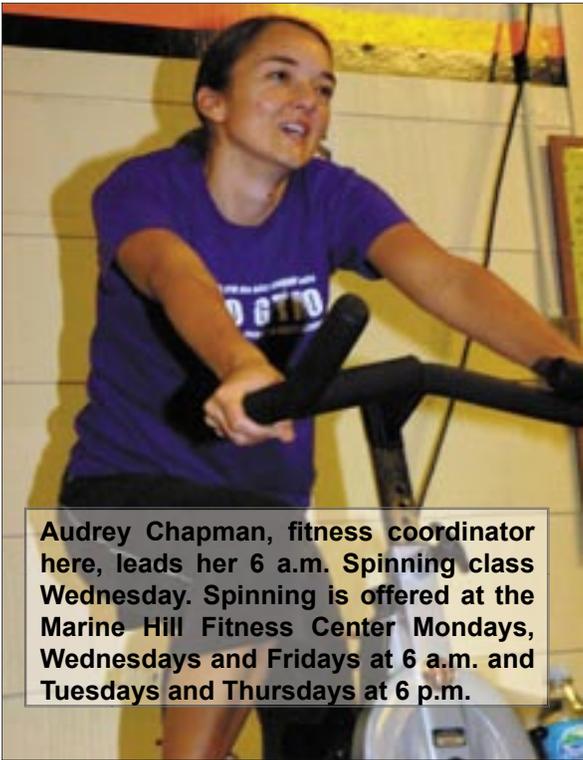
Cleveland Browns running back Jamal Lewis (31) is tackled, Sunday, by Cincinnati Bengals defenders Johnathan Joseph and Dhani Jones (57).

AP Photo

get back to playoff playing form after being destroyed by the Bears. The number three seed goes to the Seattle Seahawks (10-5) who have been quietly rolling along. The number four seed goes to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (9-6) another team hoping to heal before the playoffs begin. The number five seed goes to the boring and lethargic New York Giants (10-5).

Well there you have it. Next week I will break down all of the playoff match-ups and make my playoff predictions. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and I wish you all a Happy New Year!

MWR supports your "get fit" resolution



Audrey Chapman, fitness coordinator here, leads her 6 a.m. Spinning class Wednesday. Spinning is offered at the Marine Hill Fitness Center Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 a.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 p.m.

Story and photo by
Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Now that the over indulgence of the holiday season is almost behind us, many will see January as a time to drop pounds and get into shape. Even if you're already a workout stud and just looking to add a little punch to your regimen, the fitness staff at Morale, Welfare and Recreation has something for every skill level and interest.

Audrey Chapman, fitness coordinator here, says a fitness assessment is a good place to start. Her staff will assess your current fitness level and provide you with a good idea of where you stand in comparison to a healthy prototype of your age. They will then help you design a workout plan to suit your needs and goals. There is no cost for this assessment and workout plan, and you can easily set up an appointment by calling Chapman at 75576.

Organized classes are another

great way to motivate you to get out and exercise. There are a whole slew of free classes open to all base personnel at the Marine Hill Fitness Center.

Cardio kickboxing is a fast paced aerobic activity based on Thai kickboxing that involves a lot of heavy exertion and is, therefore, not recommended for those just beginning to get in shape.

Spinning is an indoor cycling activity that helps strengthen your heart and tone your glutes, calves and thighs.

Basic Yoga is an exercise routine that helps develop stability and strength and is appropriate to any skill level.

Kundalini Yoga is a stretching regimen that consists of a number of body postures, expressive movements and utterances, breathing patterns, and degrees of concentration.

Power Yoga is an aggressive fitness based approach to Yoga. It does not follow a set series of poses, so each class can vary widely from the next.

Step-n-Sculpt is a basic step aerobics class designed to increase oxygen flow. It is low impact and will not cause the stress to the joints that running and jumping will.

Pilates focuses on the core postural muscles that help provide support to the spine and overall balance. Pilates is highly recommended for those who spend long hours at a desk.

Bosu is a blend of stable and unstable exercises using a specially shaped ball that encourages strength training through balance development. It is not recommended

for beginners to fitness training.

Water aerobics is low impact exercise that is recommended for those new to physical activity. It is offered at the Windjammer Pool. Stroller Strut, offered through Denich Gym, is an aerobic and strength building activity for young mothers with infants that involves walking and exercising with resistance bands. For more information about any of these classes stop by or call Denich Gym at 77262 or Marine Hill Fitness Center at 9763.

If organized workout groups are not your thing, hit any one of the fitness facilities around base to pump iron or get your sweat on with any of the numerous cardio machines. Personal trainers are available through MWR, at \$20-\$40 per session, and are a great way for new weight lifters to get started right.

Denich Gym is open Monday through Friday, 5:00 a.m. to midnight, weekends and holidays, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. The Marine Hill Fitness Center is open Monday through Friday, 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., weekends 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and holidays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Camp America Fitness Center is open 24/7.

Regardless of what your specific fitness goals are, there are a few steps Chapman recommends to ensure you meet them. First, write your goals down (be specific, make and keep promises to yourself). Second, state a definite date (don't get caught in that 'I'll start next week' trap). Third, remove temptations (get rid those empty calories from your cabinets). Fourth, meet mini goals (it's easier to move pebbles than an entire mountain). Finally, photograph yourself (track your progress from week to week). Above all, make sure the goals you set are realistic and work toward improving your overall health.

HOSPITAL CAY

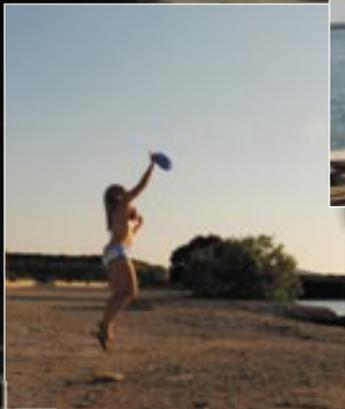


By Army Sgt. Jody Metzger
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

There is not much that can make up for being away from loved ones and friends during the holidays, but for those deployed to Guantanamo Bay, there was still plenty of smiles and laughter to go around.

The Hospital Cay Barbeque became a highlight activity Saturday when Troopers, civilians and MWR sponsors gathered for some fun in the sun to celebrate in the spirit of good cheer.

The music and food set the mood for a great time. Some found their spot in the sun relaxing and eating, while others enjoyed a game of Frisbee. Others tried their luck at wakeboarding, knee-boarding, or jumping off the pier.



VITA offers Troopers tax assistance beginning January

By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

As Troopers prepare to ring in the New Year, many have already begun to focus on their financial goals for 2008. Providing assistance to Troopers filing their tax returns is one way the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay Military Justice Office plans to help Troopers achieve these goals.

Beginning in late January, the Military Justice office here will offer free (limited) tax advice, tax preparation and assistance to Troopers by facilitating an Internal Revenue Service Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class ReAnn Myers, VITA site coordinator here, said she is currently recruiting volunteers to attend a one-week tax training session beginning Jan. 14, where they will be instructed on how to complete the 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ forms. Volunteers may also complete the course online at <http://irs.gov>. Volunteers should proceed to the 'Link and Learn' portion and progress to the 'Military Level.' Students will only be given two chances to get a passing grade for each exam.

Once volunteers are trained and pass the test, they will be available on a part-time and full-time basis to assist Troopers with tax preparation until the April 15 deadline.

"We will begin offering tax assistance to Troopers assigned to JTF as soon as we get volunteers trained and have the necessary software uploaded to our computers," said Myers.

When the training begins it will be offered at the JTF Military Justice office, located at building 1601. The volunteers will assist Troopers on a walk-in basis Mon-

day through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In addition to answering questions about military-specific tax issues such as combat zone tax benefits, volunteers will be able to provide information on special credits that Troopers may qualify for such as the earned income and child tax credits.

When Troopers arrive at the Military Justice office, they should have the following items in hand:

- Proof of identification.
- Social Security Cards for themselves, spouses and dependents and/or a Social Security Number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration.
- Birth dates for themselves, their spouse and dependents on the tax return.
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers. Troopers can download copies of the W-2 from the mypay website, myPay.dfas.milmypay.aspx.
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099).
- A copy of last year's Federal and State returns if they are available.
- Bank routing numbers and account numbers for tax return direct deposit.
- Total monies paid for day care providers and the day



care providers' tax identifying numbers (the provider's Social Security number or the provider's business Employer Identification Number).

- Interest statements from student loan lenders.
- Power of Attorney (IRS form 2848) from spouses to file taxes (if married and their spouses are not here.)

Troopers in search of answers to their tax questions may also visit the VITA program website at www.irs.gov/individuals/military/index.html to obtain current information on special benefits available to service members during an overseas deployment.

Although Guantanamo Bay, Cuba does not qualify as a combat zone, Troopers who receive hostile fire and imminent danger pay are considered to be in a qualified hazardous duty area and are therefore entitled to certain extensions and deferments.

Troopers and spouses, filing within qualified hazardous areas, may qualify for automatic time extensions until June 15. Troopers using the automatic extension

Continued on Page 13

New Year's resolutions easy to make, hard to follow



By Army Sgt. Paul Meeker

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The GoalsGuy, a personal and professional development company whose goal is “simply to help you achieve yours,” tallied approximately 300,000 Internet responses regarding New Year’s resolutions and published the following top ten list.

- 1. Lose Weight and Get in Better Physical Shape**
- 2. Stick to a Budget**
- 3. Reduce Debt**
- 4. Enjoy More Quality Time with Family & Friends**
- 5. Find My Soul Mate**
- 6. Quit Smoking**
- 7. Find a Better Job**
- 8. Learn Something New**
- 9. Volunteer and Help Others**
- 10. Get Organized**

I, on the other hand tallied a total of fourteen Joint Task Force respondents in the course of Quarterdeck watch duty, Dec. 21, and came up with a more personal and interesting list of New Year’s resolutions. Because I believe in the value of number seven above, I’ve decided to share the JTF responses in the hope and expectation that they will spur you to productive change in 2008.

“Continue improving my spiritual life through good thoughts and actions, so that when the moment comes to return to the source and transcend my physical being, I may

return my soul better than when I got it.” – Army Lt. Col. Doris Acevedo

“Promote stronger family relationships and make my business *Christ-mas Spirit Manufacturing* number one in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. I also plan to work hard on my Army War College course work.” – Army Lt. Col. Miguel Mendez

“Quit smoking and increase personal workouts with my wife Mad-die.” – Navy Capt. Peter Husta

“Work out and dance more with Pete. Save money, and complete 50 percent of school.” – Maddie Husta

“Make working out part of my daily routine.” – Army Col. Bruce Vargo

“To work like I don’t need the money, love like I’ve never been hurt and sing as if no one can hear me and dance like no one’s watching.” – Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr Lisa Patricelli

“Completely eat the 72 oz. Texas Steak with french fries at one sitting so I can walk out of the *Big Texan Steak House* in Amarillo, Texas without having to pay for it. My brother did it in 1992 and I want my picture on the wall next to his!” – Army Sgt. Maj. John Jenson

“Take a vacation to Las Vegas and spend time with my family because I miss them.” – Army Sgt. 1st Class Norma Guevara

“Continue teaching everyone about the importance of learning about other cultures and religions so that we can more effectively maintain safe and humane care and custo-

dy of the detainees here.” – Mr. Zak

“Spend more time reading my Bible; memorize a few scriptures in Spanish.” – Army Capt. Tracey Hester

“Spend every day in Gitmo like its spring break – Baaaabbbbyyyy!!!” – Navy Ensign Cayanne McFarlane

“Continue to get back in shape and try to maintain a healthy life-style.” – Army Brig. Gen. Cameron Crawford

“Get home . . . the sooner the better!” – Army Sgt. 1st Class Rafael Almonte

“Find Sasquatch!” – Air Force Capt. Kenneth Artz

“Write a letter to my grandmother at least twice a month.” – Navy Cmdr. Deidre L. McLay

“Try and be a better person. Sounds pretty simple, but it is not always very easy to execute, which is why I make it my goal every year.

I want to love my wife Gina more, to positively impact more people around me, and to appreciate the great friends and shipmates I’ve met over the years. I’m looking forward to a busy 2008!” – Navy Rear Adm. Mark Buzby

New Year’s resolutions have always made me a little squeamish, because I so often fail to see them through. Therefore, I resolve to follow through with worthy endeavors already begun in 2007: go to the gym five times a week, call my daughter every day and learn to sail. Building on budding success is a lot easier than starting from scratch.

2007's best – Yes, you saw a few of them here

By Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

I saw two movies this week that “The Griff” already reviewed here for The Wire (“Michael Clayton” & “Gone Baby Gone”) so I was torn between faking the funk and writing a review for a movie I have yet to see (“American Gangster” comes to mind) or getting creative. Well, I chose neither and have instead opted to share several “best of lists” for the benefit of serious Gitmo movie enthusiasts. The sad part of this effort is discovering that many of the films making these lists never showed here and likely won’t, although a few titles like “No Country for Old Men,” “Atonement” and “Sweeney Todd” surely will . . . I hope. Anyhow, here’s what some of the critics have to say about film in 2007.

MTV– Kurt Loder

1. *Michael Clayton*
2. No Country for Old Men
3. *Zodiac*
4. *Gone Baby Gone*
5. The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford
6. Sweeney Todd: The Demon



Rolling Stone – Pete Travers

1. No Country for Old Men
2. Atonement
3. Into the Wild
4. Eastern Promises
5. Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street
6. *American Gangster*
7. There Will Be Blood
8. Before the Devil Knows You’re Dead
9. I’m Not There
10. *Knocked Up* & Juno

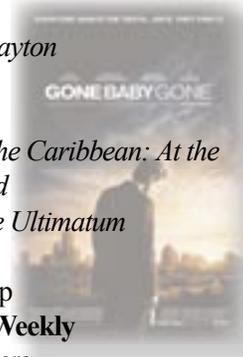
American Film Industry

1. Before the Devil Knows You’re Dead
2. The Diving Bell and the Butterfly
3. Into the Wild
4. Juno
5. *Knocked Up*
6. *Michael Clayton*
7. No Country for Old Men
8. *Ratatouille*
9. The Savages
10. There Will Be Blood



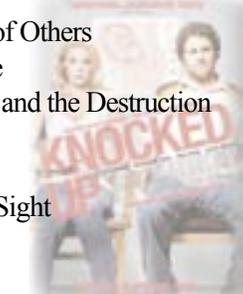
Amazon.com – Ryan Constantino

1. *Ratatouille*
2. No Country for Old Men
3. *Hot Fuzz*
4. *Michael Clayton*
5. *300*
6. The Mist
7. *Pirates of the Caribbean: At the World’s End*
8. *The Bourne Ultimatum*
9. Once
10. Black Sheep



Entertainment Weekly

1. I’m Not There
2. Before the Devil Knows You’re Dead
3. *Michael Clayton*
4. *Superbad*
5. The Lives of Others
6. Grindhouse
7. Jack Smith and the Destruction of Atlantis
8. Once
9. No End in Sight
10. *Zodiac*



The italics indicate films shown here.

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com

Saturday, Dec. 29

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



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:34 a.m.
Sunset: 5:31 p.m.
Chance of rain: 10%

Sunday, Dec. 30

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



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:35 a.m.
Sunset: 5:32 p.m.
Chance of rain: 20%

Monday, Dec. 31

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



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:35 a.m.
Sunset: 5:33 p.m.
Chance of rain: 20%

Tuesday, Jan. 1

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



Sunrise: 6:35 a.m.
Sunset: 5:33 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 10%

Partly Cloudy

Wednesday, Jan. 2

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



Sunrise: 6:36 a.m.
Sunset: 5:34 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 60%

Scattered Showers

Thursday, Jan. 3

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



Sunrise: 6:36 a.m.
Sunset: 5:34 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 40%

Scattered T-Storms

Friday, Jan. 4

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



Sunrise: 6:36 a.m.
Sunset: 5:35 p.m.
Chance of Rain: 10%

Partly Cloudy

Taxes from page 10



must attach a statement to their return showing that they meet the requirements outlined on the IRS website at www.irs.gov/app/vita/index.jsp. An additional four-month extension is allowed by filing a form 4868 by June 15. Troopers should remember, however that the tax services here will only be available through April 15.

Although an extension gives Troopers more time to file their taxes, they are usually not given an extended period of time to pay their tax bill. However, some Troopers may be eligible for a deferment or delay period if they notify the IRS and explain that their ability to pay has been materially affected by their military service. In such a case, Troopers' income taxes will be deferred for a period not to exceed 180 days after their release from military service.

If Troopers pay the income tax

in full by the end of the deferral period, they will not be charged interest or a penalty for that period.

Troopers who owe the IRS money can pay their tax bill either by authorizing an electronic funds withdrawal from a checking or savings account, or by paying with a credit or debit card, check or money order.

For those who have spouses filing married joint tax returns, Troopers can also file a form 2848, which authorizes their spouse to sign the return in their absence.

Troopers may also grant a power of attorney to an agent other than their spouse, who may be authorized to file and sign the return on their behalf. By marking the appropriate box on their return form, Troopers may select a third-party designee who can answer any questions that may arise during the processing of the tax return.

Once Troopers have rung in the New Year, Myers urges them to stop by the Military Justice office before too much time passes so they can start the tax filing process that often results in needed extra cash through tax refunds.

2007 Tax Statements (W-2 and 1099) are available on myPay as follows:

Retiree 1099R - Dec. 18, 2007

Annuitant 1099R and 1042S - Dec. 18, 2007

Air Force, Army and Navy Reserve W2 - Jan. 1, 2008

Civilian W2 - Jan. 4, -2008

Marine Corps Active and Reserves W2 - Jan. 7, 2008

Savings Deposit 1099INT - Jan. 18, 2008

Air Force, Army and Navy Active W2 - Jan. 22, 2008

NAF Civilian W2 - Jan. 11, 2008

Boots on the Ground

What is your New Year's resolution?

By Army Sgt. Jody Metzger and Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert

Army Spc.
Luis Carrion



"To be with my wife and kids"

Army Sgt.
Jose Torres



"To take a trip with my family"

Army Staff Sgt.
Mario Miranda



"I wish for peace this year and to be back with my family"

Army Spc.
Joel Ocasio



"To go back to college and my family"

God gives the gift of time



By Navy Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Daniel McKay

JTF Deputy Chaplain, NEGB Chaplain

There's a wonderful gift that is placed in our hands at this time each year: the gift of a New Year. Yes, 365 brand new days waiting to be unwrapped and used as we choose. Think about it. That's 24 hours per day, 168 hours per week, 720 hours per month, 8,760 hours per year; 1,440 minutes per day, 10,080 minutes per week, 302,400 minutes per month, 11,037,600 minutes per year; 3,600 seconds per hour, 86,400 seconds per day, 604,800 seconds per week, 2,592,000 seconds per month, 31,536,000 seconds per year. What a fabulous gift, indeed!

Within each second, minute, hour and day there lies infinite potentialities and possibilities. This is always so, but we are especially reminded of this reality at life's poignant moments: birth, death, financial transactions, military operations, sporting events, and the like. Issues of life and death, success and failure, wins and losses and so much more hang in the balance of how well each second, minute, hour and day are managed.

Thus, while the gift of time is freely and equally given to all — regardless of race, religion, education level, economic condition, social status, etc. — life's most meaningful and lasting rewards are reserved for those who use the gift of their time both wisely and well. It's as American poet Carl Sandburg reminds us, "Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent." He then quickly adds this very important word of caution, "Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you." And, as we all know too well, if left to the wishes of others, our time will be

expended, more often than not, taking care of life's urgent but not necessarily life's most important and enduring concerns, e.g., our relationships with God, loved ones and friends.

How, then, will you utilize the gift of 2008, as it is measured by its seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks and months? By year's end, where do you envision your relationships with God, self, spouse, children, neighbors, co-workers and others? What goals, objectives and resources do you need to put in to place and in motion to get you there? Now, give first place to these priorities on your daily, weekly and monthly planners. The less important matters in life need to be worked around these rather than the other way around. And, if we each do this, then at year's end we'll be able to celebrate the added gifts of strengthened lives, homes, communities and more.

Yes, time is a wonderful gift from our Creator, but greater by far are the added gifts that can be ours to enjoy if we each use the time we are given wisely and well. I especially like the journalist H. L. Mencken's observation, "You cannot do anything about the length of your life, but you can do something about its width and depth." With this truth in mind, therefore, let's pray with the psalmist of old, "Show me, O Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life" (Psalm 39:4). And as we live each new day in 2008, let's heed the Apostle Paul's words of encouragement, "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is" (Ephesians 5:15-17).

Chief Kerr leaves legacy of service and safety

By Air Force Capt. Kenneth Artz

JTF Assistant Staff Judge Advocate

There aren't many men in America with a life story like my housemate, Army Chief Warrant Officer John Kerr. The Joint Task Force Guantanamo Safety officer is a real life Forrest Gump that keeps popping up at crucial moments in American history.

In August 1966, Kerr made a conscious decision to enlist in the Army, although Vietnam was "in the back of [his] mind." Kerr was assigned to the 82nd Airborne and willingly volunteered to fight in Vietnam. However, because of Army policy at the time, Kerr had to wait until his older brother finished his own Vietnam tour before he could go.

In the meantime, communist Russia invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968. The 82nd was sent to Greece to train for a potential NATO mission to free Czechoslovakia from Russia's grip. While practicing an airborne jump, the static line wrapped around Kerr's left bicep and shredded the muscle.

He passed out from the pain and woke up to a Greek shouting at him while the wind pulled him and his chute across the Greek desert. Kerr thought he had died and believed "God was speaking Greek to me and I couldn't understand what he was saying." By the time he regained the use of his left arm later in '69, his enlistment was up and he returned to civilian life.

Kerr opened an audio-stereo company in Kent, Ohio. There he was a witness to some of the riots that left four Kent State students dead. From a friend's house he watched the ROTC building burn. He ran his company until 1980 when he reenlisted in the Army with a dream of attending flight school.

He entered flight school at Ft. Rucker, Ala. in 1983 and graduated as a warrant officer and UH-1 Huey helicopter pilot. Following flight school, he joined the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne. In 1985, Kerr and his unit were sent to the Sinai Peninsula for a six month peacekeeping mission. With one month remaining Kerr was called home because of his father's unexpected death.



Good friends and JTF housemates, Capt. Kenneth Artz and Chief Warrant Officer John Kerr enjoy a parting photo opportunity. Kerr leaves Guantanamo Saturday and retires in April from an Army career that began in 1966. "They don't make many men like him anymore. I am proud to have served with him," says Artz. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker)

Tragically, his band of brothers never made it home. On Dec. 12, 1985, after stopping in Gander, Newfoundland for fuel, the chartered Arrow Air Douglas DC-8 jet carrying 248 soldiers of the 101st Airborne and eight crew members crashed shortly after takeoff killing all aboard. Kerr would have been on that plane.

In 1986, a polyp burst in Kerr's sinus cavity while on a training mission causing blood to impair his vision. Fortunately, his co-pilot landed the helicopter. He thought the doctors had tackled his sinus issue, but the polyp reared its ugly head again while flying in Operation Desert Shield in 1990. The Army permanently grounded Kerr that same year. No longer able to follow his flying passion, Kerr again separated from the Army with over 14 years of service.

In 1991, Kerr returned to civilian life. In 1992, he attempted to get back into the Army but was turned away because of the Army's downsizing. He worked for Peterbuilt Motor Company in Madison, Tenn. where he met his incredible wife.

In 2004, Kerr and his wife were weeks away from moving into their dream house located on three acres in rural Georgia when his wife walked in with the mail.

"She told me that I had better be sitting down because of the letter I received from the Army," Kerr said.

The letter notified Kerr that he was being recalled to active duty in support of the Global War on Terror. He was shocked since he'd had no contact with the Army

in 12 years. He learned he was still a commissioned warrant officer. He had forgotten to resign his commission.

Though recall to active duty was unexpected, his new wife quickly adapted to active duty military life.

"My wife couldn't be more proud of me. She is a huge supporter of the Troops and she couldn't be more proud my service to this great country. This is her first experience being around the military and she couldn't be happier," said Kerr.

Kerr deployed to Iraq for 15 months as a safety officer where he spent time in Tikrit, Camp Speicher and Camp Liberty. After he returned home, the Army sent him here where he will finish his deployment Dec. 29. He plans to retire in April from his final assignment in Camp Shelby, Miss.

Kerr is rightfully proud of his military service and his current career field as a safety officer. When he was flying helicopters, he lived the safety mission each time he flew. He has used his experience to keep Troopers safe, especially the younger ones.

"Safety is a leadership issue. If the leaders do not show concern for their troops' safety, then the troops won't find it important," Kerr said.

Kerr is a true gentleman who has lived a life of sorrow and joy. He is a man who loves God, family and country. Each time his country called, Kerr answered the call honorably. They don't make many men like him anymore. I am proud to have served with him.

AROUND THE JTF



▲Soldiers from Joint Task Force Guantanamo join Army Brig. Gen. Cameron Crawford, JTF Guantanamo deputy commander, to cheer on the football competitors in the 2008 U.S. Army All-American Bowl. The bowl highlights football all-stars who excel both on the field and in the classroom. (Photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard)



▲Navy Master Chief Mary Holland, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Armando Sedano and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Sherard Wilson make an impromptu “Santa” visit to Cuzco Barracks Christmas Eve to share donated supplies with Troopers. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker)



▲Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Silva re-enlists for another four years of service, Dec. 21. Silva is a member of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion here. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)