

THE WIRE

A News Magazine

Zanetti looks ahead

JDG update

Backing up JTF power



Choices and changes for life



**By Navy Master Chief Petty Officer
Craig McVeay**

JIG Command Master Chief

The last few weeks have seen a significant “changing of the guard” and I’d like to say welcome and greetings to all of our new Troopers here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Whether you are here on orders for four, six or twelve months, assignment to the JTF is a momentous event with great potential. Our assignment is an opportunity to step away from the “rat race” of our lives and make choices that result in a positive effect on our future. Life is about choices and will determine the changes we face. Your tour here is an opportunity that simply can’t be overlooked.

The unfortunate truth is that too many of our Troopers will make choices that offer nothing beneficial to themselves, the military or society. Too many of our Troopers will find reasons to avoid healthy alternatives to relieve stress, decrease anxiety and enrich their lives. Research indicates it takes three weeks of repetition for an activity to become a habit. Instead of starting a new habit during your last three weeks here in Guantanamo, why not begin those habits early? By the time you depart, they’ll be a part of your lifestyle.

Many of us work 12-18 hours per day for several consecutive days with only one or two days off and that wears out our

body and our mind. Maintaining good physical health contributes to a longer, more comfortable life and it will reduce the stress you feel. Look into alternatives offered by Morale, Welfare and Recreation – fitness classes are offered several times a day, almost every day of the week, at no cost to you. Group activities also offer opportunities to socialize with others and make new friends.

In addition to fitness classes, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Joint Stress, Mitigation and Reintegration Team and other groups offer activities, classes and outings that will allow you to leave work behind. These activities are a chance to socialize with others, revitalize your mind, reduce your stress and prepare you to return to duty alert and safe.

With the main chapel near the Navy Exchange and Troopers Chapel in Camp America, religious services meet the spiritual needs of everyone. A deployment to Guantanamo isn’t a reason to stop tending to your spiritual needs; it’s a reason to continue or start.

In closing, the activities mentioned above provide opportunities to do things that are healthy, wholesome and smart. Take your pick – exercise, socialize and/or spiritualize and you’ll complete your tour here with JTF Guantanamo a better, healthier person.

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COVER:

Big Wheels line Windward Loop in preparation for the Downhill Big Wheel Extreme held Saturday evening. (Photo by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin)



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.

Zanetti connects money management skills to JTF mission

Story and photos by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The new Joint Task Force Guantanamo deputy commander sees relevant parallels between his civilian job as a corporate money manager and his new duties in the JTF. Like other reserve forces Troopers here, Brig. Gen. Gregory Zanetti intends to bring that perspective and business experience to bear on his duties here.

“I ran millions of dollars for individuals and institutions,” says Zanetti. “The trick with money management is looking through the fog into the future as best you can then making investment decisions based on that look ahead.

“It is very similar here,” suggests Zanetti. “Everyone is trying to look through the fog. What will the detainees do next? How will the commissions process play out? What happens when Castro gives up power, which was today [Tuesday]? And be able to do that in a clear, reasonable, well thought out way?”

Zanetti doesn’t just confine his ‘look through the fog’ to what’s happening here in Guantanamo or just across the fence in Cuba proper. His interests and concerns move quickly from his mission here to disparate forces at work in the world that affect Troopers less directly, but not less significantly.

“There is a bigger overlay to this. What happens on the outside dramatically affects us here. In fact for the first time the national security director stated the decline of the dollar is a national security issue. He did that in front of Congress last week.

“For instance, the price of bread has gone up 45 percent in the last 10 weeks. Our pay raise is keeping up with the rising inflation, but we have to be aware of these things and compensate as best we can so that all of the grand plans at the top aren’t undercut by a disintegrating bottom. That’s what keeps me up at night, that’s why no one invites me to parties,” said Zanetti.

A graduate of West Point, Zanetti served six years on active duty before joining the Army National Guard, where he has served since 1986. During this time, he has also earned a master’s degree in business from Boston University and a second master’s in strategic studies from the Army War College. Although he has been in the guard for 22 years, this is his first deployment.

Prior to his arrival here, Zanetti’s expectations of JTF Guantanamo were quite different than what he found once his boots hit ground.

“I wasn’t expecting so many moving parts. I did not understand the magnitude of the commissions process and what all that would entail. I didn’t realize the extent of the media scrutiny. We all knew that Guantanamo Bay has media scrutiny, but not to the extent which I have seen and also the high level of visibility within the government,” said Zanetti.

While duty under a microscope comes a bit unexpected, what did not surprise Zanetti is the caliber of people he is now working with.



Brig. Gen. Gregory Zanetti enjoys a barbecue with the Troops from the New Mexico Army National Guard’s 111th Combat Support Brigade in Camp Justice.

“JTF Guantanamo is made up of amazing people; incredibly gifted, talented, dedicated people, who use the brains in their heads on a daily basis, and they are the only reason why this place works as well as it does,” Zanetti said.

Zanetti’s goals for his time here apply not just to him, but to the New Mexico guardsmen who accompanied him and to all serving in the JTF.

“To contribute...to do an honorable, decent, and good job. Leave the place better for the next group,” said Zanetti.

Although he is a hard charger, he realizes the value of down time. His personal goals for his deployment are the Four S’s – Scuba, Sailing, Spanish, and Salsa dancing.

“My wife will be stunned if I can dance when I get back,” said Zanetti.

Zanetti believes that the biggest challenge for him in the upcoming year is to protect Troopers from unreasonable outside pressures.

“We have to tell the story to America of what is going on here. As the admiral [Rear Adm. Buzby] puts it ‘truth and Troopers.’ How do we shelter them on one hand and tell their story on the other? That is my challenge,” he said.

Even though Zanetti has only been here for a short while, he has good insight on the current mission of the JTF and sound advice for new Troopers coming to Guantanamo.

“You have a front seat to history. What is occurring is unprecedented and you have a part in it. Very few people can say that in their life time ‘I was there when . . .’ Appreciate it, know your job. Contribute in a positive way toward history,” said Zanetti.

Zanetti joined JTF Guantanamo a little over three weeks ago as a member of the 111th Combat Support Brigade, New Mexico Army National Guard. He will serve here on a one year tour.

JDG Soldiers and Sailors among military's finest



Troopers from the Joint Detention Group man their post in Camp 4 Tuesday. The JDG is charged with day-to-day detention operations.

**Story and photo by
Army Spc. Shanita Simmons**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

One of the most critical missions conducted in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba is detainee operations as performed by the Joint Detention Group. Since 2002, the JDG has been tasked with providing a safe and humane environment for those detained within the facilities here.

Troopers representing various military services work within the JDG to make certain that detainee operations are conducted in accordance with Department of Defense standards. In addition to supporting and training the Troopers who guard the detention facilities here, the JDG staff is also charged with coordinating all detainee movements and communications with everyone ranging from the International Red Cross to habeas attorneys.

Since many critical eyes are constantly monitoring how detainees

are treated here, Army Lt. Col. Ramon Ramos, the JDG executive officer, reiterated that all operations within the JDG are driven by policy and DOD standards. Therefore, it's vital for the JDG staff to maintain a well-structured environment where the importance of the mission is reinforced daily.

"The mission of the JDG is constantly in the spotlight of the public eye, the media and important leaders all over the world. Therefore, we as professionals must diligently keep our eye on the mission," said Ramos, who is a member of the Puerto Rican National Guard. "We must make sure that everyone working within our command is doing the right thing at all times."

The greatest overall challenge for the JDG has been the transparency aspect of the operation. Since only a limited number of individuals are allowed to visit and see the detention facilities for themselves, many rely on the sometimes misleading

images that are portrayed out of context.

Ramos said the JDG works to eradicate some of the misinformation and misconceptions regarding detainee treatment by facilitating visits where dignitaries, the media and the International Committee of the Red Cross tour the detention facilities. He added that these visits give individuals the opportunity to see the conditions here for themselves so they can return to their communities and help dispel rumors regarding detainee mistreatment.

The detention facilities here are manned by Navy personnel assigned to the Naval Expeditionary Guard Battalion and Army military policemen attached to the 525th Military Police Battalion. The Troopers of the NEGB, approximately half of whom are individual augmentees, receive

Continued on page 13

Visiting Seabees supply reserve power to the JTF



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Matt Meehan tightens a component of a new reserve power supply unit, Feb. 15. The new reserve power supply unit will supply the JTF with electricity in the event the Naval Station's power supply is interrupted.

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Much of the year, Guantanamo Bay is a place of beauty where ocean breezes push waves gently to the rugged coastline. During hurricane season that can all change. In 2007, Hurricane Dean and Tropical Storm Noel pummeled the island with high winds, crashing waves and torrential rains. While overall damage was minimal, the storms showed a need for Joint Task Force Guantanamo to be prepared for the worst. Now,

thanks to the hard work of a team of visiting Seabees, the JTF is more ready than ever.

About a month ago, a team of four Sailors traveled to Guantanamo Bay from their Mobile Utility Support Equipment Unit in Port Hueneme, Calif. The team's primary task was to install a reserve power supply for the JTF if the connection to the main plant is ever lost. This also eliminates the need for the multiple portable generators that have been on hand for emergency purposes.

"We came to get it all set up, ready to go and get it load tested, then move on," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Deeks, one of the Construction Electricians working on the project.

The team members – including two construction electricians, one utilitiesman and one steelworker – have trained extensively for these types of missions in joint training settings. For instance, four received mechanical or electrical engineering cross-training at the Army's year-long Prime Power School at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Although the team has been working on the project for only about a month here, the reserve power unit's construction started earlier in Port Hueneme.

"We did pre-site construction over there. Once it was ready to go, we shipped the parts and the components here to Guantanamo," said Deeks.

The unit's installation proved to be an arduous task, but this was not unexpected.

"Each component weighs 110,000 pounds. Once we get them situated, then we have to run all the fuel lines, set the injectors, the timing component and line the alternators themselves. Each is about the size of a Ford Ranger Truck," said Deeks.

If this power supply unit is ever needed, Deeks said it will perform well.

Similar reserve power units have already been installed for the Naval Station and the Leeward Airfield. Deeks and his fellow team members inspected these before starting the JTF project ensuring that all Guantanamo operations remain viable in any emergency situation.

This mission is just one of many for these hard working Seabees. Within a month, they could easily be assigned to similar projects as far away as Diego Garcia or Japan.

Newman surges to last lap Daytona victory

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Cheryl Dilgard

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The old adage that “close only counts with horseshoes and hand grenades” proved true for Tony Stewart who lost his lead and the victory to Ryan Newman in the next to last lap of the 50th annual Daytona 500 NASCAR race.

The race was amazing with the fire really sparking in final 30 laps, but it was in lap 197 that the flames took over. Fan favorite Tony Stewart in the number 20 Toyota took the lead, however one lap later his historic bid to win the “Great American Race” in a foreign car was undone by Ryan Newman. Newman moved to the outside and with a little draft help

from teammate Kurt Busch, propelled his Dodge into the lead for good.

Kyle Busch had led the race for 86 laps, and finished 4th.

The top ten finishers in order were Ryan Newman, Kurt Busch, Tony Stewart, Kyle Busch (who had the lead for 86 laps, Reed Sorenson, Elliot Sadler, Kasey Kahne, Robby Gordon, Dale Earnhart Jr., Greg Biffle.



Ryan Newman takes the checkered flag to win the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Daytona 500 auto race at Daytona International Speedway on Sunday in Daytona Beach, Fla. (AP Photo)

The Daytona 500 marks the official beginning of the NASCAR season its ‘race for the points’.

NBA ALL STARS LIGHT UP NOLA



Wearing a Superman costume, Orlando Magic forward Dwight Howard soars toward the basket in the basketball slam dunk contest Saturday at the NBA All Star Weekend in New Orleans. (AP Photo)

By Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The NBA and its All Stars brought all the glitter and glare that an All Star weekend can bring to a city still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Before all of the basketball events took place, several of the NBA All Star players got together and provided a day of service to the still devastated city. Hats off

to the NBA for donating its time and money to such a worthy cause.

The NBA weekend kicked off Saturday night with the skills competition. Deron Williams passed and shot his way past hometown favorite Chris Paul to win the event. In the three point challenge, Jason Kapono won his second consecutive event in record tying fashion. After missing his first two shots in the final round, Kapono tore the nets for 10 consecutive shots en route to a score of 25 which tied the record set by Craig Hodges in 1986. In the slam dunk contest, Dwight Howard put on a show for the ages. The 6’ 11” star from Orlando dispelled all rumors that big men can’t jump. Howard donned a red cape and flew to the hoop like Superman, putting on a show that was quickly compared to past heroics by Michael Jordan and Vince Carter. Howard won the first ever fan internet poll over Minnesota’s Gerald Green after earning two perfect scores from the court side judges.

In the 2008 All Star game the squad from the East defeated its counterparts from the West in a pretty competitive game by a score of 134-128. In a game featuring little defense, LeBron James led the East to victory with his 27 point MVP performance. Chris Paul led the West in a late fourth quarter push and gained the lead 118-116 until Ray Allen stepped up and scored fourteen points in the final three minutes and nineteen seconds to ice it for the East squad.

It was a great All Star weekend for several of its young stars and – most of all – for a struggling city still working hard to recover its identity.

Tennis Tourney Wrapup



The top three competitors, Gary Belch (2nd), Prisco Masagca Jr. (1st) and Neil Doculan (3rd) dominated the court with their outstanding performance throughout this heated tournament. (Photo submitted by Audrey Chapman)



Dante Miclat blasts a serve during his quarterfinal match against 3rd place finisher Neil Doculan. (Photo by Navy Petty officer 2nd Class Nat Moger)

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nat Moger

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The weary Troops stood at attention, pausing their games to watch the sun go down over Deer Point and observe evening colors. With an orange sky casting a dramatic glow over the battlefield, the competitors once again faced each other to resume their battle of wills.

It looked like a chess match, but instead of knights, rooks and bishops these tennis court generals had forehands, backhands and drop shots at their beck and call.

When it was all said and done, the Spring Singles Tennis Tournament concluded under the lights of the Deer Point Tennis Courts this past Saturday, with Prisco Masagca Jr. defeating Gary Belch 6-3, 6-1. Neil Doculan placed third, succumbing to Belch 6-1, 6-1 in the loser's bracket semifinal.

The winners received 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies and Navy Exchange gift cards.

Although the tournament schedule was exhausting, participants relished the chance to flex their competitive muscles.

"I played four matches the last two days of the tournament," said Belch of the busy playing schedule. "I was completely exhausted when it was all over, and happy to come away with the 2nd place trophy."

While the competition was fierce, with impressive tennis ability on display, the big story was the number of players who decided to throw their hats in the ring.

"The turnout's the best we've seen in a while," said Audrey Chapman, Morale, Welfare and Recreation office's fitness coordinator and tournament supervisor. "We've got a lot of good tennis players here."

The tournament was originally

designed to be a one-day affair Feb. 9, but the outsized attendance allowed coordinators to adjust the tournament format, giving players more time to compete and audience members more opportunities to check out the hot tennis action.

"We had so many players sign up, we had to stretch it out to two weeks," explained Chapman.

The tournament proceeded in a double elimination format, so players who lost in early rounds had a chance to come back on the loser's bracket side. In fact, Belch had succumbed earlier in the tournament to eventual winner Prisco in the round of eight, before winning four consecutive matches to make it back to the final.

Now that the spring tournament is over, those looking to try their hands again needn't wait long; there are plans for a doubles tournament in March and another singles tournament in the summer.

Windward Loop Downhill Big Wheel Extreme!



Photos by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin and Army Spc. Shanita Simmons
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Donning knee pads and helmets, eight brave souls mounted their big wheels and kiddie cars for a downhill race in Windward Loop Saturday night. Assembled by Navy Ensign Cayanne McFarlane, the race was an opportunity for lighthearted fun and bloody road rash. Army Capt. Kevin Cowan, who won the first two heats only to lose - lose - lose due to an equipment malfunction in the third, said that the pavement is much less forgiving than expected.

"My left pedal snapped because I'd been pushing the vehicle beyond its limits, beyond what any sane racer would do," Cowan said. "It was only a matter of time before the ground raced up to give me a gravelly kiss."

Cowan has no regrets, though, as the racing spirit stays strong in his heart. "I'm in it for the adventure, for the rush," Cowan said. "I will race again!"

The next competition is scheduled for Saturday, March 15. For more info, contact McFarlane at 9743.



Tax assistants serve Troops and community

By Army Sgt. Jody Metzger

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

As the New Year begins, people tend to focus on making resolutions and trying exciting new things, but unfortunately it also marks the start of tax season. There's the old saying "Nothing is certain in life but death and taxes," and while that may be true, there are resources here in Guantanamo that can make the next few months a little easier to bear.

Expert tax assistants have set up two shops and extend their welcome to servicemembers and their dependents as well as Department of Defense Civilians to do their taxes free of charge. These tax assistance offices can be found in either the Navy Legal Assistance NAVSTA building 760, or Camp America SEA Hut 6107. Joint Task Force Guantanamo are urged to use the Camp America legal assistance.

These tax assistants have been certified by the Internal Revenue Service and are qualified to answer any questions, and are ready to tackle the number dynamics of end of year accounts with ease and expertise.

When considering this service, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Rachel Thompson, a tax assistant, reminds those interested to bring pertinent documents. These include proof of social security number and any 1099 forms, which is documentation of income and credits for which you may be eligible, as well as any deductions.

For those looking to traverse the perils of tax season as quickly as possible, electronic filing appears to be the most time efficient method. "Within 10 working days you

will have your return," said Thompson. "All you need is to remember to bring bank account and routing information."

Most will admit the best thing about taxes is the fat check from the government – though on occasion some unfortunate tax payers find themselves owing. The best way to prevent this sad affair, Thompson notes, is to keep a few notes in mind while filing.

The goal of tax planning, Thompson explains, is to arrange your financial affairs so it minimizes your taxes. "The biggest way you can save money is by three basic methods; reduce your income, increase your deductions and take advantage of tax credits."

Reducing Income

Many younger military personnel anticipate payday, but forget to put away money for their retirement. It just so happens that setting money aside for a retirement plan has both short and long term benefits.

The number one way to reduce your taxes, says Thompson, is to reduce your income and deposit your money into a non-taxable retirement account like the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) or a 401K. Doing this lowers your Adjusted Gross Income, essentially reducing the amount of income the IRS can tax.

Increasing Your Tax Deductions

Increasing tax deductions is a solid way to lower your annual gross income.

Smart financial planning, explains Thompson, affords you the option to either choose a 'standard deduction' or 'itemized deductions.'

"Almost everyone can take standard deductions, though some people are able to itemize their deductions," said Thompson. "Some of the itemized deductions include unreimbursed medical expenses and charitable contributions such as donating to qualifying organizations like the church, Red Cross, Salvation Army, or the Combined Federal Campaign. Others include home mortgage interest, some state and personal property tax, casualty or theft, gambling loss, employment expense, and union dues."

The ideal course of action, explained Thompson, is to put part of your pay check into a retirement account or charity. These tax deductions will lead you to a lower yearly income.

Tax Credits

Tax credits are yet another way to come out on top at the end of tax season.

"There are tax credits for retirement accounts and for college expenses," said Thompson, who advises people to "take advantage of government sponsored education credits, like the Hope Credit and the Lifetime Learning Credit."

The Hope Credit is for students in their first two years of college and can reach as high as \$1,650 per eligible student. On the other hand the Lifetime Learning Credit never expires for anyone taking college classes and can be upwards of \$2,000. These classes do not have to be related to the student's career.

No matter what strategy you may be practicing to make your money work for you, it always pays to be educated.

For tax assistance, call 8118 or 8147.

Bush looking for Democracy in post-Castro Cuba

By Scott Stearns

Released by Voice of America

President Bush said Tuesday that Cuban President Fidel Castro's decision to step down should be the start of a democratic transition on the island. Cuba's Communist party newspaper published a quote from Mr. Castro, Tuesday, saying he will not accept another term as president. VOA White House Correspondent Scott Stearns has more on Mr. Bush's reaction.

President Bush said the United States will help the people of Cuba realize the blessings of liberty.

"I believe that the change from Fidel Castro ought to begin a period of democratic transition," the president said. "First step, of course, will be for people put in these prisons to be let out. I have met with some of the families of

prisoners. It just breaks your heart to realize that people have been thrown in prison because they dared speak out."

After nearly half a century in power, Fidel Castro's decision to step down appears to open the way for his brother Raul, who has been acting president since the long-time leader's intestinal surgery two years ago.

As power changes hands in Cuba, Bush said some people will say U.S. policy should promote stability. But Bush said that would be a mistake because political prisoners would continue to rot in detention and the human condition, in many cases, would remain pathetic.

"Eventually this transition ought to lead to free and fair elections. And I mean free. And I mean fair. Not these kind of staged elections

that the Castro brothers try to foist off as being true democracy," he said.

The president spoke in Rwanda on the third stop of a five-nation tour of Africa. At a press conference with Rwandan President Paul Kagame, Mr. Bush was asked what the Cuban leader's decision means for America. He said the question should be: What does it mean for Cubans?

"They're the ones put in prison because of their beliefs. They're the ones who have been denied their right to live in a free society," Bush said.

A new Cuban National Assembly was elected in January, and will meet for the first time Sunday to pick the governing Council of State, which will now include a new president.

Bush okays 3.5% military pay raise

By Leo Shane III

Released by Stars & Stripes

President Bush signed the fiscal 2008 Defense authorization bill into law Jan. 28. The signing will belatedly activate a bigger pay raise and more than two dozen bonuses owed to troops.

The measure, passed by Congress in December, was vetoed by Bush on Dec. 28, 2007, over concerns that one overlooked provision could freeze billions in Iraqi government reconstruction funds held in U.S. banks.

Congress finalized a revised version Tuesday, removing that language and backdating pay increases and bonus language to the start of the calendar year.

The measure calls for a 3.5 percent pay hike for all military personnel, 0.5 percent above what troops saw on Jan. 1. The difference is about \$9 a month for an E-3 with four years service, and just over \$13 a month for an E-5 with 10 years service.

Even though the extra pay increase is retroactive, Defense officials said

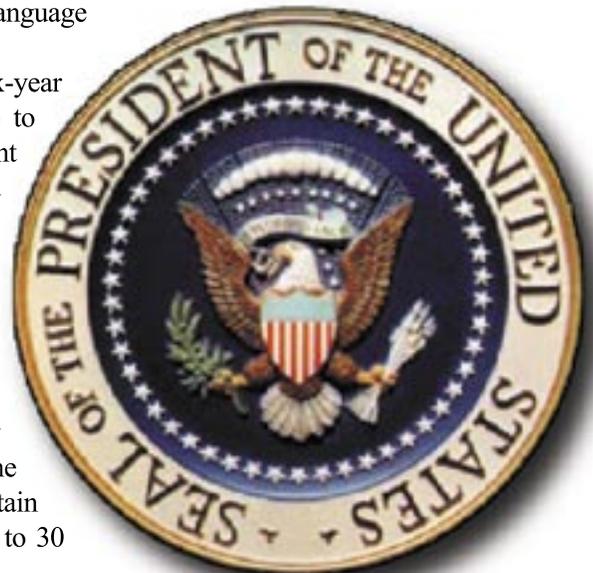
servicemembers won't see the extra cash until mid- or late-February, because payroll officials won't have time to process the new rate for the end-of-January payroll period.

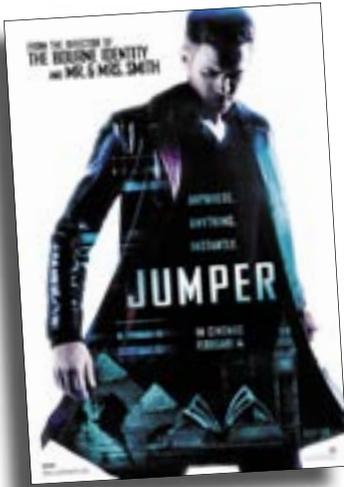
They added that backdated bonuses will likely take a few more weeks as well. Since Jan. 1, the services have delayed payment of 26 bonuses and specialty pays while waiting for reauthorizing language included in the legislation.

The list includes some six-year re-enlistment bonuses worth up to \$90,000, the Army's enlistment referral reward of \$2,000, and a host of special pay and incentives for health professionals.

The \$696 billion authorization bill, which sets spending priorities and policy for the fiscal year, also includes language allowing troops to carry up to 75 days of leave from one year to the next and allowing certain deployed troops to sell back up to 30 days of unused leave.

It also elevates the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to a four-star general; guarantees combat veterans mental health evaluations within 30 days of their request; establishes a Family Readiness Council to better coordinate family programs; and sets aside nearly \$5 billion for efforts to combat roadside bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan.





“Jumper” should have changed its name to *Griffin*

By Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Rated: PG13 - The G is for Griffin

Running Time: 90 jumpy minutes

“Jumper” stars Samuel L. Jackson’s hair and the kid who played Anakin Skywalker at his whiniest, Hayden Christensen. Directed by Doug Liman (“The Bourne Identity”), “Jumper” is a teen slacker superhero flick without the tights. Liman makes an effort to push the film more toward sci-fi but he can’t escape the influence of co-writer David

ability to teleport to anyplace they can imagine. They think only God should have that power. I won’t even start on the theological fallacies of that one. So the Paladins really want a piece of Christensen and Griffin (who, like most Griffins, is witty, charmingly cynical and in dire need of a haircut). Then everybody starts fighting and stuff happens.

The effects are good, just enough to be interesting most of the time and following a certain logic that keeps one engaged. The dialogue ranges from funny to plodding to awful. One honestly expects more of Liman and Goyer than some of the tripe that hit the page on this script.

The pacing is brisk, never slowing down long enough to consider that Christensen’s dad is played by Michael Rooker, who still seems to be starring in “Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer” every time he’s on-screen. The guy has *crazy eyes*, man, and he sounds like he gargles with broken glass. Probably not the best role model for a mutant teleporter brimming with teen angst.

Also, Diane Lane has a cameo as Christensen’s mom. I once harbored a dream of living out my days as Diane Lane’s pool boy. I was crushed when I found out she didn’t even have a pool, so I went in to graphic design instead. Funny how life works out.

I’m out of space, so that’s it for this one. “Jumper” is another on my cursed list of average movies from good directors.

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

*Editor’s note: “I Am Legend” is coming next week. Cross your fingers and pray to your gods!

Goyer, who contributed to the script for “Batman Begins” and has numerous comic titles under his belt. Indeed, some of the best moments of the film involve David Rice (Christensen) pleading with a fellow jumper for a “Marvel Team-Up” on a limited run.

The fellow jumper is Griffin, who has the best name ever used in a movie. Seriously. A Griffin is a mythological creature that is half eagle and half lion and all awesome (google it). Best name ever. Unfortunately, Griffin the Jumper (Jamie Bell) is a screwed up wackadoo looking to grease as many Paladins as he can. Specifically, he’s after Sam Jackson for that ridiculous dye job that screams “SUPERVILLAIN” to everyone except the boneheads in the flick who think it’s normal for the IRS to show up with a white buzz cut and a trench coat resembling a cape.

The Paladins are looking to eradicate the Jumpers for their

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com			
<p>Saturday, Feb. 23</p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the mid - 60’s.</p>  <p>Partly Cloudy Sunrise: 6:25 a.m. Sunset: 6:03 p.m. Chance of rain: 20%</p>	<p>Sunday, Feb. 24</p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the mid - 60’s.</p>  <p>Partly Cloudy Sunrise: 6:24 a.m. Sunset: 6:04 p.m. Chance of rain: 20%</p>	<p>Monday, Feb. 25</p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the mid - 60’s.</p>  <p>Partly Cloudy Sunrise: 6:24 a.m. Sunset: 6:04 p.m. Chance of rain: 20%</p>	
<p>Tuesday, Feb. 26</p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the mid - 60’s.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:23 a.m. Sunset: 6:05 p.m. Chance of Rain: 10%</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p>	<p>Wednesday, Feb. 27</p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the mid - 60’s.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:22 a.m. Sunset: 6:05 p.m. Chance of Rain: 20%</p> <p>Mostly Sunny</p>	<p>Thursday, Feb. 28</p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:21 a.m. Sunset: 6:05 p.m. Chance of Rain: 30%</p> <p>Scattered Showers</p>	<p>Friday, Feb. 29</p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the mid - 60’s.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:21 a.m. Sunset: 6:06 p.m. Chance of Rain: 30%</p> <p>Scattered Showers</p>

JDG upholds Guantanamo's Mission

Continued from page 4

mission specific training before arriving in Guantanamo Bay while the Army military policemen bring their occupational training to the mission. Since the majority of the JDG staff is here for a one-year period, Ramos mentioned that the learning curve for guard force members can be steep.

Before arriving here in Guantanamo Bay, the Navy Troopers assigned to the guard force are sent to pre-mobilization sites where they undergo a variety of scenarios that teach them how to interact with detainees under different circumstances. Various structures modeled after Guantanamo Bay detention facilities have been constructed at the pre-mobilization sites where the Navy Troopers are trained on the day-to-day tasks they will perform. Once they arrive on island, Ramos said that the variety of techniques they learned are reinforced and refined by the additional training they receive from the guard staff they are replacing. This training culminates

in certification by their chain of command.

All guard force members attend an induction hearing where they are briefed on the importance of operational security and they learn the importance of monitoring their communications while working in close proximity to detainees. Since many members of the guard force are young, Ramos added that it's important for these Troopers to understand the various ways detainees may try to manipulate a situation.

"These are very dangerous people that the guard force works with," said Ramos. "This training prevents the detainees from harming themselves and from harming the guards."

Even with all the proper procedures in place, guard force members are challenged daily by detainees who may curse, spit and throw their feces at them. When these types of incidents occur, Ramos said the JDG command staff is always amazed by the mental discipline and resilience Troopers display after such assaults.

"The greatest credit has to go to the Troopers who successfully accomplish the guard mission," said Ramos. "The way these young Soldiers and Sailors conduct themselves despite aggressions from the detainees is truly remarkable."

Due to the dynamic rotation of Troopers, Ramos said the success of the JDG mission depends upon the expertise of experienced folks in place who provide the continuity necessary to ensure that everyone trains up to full speed. Nevertheless, as new professionals with diverse backgrounds and experiences take their posts here, Ramos added that their contributions significantly enhance overall mission success.

"We have the fortune of a mix of the finest Soldiers and Sailors. We also have detailed procedures in place along with solid communication and training practices to ensure that our leaders and Troopers are qualified and polished," said Ramos. "With the proper command and control structures in place, we work diligently to ensure our mission is successful every day."

Boots on the Ground

In honor of President's Day, who is your favorite president?

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nat Moger

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class
Diana Tross



"Lincoln, because he believed in freedom and rights for everyone."

Army Sgt. Brian Daniels



"Eisenhower, because he created the interstate system."

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Tina Pchelka



"Lincoln, for everything he's done for our country."

Army Spc. Tina Wipfli



"George W. Bush, because even with everything going on right now he still holds his ground."

Hold fast, stand firm, don't run . . .



www.plattplanet.de

By Army Capt. Y.J. Kim

525th Military Police Battalion Chaplain

“Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.” – Psalms 55:22

There come those moments in life when it would be nice to run away, right? They could be caused by multiple reasons, such as hurtful relationships, family problems or failed careers.

During those times when we are physically tired and financially drained, we can both sympathize and empathize with the Psalmist when he sings, “Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest” (Psalms 55:4).

When it seems as if our lives are crumbling before our eyes and there seems to be no way out, many of us want to quit and just drop off the face of the earth.

Much of today’s contemporary songs echo this. You can hear these sentiments in lyrics such as “Stop the world, I want to get off.” I remember a song in my youth that went, “This world is not my home, and I’m just passing through.” Even at that age, I remember thinking, “Yeah, you are right ... We all want to escape from time to time.”

But, is fleeing in times of distress the real solution?

First of all, problems cannot be avoided. There is no such thing as a problem-free life. It doesn’t exist. Problems may vary in intensity, but we all have them. One unchanging truth in the world is that we will have problems and we will have burdens. However, the solution is not to avoid problems, but to find the One who actually cares about our problems.

The word “burden” in Hebrew means “lot in life.” If

you cast your lot in life upon the Lord, whatever that lot may happen to be, He will sustain you.

The second part is that even if you could run away, problems have a way of defying geography. They follow you wherever you go. There are things in life worth fighting for and it would be cowardly to just run away. If you hold fast, stand firm and not leave the situation, I believe you will find more of a solution than you’ll find in self-imposed exiles of escape.

Casting your lot on the Lord does not mean that He will just carry your burden all the way for you. It means that He will sustain you as you carry the burden of life. He will also undergird you and give you the strength to carry on. He will see you through. You will discover, in the final analysis, that there was, is and will be a God to take care of you, even more than you could take care of yourself.

If you will dare to live out your life even during those moments of crisis, live in subjection and submission to His will and trust Him completely and whole-heartedly, He will give you everything you need!

Christ put His life into His Father’s hands and thereby defeated His foes by living a life in submission to the will of God. You have a God who will sustain and be there for you. You neither need to fight nor do you need to flee.

The problem of evil has been around for a long time and it’s nothing new. Who is better to handle this kind of “stuff” than God, who’s been handling it since the beginning of time! Only God can sustain you and take care of the evil.

God is in control. So the question is, “Can you trust a God like that to take care of you? Will you trust a God like that to take care of you when you want to fly away?”

Trust in the Lord and hope in Him and in Him alone.

Young Army corporal pursues excellence in duty

Story and photos by Navy
Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Despite only two years in the Army, Cpl. Krystal Ahern of Phoenix, Ariz. has risen to a level of distinction and recognition during her time of service here. Ahern is the active noncommissioned officer in charge of supply for the 193rd Military Police Company, 525th Military Police Battalion. She describes her mission here as “making sure the Soldiers have what they need to perform their duties inside the wire.”

Ahern is a high achiever who joined the Army to help her reach her personal goals. She is planning on starting classes next session at Columbia College to work on a general studies curriculum that she will then apply toward a nursing degree. Eventually she hopes to return to Arizona where she can work as a nurse and pursue a second degree in massage therapy.

Like most soldiers here in Guantanamo, Krystal misses her family and the comforts of home.

“I miss Mom waking me, telling me it’s time for school, not having any responsibilities,” she confessed. She especially misses spending time with her four year old sister jumping on the trampoline.

Although she misses not having responsibilities at home, she is not afraid of taking on responsibilities at work.

“She can constantly be called upon to do things and never hesitates to help anyone in



Army Cpl. Krystal Ahern describes her mission here as “making sure the Troopers have what they need to perform their duties inside the wire.”

need. She has already deployed once to Iraq and volunteered to come down here after already serving away from the U.S. This speaks volumes of her character and general make up as a person and a Soldier. She has taken on more responsibility and shouldered the burdens with no complaining,” said Army Staff Sgt. Steven Barthmaier, Cpl. Ahern’s direct supervisor.

Ahern actively helps junior enlisted Troopers pursue success. She volunteers her time to help soldiers study and assists them in their promotion preparation. Ahern has goals of getting promoted herself and believes that her position here

in Guantanamo will allow her to take that next step. Running her own supply shop for the 193rd is giving her tremendous experience.

“I want to get used to the position of running my own supply shop before getting promoted,” she said. “When I came into the shop it was really disorganized.”

Ahern’s short term goal for the Army is to return to Iraq. Her tour in Iraq was with the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, and it was there that she learned a lot about responsibility, the Army, and personal growth.

“I served in a tight-knit company. It was more like home, and you depend on each other more. It’s like a family. The decisions you make determine if you live or not,” Ahern said.

Like any solid noncommissioned officer, Ahern has learned from the mistakes of others, a practice that enables her to make good choices regarding how she spends her off time and its good advice for young Troopers coming to the island.

“You don’t have to slam a bottle of whiskey after a bad day. Learn to brush things off,” Ahern said. “Follow the rules. Do what you’re supposed to do and take advantage of the opportunities provided by Morale Welfare and Recreation.”



Ahern inventories gear for her supply shop at the 193rd MP Battalion.

AROUND THE JTF



◀ Cory Becherer, shortstop of local softball team Main Attraction, scoops up the ball at a co-ed softball tournament Saturday. Teams from both Joint Task Force Guantanamo and the Naval Station competed in the tournament held at Zaiser Field. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing)

A bulldozer operated by KNIK Construction extracts gravel from the ridgeline trail that will be used to complete paving projects to benefit the naval station and the Joint Task Force. (Photo by Army Spc. Shanita K. Simmons) ▶



◀ A Cuban rock iguana suns itself at Girl Scout Beach Sunday. The Cuban rock iguana is one of several indigenous reptiles found in Guantanamo. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)

