

THE WARRIOR

A woman wearing a black helmet, a black sports bra, and dark blue shorts is riding a silver mountain bike on a paved road. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with utility poles and greenery under a clear sky.

***Triple Threat!
Detainee Privileges
Air Force Lt. Gen. visits the JTF
JVB Operations***

“The Wire” Editor bids farewell to JTF



By Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker

“The Wire” Editor

This space is generally reserved for senior enlisted leaders and occasionally officers. I am neither, although I do represent a great many of you, active or reserve. I’m a proud noncommissioned officer and I’m three quarters through a 20-year military career. I have a couple of duty occupations under my belt and a couple of deployments too. Like most of you, I have family at home . . . waiting.

I’ll see them soon – in about three weeks, actually – and I hope that my stay there will see me through retirement in three years. I don’t want to leave them again. Yet, my gut instinct tells me that there’s one more deployment to negotiate before I can hang up the uniform for good. That sense weighs heavily on me. Again, I’m not much different than any of you.

I ask myself sometimes what keeps me going? I ask myself how do I reassure my family? I ask myself “Am I right? Am I wrong?” to borrow from The Talking Heads. I come back to one central maxim that is best expressed in a quote from “Perelandra,” the second book in C.S. Lewis’ brilliant science fiction space trilogy.

“... no assurance, no fixed land. Always one must throw oneself into the

wave.”

On April 26, that wave will carry me home and perhaps, in another year or two, carry me out to sea again – Iraq, Afghanistan – who knows? Soldiering isn’t easy, even for a reservist like me.

So back to my first question: What keeps me going? Right now it’s the men and women in uniform – Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Navy and Marine Corps – that I see and interact with every day; everyone one of them with family back home, everyone wanting to get home. I have something in common with them that I don’t share with anyone else.

It’s a camaraderie, a form of love even, that runs so deep I’m willing to put my life on the line for it, just like I would for my family. It’s almost universal that Soldiers and Sailors and Airmen and Coastguardsmen and Marines will keep fighting, even when idealism and patriotism are exhausted, if the difference is keeping a buddy alive. “Am I right?” – I’m damn right. I’m no different than you.

I’m glad my patriotism and idealism isn’t exhausted and I’m glad that Troopers here aren’t being shot at and that I don’t have to decide in split seconds to fall on an IED to save a buddy. But it might not be that way next year or the year after and yet I’ll still be wearing the uniform . . . proudly.

JTF GUANTANAMO

Commander:

Navy Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby

Joint Task Force CMC:

Navy Command Master Chief
Brad LeVault

Office of Public Affairs:

Director:

Navy Cmdr. Rick Haupt: 9928

Deputy:

Army Lt. Col. Edward Bush: 9927

Supervisor:

Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen: 3649

The Wire

Executive Editor:

Army Capt. Cara Thompson: 3596

Editor:

Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker: 3651

Assistant Editor/Designer:

Army Sgt. Scott Griffin: 3594

Staff Writers:

Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing: 3499

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class

Cheryl Dilgard: 2171

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class

Nathaniel Moger: 3592

Army Spc. Shanita Simmons: 3589

Contact us:

Base Information: 2000

Public Affairs Office: 3651 or 3596

From the continental United States:

Commercial: 011-53-99-3651

DSN: 660-3651

Email: TheWire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

ONLINE: www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

COVER:

Kirstin Wier takes the lead in the individual women’s division during the bike portion of the Spring Beach Party Triathlon, April 5. Wier won the individual women’s division, as well as fastest overall individual finisher, after a 500-meter swim, a 10-mile bike ride and a 4-mile run. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing)



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.

Detainees given access to special programs

Story and photo by Navy Petty Officer
2nd Class Nat Moger

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Since its inception, Joint Task Force Guantanamo has been scrutinized over its perceived treatment of detained enemy combatants. The JTF Joint Detention Group, in charge of the detention of enemy combatants from the Global War on Terror, pursues this mission with a commitment to the “safe and humane, care and welfare” of detainees, regardless of the tenor of outside criticism. Hence privileges and special programs, consistent with international standards, are made available to detainees based on their compliancy status.

Army Maj. Randy Remiker, operations officer for the JDG, oversees day-to-day activities in the facilities. Maintaining an environment where compliancy with camp rules is rewarded is paramount to keeping both guards and detainees safe and to maintaining good order and discipline. He sees special programs and detainee privileges to be effective tools in this effort.

“We have a philosophy of more is better,” said Remiker. “The more they’re reading and learning, the less trouble there will be. If there is something to do they’ll have an outlet.”

These privileges – mail and recreation time – and special programs – library services and language skills classes provide these appropriate outlets.

Detainees are afforded a minimum of two hours of recreation time per day. This can come in different forms, with varying degrees of flexibility.

“They typically walk around, get a little exercise, talk to other detainees,” said Remiker. “Each camp’s rules are based on their levels of compliancy. In Camp Four they have open recreation where they can ‘rec’ with each other.”

Detainees are also afforded multiple sources of mail depending on individual situations.

“They get regular post mail and International Committee of the Red Cross mail. They’re also guaranteed privileged



A librarian for the JTF browses through the Arabic-language collection in the detainee library, March 31. The library has more than 6,000 items.

attorney-client mail,” explained Remiker. The library program also contributes greatly to detainee quality of life. However, library privileges are dependent on detainee behavior.

“Based on their compliancy status, most detainees are offered one book a week,” said Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Vince Hamilton, detainee special programs officer in charge. “Highly compliant detainees are authorized two books.”

Detainees have access to a library of more than 6,000 items, from books and magazines, to DVDs and CDs. Managing this is a dedicated librarian, known as “Julie.” Like every job at the JTF, this one is more complicated than it looks.

“The biggest obstacles are finding a wide variety of reading material that runs the gamut from children’s literature all the way up to a scholarly level, because many of our patrons have reading levels that vary,” said Julie. “And of course we’re trying to acquire material in 18 different languages.”

Formal education programs are offered too. Those wishing to better their language skills can request basic Arabic and Pashto courses. There is also a popular Arabic-to-English language skill class being offered.

“It’s a win-win scenario. The detainees

are getting educated and can communicate better. It’s good for the guards because they can communicate better with the detainees,” said Remiker. “Twenty-one people are taking classes, with a waiting list of eight. Our limiting factors are space, instructors and scheduling. The general mood is optimistic. They’re excited to learn.”

Holding an Arabic-English copy of “Wuthering Heights,” Emily Bronte’s classic tale of unrequited love, Julie pondered the effectiveness of the linguistics program.

“I don’t know if this is a result of our English program, but our dual language books have been popular lately, and for the most part they’re romances,” said Julie. “It’s hard for me to say if there is a sudden spur in the romantic sentiments of the detainees or if it’s actually just because of the nature of the book itself.”

In addition to the recreation and education opportunities eligible detainees enjoy, some will eventually be able to make occasional telephone calls to family members. According to the Staff Judge Advocate’s office, JTF Guantanamo is working on plans to implement this special program, though no specific details are available yet.

Air Force Lt. Gen. visits JTF Guantanamo

Story and photo by Navy Petty Officer
2nd Class Nat Moger

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Air Force Lt. Gen. Norm Seip, commander, 12th Air Force and Air Forces Southern, visited Joint Task Force Guantanamo, April 8-10, to meet with Airmen and survey JTF operations.

“From a personal and professional standpoint, this was an opportunity to come back and better understand the mission set that not only our Air Force folks are supporting, but also what Rear Adm. Mark Buzby [commander, JTF Guantanamo] is trying to accomplish,” said Seip.

During an all-hands call for Air Force personnel, and later during personal interactions with Airmen, Seip brought news about where the Air Force is headed, as well as the contemporary challenges it faces. He also stressed the importance of the type of joint service work occurring in Guantanamo.

“Each service has to be strong in their core competencies and be able fill their roles and accomplish their missions,” said Seip. “But, at the same time, our strength comes from taking those core competencies and making it part of our interoperability with joint partners out there. The success of our military lies in our jointness and capitalizing on our strengths while minimizing our weaknesses.”

Airmen are currently operating in a number of ways to support the JTF, including administrative support and facilities construction and maintenance

“While they’re not directly involved with the detention operations, Airmen perform an important function on the headquarters staff in their support-side role,” said Seip.

Seip also acknowledged the work of the Air Force’s 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron. It supports the JTF by constructing and maintaining the expeditionary legal complex and other support structures for the ongoing



Air Force Lt. Gen. Norm Seip addresses JTF Airmen during an all-hands call in the Windjammer ballroom, April 9. Seip addressed personnel issues, the future of the Air Force and Air Force contributions to the JTF.

military commissions at Guantanamo.

Seip also addressed contemporary budget issues and the ways the Air Force is responding to them.

“We’re no different than any other service,” said Seip. “We’re struggling with inflation, the economic downturn, rising fuel costs and rising healthcare costs on somewhat of a flat budget.”

Seip laid out Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. T. Michael Moseley’s concerns and priorities, emphasizing that a great deal of thought goes into deciding where money will end up.

“Our Chief’s priorities are: One, win the long war on terror. Two, take care of our airmen and their families. Three, recapitalizing and modernizing our Air Force so that we are relevant in the future,” said Seip. “We’ll have to make hard calls on where to spend that next dollar in which of those three categories.”

In terms of relevancy, Seip sees within the Air Force a new breed of warrior contributing to the War on Terror.

“Particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan we’ve seen a ‘new hero,’ so to speak,” said Seip. “We’ve got engineers outside

the wire doing IED [improvised explosive device] operations. We’ve got TACPs [tactical air control parties] working with Soldiers, coordinating air support during combat missions. They’re standing out as the new heroes of the Air Force.”

Seip also sees the Air Force as leaders in warfare innovation, preparing not only for today’s wars, but tomorrow’s, and using tomorrow’s technology in today’s war, from cyberspace threats to unmanned aerial systems.

“We’re seeing the values of UASs, whether it’s a small tactical UAS pulled out of a backpack or the operational-level, tactical-level, medium-altitude UASs that provide the ‘unblinking eye’ for combatant commanders,” said Seip. “We look to the future and see what the threat is going to be. Whether it’s another counterinsurgency situation or an asymmetric type of warfare like cyberspace, it all makes sense to us.”

Seip oversees Air Force assets, forward operating locations and civil and military engagements in Central and South America as a component to combatant commander, U.S. Southern Command.

Communicating the “best kept secret” with the world



Distinguished members of the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference are briefed by Army Lt. Col. William Wozniak, commander, 525th Military Police Battalion, on the history and layout of Camp 5, March 28. This visit by the JCOC was coordinated by the Joint Visitors Bureau, a directorate within JTF Guantanamo. (Photo by Army Spc. Dan Welch)

**By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Cheryl Dilgard**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Global War on Terror is not only fought on the fields of battle, but also fought in the hearts and minds of many on a daily basis. The Joint Visitors Bureau, a directorate within Joint Task Force Guantanamo, is an active participant in how this war is perceived in the public's mind.

Many people have wrong perceptions of what is going on in Guantanamo. When they think of Guantanamo Bay and the detention facilities here, the first thing that comes to their mind is allegations from critics about mistreatment of detainees. The JVB fights these inaccurate perceptions by openly showing people the great efforts of the Troopers to provide safe and humane care and custody of the detainees.

“The JVB supports the command in communicating with the outside world about Guantanamo. The most direct way to show the outside world what's going on at Guantanamo is to have them come to Guantanamo and see for themselves. When visitors come here and visit the detention camps, almost every visitor tells us about the disconnect between what they read or hear in the media and what they see here with their own eyes.

“Our visitors see firsthand Gitmo's modern, climate controlled detention facilities. They also observe for themselves the competent and professional demeanor of our guard force,” Army Lt. Col. Joe Romero, director of the JVB, “While the JVB section certainly keeps busy, what we do pales in comparison to the work of the guard force. Those guys walk the blocks long hours every day and have to deal with constant harassment and threats from many of the detainees.”

The job of the JVB is to coordinate distinguished visitors' trips to Guantanamo. This involves setting up tours of the base and JTF detention facility, scheduling informational briefings by senior leadership, and responding to specific areas of interest based on visitors' requests. The JVB is a flexible group that is able to adapt schedules and coordinate with multiple departments within minutes. They often run into weather, mechanical, and other delays that are often unforeseeable.

“Our job is to make the trips flow flawlessly, regardless of all the hiccups along the way. Things rarely go as planned,” said Staff Sgt. Drew Neal, the non-commissioned officer in charge of JVB.

In February, the highest ranking official to come to JTF this year, U.S. Attorney

General Michael Mukasey, visited Guantanamo. His visit was an example of how the JVB worked to make a trip full of unexpected delays flow flawlessly. Mukasey had to change planes four times prior to landing and the JVB smoothly adapted to the schedule, coordinating with all involved parties to make Mukasey's visit seamless.

“One of our biggest accomplishments was the seemingly flawless trip of the United States Attorney General,” said Neal.

Three enlisted soldiers and two officers from the New Mexico Army National Guard comprise the JVB. The five-person directorate assumed their positions with the JTF late January and quickly adapted to the unusual and long hours their job demands.

“When a DV comes, regardless of the day or time, everyone has to put their daily activities on hold to make themselves available for the DV; this is from the top down. Even Rear Adm. Buzby [the JTF commander] will adapt his schedule to meet the needs of the DVs. It is that important,” said Romero.

The JVB's efforts are critically linked to the phrase “Truth and Troopers,” which is often heard from the commander and deputy commander of JTF Guantanamo. Letting visitors see for themselves what is going down in Guantanamo and how Troopers are cared for are vital functions of the JVB mission.

“When a DV comes the JVB works with every department within the JTF to coordinate a successful and smooth visit. Representatives from every department including the FBI, Joint Interrogation Group, the Joint Detention Group and the medical department and others all participate in the informational briefings and are available to answer questions. We also have to coordinate with the galleys, the Coast Guard, and the detention centers for tours.” Romero continued, “I have been on a lot of DV visits now and every time when the DV gets ready to leave Rear Adm. Buzby always says the same thing ‘Just tell people what you saw and what's really going on here.’”

NL seeks to return to World Series dominance

By Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The National League has something to prove this year. They want the World Series to come through their stadiums instead of the American League parks. The NL teams have beefed up their pitching staffs and added more bats to compete against the AL.

Now let's dive into the National League East. This is probably going to be the best divisional race in baseball. This three-team race includes the New York Mets, Philadelphia Phillies and the Atlanta Braves. The favorite in this race is the Mets, mainly because they went out and got a great pitcher in last year's AL Cy Young winner Johann Santana. That will be enough to topple both the Phillies and the Braves.

The Phillies might have a chance due to the NL Most Valuable Player from last season, Jimmy Rollins. They also went and picked up a reliever in Brad Lidge from Houston – what a joke! He was nothing but a choke artist last season. So the Phillies will likely lose a lot of their games in the final innings. The Braves however – what can you say? Manager Bobby Cox keeps finding ways to win so they're always in the mix. Don't count them, out especially after they picked up pitcher Tom Glavine from the Mets. However, will they party like its 1995? I don't think so.

The National League Central should get two teams in the playoffs this season due to the fact that the NL East beat up on themselves, knocking each other out of the playoff race. The Chicago Cubs and

the Houston Astros should fight it out for the title while the loser of the battle should win the wild card. The Cubs announced that pitcher Kerry Wood will be the closer, we'll see if that will work. Now don't forget that they have a weapon in outfielder Alfonso Soriano. The guy can do it all – hit homers, steal bases, and . . . make errors fielding a routine ball.

The Astros have been the busiest team by far in the off season, signing shortstop Miquel Tejada from Baltimore, second baseman Kaz Matsui from Colorado and closer Jose Valverde from Arizona. With those additions plus having first baseman Lance Berkman, outfielder Carlos Lee, and a rising star Hunter Pence back for another year, the Astros should have no problem scoring runs. With that said, Houston gets the nod with the Cubs sneaking in for the wild card.

The National League West should also be a two-team race. The Arizona Diamondbacks had the best record last season. So what, that was last year. They lost their saves leader in Valverde, which will make it tough for them to win those one and two-run games. The Dodgers should be the favorite in the West. The Angels should win the AL West; if so, it'll be a clean sweep for Southern California. The Dodgers hired Joe Torre as manager, and he will probably be the missing ingredient that they have lacked over the last few years.

Now that both league's divisional winners and wild cards have been picked, we'll wrap up this three-part series next week with all playoff predictions and even a projected World Series winner.

Kansas, Tennessee win national championships

By Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Mario Chalmers hit the shot heard around the nation as his famous 3-pointer went in with 2.1 seconds to send the men's national championship game into overtime where The Kansas Jayhawks pulled out a tough 75-68 win over the Memphis Tigers Monday night at the Alamodome.

Chalmers, voted the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four, finished with 18 points on 5-for-13 shooting from the floor, including two 3-pointers from beyond the arc. He made all six of his free throws and added three assists.

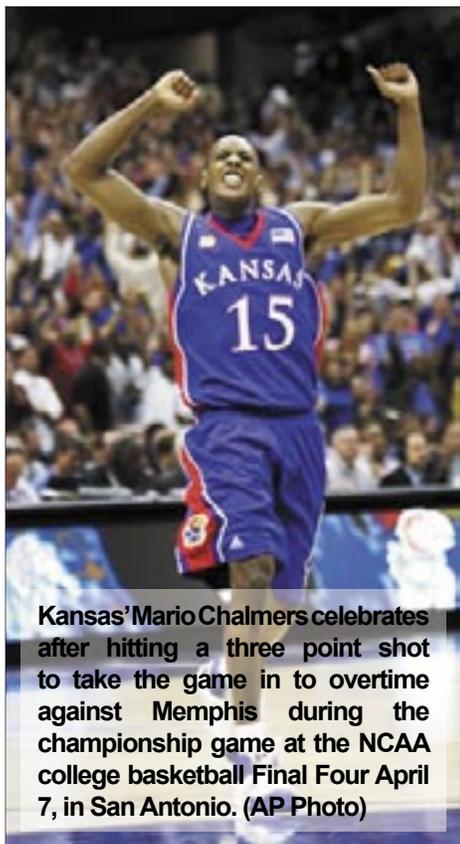
Memphis' nine-point lead with 2:12 remaining in regulation evaporated fast and turned what was going to be a dream season into an absolute nightmare.

Missed free throws came back to haunt Memphis in the final minutes. The Tigers, which made just 61.3 percent of its free throws this season, hit just one of

its final five attempts from the line in the second half. By the time overtime started, everyone could sense the Tigers wouldn't need any scissors. Inconsistency at the free throw line came back and bit Memphis.

A bruised Candace Parker scored 17 points and grabbed nine rebounds to help the Tennessee Lady Volunteers capture its eighth NCAA women's basketball title with a 64-48 victory over Stanford Tuesday night. The Lady Vols became the first repeat champs since Connecticut won three straight from 2002-04.

Parker's left shoulder still was not clearly 100 percent healthy so the expected No. 1 pick in Wednesday's WNBA draft didn't shoot as many jumpers as she did Sunday against LSU. Instead she took the ball to the basket with an array of powerful moves. She converted one steal in the second half into a layup that gave the Lady Vols a 10-point advantage. The Cardinals, who had a season low in points, would get no closer the rest of the way.



Kansas' Mario Chalmers celebrates after hitting a three point shot to take the game in to overtime against Memphis during the championship game at the NCAA college basketball Final Four April 7, in San Antonio. (AP Photo)

100+ participate in Spring Beach Party Triathlon



Story and photos by Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Have you ever woken in the morning and decided to work out by swimming 500 meters, biking for 10 miles and then running four more miles?

If you said “yes,” then you would have been in good company with approximately 100 participants that took part in the Spring Beach Party Triathlon at Windmill Beach Saturday morning. This mini triathlon was one of the more grueling competitions Guantanamo has seen.

“I was ecstatic of the turnout,” said race coordinator Joseph Horne. “For the last mini triathlon in August, we only had

around 50 participants. It is awesome to see more than 100 new faces coming out and competing in the triathlon. It’s great.”

Participants had the choice of running all three events on their own or they could team up with friends or co-workers to compete as a team.

“You don’t have to be a world class athlete to participate in a mini triathlon,” said Horne. “Triathlons are becoming more and more popular throughout the world. It’s just a different type of race that tests your endurance and stamina.”

As the sun rose up over the hills, the swimmers began the first leg of the grueling competition swimming 500 meters in the open Caribbean Sea.

After the swim, competitors quickly changed into their biking apparel, or tagged their relay partners, all hit the hills for a 10-mile trek from Windmill Beach to Denich Gym and back. Again, the competitors readjusted for the run or tagged their partners and the final four-mile run commenced.

“You get a real sense of accomplishment when you complete a triathlon, no matter how short or long it is,” said Horne.

INDIVIDUAL TRIATHLETES

1st Place Female:
Kirstin Wier
(Time: 1:17:14)

2nd Place Female:
Heather Lyon
(Time: 1:26:11)

1st Place Male:
Jason Karcher
(Time: 1:19:40)

2nd Place Male:
Dan Wallace
(Time: 1:24:05)

RELAY TEAMS

1st Place Team:
The Game – Patrick Sellen, Nat Moger
(Time: 1:13:11)

2nd Place Team:
Law & Order – Joseph Lobban, Marguerite Mogul, Michael Kropushek
(Time: 1:18:55)

TRIPLE THREAT!

THE SPRING 2008 BEACH PARTY TRIATHLON

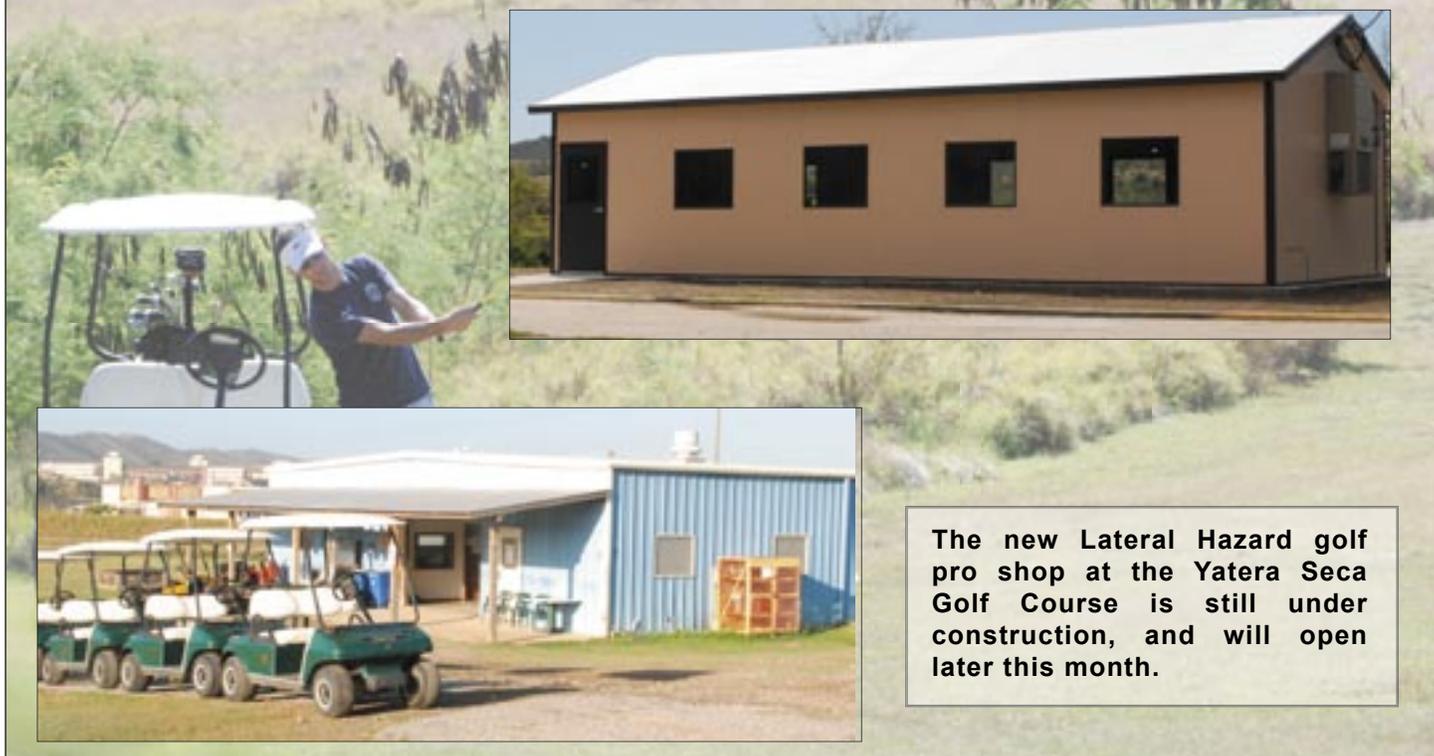
*Photos by Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing
and Army Spc. Shanita Simmons*

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Spring Beach Party Triathlon brought out the competitive spirit in many civilian and military personnel who all aspired to be the first to cross the finish line. While many completed the event that included a 500-meter swim, 10-mile bike ride and a four-mile run as individuals, others made it a team effort. The 100+ race participants completed the trek that gave them a beautiful view of the Guantanamo Bay terrain. All felt a sense of relief and accomplishment as they crossed the finish line.



MWR changes the face of Guantanamo



The new Lateral Hazard golf pro shop at the Yatera Seca Golf Course is still under construction, and will open later this month.

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Morale, Welfare, and Recreation is changing the Guantanamo scene. With the growing numbers of service members being stationed in Guantanamo, MWR is finding ways to improve the quality of life for Troopers and helping them enjoy their time here.

“MWR’s mission is to improve the quality of life of active duty service members,” said Eric Nikkel, clubs director for MWR Guantanamo Bay.

MWR has many changes just around the corner. Two new buildings will soon be going up, the track is getting a face lift, and a new gym is scheduled to be built.

The most recent update to MWR is the pro shop that was built. The 20x40 foot metal building will be the new Lateral Hazard Golf Shop complete with Gitmo golf gear for the enthusiast that wants to buy a golf-related souvenir. The pro shop will also have a covered patio where you can relax and have a beverage in the shade after a round on the greens. The pro shop

is scheduled to open later this month, but a firm date has not been set yet.

“The new building will have retail sales,” said John Tully, Director of Golf for MWR Guantanamo. “You can check out golf carts from there. We’ll also have flat screen TVs – one will have the golf channel on and another one will be used for instructional videos. You’ll be able to check out a video of Tiger Woods or Arnold Palmer teaching you how to golf or improve your swing,” Tully said.

The Tierra Kay housing area inhabited by JTF personnel has a mini-mart and basketball courts and will soon be getting a new liberty center. A new Club Survivor entertainment center will also be going up. The existing structure will be demolished and a new 20x40 foot metal structure will be available for patrons to enjoy a cold beverage in air conditioning. Both the TK liberty center and the new Club Survivor are scheduled to be up later this year.

“It will be nice for patrons to be able to get a drink and watch sports on the big-screen while enjoying the ocean-view and not need to wear Gitmo cologne,” said Nikkel.

Cooper Field and Denich Gym are also getting upgraded. Cooper Field is going to be completely overhauled by the end of summer. Beginning May, construction will place new turf for a football/soccer field and two baseball/softball fields. A two-story concession stand will also be built, with the second story housing an air-conditioned scoring booth. A restroom facility including a family bathroom will also be installed.

“I think people are excited about being able to play on green fields with nice facilities,” said Karissa Sandstrom, fitness director for MWR Guantanamo Bay. “It will be a lot more like playing back in the States.”

Denich Gym will be getting its extreme makeover in fiscal year 2009. The facility will be twice its current size, with two additional basketball courts, new batting cages, an enlarged cardio room, enlarged weight-room, a fitness room for aerobics and a second story that will house a liberty center.

“The new facility will allow us to centralize all of our fitness classes and activities into one building,” said Sandstrom.

JTF deputy commander speaks frankly about JTF mission

By C. Todd Lopez

Courtesy of army.mil/news

In an interview with Army News at the Soldier's Media Center in Washington, D.C., April 3, the recently appointed deputy commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo said that he knows why many have a hard time letting go of misconceptions about detainee treatment at the facility.

Despite those misconceptions, Brig. Gen. Greg Zanetti said that detainees from the war on terror held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, are being treated fairly.

"I understand why people are reluctant to say [we] are really telling the truth here -- we all remember Abu Ghraib -- it hit us pretty hard," he said. "But we are going to make sure we conduct our operations in a safe and transparent way and it is going to be transparent to the world. So every week we are bringing down some human rights groups. They see every detainee and they talk with them."

Conditions at Guantanamo for detainees are not necessarily pleasant, the general said; after all, they are detainees and suspected terrorists.

But the conditions are not inhumane, either and detainees are not being abused.

"The detainees are treated as a detainee should be, so it's not palatial -- they don't have Bowflex machines or hot tubs -- but at the same time, are they mistreated or abused? No. So the only way we can show that is to have people come down and look at the place."

Zanetti said detainees at Guantanamo get as many as 5,000 calories a day of food to eat, so much so that in the past some had to be put on diets because they were "becoming obese."

The detainees also read a newsletter in multiple languages that covers such things as Middle East politics, soccer scores and economics.

For Troopers working as guards at Guantanamo, often called "Gitmo" for short, the job can be both physically and mentally demanding. Zanetti said guards in the detention facilities there regularly work long days.

It's not just the grueling schedule that is tough, or the physical training, or the time on their feet, Zanetti said. The job

is dangerous because the detainees themselves are dangerous, he said.

"Inside the detention facility we have all the makings of an al Qaeda cell," said Zanetti. "We are holding financiers, spiritual leaders, military leaders, trigger pullers, bomb makers and so on. They have a remarkable way of forming cells, where they have their own operations daily and we have our operations daily."

And those detainees keep guards on their toes, with threats and physical assaults. Zanetti said he hears about it from the guards themselves during morning battle update briefings.

During the morning BUB, guards report on detainee activity against them, including a detainee who balled up feces and threw it at a guard's chest, with a follow-up warning that next time it would be "in the face." Another detainee was reported to have bit a guard on the arm so hard that he had to be sent to the medical facility for evaluation, and yet another, after threatening a female guard with rape, told her he'd kill her and her family when he got out.

Guards must keep their eyes on detainees for a number of reasons. It's not just for their own security, or even for intelligence gathering. It's also because the detainees pose a risk to themselves, Zanetti said.

"The detainees often want to commit self harm," Zanetti said. "And we don't want them to commit self harm. It's one of the odd parts about Guantanamo Bay. When in a time of war do we strive to keep the enemy alive while the enemy strives to hurt himself? But this is what those guards do, and they do it in a professional way every day."

At its peak occupancy, the detention facility at Guantanamo held as many as 800 detainees. That was back in 2002. Today, that number has dropped to about



275. Many of those released have been sent back to their home countries.

Some detainees are awaiting a hearing by a military commission that will try them for the crimes they are accused of.

"Many are probably familiar with the Nuremberg trials, post World War II, when we put the Nazis on trial for war crimes," Zanetti said. "This is the modern-day version, somewhat, of the Nuremberg trials."

JTF Guantanamo doesn't actually run the tribunals there; instead, that task falls on the Office of Military Commissions, said Zanetti. "We at JTF Guantanamo think of ourselves as the stage hands."

The task force manages the detention facility, sets up the courtroom, and runs communications and logistics support there. They also provide the security.

While the task force doesn't play a direct role in bringing justice to detainees, Zanetti said he is proud of the fact that the United States is playing it fair with them.

"If this were any other country in the world the rights being afforded to these detainees would be unheard of," he said. "I am rather proud of that. We are going to lengths to give fair trials, with the right of appeal all the way to the Supreme Court."



Hollywood horror continues with horrible "The Eye"

By Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

Rated: PG13

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Running Time: 97 minutes

My crush on Jessiba Alba – long unrequited – is getting pretty worn. I could forgive "Honey" because she danced. I could make peace with the "Fantastic Four" movies because I'm a geek for comic books. I could forgive "Into The Blue" because she was in a bikini. She even found some redemption in "Sin City."

this – playing with fireworks. What a lame way to lose her sight. At least give her something dramatic, like Daredevil. He got nailed with a radioactive isotope while saving a blind guy who was crossing the street. Granted, you and I would just get leukemia or something, but Daredevil got radar vision and Jennifer Garner! Let's hook Alba up with that!

Then there was "Good Luck Chuck," which signaled the end of the affair for me. It was a harbinger of coming doom. And now ... "The Eye."

Anyway, she's blind, her life sucks, but she's a sweetheart because she's so cute. In go the new corneas and she can see! Unfortunately, something's wrong with the new peepers and she starts having premonitions and seeing dead folks and junk and stuff. As we all know, cellists are well-renowned for the investigative skills, so with the help of her trusty therapist and a vapid voiceover the game is afoot.

The Hollywood horror machine has been churning out remakes of Asian flicks since "The Ring" flopped its way to success like a fish out of water – all gills gasping and somehow managing to land in a puddle of money. Nothing breeds repetition like the almighty dollar so studio sharks quickly circled projects like "The Grudge," starring Sarah-Michelle Gellar, which was also terrible and turned a modest profit. And dear God now ... "The Eye."

Directed by David Moreau and Xavier Palud (what the heck kind of name is that?), "The Eye" attempts to explore mental illness and delusions of mirrored self-misidentification. I'm not making this up. Then there was a shower scene and I forgot all the babbling about cellular memory and precognitive abilities. Ultimately, the directors just keep attempting to throw scares at the audience every few minutes to keep them off-balance. It's quick-fix horror for the Ritalin generation; it's a cheap tactic and it gets the epic fail.

Is anyone noticing a pattern here? Take an Asian remake and slap some "Sixth Sense" clichés on the tail end and blammo! You've just made millions! At least this time they left the creepy kids out – nope, I spoke too soon. Nevermind.

With that I bid adieu to my dear, sweet Alba. I can only pray that "Sin City 2" will reignite that flame of passion. But it probably won't. Anyone know what Megan Fox's next movie is? **Rating: ★★★★★**

Okay, plot: Jessica Alba is a cellist blinded at age five while – get

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST <small>Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com</small>			
<p>Saturday, April 12</p> <p>Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.</p>  <p>Partly Cloudy Sunrise: 6:45 a.m. Sunset: 7:18 p.m. Chance of rain: 20%</p>	<p>Sunday, April 13</p> <p>Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.</p>  <p>Partly Cloudy Sunrise: 6:44 a.m. Sunset: 7:19 p.m. Chance of rain: 20%</p>	<p>Monday, April 14</p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.</p>  <p>Isolated T-Storms Sunrise: 6:43 a.m. Sunset: 7:19 p.m. Chance of rain: 30%</p>	
<p>Tuesday, April 15</p> <p>Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:42 a.m. Sunset: 7:19 p.m. Chance of Rain: 20%</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p>	<p>Wednesday, April 16</p> <p>Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:42 a.m. Sunset: 7:20 p.m. Chance of Rain: 20%</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p>	<p>Thursday, April 17</p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:41 a.m. Sunset: 7:20 p.m. Chance of Rain: 20%</p> <p>Windy</p>	<p>Friday, April 18</p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:40 a.m. Sunset: 7:20 p.m. Chance of Rain: 20%</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p>

Petraeus: Iraqis Want to Establish National Sovereignty

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

The Iraqi government wants to establish itself as an independent entity that one day can stand on its own feet without U.S. assistance, the top U.S. military officer in Iraq testified, April 9 before the House Armed Services Committee in Washington D.C.

“They want to do that as much as we do,” Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of Multinational Force Iraq, told House panel members.

Senior Iraqi governmental leaders are placing themselves “under enormous personal pressure and collective pressure of the various political elements in Iraq to increasingly exercise their sovereignty,” Petraeus said.

In fact, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki’s recent decision to send Iraqi troops into Basra and other parts of southern Iraq to put down violence perpetrated by illegal militias represents the Iraqis’ desire to attend to their internal affairs, Petraeus pointed out.

“That was not something that we pushed him to do,” Petraeus said. “That was something that they wanted to do.”

United States military forces are

supporting Iraqi government operations aimed at defeating insurgents and criminals who seek to destabilize the country for their own purposes, Petraeus said.

Assisting the new Iraqi government is like teaching a young child how to ride a bicycle, Petraeus observed, noting the United States is “trying to support it as much as we can, while keeping as light a hand on the bicycle seat as possible.”

Several Iraqi provinces, like Basra province in the south, where some outbreaks of violence occurred recently, contain few U.S. military forces or even none at all, Petraeus pointed out.

“In the bulk of those southern provinces, Iraqi forces proved up to the task,” the four-star general said.

The United States is reducing its troop presence in Iraq, Petraeus said, noting 15 brigades will remain in Iraq after the surge forces are redeployed at the end of July. Asked if U.S. troop strength in Iraq could be further reduced after July, Petraeus responded that he and other senior U.S. commanders plan to review security and local governance conditions.

“We are thinning out very substantially

right now,” Petraeus remarked, noting the impending departure of the surge forces will reduce the U.S. military footprint in Iraq by one-quarter. Petraeus said he can foresee possible additional U.S. force reductions in Iraq beyond the remaining 15 brigades.

“We have a number of months and a number of substantial actions to take before then, but we already are identifying areas that we think are likely candidates for [additional troop reductions],” Petraeus said.

Iraq also is achieving economic progress, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan C. Crocker, who accompanied Petraeus at the hearing, reported to panel members.

“The Council of Ministers yesterday passed a support program for development in Mosul, Baghdad and Basra,” Crocker said, noting the legislative package contains \$350 million for reconstruction and job creation in those areas.

Economic development in Iraq “is an ongoing process,” Crocker said, noting the country suffers from both unemployment and underemployment.

“In conditions of better security, you are going to see more economic activity,” Crocker predicted.

Boots on the Ground

What are you looking forward to doing while deployed to Guantanamo Bay?

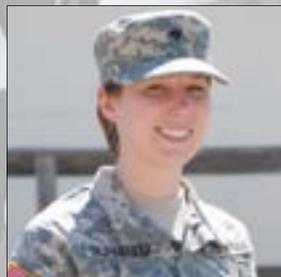
By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

Army Pfc.
Eric Liesse



“Being able to improve my writing skills.”

Army Spc.
Megan Burnham



“Taking advantage of fitness opportunities and getting my PADI open water cert.”

Army Staff Sgt.
Brian Jopek



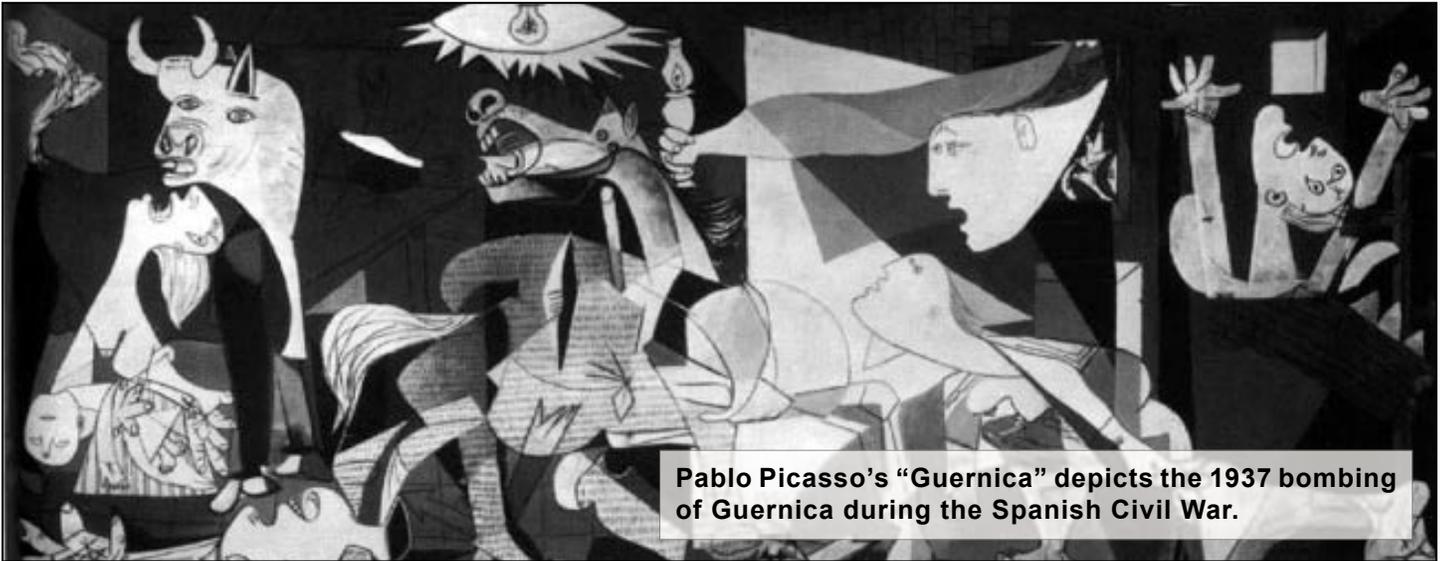
“Get the mission executed and get in shape.”

Army 1st Sgt.
Jim Venske



“Completing my bachelor’s degree in business and ensuring my soldiers have a memorable deployment.”

FIND YOUR PLACE IN THE WORLD



Pablo Picasso's "Guernica" depicts the 1937 bombing of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War.

By Army Chaplain (Capt.) Y.J. Kim
525 Military Police Battalion Chaplain

It is the first of all problems for a man to find out what kind of work he is to do in this universe. - Thomas Carlyle

Remember those days of middle and secondary school when we learned that scientists made noteworthy inventions through a process of numerous experiments? We learned that it is permissible to fail many times before finally arriving at a place of success. However, we experience difficulty in our lives because we are not willing to accept this scientific principle. The word "failure" has become somewhat taboo in our day and age, unworthy to be mentioned and something to be feared even. We are living in an age in which we are told to be ambitious and seek success; yet often times we become disappointed all too frequently at unfulfilled promises. Thus, we must ask ourselves: What is the true meaning of success?

The key to answering this question is that the true meaning of success lies in our finding our authentic identity.

It is true that while we all possess unique talents and gifts that have been given by our Creator, we do not have enough time to count all that we already have in light of the brevity of life. Within

each man and woman lie incredible creative contributions waiting to be released.

People who are humble of their gifts and talents and forgo comparing such gifts and talents with others will find the meaning of success and will enjoy one's life. The corresponding truth is that the authority of heaven rules out rivalry. A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. No person can receive more than what God gives. This is your destiny! This simple principle calls for the final and ultimate authority of heaven in our lives. So, disparaging of our own work is self-destructive as much as it is comparing our work with others' work.

Ultimately, far from it being egocentric, it can actually be an act of service to be truly successful. Our success can be a powerful tool not only to further motivate ourselves in fulfilling our destiny but also can be a most potent force to help others find their destiny. The light that we shine in our lives illuminates into the lives of many others.

In other words, success is not merely something personal, something that we seek for ourselves. Rather, it serves as an encouragement to us and to others

We are more genuinely happy and fulfilled, we inspire others, and we

become a beacon of hope, vision, and possibility.

Each of us is called to a specific task. We serve each other most powerfully by finding our own place, by creating absolute success in our lives, and there is room for all of us to fulfill our calling.

Each of us has a destiny to fulfill the purpose of our life. To accomplish this purpose, our gifts need to find a home by being brought to the light of day and being shared with the world. Our work can be the platform to which we lay our gifts to the world.

Just imagine if Shakespeare had decided not to write plays, and Picasso resigned to, "What's the point?" Our lives would be so much more colorless and uninspiring. Shakespeare and Picasso have inspired many generations after themselves, even to this day, planting the hope that our lives could also be successful.

Success is the diligent response of God's calling for our lives and the reward of faith and prudence that comes due to this obedience. The humble workers who obediently respond to the call of God will enjoy the fruit of their labors, not living in fear of failure but will embrace it and use it as stepping stones for the greater good, bringing light not only into our own lives but into those of others.

Navy Trooper believes motivation is key to success

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Although the name Joseph Horne is not necessarily a household one, this name has become well known among those here who participate in triathlons.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph Horne, showed more than 100 participants the extent of his skills and talents by coordinating the Spring Beach Party Triathlon held April 5.

Horne, who organized his first mini-triathlon in April 2007, said he did so to build camaraderie and encourage people to get in shape. His mini-triathlons have ignited a competitive spirit on the island that has drawn in service members as well as civilians.

“I coordinated the triathlons because we can’t leave the base here,” said Horne. “I thought they would be a good opportunity to bring commands together and motivate people to do more than just hang around the barracks.”

Although Horne has participated in mini-triathlons while stationed in Pearl Harbor and Arizona, actually planning one was a big challenge that required a lot of coordination.

“There is a lot that goes into a mini-triathlon. Safety had to be coordinated at every leg of the event. We had to have medical coverage. I worked with Morale, Welfare and Recreation and other event sponsors to complete various tasks such as requisitioning equipment,” said Horne.

In addition to planning an event that included a 500-meter swim, a 10-mile bike ride and a four-mile run, Horne also competed in the mini-triathlon running the final four miles with a rucksack on his back. Horne mentioned that participating in a triathlon is an arduous task that requires a lot of physical training.

Thus, he went beyond just planning triathlons by starting a club on the island that helps prepare individuals for such events.

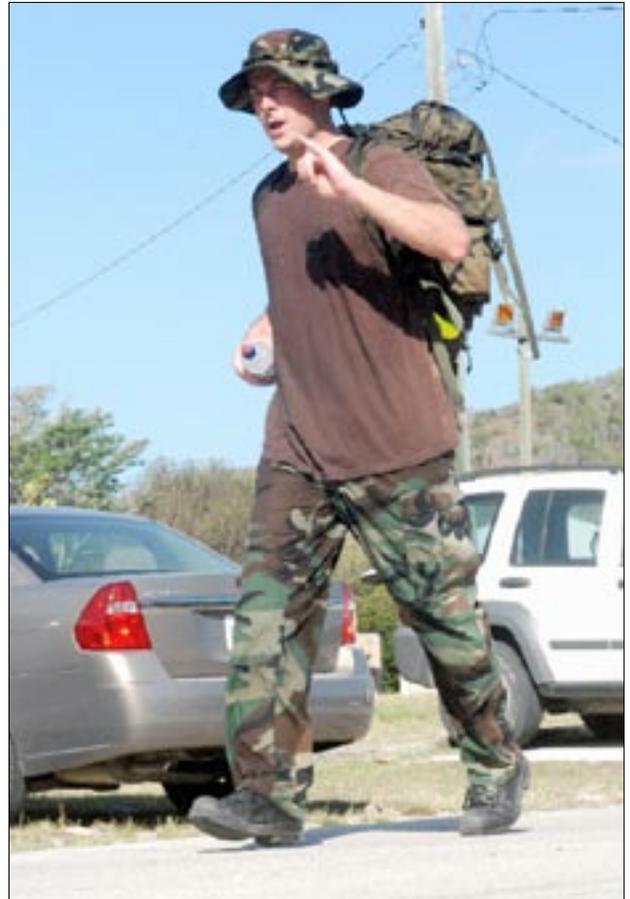
Anyone interested in participating in a triathlon can join the group of military and civilian personnel that meet weekly to run, swim or bike together. Individuals of all fitness levels are welcome to contact Horne and request to be added to the group’s e-mail list.

In addition to participating in other activities including diving, ice hockey, skiing and snow boarding, Horne spends much of his time mentoring the junior petty officers who work for him.

Horne attributes much of his success to staying motivated, studying hard for his advancement exams and keeping up with the latest trends in his job rate. These are the types of goals Horne tries to instill in his Sailors.

“Being in the military is about being on a team, no matter what kind of team. I encourage my Sailors to stay motivated even during the tough times, which is very difficult to do,” said Horne, who also served briefly in the Army. “But it is a necessary skill to have no matter what your job is. If the people you work with see you as a motivated person, then that might rub off on the rest of the team.”

Horne, whose hometown is Boston, credits the Navy for providing the



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph Horne jogs towards the finish line during the Spring 2008 Beach Party Triathlon held Aug. 2. In addition to competing in the mini-triathlon, Horne also coordinated the event that included a 500-meter swim, a 10-mile bike ride and a four-mile run.

challenges and traveling opportunities that have helped him obtain valuable skills. Although he is looking forward to his next duty station in Colorado, Horne is even more excited about reuniting with his wife and daughter, who was born just last year.

Although Horne’s name will eventually be erased from the Joint Task Force’s manning roster, he hopes that his tradition of coordinating mini-triathlons will live on.

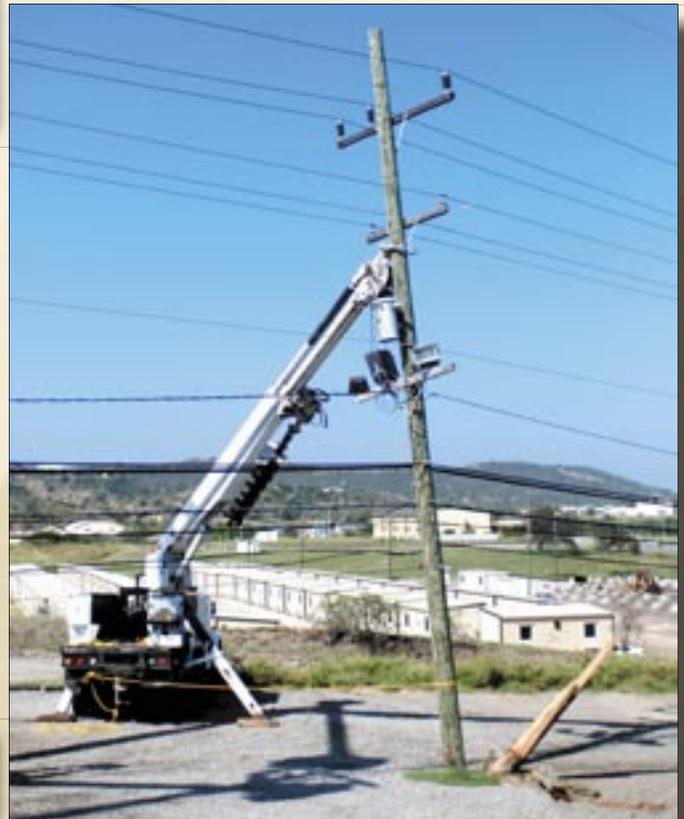
Even if a triathlon is not everyone’s cup of tea, he encourages Troopers to get out of their rooms and take advantage of all the amenities and recreation opportunities this Caribbean island has to offer.

AROUND THE JTF



◀ It has arrived! Capt. Mark Leary, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay commander, cuts the ribbon to open Taco Bell Express for business, April 8. The new restaurant is located at Marblehead Lanes along with KFC and A&W. (Photo by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin)

An early morning incident left many Guantanamo Bay residents powerless when a bus smacked a telephone pole located near the Gold Hill Galley, April 9. Electricity was reinstated shortly after the incident by a local power crew. (Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons) ▶



◀ Navy Petty Officer Corelle Street tosses a tennis ball to Army Sgt. Lavelle Jones while he wears “drunk goggles” during a demonstration held at the Seaside Galley, April 8, that illustrated the effects of being intoxicated. (Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons)

