

Volume 12, Issue 08

Friday, February 11, 2011

The WIRED

An award-winning
JTF journal

The Super Issue

Miami Dolphins Cheerleaders

The Commercials

The Pig Bowl

The Game

Trooper to Trooper

featuring

Air Force Lt. Col. Donald Langley

Deputy Director, JTF Public Affairs Office

February 15 is the anniversary of the 1898 sinking of the U.S.S. Maine in Havana Harbor, which led to the Spanish-American War. This is significant for Troopers for two reasons:

First, the war resulted in a U.S. naval presence at Guantanamo Bay.

Second, it provided a stellar example of individual commitment to getting results.

As the United States prepared for war, President McKinley needed to ensure coordination with Cuban insurgents already fighting Spanish rule. Problem was, their leader, General Garcia, stayed on the move for obvious reasons. The U.S. government had limited knowledge of the island or the Spanish forces there, and only a broad idea where to find Garcia.

An Army lieutenant in Washington, D.C., Andrew Rowan, was given a message and a series of questions for Garcia — intelligence that could prove vital to the effort in Cuba. He took an overnight train to New York, and the next day was on a steamship to Jamaica to meet his contacts. A handful of interesting adventures later, he delivered his message to Garcia. Rowan's recounting of the tale is easily found online through any search engine.

The key point is this: entrusted with an assignment, Rowan was left on his own to accomplish it. His superiors had every confidence that, having explained the objective, Rowan would figure out the details to make it happen. It's worth noting Lieutenant Rowan ended his career as a Lt. Colonel—few regular officers had the opportunity to achieve that



Andrew Summers Rowan (center, holding his hat) and General Calixico y Inigus Garcia (right). Photo taken in Cuba, 1898.

rank in the small U.S. military between the Civil War and World War I. His reputation as someone who got things done likely had a lot to do with that.

Can you carry a message? Few of us are handed a mission like Rowan's. That doesn't mean we have any less opportunity to be a "go-to" person. Everyone is responsible for a piece of the missions we carry out. Years ago, I heard "often the only difference between succeeding and failing is caring." It's easy to care when your task involves infiltrating enemy territory—or dealing with detainees on a daily basis. Missteps in those cases have obvious consequences. But what about the daily grind in various support roles? It only takes one gear seizing up to throw the whole machine out of commission. Are you committed that won't happen with the part that's entrusted to you, regardless how large or small it may seem?

Elbert Hubbard, an author, wrote in 1899 about Rowan's accomplishment. His words are no less true today:

"My heart goes out to the man who does his work when the "boss" is away, as well as when he is at home. And the man who, when given a letter for Garcia, quietly takes the missive, without asking any idiotic questions, and with no lurking intention of chucking it into the nearest sewer, or of doing aught else but deliver it, never gets 'laid off,' nor has to go on a strike for higher wages. Civilization is one long anxious search for just such individuals. Anything such a man asks shall be granted; his kind is so rare that no employer can afford to let him go."

Are you a valuable 'fire and forget' weapon, or do you require excessive guidance and course corrections? Will those looking for today's Rowans find you up to the task?

You control the answers to those questions.

JTF Guantanamo

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COVER: Spc. Nelson Monic, attached to Joint Task Force Guantanamo's 525th Military Police Battalion, throws a football during the inaugural Pig Bowl Football Tournament, Saturday. — photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Jason Tross.

Back Cover: Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers enjoyed a relaxing day on the day during a kayaking trip sponsored by the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation department. — photo by Spc. Meredith Vincent

BOWL cont.

The halftime show may not have entertained, but it made everyone more than eager to watch some more watered-down football. This time it was the Packer's turn to disappoint, not seeing sight of the end zone for the entire third quarter. During Green Bay's respite, Pittsburgh managed one solid touchdown drive, and was even on its way to another as the fourth quarter approached. Unfortunately, Clay Matthews must have noticed there had not been a turnover in the second half yet. Ever willing to oblige, he solved this problem with a clock-cleaning hit on Rashard Mendenhall. As the ball slipped from Mendenhall's grasp, Matthews smothered it, as well as the Steelers' last chance at a win.

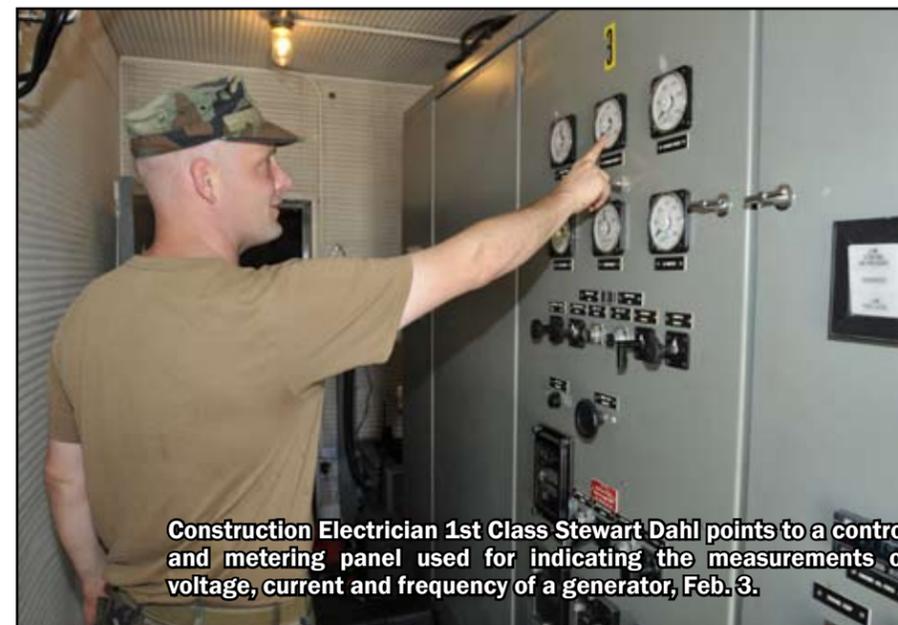
Toward the end, the Steelers began closing the embarrassing gap on the scoreboard, but they never managed to break that hump. They went down swinging, finally going for it on fourth down, and losing to Green Bay 25-31.

Looking through the stats makes a harsh reality for the Steelers; they stayed competitive in passing yards, and blew the Packers away in rushing yards. But they also hit the high mark for turnovers, with two interceptions and one fumble courtesy of Clay Matthews. With the stats and scores so close, and even slightly favoring Pittsburgh, the Steelers didn't



so much lose to the Packers. They bent over and handed them the game. Admittedly, turnovers are as much a part of football as touchdowns. However, they shouldn't be the reason a champion program like the Pittsburgh Steelers goes home crying into their Terrible Towels, while Aaron Rodgers and his cheese-

loving compatriots head off to Disney World in all their glory. Super Bowl XLV was by no means mind-blowing, and I'd really like to only give it two banana rats. However, the powers that be -- my editor -- felt Aaron Rodgers' rugged charm deserved a banana rat all to itself.



Construction Electrician 1st Class Stewart Dahl points to a control and metering panel used for indicating the measurements of voltage, current and frequency of a generator, Feb. 3.

capacity of the generators in addition to the number of times the machines have run."

This mission is one of many for the group of Seabees. They are also tasked with expeditionary support, cold iron projects and contingency operations in Afghanistan.

"Our Sailors are go-getters, top notch and selective," said Dahl. "We are not working for a retirement or the money but because we enjoy the work we do."

The visiting Seabees will be leaving late February, but the lasting affects of their mission will continue to ensure JTF's safety and operational readiness year round.

PLANTS cont.

"If you're a resident, regardless of where you live- even if it's in a hut, or a tent or a house," she said. "(You can) come in and get whatever you need."

In order for the nursery to operate without any cost to the customer, volunteerism is essential, said Coganow.

"It's not just (working with) plants," said Coganow. "Any kind of carpentry they (volunteers) want to do. Maybe they have a better idea for something we're doing."

Public Works supplies funding and materials when available, but for the most part the nursery relies on physical donations said NeSmith. Sometimes it's a bag of potting soil; other times items are recycled from base construction projects.

Thanks to a bit of communal effort, Guantanamo Bay residents can escape to a tropical oasis without ever leaving the island.

"There is something for everybody," said NeSmith. "Whether you wish to volunteer or just walk out with a plant".

For those interested in volunteering or just visiting, NeSmith has only one question: "What's taking you so long?"

Cramped Quarters



Steelworker 1st Class Shawn Heer of the Port Hueneme, Calif.-based Mobile Utilities Support Equipment Team works on a circuit breaker of a generator, Feb 3. — photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins

What was the most creative thing you've ever done for Valentine's Day?



"Instead of sending roses, I put together flowers with her initials."

Air Force Maj. Jamison Braun



"Keep it simple, stupid. Stick with a card and flowers"

Aviation Structural Mechanic Steven Sullivan



"Send valentines and candy home to my husband, daughter and mother."

Master Sgt. Natalie Mosley-Carter



"Call the wife and send an e-card"

Religious Program Specialist 3rd Class Jeffrey Lauber



A lone protestor aligns himself against the Egyptian Security Forces as protests in the country continue.

Egypt Military: Mubarak to 'Meet Protesters' Demands

Voice of America News Service

Egyptian military officials and members of the ruling party say that President Hosni Mubarak will "meet protesters' demands."

Egyptians have been demonstrating for 17 days, calling for the ouster of President Mubarak, who has been in power for nearly 30 years. They have been demanding he leave immediately.

The military's supreme council was meeting Thursday without the commander in chief, Mr. Mubarak.

The military announced its support of the "legitimate demands of the people" on state television. A spokesman said the council was exploring what measures could be made to "safeguard" the nation and its people.

Cairo's Tahrir Square, a focal point of the protests, erupted into cheers as news spread towards dusk Thursday.

New Military Strategy Calls for Redefined Leadership

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

The first revision in seven years of the National Military Strategy calls for redefining leadership in a changing world.

The document released Tuesday is the first revision since 2004 of the ways and means that the military will advance U.S. national interests. It builds on the 2010 National Security Strategy and the objectives in the latest Quadrennial Defense Review.

"Our military power is most effective when employed in support and in concert with other elements of power as part of whole-of-nation approaches to foreign policy," Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, wrote in the strategy. "This strategy is designed to meet the expectations of the American people that their military reflect the best of this

US Terror Threat Perhaps 'Most Heightened' Since 9/11

Voice of America
News Service

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano says the terrorist threat against the United States is evolving and, in some ways, may be at its most heightened state since the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Napolitano told the House Homeland Security Committee Wednesday that al-Qaida still poses a threat to the U.S. despite its diminished capabilities.

She said the U.S. also faces threats from a number of al-Qaida associated groups, which have shown an increased emphasis on recruiting Americans and other Westerners to carry out attacks.

The director of the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center, Mike Leiter, said he considers the Yemen-based offshoot, al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, the most significant risk to the United States. He said radical cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, one of the group's leaders, is using the Internet to talk directly to Americans.

The U.S. Army psychologist charged in the deadly 2009 shooting at the Fort Hood military base in Texas (Major Nidal Malik Hasan) had been in e-mail contact with the U.S.-born al-Awlaki.

Napolitano said her department is working to provide state and local law enforcement with the information and resources they need to combat the threat of violent extremism within their own communities.

Navy cuts some re-enlistment bonuses

Stars and Stripes

The Navy is cutting or eliminating re-enlistment bonuses for 31 different skill and experience combinations, according to a Navy Personnel Command memo released Wednesday.

Some cryptologists, intelligence specialists and electronics technicians are among those slated to receive either a smaller bonus or nothing at all for re-enlisting in their current job category, according to the memo. Bonus sizes within job categories vary both by specialty and zone, which is determined by time served in the Navy.

The move calls for 19 reductions and 12 eliminations of bonuses, while 105 skill and zone combinations remain unchanged, the memo said.

The reduced bonuses are a result of tougher competition to remain in the Navy, according to a Navy news release.

Selective re-enlistment bonuses are used to retain sailors with critical skills and tend to vary, depending on which jobs are undermanned.

To view the complete list, go to www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/Messages/.

News from the Bay

Troopers be aware of CAC card email scam

It looks official, it sounds legitimate and has an air of authority and consequences should you fail to heed the message – all the elements of a successful scam and that’s exactly what it is. Making the rounds of the network and finding its way into Troopers Inbox is a new email scam informing Troopers to click a link to change the length of their common access card PIN. The message reads:

Subject: IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED: CAC PIN length increases

Recent world events have uncovered a potential weakness in DoD Common Access Card (CAC) security systems using a PIN length of less than 10 digits. Therefore a new requirement has been established that calls for PIN length to be at least 10 digits and no more than 14 digits. Security systems DoD wide will begin imposing the new restriction on 10-FEB-2011. In order to handle the high volume of CAC PIN resets, an automated CAC PIN Reset site has been stood up. Please log in to <http://www.activeident.com/DoD> immediately and establish your new PIN with the increased length requirement.

NOTE: If you fail to establish your new PIN before the new restrictions are imposed, you will need to visit a CAC issuance location before you will be able to access the network.”

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Command Master Chief Scott Fleming said the Government Accountability Office and the Department of Defense are aware of the scam.

Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

Marlins and Mermaids swimming ashore

Florida Marlins pitcher Chris Volstad and hitter Gaby Sanchez are scheduled to visit Guantanamo Bay Monday at the Camp America Liberty Center.

Joining the ballplayers will be three Marlins cheerleaders, affectionately coined the Mermaids by Marlins fans.

The event, brought here by Armed Forces Entertainment, will feature a meet-and-greet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with the group, as well as a pitching demonstration from Volstad.

A free lunch will be provided. For more information, call x4882.

Spc. Meredith Vincent

JIG Troopers learn unity through paintball

Building unity and morale within their unit, the Joint Intelligence Group battled each other on the paintball range Feb. 4

“On a deployment like this, the environment itself is stressful just by its very nature,” said Seaman Marcus Salmon with the JIG.

Joint Task Force Troopers often work 55 to 60 hours a week at the JIG in response to requests by senior leadership for intelligence production, said the officer in charge, who asked to remain anonymous.

When he partnered with Morale, Welfare and Recreation for the event, the officer said he had some very specific goals in mind for his Troopers.

“We wanted to build esprit de corps, teamwork and competitive rivalry between one of our sister elements,” said the officer. “It’s important to be able to get out of the office, to be in a different environment, to handle a different set of challenges and to come together as a team.”

Activities like paintball are a positive way to take out personal frustrations and to escape the monotony of work in Guantanamo Bay. The benefits also go beyond the competition field and help foster working relationships.

“This promotes positive team building in all aspects of the military,” said Salmon. “Blowing off stress helps us to be able to

focus on our work more efficiently.”

Salmon said group activities reinforce the principles of the military.

“The more people you have working on something, the faster and easier it is to do the task,” he said. “This is important because the military is based on a team atmosphere.”

The officer said the ability to step away from a mission and use different mental and physical skills is important.

“If we do things outside of work, we will become more synergistic at the office,” said the officer, adding competition can breed excellence. “The competitive rivalry between us and our sister element helps us to see each other with a greater human element and allows us to cooperate and collaborate.”

The paintball range is open Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment by calling x2010.

Army Sgt. Mathieu Perry

Renovations on Gold Hill Galley begin soon

The Gold Hill Galley will be undergoing repairs beginning Feb. 22, said Lt. j.g. Vivian Manor, food services officer.

The renovation will have two phases and last approximately 16 weeks. During the first half, “the right side of the dining facility will be completely closed for patron usage,” said Manor. “During phase two, the left side will be completely closed. Within the first two weeks of phase 2, the indoor wash room facilities will not be in service.”

Manor said outdoor facilities and hand-washing station will be available.

During the renovations, the galley will offer to-go meals, due to limited seating.

For more information, contact Manor at x2234 or x2236.

Spc. Meredith Vincent

Mind, Body & Soul

Valentine's Day and Lessons on Love

Chaplain, Air Force Lt Col Marvin Williams
JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain

While taking an undergraduate course in psychology at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA, I distinctly remember studying Abraham Maslow’s hierarchy of needs. Although the professor focused on the entire pyramid of human needs, the category that stood out most to me was love and belongingness. At this point I cannot recall why love stood out more than the other needs, principally because I graduated, let’s say, a long time ago. However, I do remember the impact of the professor’s lectures and the passion with which he wanted the class to understand the value of loving and being loved.

Interestingly, love is not a sentiment my family used to talk about. In fact, I cannot remember my father ever mentioning love or anything pertaining to love. Of course my grandparents and other relatives constantly talked about love, family networks, and the importance of loving others. In retrospect, maybe this is why the course at ODU struck a chord within me.

Although I realized the importance of love and loving others, I am not quite sure when Valentine’s Day came into focus for me. But I do remember all of a sudden I wanted to celebrate Valentine’s Day. It was like I woke up out of a dream. I became aware of a day where couples expressed their love for each other. So I became intrigued about the meaning of Valentine’s Day and its origin.

Tracing back through history, Valentine’s Day, like most holidays in the United States, emerged from a significant event. According to legend, the day is named after a Christian martyr — priest — named Valentine, thus the original name St. Valentine’s Day. Another legend contends that Valentine’s Day dates back to a Roman festival period bringing in the spring season. Whatever the case, Valentine’s Day is one of the most popular days on the calendar. Ironically, given the popularity of Valentine’s Day in the United States and throughout the world, it is not a federal holiday. That fact does not change the significance or the desire for people to express love in a variety

of ways.

Economic indicators illustrate Valentine’s Day is second only to Mother’s Day in terms of acquiring floral arrangements; second to Christmas in terms of purchasing cards; and a close third behind Christmas and Mother’s Day for buying gifts. This demonstrates a need for people to find expressions of love and being loved. In many respects, I think the phenomena of social networking are tools for connecting and a direct response to a sense of companionship. Bottom line, people want to love as much as they want to feel loved. Valentine’s Day gives way to expressing the desire to love.

As a chaplain, one of my roles is helping help military personnel and civilians navigate through the complexities of relationships. Although I believe love is a critical dimension of all relationships, studies have shown that separation can erode the fabric of love. That is why deployments coupled with other factors are particularly stressful for military families.

While servicemembers may not be able to change deployment cycles, we can be intentional about managing our relationships. While doing so, we must keep in mind the sense of loving and the need to be loved. In this regard, we can learn some lessons from the celebration of Valentine’s Day.

Valentine’s Day reminds us that love is essential for all relationships, whether single or married. Keys to building strong, lasting relationships are honesty, commitment, transparency and giving, to name a few. On this Valentine’s Day, find the means to express your love in a way that is meaningful and heartfelt. And let every day be like Valentine’s Day — an opportunity to tell someone how much you really appreciate them. This will enhance their sense of love and belonging. The level of love and the ability to express that love will determine the quality of the relationship.

Happy Valentine’s Day!

GTMO Religious Services

Daily Catholic Mass
Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m.
Main Chapel
Vigil Mass
Saturday 5 p.m.
Main Chapel
Mass
Sunday 9 a.m.
Main Chapel
Catholic Mass
Saturday 7:30 p.m.
Troopers’ Chapel
Sunday 7:30 a.m.
Troopers’ Chapel

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m.
Troopers’ Chapel
Islamic Service
Friday 1:15 p.m.
Room C
Jewish Service
FMI call 2628
LORIMI Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m.
Room D
Church of Christ
Sunday 10 a.m.
Chapel Annex
Room 17

Seventh Day Adventist
Saturday 11 a.m.
Room B
Iglesia Ni Cristo
Sunday 5:30 a.m.
Room A
Pentecostal Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m.
Room D
LDS Service
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room A

Liturgical Service
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room B
General Protestant
Sunday 11 a.m.
Main Chapel
United Jamaican Fellowship
Sunday 11 a.m.
Building 1036
Gospel Service
Sunday 1 p.m.
Main Chapel

GTMO Bay Christian Fellowship
Sunday 6 p.m.
Main Chapel
Bible Study
Wednesday 7 p.m.
Troopers’ Chapel
The Truth Project
Bible study
Sunday 6 p.m.
Troopers’ Chapel

Coffeehouse Series introduces singer/songwriter Kari Nichole

Story and photo by Spc. Meredith Vincent

Regionally recorded singer/songwriter Kari Nichole treated Guantanamo Bay residents not once, not twice but three times this weekend with her eclectic mix of pop, country and rock as Morale Welfare and Recreation kicked off its new Coffeehouse Series.

As the first spotlighted artist in the series, Nichole played at the Tiki Bar and O'Kelly's Pub Friday and Saturday night respectively and at the Bayview Club Sunday morning into the afternoon. She said she was thrilled and honored to perform for Guantanamo's Troopers.

"It has been fantastic—nothing like I imagined," said Nichole.

Judging from the crowd's response at O'Kelly's Pub Saturday night, she was successful. Nichole kept the vibe engaging and fun, covering classics from the likes of Alanis Morissette, Green Day, Tom Petty and Sugarland. She playfully encouraged the audience to sing along with the more well-known tunes, and occasionally shared her own original songs as well.

"They really enjoyed her music," said MWR Community Activities Director Amice MacDonnell. "A few of our customers mentioned going out

to hear these acoustic sets was something they would typically do back at home on the weekend."

"I try to keep it versatile for everyone to enjoy the show," Nichole said. "They were with me the entire night. It meant a lot that they were enjoying themselves."

Singing since age four, Nichole taught herself to play the guitar ten years ago. Soon after, the Michigan native decided to make a career out of her musical talents. Now a resident of Ohio, she tours the area relentlessly, including a gig opening for Lisa Marie Presley and Bad Company. Her trip to Cuba, however, was a new high point.

"This has been my favorite experience," she claimed. "I feel like I'm a part of something really important."

Designed to bring a relaxed and intimate atmosphere to various spots around the naval station, MWR hopes to maintain the Coffeehouse Series as regular entertainment fixture, MacDonnell said.

"The three performances were a tremendous success," she said. "I received a lot of positive feedback from the attendees and even some suggestion as we continue the Coffeehouse Series on a quarterly basis."



Songstress Kari Nichole serenades the crowd at O'Kelly's Saturday night. Nichole's set included classic radio hits coupled with her own original music.

Movie Review SUPER BOWL XLV



Spc. Justin Pierce

As Sunday's pageantry dissolves into the monotony of another work week, NFL fans find themselves looking forward. Some will still be relishing their final victory while countless others stockpile hopes for a better season in late 2011. Regardless which side of the fence you find yourself on, you might notice a subtle hint of disappointment in the aftertaste of Super Bowl XLV. Much like Christina Aguilera's rendition of our national anthem, something was missing from this supposedly epic clash.

Big Ben Roethlisberger and his Steelers began inauspiciously, going three and out in less than two minutes – not exactly the type of performance expected of a twice-crowned Super Bowl winning quarterback. The Steelers continued to underwhelm throughout the remainder of the first half thanks to a series of dropped passes, and even a punt on fourth and one. Halfway through the game, I wasn't sure if I was watching the Steelers or some cheap knock-off masquerading in black and yellow.

Pittsburg had some help in losing the first half. Green Bay's defense showed up well aware of the significance of the game. These guys understood this was the Super Bowl. With three minutes left in the first quarter, Green Bay's secondary made this abundantly clear as free safety Nick Collins not only



picked off one of Ben's better throws, but also hauled it back 37 yards for a taste of end zone glory. As a whole, Green Bay's defense held strong. What's more impressive, they did so despite a lack of showmanship from their star linebackers. The Thoresque duo of AJ Hawk and Clay Matthews only managed five tackles and ZERO sacks combined for the entirety of the game. Maybe they were too busy planning a trip to the salon.

Green Bay's offense also came to Texas knowing this was the big show. After the first half, Aaron Rodgers and his brilliant passing game had already tackled up two visits to the end zone. Despite the Steelers' plan to keep their hard-hitting safety Troy Polamalu back in the secondary, Rodgers still managed to connect over and OVER – completing 24 of 39 passes for 304 yards and hitting pay dirt three times. Rodgers wasn't just the

quarterback, he was the whole offense. Even three beastly sacks couldn't rattle his cage.

Rodgers' pure platinum-passing game overshadowed the Packers' running game. His offense netted only 50 rushing yards all game in contrast to the Steelers' 126. Too bad they don't give points for yards.

The players weren't the only party guilty of offering up lackluster performances. At the close of the first half, the Black Eyed Peas made their way out onto the field and reminded us all why we stopped buying their albums. Not even a cameo from Guns and Roses guitarist, Slash, and hundreds of suits covered in flashy lights could distract from the gaping, talentless void occupying the field at half-time. The only way it could have gotten any worse would be if Usher showed up...

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| | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
|------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Downtown Lyceum | Yogi Bear (PG) 7 p.m. Tron Legacy (PG13) 9 p.m. | Gulliver's Travels (PG) 7 p.m. Last Showing Little Fockers (PG13) 9 p.m. | How Do You Know? (PG13) 7 p.m. | The Tourist (PG13) 7 p.m. | Gulliver's Travels (PG13) 7 p.m. | Tron Legacy (PG13) 7 p.m. | Little Fockers (PG13) 7 p.m. |
| Camp Bulkeley | Gulliver's Travels (PG13) 7 p.m. Little Fockers (PG13) 10 p.m. | Yogi Bear (PG) 8 p.m. How Do You Know? (R) 10 p.m. | Tron Legacy (PG13) 8 p.m. | Gulliver's Travels (PG) 8 p.m. | Little Fockers (PG) 8 p.m. | The Tourist (PG13) 8 p.m. | Chronicles of Narnia - Voyage of the Dawn Trader (PG) 8 p.m. |
| Clipper Club | | | | | | | |

Call MWR at ext. 2010 for more information.

Movie Hotline - call 4880.

Top 5 Best Commercials of the Super Bowl



1. Volkswagen

Maybe it's not the funniest, but it's by far the cutest. Everyone remembers those childhood moments of pretending to have super powers. How fun was it to see that "Ah-ha" moment on a little Vader?!



2. Pepsi Max

Pepsi utilized a simple truth here, people getting hit in the face with stuff is funny. And that's what they delivered. Is it wrong I found it strangely erotic when the guy's wife shoved soap in his mouth?



3. E-trade

Both of these were equally great. I do miss the low resolution style from the original E-trade commercials, "Shhhh, don't say a word. You're welcome" Yep, they still know funny.



4. Car Max

It starts fairly simple, then gradually broadens into pitch-perfect outrageousness. "I feel like a mermaid at a swim meet!" Well, I feel like an officer at a sit-a-thon. Who knew similes could be so fun?



5. Coca-Cola

What Coca Cola lacks in nutritional quality, it makes up for with their wholesome ads. Good on them for taking the moral high ground and promoting harmony while still entertaining.

Navy search-and-rescue team a constant presence on GTMO beaches

Story and photo by
Army Sgt. Mathieu Perry

The Navy dive team here at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay plays a critical role in every Joint Task Force Trooper's dive by providing first-aid and conducting Search and Rescue Capabilities (SAR) for lost swimmers and divers.

While the Coast Guard assists during searches, only the Navy currently has search-and-rescue qualified divers on the island.

Hajduk, the acting command dive officer for the naval base, said not every phone call is a diving emergency.

"Any kind of water incident that happens, we are going to get called," said Hajduk. "We will assess the situation from there."

Hajduk said any call from port control spurs his six-man team into action.

A scuba set prepared for two divers and an alternate is always kept pre-staged and ready to be loaded onto the boat in a moments notice, said Hajduk.

"Even the boat stays in the water to save us time so we can respond to situations more efficiently," said Hajduk. "All we have to do is load the gear, load the guys and we are gone."

Initially, during a missing persons search, the team will scour the most obvious choice: the individual's last known location.

"A lot of times people try to swim from Cable Beach to Girl Scout Beach and depending on the current, it can get pretty rough," said Hajduk.

Swimmers often become stranded and can end up cutting their feet badly on the sharp rocks and edges of the bay, said Hajduk. If the injuries only require first-aid care, the patient is taken to the hospital.

"If it is just a physical injury, then we will provide first responder care and have a small role," said Hajduk. "But if it is diving-related, we are the main players."

When sending divers into the water, the buddy system is always implemented.

"I like to send in two divers if I can, especially if I have someone lost or trapped on the bottom," said Hajduk. "It's a Navy



Navy Diver Third Class Nicholas Barna opens a series of valves to bring the decompression chamber online. The chamber is kept in a modified standby mode that allows the system to be completely operational in less than ten minutes.

requirement to have a standby diver just in case something goes wrong."

If disaster does strike, the reserve diver is deployed to assist the primary divers.

The dive team strives for a response time between five and twelve minutes, said Hajduk, depending on the distance to the diver's location.

"When you are talking about decompression sickness, the quicker you can get the patient under pressure and treated, the more likely they will make a 100 percent recovery," said Hajduk.

Navy Diver First Class David Lutz explained decompression sickness, also known as the bends, is a condition caused by gasses going from a liquid state to a gas state and forming air bubbles inside a person's blood stream.

"The effects vary from minor joint pain to paralysis and death," said Lutz. "The only treatment is to recompress the gasses into a liquid by taking the person to the pressures experienced while diving."

The longer time goes on before treatment, the more damage can be done to a person neurologically, warned Hajduk.

Hajduk said a diving injury

such as the bends takes precedence over physical injuries and must be treated before the others.

"Decompression sickness is life threatening, so we always have to treat that first then we will take care of the other wounds as needed," said Hajduk.

The Dive Locker has the limited capacity to treat four dive injuries at one time, said Hajduk and once the decompression chamber is started all recreational divers must suspend their activities.

He explained the dive team's importance goes beyond serving recreational divers. There are no lifeguards on duty at any of the beaches, which means his team also conducts missions related to the safety of Troopers in other capacities.

"When there are triathlons or sporting events that use the water, we will check the area for sharp or dangerous objects that could cut or injure the participants," said Hajduk.

One particular recurring problem is not due to the Troopers at all, revealed Hajduk.

"Several times a year, we have medical waste that washes up on Windmill beach," said Hajduk. "I don't know where it comes

from, maybe a ship that dumps it or something, but there are used needles and we have to close the beach. We don't want anyone walking in knee-deep water and stepping on a bag full of used needles."

Hajduk painted a drab scene of life without the Navy dive team. Without their services, more than 400 certified recreational scuba divers throughout Guantanamo Bay would be immediately impacted.

"Without us here, there would be no scuba diving," said Hajduk.

Lutz said the loss of the Navy dive team would affect more than just recreational opportunities.

"Our presence is incredibly important," said Lutz. "If something goes wrong and they get hurt or get the bends and we are not here, then they are going to die."

Despite the dangers, the diving opportunities here are world class, said Hajduk.

"This is some of the best diving that can be done compared to Florida and the rest of the Caribbean," said Hajduk. "The water is so clear and there is enough marine life that you can see just about as much snorkeling as you can diving."



Master Sgt. Brian Stuckey, center, with the 189th MP Co., hands off the ball during the Pig Bowl - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jason Tross



Spc. John Nastvogel, assigned to the 525th Military Police Battalion, leads the 193rd MP Co. to victory over the 189th MP Co. during the PIG Bowl at Cooper Field, Saturday. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jason Tross

Brought to you by the 525th Military Police Battalion

WELCOME
TO THE

PIG BOWL



Story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jason Tross

Joint Task Force Guantanamo's 525th Military Police Battalion kicked off their inaugural Guantanamo Bay Pig Bowl Saturday at Cooper Field Sports Complex.

Each of the 525th's four companies formed individual teams for the day-long intramural football tournament. The 193rd MP Co. came away with the coveted Pig Bowl Trophy after a 14-7 championship game win over the 189th MP Co.

"The 193rd kept on their winning ways and took it all the way through the championship," said 525th Command Sergeant Major Daniel Borrero. "The 189th MP Co. lost their first game, then made it all the way to the championship round. Unfortunately, they weren't able to carry it over."

The Pig Bowl is a long-standing U.S. Army military police tradition giving units an opportunity to come together and promote esprit de corps and blow off steam in a positive way.

"The tradition carries from all the various MP units around the world," said Borrero. "This [Pig Bowl] is about companies against companies ... enjoying fellowship and camaraderie."

Like Army military police duty locations in Korea and Germany, MP units

here don't work in the same geographic area and hardly see each other, explained Borrero.

"So the Pig Bowl was a way for all of us to have fellowship - meet and come back together. And now we're doing it here," he added.

For many players, the Pig Bowl serves as more than just a chance to come together with battle buddies.

"We went out and had a good time - that's it," said Spc. John Nastvogel, a guard for the 193rd MP Co. "I played in high school, but then I joined the Army ... so I never had the chance to play in college."

"It's a lot easier [here] because in high school there's bigger dudes and you can actually hit. Out here it's a lot of old men," joked Nastvogel.

"It's really nice just to get out here and play football again," he added. "I love the sport, but in reality I'm probably never going to play again. So if this all I've got then this is where I'm going to play."

Troopers assigned to the 525th Military Police Battalion, play flag football during the inaugural Pig Bowl Football Tournament held Saturday at Cooper Field - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jason Tross



JTF post office delivers quality service, convenience

Story and photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jordon Miller

Whether it's the convenient location or the helpful tips they provide, the Sailors working at the Joint Task Force Guantanamo post office have a singular purpose - serving the task force Troopers.

Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Michael Doty summed up the post office's role.

"We're here to support JTF Guantanamo," he said.

Manned by three Navy logistics specialists, organizationally it falls under J1 of JTF Guantanamo.

Doty pointed out some information unique to his post office.

"We're open until 1600, later than the Naval Station Guantanamo post office," Doty said. "We're also open for three hours on Saturdays while the naval station's post office is closed."

Customers are grateful for the location of the Camp America post office but Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Tobias Stiewing, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the Camp America post office, appreciates its intrinsic source of encouragement to those it serves.

"I like the post office because it boosts people's morale," said Stiewing. "I enjoy the sense I helped someone have a better day because they received a package from a loved one. If you're over here for a year and you receive a package, it can lift your spirits."

Personnel eager to receive expected mail

is not uncommon. A delay in mail receipt can add to a person's solicitude. Mosso related some insight to answer the question to why such delays.

"In the U.S. there are flights from New York to Atlanta every day transporting mail," said Army 1st Lt. Michael Mosso, postal officer. "Here, mail is only brought three times a week."

To prevent delays, Stiewing shared a few helpful tips.

"Make sure the address is right, especially the zip code," said Stiewing. "If you put the wrong zip code it could go to an unwanted destination. Kuwait's and Guantanamo's zip codes are very similar."

Additionally, Stiewing advised customers to ensure proper postage is used so packages don't get returned. He also cautioned against sending particular items.

"Don't send certain perishables, for example; chocolate, salsa or liquids. If their containers were to break inside the box the postal service would set the package aside," Stiewing said. "It would slow down the shipping process."

Stiewing also suggested a couple of actions to keep in mind.

"If it's an expensive item I would definitely insure it," he said. "Just to make sure what you mail gets to where you're sending it. Also, come in early and give yourself at least three weeks to ship something home prior to departing JTF Guantanamo."



Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Michael Doty removes parcels from a mail bag at the Camp America post office, Feb. 4.

The Camp America post office recognizes their unique task on Guantanamo Bay -- delivering Troopers' packages, letters, cards and other thoughts from home. In a deployed environment, these seemingly small things can make all the difference.

Seabees' inspections ensure safety during hurricane season

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins

In 2010, Hurricane Tomas wreaked destruction on Haiti, killing several people and causing millions of dollars in damage. Tomas was expected to hit eastern Cuba with strong winds, heavy rains and possible coastal flooding. Fortunately, the damage to Joint Task Force Guantanamo was minimal; however, safety and preparation for any disaster remains integral.

Anticipating the upcoming hurricane season, deployed Seabees are inspecting power generators to ensure the task force operates without interruptions in all types of weather.

Deploying from the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Port Hueneme, Calif., the Mobile Utilities Support

Equipment Team consists of two construction mechanics, one construction electrician and one steelworker. Each member completes a year of mechanical and electrical engineering courses at the Army's Prime Power School in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., said Construction Electrician 1st Class Stewart Dahl, officer in charge.

"It will be hard for a hurricane to move these units," said Dahl. "Each weighs 110,000 pounds."

The MUSE team's primary mission is to conduct required maintenance and assessment on each unit.

"We inspect by operating the generators to maximum capabilities and then conduct systematic checks that can cause the machine to shut down," said Dahl. "The generators

have the capability of providing electrical power to a quarter of Guantanamo Bay including JTF, Windward Housing and Leeward Airfield."

The annual test is essential to both JTF and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

"It's important to maintain the eight units used on base to optimize performance," said Cmdr. Wendy Halsey, public works officer for Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. "Whenever there is a loss in power, any of these generators can be back up if necessary."

The Seabees have a strict set of instructions and procedures guiding them during the inspections.

"We follow the naval manual that instructs us to have deployable power plants no smaller than 750 kilowatts," said Dahl. "JTF has three

generators. Each generator produces power of 1.5 megawatts."

The engines themselves are maintained using the manufacturer's recommended guidance, said Halsey. The technicians use the guidance for locating and reporting repairs after the inspection.

All entries for each engine are documented, logged and presented to NAVFAC with a closing report upon completion. This report is forwarded to the contractor to correct any deficiencies, explained Halsey.

"During the inspection I observe for correct procedures and review log books for changing oil, filter and coolant," said Dahl. "I also check the

In Bloom

Story by Army Pfc. Amanda Russell
Photos by Senior Airman Gino Reyes



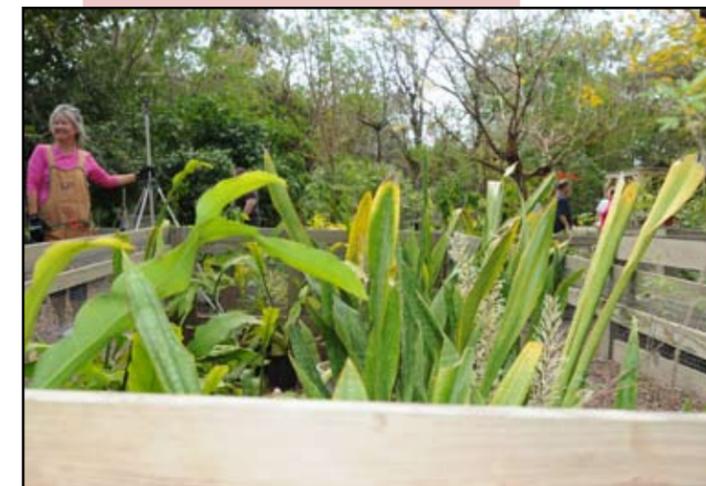
Frances NeSmith inspects a plant inside the Guantanamo Bay nursery, Jan 15. NeSmith is a volunteer and work leader for the nursery.



Donald Loyd, a regular volunteer for the nursery, waters a plant Jan. 15. Various plants and flowers are available for Troopers to take home.



The Navy Exchange donated several poinsettias leftover from the holidays to the plant nursery.



Along Sherman Avenue, nestled next to the Lateral Hazard Golf Course, an inconspicuous fenced-in area bursts with a variety of foliage. The only identifying marker is a sign that says simply: PWD Plant Nursery. This hidden treasure may be easy to overlook, but it offers what most new residents expect when arriving on island.

Frances NeSmith, work leader at the Guantanamo plant nursery, is used to newcomers' disenchanted realities.

"When they look around GTMO, many of them are disappointed in the lack of the tropical atmosphere they had expected," said NeSmith. "Guarantee you, they will not be disappointed when they come into the plant nursery."

The nursery's simplistic look is the perfect fit for what it has to offer: relaxation.

Sharon Coganow, Guantanamo's Red Cross station manager charged with tracking the hours of the nursery's volunteers, takes advantage of the peace that comes with the scenery.

"They actually have benches sitting around, or if you want to bring your own chair you can sit in there and just enjoy the atmosphere," said Coganow.

Dense, green foliage greets customers as they walk through the gate and down a path into the main part of the nursery. Mature trees scattered throughout filter the sun with their canopies, creating a pleasant, shaded brightness.

Placed throughout the inside are rows of different plants in all shapes and colors. These freshly propagated plants are destined for a place in someone's home.

On the first and third Saturday of each month, the nursery opens to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. First-time visitors are entitled to one free plant per person, while returning customers may receive one plant per household.

The nursery is open to each and every person on Guantanamo Bay. NeSmith said she has customers

from the Cuzcos and Tierra Kays as well as non-military personnel and third-country nationals.

see PLANTS, page 15

Around the ★ JTF



Joint Task Force Deputy Commander, Brig. Gen. Samuel Nichols shares a light moment with USSOUTHCOM Command Chaplain Capt. Ronnie King and JTF Command Chaplain Lt. Col. Marvin Williams during a prayer breakfast at the Seaside Galley, Monday. — photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Sally Hendricks



Cheerleaders from the Miami Dolphins entertained and signed autographs for Troopers of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Sunday. — photo by Navy Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins



Staff Sgt. Jim Charles (left) examines a screw he fastened into a rafter while Senior Airman Matthew Frost supports the rafter as part of the construction of an awning adjoined to the guard shack at the entrance of the Expeditionary Legal Complex near Camp Justice, Tuesday. — photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jordan J. Miller

