Story by Sgt. Benari Poulten

Eight months ago, a fresh-faced, eager group of MPs from the heart of Michigan stepped off the plane into the tropical heat of Guantanamo Bay. Now, as their deployment draws to a much-anticipated close, these soldiers have grown and matured, mirroring the dramatic evolution of the JTF, and they have begun the process of assessing their experiences and their numerous accomplishments here, as well as looking forward to returning home.

Home for the 785th Military Police Battalion is Fraser, Mich., and they are anxiously counting down the days as they prepare to conclude a successful deployment. They can attribute part of their success to the unit’s overall camaraderie, as the 785th MP Bn.’s 1st Sgt. Joseph Haddad points out. “Over the past several years that I have been the first sergeant,” said Haddad, “I have observed the unit transition from a group of soldiers to members of one big family. This foundation was the key to the success of maintaining our unit integrity and identity as the 785th MP Bn., while

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The success of the JTF, or any organization, is achieved by the contribution of each member of the team. It is that individual commitment to doing more than expected and leaving the organization better than it was, that makes the difference between a championship banner and a defeat, between success and failure. The individual effort makes the team a success, and that success enables each team member to grow. The JTF is a winning team because of the individual contributions each of you make on a daily basis.

As we pause and reflect, it is easy to see the many contributions that JTF troopers have made to the team and our fight in the Global War on Terrorism. During this rotation, every JTF member has made a contribution that enables us to be a better team: more skilled detainee handling; better able to obtain intelligence; more efficient support services; and, better integrated operations.

It does not matter which aspect of the JTF operation you consider, we are better today than we were before. The JDOG has created operating procedures that set the standard for detention, enabling us to expand our capabilities without increasing our manpower. The JIG gained nearly a tenfold increase in intelligence gathered and developed a true partnership with the MPs working in the blocks. One team effort to detain enemy combatants and obtain intelligence to help us win the war on terrorism. The infantry and security group contribute by keeping our Joint Operating Area protected. Everyone contributing to the main team effort = winning the war on terrorism.

There have also been many individual efforts that enabled the JTF to become more efficient and effective in our mission. The Joint Detention Information Management System and the Detainee Information Management System are only two examples of the contributions and effort of individual team members. These software systems were designed, built, and implemented by the troopers of the JTF - not a large outside contractor. These systems dramatically reduced the paper flow and dramatically increased the availability of operational information and intelligence. The expertise and contribution to mission saved the JTF over $800,000 and improved our ability to obtain and share information.

Everyday, you make countless contributions to the JTF mission and our team. These efforts have made us better, everyday. The contribution and commitment of every JTF member enables us to perform at higher standards and meet ever higher expectations. By being better at our mission, we as the JTF Guantanamo Team, contribute more to our nation's Global War on Terrorism. You are making a difference in our fight against terrorism everyday.

You are earning your championship banner through your team effort. Stay focused and we'll continue to win.

HONOR BOUND!

Trivia Question of the Week:

“On what date were the detention operations of JTF-160 and the interrogation operations of JTF-170 merged to form JTF Guantanamo?”

Please send your answers to the JTF Public Affairs Office, email address: pao@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil by Tuesday, July 22, 2003. A name will be drawn from all who get it correct for a JTF T-shirt or hat.
An integral part of the Joint Task Force mission is the JTF Detention Hospital. Dedicated to detainee care, the staff of surgeons, doctors and nurses provide a broad range of medical specialties from several military branches.

Since its inception, the JTF Detention Hospital has seen many changes and improvements.

Now a full service fixed medical facility, it originally started out as Fleet Hospital 20, a field hospital, managing the tough task of receiving and treating detainees with fresh war injuries.

Soon a pharmacy will be added to the hospital, according to Chief William Eby. "Just last night they signed the paperwork to start an affixed pharmacy within the camp. They had a pharmacy here, but the prescriptions were not filled there. Now they can be filled and dispersed," Eby said.

You may be wondering who is responsible for making these changes into reality at the hospital. The junior enlisted service members working at the JTF Detention Hospital are among some of the hands-on, unsung heroes who have been continually implementing the new policies and procedures that ultimately improve the health of the detainees and make the hospital such a success.

These junior troopers play a vital role at the hospital and no one knows this better than former officer-in-charge, Navy Cmdr. Paul C. Kelleher. Cmdr. Kelleher handed over his charge of the hospital to Navy Cmdr. Louis Louk during a ceremony July 14.

Kelleher stressed that the corpsmen are the foundation of the Detention Hospital and that he’s extremely proud of the job they do. “They are on the [detention] blocks personally dealing with the detainees’ [problems] hour after hour, day after day. It’s a hard and tiring job with little recognition,” Kelleher said. He also expressed his sincere gratitude for the efforts of the junior enlisted at the Detention Hospital.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Lisa Cook is a surgical technician at the Detention Hospital, who has accomplished many things and learned a lot during this mission. At first, she said there was a bit of an adjustment period. “The working environment is a lot different from a regular hospital, mainly because you can’t get personal with any of the detainees and trust is an important part of treating a patient. So it is hard to treat someone you don’t really trust,” Cook said.

Cook said she leaves Camp Delta feeling good every day because she knows she has done her part. “Since I’ve been here, I’ve helped upgrade the sterilizers in our operating rooms, and now I’m working on creating a better flow into the hospital of the supplies we need. That’s the thing about deployments … Even though administrative duties don’t fall under my job description, I’m gaining experience on it here. You don’t just do your job on a deployment, you get chances to learn other jobs as well,” Cook said.

Junior enlisted have also contributed to improvements at the hospital on an operational level. One example is Seaman Ismael Rubiolopez, who commented, “I have brought a lot of experience to the mission, I think. I helped improve our mission readiness by simplifying our mass casualty standard operating procedures from 32 pages to two.”

Improvements in morale have also taken place. Eby’s number one job at the hospital is to make sure that all service members’ needs are met and to keep order and instill discipline. He’s in touch with the pulse of how everyone is feeling, what they are thinking. Since their jobs are so stressful, it is important for Eby to maintain a good level of morale and motivation. “We weren’t utilizing the Morale, Welfare and Recreation benefits, so now we have monthly picnics. I’ve also resolved many pay issues and I’ve prepared advancement materials for upcoming advancement exams,” Eby said.

New challenges will arise at the Detention Hospital and they will continue to be met with the utmost professionalism, dedication, patience and integrity day-in and day-out. As Kelleher so eloquently put it in his closing remarks at his change-of-charge ceremony this week, “The success in managing these new challenges, while providing routine medical care, is a direct reflection of the dedication and quality of the staff of the detention hospital.”
still performing our individual duties as members of the Joint Task Force.”

Maintaining the unit’s identity was no easy feat, however. From the outset, the soldiers of the 785th MP Bn. were strategically placed throughout the entire JTF, including key positions within the Joint Detention Operations Group, as Haddad elaborated. “Administrative, intelligence, operations and logistics … every section you visit has a soldier from the 785th and, in several of them, they occupy the officer or non-commissioned officer position that provides the leadership for that particular section.”

Although a difficult situation, the soldiers of the 785th responded with characteristic resolve and made the best of their circumstances. Spc. Jeremy Heckman, a mechanic working as a part of the J-4 maintenance section in the motor pool, admits to the initial difficulty of having the unit split up, but feels that the unit certainly stepped up to the plate. “We like the challenge and we like the work,” he said with a grin. “It’s different. I’d rather be under the command of my unit, but what can you do … you do what you gotta do.”

These soldiers have certainly done more than what they’ve had to do, participating in all aspects of the JTF and taking on new responsibilities, such as learning how to be correctional specialists. Heckman, whom Haddad calls a smart and skilled soldier, tries to go out of his way to support his current mission in the J-4 Maintenance section, but it’s not that hard for him, as he enjoys his work in the motor pool. “Being here, all this hands on, I’m learning everything. It’s a good experience … and that’s what I love doing. Back home, I’m a mechanic on the side and I’m just starting school to be a mechanic … so, that’s my plan, to go into the mechanical field.”

While loving what they do helps keep them motivated, it’s only part of the job. Often, these soldiers do more than just what’s expected of them. Spc. Billy Gibbs works as an electrician in the Camp Delta Repair and Utilities section. In addition to his normal responsibilities, he has performed several jobs after his normally scheduled shift, such as installing auxiliary lighting in the Combat Stress Office and the newly-opened Club Survivor, which has saved the JTF thousands of dollars. In addition, the JTF has saved money by having a skilled repair team instead of having to contract the work out.

Gibbs is happy to help out and describes the remarkable change that has occurred throughout their deployment. “When we mobilized here, our mission was Camp Delta – repairing everything from faucets to electrical to anything carpentry. From what I understand, we’ve saved the government about $2 million, if you add up all the months we’ve been here.”

Gibbs feels that they have accomplished a great deal and are leaving the next unit in a good position to continue carrying out the mission. “When we first got here, we didn’t have anything. I bet we had maybe two hammers, two screwdrivers, and that’s about it. Now that we’re leaving here, the new unit that’s replacing us will have just about every tool that they could need to do any job inside Camp Delta.”

Haddad emphasizes the change that has occurred throughout the JTF. “The change is evident, in looking back to November when we first arrived. Just look at the operations in Camp Delta and how much improvement has taken place in those areas [like] operations and intelligence. The same can be said for … the quality of life of the soldiers, such as improved MWR facilities, the expansion of the Bulkeley Gym, the opening of Club Survivor, the [Camp America] post office, Combat Stress, and Fleet and Family Support Center.”

Spc. Mark Devlin agreed, stating that everything has gotten better while they’ve been stationed here, thanks in no small part to their efforts. “How things are run, things have been improved, physically and mentally. Basically, everything’s improved a lot.”

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785th MPs pave the way for the 384th

Story by Spc. Jared Mulloy

Members of the 384th Military Police Bn. have been in Guantanamo Bay for about six weeks now and they will soon be assuming the responsibilities of the 785th MP Bn. During this time, the 384th has been conducting many different types of training and has also been shadowing the 785th to prepare for their role in the Joint Detention Operations Group of the Joint Task Force. “All our MPs have been properly trained,” says 384th 1st Sgt. Jeffery McCann, “… and the transition into our jobs here has been very smooth.”

The 384th is an Army Reserve Military Police Battalion from Fort Wayne, Ind. They fall under the 300th MP Brigade, which is in the 88th Regional Support Command. The battalion served in France during World War II, was deployed to Mauthausen Concentration Camp after its liberation in 1946, and in 1999 spent annual training at Fort McCoy, Wis., running an internment camp. These are just a few deployments that the 384th is known for.

When the 384th first arrived at Guantanamo they had already spent almost three months at their mobilization station in central Indiana’s Camp Atterbury. Since the moment these troops hit the ground, they’ve been ready to dig in to their assignment. 1st. Sgt. Joseph Haddad of the 785th MP Bn. thinks they’re the perfect replacement. “They’re a mirror image of the 785th structure wise, and I think we’ve done our best to set them up for success. They should do great,” said Haddad.
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lot.”

Devlin sums up his time here as being a great learning experience. “I’ve done things that I never thought I’d be doing. I’ve been able to help out,” he said. “This unit has definitely been a big part in the war on terrorism.”

Although he’s young, he feels that he has matured as a soldier and as a person, and he encourages the next unit to continue building upon their foundation. He offered some advice: “Try to do more things and better things than we’ve already done. Keep making improvements.”

As their time here winds down, the members of the 785th have begun to teach their replacements the day-to-day operations of the JTF, making the transition as smooth as possible. Their achievements have already left an indelible mark upon the face of the JTF, as the 785th have played an essential role in helping the nation win the Global War on Terrorism. Haddad proudly reflected upon their success and sums up their experience here. “An accelerated maturity has taken place among most of our young soldiers since we arrived,” he said. “Where else can a young soldier with very little experience in life as an adult, come to a place like Guantanamo and be responsible for enemy combatants 24 hours a day?”

Haddad looks to the post-deployment future of the unit, as they must re-adjust to the civilian world and deal with the new soldiers coming in to their unit. He is confident that his soldiers will have no problem setting high standards of excellence back home, thanks to their experience here. “Our MPs have matured greatly over the past nine months, which, in turn, makes them the mentors of our newly assigned soldiers that are awaiting our arrival back at home station. Our MPs also take with them a wealth of experience that they will be able to apply in the civilian sector.”

But no matter what the future holds for these troopers, one thing remains certain: JTF Guantanamo is now a better place thanks to the efforts of the 785th MP Bn.

Think thrifty and save

Story & photo by Spc. Jared Mulloy

Whether you’re a JTF trooper heading home or moving on to your next assignment, chances are that you can’t take all your stuff with you. But why throw it all away? The Treasures and Trivia thrift store will put the belongings you no longer need to good use.

Donating your stuff not only benefits the person who purchases it by saving them some money, but it also puts money back into the Guantanamo community. Contributions to military balls, Boy and Girl Scouts, and school scholarships are just a few examples of how the thrift shop gives back to the community, not to mention an inexpensive solution for everyone’s consumer needs.

Like any thrift shop, you never know what you’ll find or what someone will donate to be sold. “I bought a cool 1982 Retro-Gitmo shirt for $1,” said J-6 Tech Spc. Michelle Pross. “There’s a lot of neat stuff down there.”

Some examples of prices are ten cents for socks, $1 for swimsuits, and fifty cents for hard cover books. And if these prices aren’t good enough for you, there’s a “bag sale” on the last Saturday of every month. Everything and anything you can fit in a brown paper bag is only $5.

All donations are welcome, and can be placed in the drop box in front of the store at any time. “When deciding what’s appropriate for donating, all we ask is that you only donate items that you would feel comfortable giving to a friend,” said store manager Kay Sherwood. “The store is run completely by volunteers, so sifting through lots of stuff that doesn’t work can be very time consuming. We prefer that items are clean and in working condition.”

Treasures and Trivia is located between Tropical Aviation and the NEX Furniture store behind the Downtown Lyceum. It’s operating hours are Monday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more information on the thrift shop call 4860 or 7893.

785th’s extended family

Story by Sgt. Benari Poulten

When the soldiers of the 785th Military Police Battalion head back home to Fraser, Mich., this fall, they will return to a warm homecoming celebration thanks to the generous efforts of their Family Readiness Group (FRG).

“A benefit of a welcome-home celebration would let the soldiers know how much we appreciate what they have done for our country and us,” explained Linda Ferdinande, the FRG’s assistant support leader. “It lets them know that we love them, missed them and supported them while they were gone.”

Ferdinande, along with support leader Denise Demaire, has helped make the FRG a successful support group. “The FRG offers something for everyone,” Ferdinande said.

“We have monthly and bi-monthly meetings and we publish a monthly newsletter with information and pictures from Guantanamo,” Demaire said. “We have tried to celebrate the holidays as best as we could without our soldiers … We also have the Wire available at the meetings for the families to view, as well as a working phone tree to pass on official news.”

And while the FRG has been its own family while the soldiers have been away, they all look forward to seeing their loved ones again and getting their real family members back.
Hungry for some TLC from his paint brush

Story & photo by Sgt. Erin Crawley

In his spare time, he hikes up to the highest point he can find in the hills of Guantanamo, scouts out a good viewing point, then sits down with a sketch pad and re-creates the scenic world in front of him - with a keen eye and a steady hand. He is a starving artist, but not in the literal sense. He is hungry to create art, something he hasn’t had too much time to do in the last eight months.

Staff Sgt. Thallas Johnson is a Military Policeman with the 785th MP Bn. He’s getting ready to retire after 21 years of service and is looking forward to taking the next steps necessary towards making some of his lifetime goals come true, one of which is being a fulltime artist.

Johnson’s talent was prevalent at a young age. “As early as I can remember, I was in elementary school … when everybody was taking naps and sleeping, I couldn’t sleep. My teachers saw that I liked to draw, so while the other kids were sleeping, they would let me draw, paint and color. I mostly did nature scenes, landscapes,” Johnson said.

In his 21 years of service, Johnson held six different military occupational specialties, with his most recent one being Corrections Specialist. He’s been a Laundry & Bath Specialist, Technical Draftsman, and Military Policeman, among others. Johnson said the training he received as a technical draftsman really improved his drawing skills.

All along, Johnson has wanted to get qualified as an illustrator, but he never got the chance, with the exception of taking a correspondence class. But that did not hold him back from using his skills when duty calls.

During the Gulf War, Johnson was deployed in Saudi Arabia and was called upon to create signs in Arabic. “The signs were for a prisoner of war camp. Like shower signs or phrases like ‘stay away from the fence’ – signs that let the prisoners know the rules of the camp. I had to draw out the Arabic alphabet and created the stencils. Then I cut all the letters out for each sign. It was a long process and a lot of work. But to me, creating is always fun,” Johnson said.

His most recent art project involves Club Survivor. Johnson, along with Spc. Teairra Eiland of the 785th MP Bn., and Spc. Mark Grindall of J-4 Transportation, started the first phase of what will become a mural that will cover both SEAhuts of Club Survivor.

“The plan for that is to do a beach scene to create a relaxed, calm environment. We’ll also be putting a unit patch on each panel. So it can be like a landmark of all the units that were down here when Club Survivor first opened,” Johnson said.

While the Club Survivor project has curbed his appetite a bit, Johnson is anxious to get started on his life as a full-time artist when he gets home.

Departing troops celebrate their victory

Story by Spc. Jared Mulloy

Many units have dinners and celebrations when they return home after a deployment, or even after returning home from two weeks of annual training. Here in the JTF, special time will be set aside for each unit to acknowledge their troopers for their outstanding performance before they depart. To accomplish this, the JTF leadership is planning a “Victory Dinner” for each unit before they head home, according to Capt. Christine Lustila of the Joint Detention Operations Group.

Victory Dinners will be held after units transfer their authority to their incoming “replacement” unit and will officially commemorate “completion of mission,” according to Lustila. Dinners will be after hours at the Seaside Galley in Camp America. The food served will be, “… special, and a step above the usual dinner chow,” said Lustila. The current menu plan consists of chicken, steak, corn on the cob, and much more.

With the JTF leadership in attendance during these dinners, units will be handing out awards, socializing, and reflecting on the memories they’ve made together during their time here in Guantanamo. All in all, it should make for a great ending to a successful deployment.
Consistency is the key to this MP’s PT

Story & photo by Spc. George Allen

Spc. Frederick Dewey, a military policeman for the 785 MP Bn., achieved a perfect score in the Army Physical Fitness Test while deployed as part of JTF Guantanamo.

"I started off with a pretty low PT score in Basic Training, but I built it up," said Dewey. "I don't think I worked any harder than most people ... but consistency helped." He steadily improved through basic training, and his first PT score when he took the test with the 785th was around a 280, maxing the pushups and situps.

Here at Guantanamo, he's improved his run to achieve the 300. "Running [was] the one event I really had to work at. I worked hard to max that one," said Dewey. "I ran every day."

Dewey also said the key to improving your PT score is 'Quality over quantity.' "I never did many distance runs, but I did a lot of sprints ... and kept my runs at a pretty quick pace too." Going on four mile runs, but keeping his pace fast improved his speed and his run time, so that he could finish two-miles in the 13 minutes needed for a perfect score.

"He's a prime example of possessing self-motivation when it comes to physical fitness, especially when the 785th soldiers are dispersed widely across the JTF and are not able to come together as a unit for organized PT," said 1st Sgt. Joseph Haddad, 1st Sergeant for the 785th MP Bn.

Spc. Frederick Dewey, an MP with the 785 MP Battalion does some late-night PT to maintain his 300 Army Physical Fitness Test score.

Man on the Street

Compiled by Sgt. Benari Poulten & Sgt. Erin Crawley

This week’s question:

What have you learned about yourself while assigned as a member of JTF Guantanamo?

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class John Williams, Combat Camera

“I’ve learned that through perseverance, I can accomplish anything and I’ve learned how to be a part of a team, because teamwork always pays off in the end.”


“I’ve learned that no matter how good you think something is, it is still not perfect, and there is always room for improvement.”

Cpl. Julius Clinton, 344th MP Co.

“I’ve learned that my wife, my four kids and I have a strong relationship, and that we can deal with anything that comes our way.”

Spc. Staus Sienicki, 438th MP Co.

“I’ve learned how to adapt to change and how to put others before myself.”

Spc. Justin Mitchell, 300th MP Bde.

“I’ve learned that I can be separated from my family, and still do my best, even in stressful situations.”
Chaplain’s Corner

By CH (LTC) Herb Heavner
JTF Guantanamo Command Chaplain

“Hey, I am going home soon!” “I can’t wait till I get home!” Those statements and many like them are probably the most repeated around TK housing and Seaside Galley these days. Everywhere you go people are talking about going home. At the same time many of our JTF-ers are expressing concern about going home: “I wonder if I will have a job left when I get home?” “Will my son recognize me when I get home, he was only 5 months old when I left?” During the Deployment Cycle Support (DCS) training program these and many other similar questions are being asked. Perhaps the concerns most often expressed for our panel discussions are questions about jobs and about family relationships.

It is common to worry about those and other similarly serious issues when anticipating a time of transition and change. Most of the JTF will get through the return to the homeland with little or no problems. Most will adjust very quickly and will be so glad to get back home that any challenges will be either ignored or shoved under the rug for another day of discussion. Whether you fall on the side of those who will experience relatively little trauma in this transition, or on the side of those who will go through some real stress over this transition, one thing is clear—we all will experience change. And change can be tough without some base upon which to stand. It is important to find one thing that can pull you through the good and the challenge of change. That source of strength can be and for many is the power of the Almighty.

For me that source of strength is God. I know that without Him I am nothing. I know that without His strength I am totally weak. I know that without His leadership I am totally stupid. I know that without His wisdom, I will make a fool of myself every day. Given those facts I realize how important that I find a way to draw from the resources of God in order that I find strength, and leadership, and wisdom. The way that I do that is through exercising the activity of prayer in my life. Through prayer I receive God’s strength. Through prayer God’s leadership shows me the path that is best to travel. Through prayer God’s wisdom is revealed to me.

For those who are preparing to go home soon I would encourage you to discover the value of prayer in your life. For those who will be here for a while, I would encourage you to discover the value of prayer in your life. For any of the rest of you, I would encourage you to discover the value of prayer in your life. The old saying is still true: “Prayer changes things.” Let prayer change you.

Prayer Breakfast

Featured guest speaker CH(COL)Doug Lee, USARC chaplain from Fort McPherson, Ga., will be at the Seaside Galley, July 25th at 6:45 a.m. to lift your spirits.

According to CH (LTC) Herb Heavner, JTF Guantanamo Command Chaplain, “CH Lee is one of the key leaders in the Army today, especially for the Guard and Reserve. He is very aware of the issues that are on the minds and hearts of today’s service members. His communication style is outstanding, and his ability to relate to service members on their level is equally impressive.”
The Grand Opening of Club Survivor last Friday was a total success! Take the best view in town, combine it with perfect weather, a fabulous sunset, some good grub and spirits, and it is no wonder that it was standing room only.

Club Survivor will be open weekly Thursday through Saturday nights from 5 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Additionally, when major sporting events arise such as Monday Night Football, the World Series, NASCAR, etc., Club Survivor will be open during those times.

1st Sgt. Joseph Haddad, the project manager for Club Survivor said it will also be available for unit parties.

To add to the amazing view, there’s volleyball (sand is on the way), horse shoes and of course good company. It’s the perfect ending to a stressful day. Picture this – get your chow ‘to go’ at Seaside Galley, then mosey on over to Club Survivor. Sit down on the patio, have something to drink … relax and enjoy.

Compiled by Spc. Alan Lee Knesek

The tournament is a four player best ball scramble being held on July 26, 2003. Each player will hit their ball and the team can choose the best shot to play from. Each player will then hit their ball from where the chosen shot landed, and continue this throughout the tournament.

For a small fee, each team has the opportunity to improve their putting ability. Five dollars will buy the team a 10-foot piece of string, which can be used to move the ball closer to the hole. For example, while the string cannot be used as a putt that sinks the ball in the cup, the string can be used to move the ball closer to the hole. The 10 feet of string can only be used once, but can be used in any combination of lengths (i.e. 4+4+2; 5+5; or all 10 feet at once).

Each team will be required to use at least two drives off the tee from each team member during the tournament. Strategy will be a factor in using player’s shots.

Cooks will prepare hamburgers and hotdogs for lunch and dinner, and a drink cart will be available to the players on the course during play. Ten free sets of clubs will be available for junior enlisted folks, and the remainder of the contestants will pay a rental fee of $5 for clubs. Carts will be $10 ($5 per player).

Sign up at the G. J. Denich Gym. There will be a cap of 144 players, so sign up early. Deadline for signing up is 4 p.m. on July 24.

Depending on the turn out, there will be a morning tee off time (8 a.m.) and an evening tee off time (1 p.m.) to accommodate shift workers and a large number of participants.

There will be prizes for first through third place teams, two longest drives holes, two closest to the pin holes and one last place finish trophy!

For more information call 2193 or stop by the Base Gym.
**On the Mark**

**Boy did I pick the wrong sport!**

*By Sgt. Bob Mitchell*

When I was a kid, I always dreamed of becoming a big league baseball player. I had a great coach in my dad, who played minor league baseball in the Yankees' farm system. I pitched 13 no-hitters before I stepped into high school. The future was bright. Unfortunately, it all came apart when I hurt my arm pitching for the varsity as a freshman. Thereafter, I concentrated on football. I was good enough to play in college but not in the NFL.

Why the history lesson on a dream that never came true? Because I played the wrong sport. Too bad my dad didn’t play golf and teach me the game. I have no regrets about learning the game of baseball from a guy I consider to be the greatest man I have ever known. It’s just that golfers make GREAT money.

It’s no secret that Tiger Woods has made more than $4 million dollars so far this year, and is in second place on the PGA money list. Poor guy is having an off year.

In fact, the top 40 players have all made more than $1 million dollars in 2003. Don’t forget, it’s only July.

Dean Wilson, number 83 on this year’s money list, has earned a little more than $500,000. Peter Jacobsen, who visited Guantanamo Bay recently, is listed at number 122 with $302,970 in his pocket to date this year. You would have to go all the way down to number 184 (Matthew Goggin) to find a golfer who has not made at least $100,000 this year. You never see his name mentioned in the same breath with the game’s greats, but he still makes six figures.

I should have had the foresight to play golf when I was young. Boy did I pick the wrong sport.

**Sports Highlights**

*Summary by Sgt. Bob Mitchell*

Boris Becker has become the second youngest man to be inducted into the Tennis Hall of Fame. The 35-year old won a total of six major tournaments, including three at Wimbledon, two at the Australian Open and one at the U.S. Open. The only Grand Slam tournament the German did not win was the French Open. The youngest player in the Hall of Fame is Bjorn Borg, who was inducted in 1987 at the age of 31.

From the hard court to the backcourt, there is good news for New Jersey Nets fans. Jason Kidd has agreed to a long-term contract with the Nets, after turning down an offer from the San Antonio Spurs. Kidd will earn $99 million over the next six seasons. The talented point guard has led New Jersey to two consecutive conference titles and a pair of NBA championship series.

On the links, Tiger Woods remains atop the World Golf Rankings. He is among five Americans who are ranked in the top 10. His fellow countrymen include Jim Furyk (4), Davis Love III (6), David Toms (7) and Phil Mickelson (8). Woods is also number two on the PGA money list with $4,252,420 in tournament winnings this year.

The Los Angeles Dodgers made a couple of moves during the All-Star break in an attempt to improve their substandard offensive output. First they signed 44-year old Rickey Henderson, who is the all-time major league leader in stolen bases and leadoff home runs. The Dodgers also picked up hard-hitting Jeromy Burnitz from the New York Mets for a trio of minor leaguers.

**Head to head ... What is your favorite sport?**

*Story & photos by Sgt. Bob Mitchell*

For the first time, Head to Head poses a question to women in uniform. Sports (and sporting views) are definitely not restricted to guys, so this week we feature the opinions of a pair of ladies from the 984th Military Police Company, Pfc. Jennifer Diemer and Pfc. Johnyae Nicholas.

Diemer’s fancy lies on the gridiron. She thinks football is the ONLY game, while other sports like basketball are for wimps. “I like football,” she said. “I grew up around it. My brothers always played football and it just kind of became my favorite. It also helped me bond with my brothers. It was our happy medium.”

On the other side of the coin, Nicholas thinks hoops is all that. What appeals to her most is that basketball is a game in which one’s skills have to be developed. “Basketball is something you have to practice at to be good,” she said. “I played in high school. I like running the plays and taking something you learn over and over again and putting it together. You have to develop the skill to shoot the ball, run the plays, and work as a team. It’s good competition.”

Nicholas has equal disdain for anything other than hoops. “I like it better than football because football just takes muscles and being able to run over people,” she said. “Other sports just aren’t as exciting.”
**JTF SPORTS & FITNESS**

**Kickin’ it into gear with the summer soccer league**

*Story & photo by Spc. Alan Lee Knesek*

During one of Friday’s summer league soccer games, the Hospital team, comprised of JTF and NAVBASE service members, went head to head against the Island Mechanics and lost four goals to one. The Hospital team had won the prior week, but wasn’t able to pull off another win during Friday’s game.

Army Sgt. Karlos Padilla, 806th AG Co. Postal Detachment, kicked in hospital’s one goal during a free kick after he was tripped up during his approach to the net.

The captain of the team, Lt. Cmdr. Fred Schmitz, Naval Hospital, has high expectations of his team in the upcoming matches, despite their loss Friday.

“I think we’re going to shape up well. We had a good showing last week … there’s a lot of strong talent out there and I think we’re in the middle of the pack,” said Schmite.

With only three more games left in the season, the Hospital team will have to give each game their all if they want to take first place this season.

Their next game will be Friday at 6 p.m. at Cooper Field, located behind the G. J. Denich Gym parallel to Sherman Avenue. All soccer games are held on Friday and Saturday nights from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., so come and watch as the season progresses and the intensity picks up.

**Steamers squeeze another one out**

*Story & photo by Spc. Alan Lee Knesek*

The Cleveland Steamers, consisting of JTF members from various staff sections, shut down Hospital last night with their eight to three win in the sixth inning during the summer softball league. Hospital put up a good fight, but despite their valiant effort, they fell short when the Steamers stepped up to the plate.

The Steamers were in the lead for most of the game, but pulled away early, scoring four of their eight runs in the first inning. Hospital took the steam out of the Steamers in the second and third inning, scoring two runs to close the gap. The Steamers followed suit and rallied to score another four runs in the last three innings.

Hospital scored one more run, but it was not enough to catch the Steamers from claiming another victory. The Steamers couldn’t continue their streak during Wednesday’s game against the GTMO Lite. Their record thus far is four wins and two loss.

**Racquetball Tournament**

The JTF MWR is holding a racquetball tournament on the 19th and 20th of July 2003.

*For more information contact Staff Sgt. Martinez at 3670 or 3640.*

**Nine Ball Tournament**

*July 30, 2003 at the Liberty Recreation Center*

Games begin at 7 p.m. and there is no entry fee.

Trophies awarded to top three places.
Sgt. Theodore Perry
785th M P Battalion

The backbone of J-4’s warehouse

Q: What is it that you do for the JTF?
A: I receive all of the supplies that come to the JTF (expendable and non-expendable). We process the orders, find out where they go, and then we make sure it gets to the right people.

Q: Have you been to college?
A: Yes. I was in my first year at Baker College before we deployed. I’d like to teach U.S. History at an elementary school.

Q: Why did you join the Army Reserve?
A: I finished four years of active duty in field artillery and decided to get out. After a year, I really missed the camaraderie and being part of the military. In the military, when you’re working in a unit or section, you become very tight as a group. You have to work together to go above and beyond and accomplish the mission. Everybody moves as one.

Q: What kinds of goals have you set for yourself during this deployment?
A: I just want to make a difference here. The warehouse is running much better than when we first got here, and I want to continue to improve the warehouse operation. I’m also the Hazardous Material Noncommissioned Officer for the JTF, and all of the inspections have gone very well … That’s been a major goal too.

Q: What have you done to help the warehouse improve?
A: My major contribution has been teaching my subordinates the things that I know so that they can run the warehouse in my absence. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

Q: What have you learned about yourself during this deployment?
A: I’ve learned to be more conscious of money since I’ve been working in supply here. We’re accountable for costs … everyone from the officer-in-charge all the way down to the privates.

Q: What will you miss most about JTF Guantanamo?
A: That’s easy … the people. I’ve had the pleasure to work with some really good people, and I’ve really enjoyed working in a Joint Task Force environment. It’s been a challenge, but we’ve had the opportunities to learn from other services and them from us. This is a rare and great opportunity for all involved to learn how to do things differently.

Q: How has your experience here changed you?
A: It’s made me appreciate what I have at home a whole lot more. Working in the warehouse here will also be a benefit to my employer when I get back because I’m so much more conscious of the budget and working with other sections.

Q: What has been your most significant challenge here and how’d you rise to meet that challenge?
A: The biggest challenge would be working with the other branches of service because we all do things differently. Our chain of command has been very flexible with respect to how the warehouse is run, and that has allowed us to find the best way to run it for all of us.