Troopers backbone of detainee operations

By Spc. Ian Shay
JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

State of the art technology and high-speed corrections training are just two of the important aspects of detainee operations inside Camp Five. Camp Five is a maximum-security detention and interrogation facility modeled after a facility in Miami, Indiana. The facility is designed to minimize detainee movement.

Camp Five is unique in many ways from the other four camps. It holds detainees from all levels, and each cell has a sprinkler system, as well as a climate controlled environment. Camp Five contains four wings each with two floors, two showers on each floor and two interrogation rooms.

The camp is monitored from a control center, which operates all door locks, cameras and any other operations in the building.

Technology is very important in any facility, but the Troopers from 189th MP Company, which was the first unit stood up specially for detainee operations, are the real benefit to the system.

“This camp has some of the best technology I’ve ever seen, it’s really clean, and well maintained. The government has spent their money well,” said Spc. Cash, Camp Five guard.

Cash and Army Sgt. Moore, sergeant of the guard at Camp Five, are two of the many Troopers who help maintain safe and structured operations inside Camp Five.

Cash has three years of corrections background and has worked in every GTMO camp. “You have to use interpersonal communications and meet the detainees where they are. We’re not here to judge them, we’re here to meet their needs to survive, prevent them from hurting themselves and staff, and to work all problems up the chain of command,” said Cash.

Most of the guards have gone through extensive corrections training and have a corrections background, but there are many differences between corrections in a prison and detainee operations.

“Prisoners are more compliant, prisoners (in military jails) already have had a judgment passed; we’re just here to watch over the detainees,” said Cash.

Moore has spent nine years of his corrections career at Fort Leavenworth and also notices the comparisons between corrections in the U.S. and detention operations at GTMO.

“I think the big difference is the inmates back home have one common connection and some form of discipline. Here, there is a language barrier and sometimes an interpreter has to be involved,” said Moore.

There are many advantages to working in a small field like corrections, said Moore. “Most of us have worked together in other places, so it doesn’t take as long to get things done...You have to be able to trust those people. You have to be able to anticipate what’s going to happen, you have to read emotions, pick out the indicators and defuse them. I am 100 percent confident with all of our guys,” said Moore.

For Troopers working inside the camps, mental quickness plays a huge role when working with detainees. Moore said he must be able to rely on his guards to be able to handle problems on their own.

“Head games are a big factor. You have to be quick on your toes when an MP knows they’re being manipulated. My MPs are fast thinkers on their feet; the guards are able to deal with problems themselves,” said Moore.

All in all, the Troopers inside Camp Five are dedicated to playing their role in American history, by fighting the war on terrorism.

“I know that by keeping enemies off the front lines, that’s one less person for them to worry about,” said Moore.

“I know that by watching these individuals, it helps to secure our nation, which prevents them from carrying out future plans. If I can help that out, I know my little girl is safe,” said Cash.
When in doubt--do right

By Col. Michael Bumgarner
JDOG Commander

Last week while escorting a member of the media on a tour of Camp Delta, a reporter observed that every Trooper that passed me saluted, and with every Trooper came the verbal exchange of “Honor Bound” between us. The reporter asked me what it was all about. I explained that our motto in the JTF was “Honor Bound to Defend Freedom.” As with all reporters, it seems, my answer was not quite good enough. And she went further, wanting an explanation of the motto itself. “What does it really mean?” she asked. I gave her the best description I could come up with on a moment’s notice.

As I left her that day, I pondered her question more...about what our motto really meant. The second part of our motto, “To Defend Freedom,” I think we all understand...but what do we really mean by “Honor Bound”? I began to recall a discussion about honor that President Ronald Reagan gave I had listened to just a few months ago on a CD entitled “Reagan in His Own Voice.”

I would like to share the words of then-citizen Reagan, in a radio piece he gave in 1978. He titled it “Do Right.” It seems very fitting to me to share it with you.

Reagan’s piece begins with a bit of background describing what Charles Edison said about his father (Thomas Edison) when he was asked about advice for the youth of the day. Thomas Edison had replied, “Youth never takes advice.” Reagan then relates the words written by Charles Edison.

“Like my father, I doubt that my advice will be taken. Youth seems to like to learn the hard way--on the battlefield of their own experience. However, here are some thoughts derived from my travels through 73 years of life...The basic ingredient of my advice is a resurrection of honor. Honor, an old-fashioned word, but one that encompasses everything--duty, responsibility, knowledge and adherence to one’s heritage and traditions, respect for the eternal values. An honorable man can live a life free from fear. He knows his duties to his family, his community and his nation, and will exercise them to the best of his ability. He is aware of his responsibilities--first to himself and then to the world around him. He takes the trouble to learn his background--his family, his nation and his God--and uses this knowledge to enrich his own life and the life of all around him. The honorable man cherishes the heritage made available to him by his family, by the founding fathers of his nation and by thousands of years of history in which men strove for freedom and decency. He knows and respects the eternal values which have come to him from all these years and from all these peoples. A man’s honor is the greatest treasure he owns. It will make him rich beyond all dreams of avarice.

“And so, the essence of my advice is to seek out the meaning of honor and, once this is realized, to exercise honor as the basic force of life.”

I find the words so relevant to our situation in Guantanamo, and do firmly believe that a person’s honor is their greatest treasure.

Reagan closed with this very sound, “Reaganesque” advice, which was short, simple and easy to remember: “When in doubt--do right.”

Honor Bound To Defend Freedom! ■
The Return of the U.S. Cavalry to Cuba

By Army Staff Sgt. Angelo Almodovar
1/18th Cavalry Regiment

On June 14, the 1st Squadron, 18th U.S. Cavalry Regiment celebrated the return of the cavalry to Cuba with a “Formal Dining-In,” which took place at the Bayview Club here. Among the distinguished guests were Brig. Gen. Jay Hood, Brig. Gen. John Gong, Col. Michael Bumgarner and Col. Jane Anderholt.

Originated by the British Army in the 18th century, the formal dining-in is a cavalry tradition, which brings Troopers together in a social atmosphere to foster a spirit of team work, esprit de corps and to pass on squadron history and traditions. Part of that history happened here 107 years ago…

It was July 1, 1898, during the Cuban Campaign of the Spanish American War. Thousands of U.S. Troops of Maj. Gen. William Shafter’s Fifth Army Corps fought in the battles surrounding Santiago, Cuba. Many Army senior leaders took part in what Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, who led the Rough Riders “charge up San Juan Hill,” called “a splendid little war.” Col. Leonard Wood commanded the 2nd Cavalry Brigade, which included the 6th, 10th and 11th Volunteer Cavalry Regiments. Captain “Black Jack” Pershing, who later became the Army’s Expeditionary Force Commander during World War I, was a troop commander in the 10th Cavalry, where he was awarded the Silver Star.

Rifles blaze and cannons roar. Horse hooves beat the ground like drums. Bugles blare and banners wave. A shout of, “Forward boys. Forward. Up the hill, follow me for God and Country.” The Buffalo Troopers of the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry and 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, the “Rough Riders,” storm the heights of Kettle Hill, El Caney and San Juan Hill.

Noted historian, Dr. Frank Schubert, writes of the American Troopers, “Regulars and volunteers, blacks and whites, fought side by side, endured the blistering heat and driving rain and shared food and drink as well as peril and discomfort. They forged a victory…”

Little known facts surrounding the rough riding 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry include leaving Florida in such haste that they left half of their troopers and all their horses. That’s right, the Rough Riders fought the famous battle of San Juan Hill as dismounted Cavalry…

Fast-forward 107 years to Easter morn-

ing, March 27, 2005. The “Swift and Deadly” Troopers of the 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry arrive in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, only 25 short miles from Santiago. Like the Rough Riders, we leave the United States through Florida, and we arrived with only half of our troops and without our horses. We fell in side by side with Regular Army Soldiers, and with the Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. The equipment and weapons have changed.

Our mounts are now gun trucks with machine guns. Our sabers are riot batons. Our carbines are M16 rifles. But our mission is the same: reconnaissance, security, attack and defend.

We, like the 1st US Volunteer Cavalry, are citizen soldiers: bankers, lawyers, policemen, carpenters, salesmen, cooks and painters. At the call of our country, we put down our hammers, picks, and shovels. We lay down our brushes, books and hardware. We kiss our families and say good-bye, then we put on our uniforms, pick up our weapons and join the fight.

Our country is fighting the Global War on Terrorism. The mission in Guantanamo Bay is a vital part of the war. The defense of our joint operational area is as real a fight today as the charge up San Juan Hill was 107 years ago.

The officers, noncommissioned officers and Troopers of the 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry are proud to spearhead, and to celebrate, the return of the U.S. Cavalry to Cuba. ■

Editor’s note: Staff Sgt. Almodovar is a unit public affairs representative (UPAR) for the 1/18th Cavalry.

Information about the history of the U.S. Cavalry was taken from the book, “A Splendid Little War” by C. Douglas Sterner and other online articles.
VA benefits for GTMO Troopers

By Spc. Dave Lankford
JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

As a member of the National Guard or Reserve, you may qualify for many of the same benefits as active duty service members. Finding out what you qualify for is as simple as knowing where to find information and who to ask.

Among the benefits offered by Veterans Affairs (VA) are health care, insurance, education, home loan guaranty and burial benefits. Troopers are dedicated to serving their country, so the VA is dedicated to serving veterans.

A Reserve or National Guard member who is, or has been, called to active duty may qualify for health benefits such as hospital or outpatient care, dental, pharmacy and prosthetic services. Later in life benefits, such as nursing home care and community living may apply. In addition, if you sustain injuries while on active duty that prevent you from continuing on in your civilian line of work, you may qualify for vocational rehabilitation and employment.

All Troopers deployed at Guantanamo Bay are enrolled in the Service members’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program. However, Troopers may also qualify for Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) or Family Group Life Insurance (FGLI).

Troopers here may also be eligible for up to 36 months of Montgomery GI Bill benefits. This money can be used to further your education at a college or trade school.

The VA will also guarantee a home loan for most veterans. This can be used to purchase a home, manufactured home, certain types of condominiums or to repair or refinance an existing home.

Finally, the VA may even cover your burial arrangements to include a gravesite in any one of 120 national cemeteries, perpetual care and a burial flag.

To find out if you qualify for these, or other benefits, check out the VA Web site at www.va.gov.

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At your service printing

By Spc. Jeshua Nace
JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Behind the McDonalds on the Navy side of Guantanamo Bay there is nondescript yet very important building. Most know it as the print shop, but it is actually a Document Automation and Printing Service (DAPS) affiliate, which does all the printing for the Gazette and The Wire. But their service isn’t exclusive to printing GTMO newspapers.

DAPS is a Defense Department agency under the Defense Logistics Agency, providing document automation and printing for the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy and other Federal agencies.

Leaders can use this service for many of their printing needs. DAPS can print business cards, black and white and color photos, SOPs, etc.

If something is needed, a DD Form 844 must be filled out, then taken to J-4 Supply, Building M611, next to the JTF Motor Pool at the base of Marine Hill. The DD Form 844 must be signed by J-4 and then brought to DAPS, Building 1842.

The print shop can process many different types of media. They accept e-mail, floppy disks, CDs, DVDs, and they can also download from the Internet. Hardcopies can also be scanned then printed.

The phone number for DAPS is 3339. DD Form 844 is available online at http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd0844.pdf.

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DAPS provides:

- Black and white and color printing up to 11 inches by 17 inches
- Data conversion to PDF/Microsoft Word
- SOP printing
- Cargo pocket size books
- Ranger handbooks
- Training manuals
- Petty Officer Indoctrination Course
- Two-sided laminating, up to 24 inches wide by six feet
- Business cards
- Stickers up to 8 ½ inches to 11 inches & much more
Boots on the Ground

Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica asked Troopers around JTF-GTMO...

How will the base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations affect you?

“I work for the Army Reserve as a technician, and my command may be realigned 400 miles away from my home. I don’t know if I will relocate.”

— Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Tunney, JTF PAO

“My new orders are for Ingleside, Texas, and they are on the list. I’ve just begun to build a new home there, and if they close, I will be forced to follow the command to San Diego. My family would end up staying in Texas. It’s very frustrating.”

— Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Pilc, Detention Hospital

“I am stationed at Naval Sub Base Groton, Conn., and my fiancée is stationed there as well. If the base closes, we might be separated and that would be hard.”

— Petty Officer 3rd Class Alison Kelly, NPGB

“I like being stationed at Groton, Conn. If it closes, it will not affect me that much. I will miss living close to my family.”

— Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan Blair, NPGB

Better than a 4-day pass
Good flick
Beats working
If you’re really bored
Not worth price of admission

From director Garth Jennings, is based on the first book in the Hitchhiker’s series by the late Douglas Adams, the movie follows the travels of Author Dent after the earth is destroyed to make room for an intergalactic freeway.

Dave

Being a fan of the original Hitchhiker’s series, I couldn’t wait to see the movie. I can’t say I was disappointed, because I wasn’t expecting much going in. Although there are several “Douglas Adams moments” in the movie, it just wasn’t enough.

Don’t get me wrong, it’s worth a can of bug spray to see Hitchhiker’s. For that matter, it’s worth it just to see Trillian, played by Zooey Deschanel. If you leave this movie thinking there is something about it you liked, but can’t put a finger on, then you’ve got to read the books. Oh yeah, and don’t forget your towel.

Deane

What can you say about The Hitchhiker’s guide to the Galaxy? I felt like I was stuck in a 3-year-old’s nightmare for an hour and a half. I even heard a couple of flies say to each other, “This movie is definitely manure, but it doesn’t taste the same.”

The other thing I have a problem with is that people keep telling me I have to read the books to understand it. This is called a movie review, not Oprah’s Book of the Month Club. There was nothing that could have saved this movie, not even a nuclear attack.

Too many things are thrown at you from different directions. I felt like I was sitting in a kindergarten class during make-believe time.

I give this movie some credit for special effects. I feel if someone is willing to throw away millions of dollars to make a crappy movie, he at least deserves one star for his effort.
Fish on! Master Sgt. Wayne Smith pulls in a keeper on the GTMO River.

Master Sgt. Wayne Smith holds up the catch of the day.

With near perfect aim, Navy Lt. j.g. Douglas Quinn casts into a school of bait fish.
If you love to fish, you’ve come to the right place. If you don’t love to fish, but think you might like to try it, you’ve definitely come to the right place. GTMO offers some of the best fishing in the world, and all you need to get started is a little know-how.

The bay and river at GTMO are filled with a wide variety of fish including tarpon, snapper, grouper and tuna. The trick is getting them from the water and into the boat.

The first thing you’ll need is fishing gear, also known as tackle. Fishermen at GTMO can find everything they need at the NEX. From $15 rod and reel combos, to $200 deep-sea reels, the NEX has it all. The beginner will want to start with a basic rod and reel, and at least 30-pound test fishing line. Squid works well as bait, however, for the more advanced fisherman, the NEX has a vast array of lures and artificial bait. If you’d like to try it before you buy it, MWR may have some tackle to loan out.

Army Master Sgt. Wayne Smith, J4 NCOIC, strongly recommends the use of steel leaders. “A lot of the fish out here have sharp teeth. They’ll bite your line in half on the first hit,” he said.

Smith loves to fish. Though just a few weeks ago he hauled in a 150-pound tarpon—possibly a record for GTMO—he feels the act of fishing itself is quite possibly as fun and relaxing, as the catch is exciting. “As long as I get a hook in the water, I’m happy,” said Smith.

Troopers at GTMO can fish from any public beach with the exception of Phillip’s Dive Pier. Be sure though, that there are no swimmers or divers in the area. For the more adventurous, training and testing for boat licensing is available at the MWR marina, as well as very reasonably priced boat rentals. Fishing is authorized anywhere the boat is authorized.

Though fishing from the shore can be fun and rewarding, Smith prefers to fish from a boat using a technique called trolling. He and his fishing partner, Navy Lt. j.g. Douglas Quinn, J4 food service and transportation officer, lower their lures into the water with the boat moving along at about five miles an hour, and watch the way the lure bobs and weaves, mimicking the motion of a real fish.

“Man, that (lure) looks good out there. You’d think something would come up and knock the he## out of that,” Smith said.

Looking over the stern and nodding in agreement, Quinn said, “I would if I were a fish.”

When fishing on the bay you want to keep an eye out for bait fish. Not only is it amazing to see thousands of tiny fish glittering just beneath the surface of the water, but bait fish will also lead you to the big fish.

After trolling the bay for a few hours with little luck, Smith’s crew decides to take a trip up the river. For Troopers accustomed to the dry, brown vegetation in and around Camp America, the GTMO River is a whole different world. The river is lined on both sides with lush green trees. Looking at the reflection on the calm water, one half expects to see Huck Finn float by on a raft wearing a straw hat and chewing on a stalk of wheatgrass.

“This is a great place to catch smaller tarpon,” explains Smith. “The young ones stay up river until they get a little bigger. Then they head out into open water.”

When fishing on the river, keep in mind it is a no-wake zone. So, keep your speed down and watch out for manatee.

The worst thing about a day of fishing at GTMO is that sooner or later, it has to come to an end. However, with every fishing trip more experience is gained, and with more experience comes more fish in the freezer. All you need to do is get a hook in the water and you’ll realize what fishermen have known for generations…a bad day of fishing always beats a good day at work.
Strikeouts benefit wounded troops

By Spc. Ian Shay
JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Strikeouts for Troops is a national project started by Oakland Athletics pitcher Barry Zito for the benefit of wounded troops at Walter Reed Army Hospital, Bethesda Naval Hospital, and other military hospitals.

Throughout the 2005 Major League Baseball season, Zito said he will donate $100 for every batter he strikes out. Strikeouts for Troops provides clothing, meals and entertainment to the wounded Troops.

“Many of our Soldiers are recovering in hospitals far from home and family. Strikeouts For Troops lets them know we are thinking of them and are trying to make their stay in the hospital a little more comfortable. In addition, it shows them that we are grateful for their tremendous sacrifices,” said Zito in an interview with the L.A. Daily News.

Zito, whose grandfather is a former five-star general in the Italian army, does not attribute starting the program to his family’s military background, but to his pride and patriotism.

The program is dedicated to providing funds for “comforts of home” items such as travel and lodging expenses for the families of the men and women who serve in the armed forces around the world, so they can be with their loved ones while they’re being treated for injuries received during service in Iraq, Afghanistan and other assignments.

At the beginning of the 2005 season, Zito invited other major league players to match his pledge to the troops. In doing so, pitchers Curt Schilling (Boston Red Sox) and C.C. Sabathia (Cleveland Indians), have joined his cause. So far this season, Zito has accrued 62 strikeouts, Schilling is at 20 and Sabathia has earned 53. The total earnings for the project this season have reached $21,895.

Atlanta Braves pitcher Tim Hudson and Washington Nationals pitcher Chad Cordeiro have signed onto the project and are doing their part to raise money for the injured troops and their families.

The effort is funded by contributions to the Strikeouts For Troops Fund at the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region. For more information visit the project website at www.cfncr.org.

Micro fit for maximum fitness

By Spc. Dave Lankford
JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Stars in Hollywood have been known to spend ridiculous amounts of money on fitness diagnostic testing and personal trainers. It’s their job to be fit; it’s what the public expects and demands. As members of the United States Armed Forces, fitness is expected of the Troopers at JTF-GTMO as well. What’s not expected, is that those stationed here pay an arm and a leg for it.

It’s for this reason the G.J. Denich gym at GTMO offers free Micro Fit Testing.

Micro Fit Testing gauges a Trooper’s total level of fitness by measuring flexibility, muscular strength, muscular endurance, cardiovascular fitness and body fat. Each category is scored as poor, needs work, fit or excellent. Once the test results are in, a personalized exercise plan can be tailored to meet individual fitness needs.

“The program had to be shut down for a while because of renovations going on at the gym, but we’ll get testing started again July 5th,” said Karissa Sandstrom, fitness director for MWR.

“Anyone with risk factors such as high blood pressure or a family history of heart disease, needs to get clearance from a doctor before getting tested. I won’t test anyone who may be at risk without seeing a note from their doctor first,” Sandstrom said.

Testing is done by appointment only and takes about 30 minutes. Those wanting to be tested are asked to not smoke or drink coffee for four hours prior to their appointment. In addition, applicants should wear comfortable shorts, T-shirt and running shoes, and female Troopers are asked not to wear underwire bras because it throws off the monitors, Sandstrom said.

To take that first step toward optimal fitness, make an appointment for Micro Fit testing by calling 2195 or 5576 today.
**GTMO in Media Crosshairs**

By Spc. Timothy Book  
JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

It would be difficult to miss the fact that Guantanamo Bay is in the media spotlight at the moment.

Some of video clips shown on the TV news stations are old and outdated, and were shot at Camp X-Ray long before Camp Delta was completed. The stories are also outdated. Many involve actions suspected to have happened over two years ago, and most of that information comes from accounts from released detainees.

It would appear the media are not given access to Guantanamo Bay, but that is far from reality.

"Arguably, no detention facility in the history of warfare has been more transparent or received more scrutiny than Guantanamo," said Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld at a Pentagon news briefing June 14. Since January, 37 reporters from 32 media outlets have visited and toured the camps here.

"I would gladly invite the world to see what we’re doing here," said Army Col. Mike Bumgarner, commander of Joint Detention Operations Group. "I am proud, and I think every American would be also, of the professionalism these guards show every day."

Obviously, the media can’t just fly down here on their own and start taking photos and interviewing people, but with proper credentials, they can come if they contact the JTF Public Affairs Office.

On June 15, a newspaper reporter and a magazine reporter who did go through PAO toured Camp Delta.

They were briefed by Wendy, JTF Operations Security Program manager, on what could be photographed. They were introduced to Bumgarner and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Mendez, JDOG Command Sgt. Major, who escorted and briefed them throughout the tour.

The group entered the compound and first visited a block that was not occupied by detainees. The reporters were given the opportunity to photograph a couple of cells, which had items the detainees are permitted to have laid out on the beds. Mendez pointed out which items every detainee has and showed the comfort items that could be earned with good behavior.

The reporters were next shown a recreation area that is typical for Camps Two and Three. During that time, a detainee from another block, who was outside for his recreation time, noticed the reporters and started shouting allegations of abuse and mistreatment.

"He’s just trying to make trouble," said Mendez. "That’s typical for the ones that are in Camps Two and Three."

Bumgarner told the reporters that detainees in Camp One usually don’t try to cause trouble, but in Camps Two and Three, they look for any excuse to be disruptive.

Mendez later explained to the reporters that most of the organizations some detainees were previously involved with trained them to make false allegations of abuse and to employ other means of disrupting the enemy, if caught.

The tour advanced to Camp Four, where detainees can earn the ability to have more recreation time, more comfort items, and live in a somewhat self-sufficient manner. The detainees are also able to wear white clothing, which is considered an honor to them.

The reporters were given the opportunity to photograph some of the detainees in Camp Four, as long as the photos did not show any faces. The detainees noticed the journalists, and their reaction was more one of curiosity than contempt. Others simply chose to go into their rooms.

Here, at the most populated camp in the facility, the media is able to observe detainees playing ping-pong, walking in groups of two and talking with one another. A few photos and a few notes were taken by the reporters.

The writers were then shown Camp Five, which is a maximum-security and interrogation facility. An empty cell was toured, as was an interrogation room. In the interrogation room, Mendez was asked by a reporter if the interrogators give instructions to the guards with regard to how a detainee should be treated. “We don’t work for the interrogators, and they don’t work for us,” he said.

The tour ended there, but the journalists were given further time to get information for their stories. Bumgarner and Mendez handled additional questions in an air-conditioned bus.
Chaplain’s Leadersip Journal Perspective

By Navy Lt. Bruce Crouterfield
JTF-GTMO Chaplain’s Office

In his book, “How Life Imitates the World Series,” Dave Bosewell tells the story of Earl Weaver and Reggie Jackson. Weaver was the coach of the Baltimore Orioles when Jackson was playing. As the coach, Weaver had a rule: no one could steal a base unless he was given the sign by Weaver. But Weaver’s rule didn’t set well with Reggie Jackson.

Jackson felt confident in his ability to steal second base. He felt he knew the pitchers and the catchers on the teams he played against; he felt he knew their ability.

During one game, Jackson got a base hit. He recognized the pitcher and the catcher on the other team and he felt sure he could successfully steal second. Without receiving a signal from Earl Weaver, Jackson timed his run and beat the pitcher’s throw and effectively stole second base.

When the inning was over, Weaver called Jackson aside and asked why he stole the base without getting the sign. Jackson explained his reasoning, but Weaver pointed out that Lee May, the strongest batter on the team after Jackson, was up to bat next, and they walked him. In effect, Jackson had taken the bat out of May’s hands disallowing a chance for a home run. The batter after May had a poor record against the pitcher and Weaver had to bring in his pinch-hitter early, disallowing hitting strength that might be needed later in the game.

Jackson’s problem was that his perspective included only his relationship with the pitcher and catcher. But Weaver’s perspective was on the big picture and included everyone.

Effective leaders have a big-picture perspective and they make decisions and assignments accordingly. People who conduct their lives with the right perspective make the right decisions.

Workers spend Father’s Day in Camp America

On Father’s Day there was a mass at the Trooper’s Chapel in Camp America, and as a small token of friendship to the many fathers working here that are a long way away from their children, small gift bags were taken to the Filipino workers (and any other fathers that were there) by JTF linguists and members of the Catholic Choir.
By Spc. Jeshua Nace

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Navy Lt. Robert McGill saw a detainee seriously attack another detainee inside of Camp One. Instead of waiting for backup to help rescue the detainee from being beaten, he ordered his men to go in. Through his actions, McGill saved a life and received a Joint Service Achievement Medal.

How long have you been in the Navy?
16 years.

Why did you join the Navy?
I joined out of high school. I just didn’t have anything to do, and I didn’t have the grades to go to college at the time.

Were you enlisted?
I was enlisted for eight and a half years. I was a submarine machinist mate.

What did you do prior to coming here?
I’m a flight instructor at the Jacksonville Naval Air station with the VPVQ (Navy Patrol Squadron and Navy Reconnaissance Squadron). We train navigators and pilots and bring them up to par on navigation, flying skills and tactics. We’re their last stop before they enter the fleet.

What kinds of planes do you fly?
P-3 Orion and EP-3 Aries II.

How did you get involved in detention operations?
Well, the Southeast Region and the States were looking for two nominees. My skipper came to me after talking to Rear Adm. Brown. At first they said I wasn’t going to go, but then on the day of the Super Bowl, I found out I was coming down here.

What is your job at GTMO?
Officer in charge of Camp One, and I’m also the Charlie Company commander.

What unit are you a part of?
Navy Provisional Guard Battalion.

Is this your first deployment?
No, I’ve made numerous deployments, but this is my first deployment to a detention center. I’ve deployed to the North Sea twice. I was part of a two-man deployment to Afghanistan. I went to Iraq, Bahrain, and Kenya, also to Curacao and Columbia.

How do you feel about doing a heroic act?
I really don’t feel I did a heroic act, actually. To me, I did be an unsafe situation, and they followed my orders anyway. So I think they deserve more credit and should have gotten an award, rather than myself.

What have you learned since being here?
Patience, patience…The big thing about GTMO is that you need to be patient. You also get to work with different branches and different types of people. Some days it’s stressful and some days are easy.

What advice could you give to others in your situation?
Decisions are sometimes hard to make, even though we have excellent SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) that we live by -- and instructions -- they are just a general guideline. Sometimes you have to think outside the box… You have to use your head and think with your heart and decide what the right thing to do is. Always do the right thing, that is what is most important.

What is your goal after leaving here?
After leaving GTMO, I’m going to the USS Kittyhawk in Japan for my disassociated sea tour. Hopefully, I’d like to retire as a captain, maybe a Navy one-star. That’s a few years down the road.

Spc. Joshua Dutton, a Gator mechanic with the 525th MP Battalion, re-enlists during a ceremony June 7.

Employees of Pentad serve a special Father’s Day meal at the Seaside Galley. The meal included grilled steak and fried shrimp as well as a decorated cake.