

THE WIRE

A News Magazine



Port Security Unit 313
BSCU Update

Take the 'house rules' back home with you

By Army Sgt. Maj.
Angel Alvarado

JTF Joint Detention Group

One year ago we received during our newcomers briefing a lot of information about the need for operational security in all Joint Task Force Guantanamo environments. Now many of us are phasing out, going back home and the incoming Troopers that are coming here to work in this environment are beginning to receive all briefings according to JTF Guantanamo regulations. I don't work for the intelligence sections, but I love my family, friend and my circle of influence.

We are going back home and everyone likes to hear our war stories and it's possible that you like to talk about yours, too. One thing I'd like to reinforce about the war stories comes from a saying the old men in my country used to say: "You are owner of every thing you keep to yourself and slave of everything you say." Your family doesn't need to know everything about your mission. They know what they need to know, which is where you are and that you are back home.

You've done a great job with maximum transparency. You've been respectful of the detainees in your charge. Let that be recorded for history. Don't compromise your family, friends and circle of influence by sharing operational information. The ultimate goal of operational security is increased mission effectiveness and safety for everyone. This is the responsibility



of everyone. Leaders and Troopers have to stay focused on the mission. Leaders must take every opportunity to better train our forces for future challenges in the ever evolving war on terror. Operational security is part of our training and integral to our mission.

Our success now is a direct reflection of multiple leaders setting standards and implementing plans over time that are in effect today. Compromises to operational security could undermine these standards and plans and necessitate changes that could negatively affect newly arrived Troopers.

Protect yourself, your family, fellow Troopers, your mission and your country. The world is watching you. Keep up the good work. Thank your families for their support and sacrifice in service and love of our country. It is their willingness to support us that allows us to continue keeping America safe.

JTF GUANTANAMO

Commander:

Navy Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby

Joint Task Force CMC:

Navy Command Master Chief
Brad LeVault

Office of Public Affairs:

Director:

Navy Cmdr. Rick Haupt: 9928

Deputy:

Army Lt. Col. Edward Bush: 9927

Supervisor:

Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen: 3649

The Wire

Executive Editor:

Army Capt. Kevin Cowan: 3596

Editor:

Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker: 3651

Assistant Editor:

Army Sgt. Scott Griffin: 3594

Layout and Design:

Army Sgt. Jody Metzger: 2171

Staff Writers:

Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing: 3589

Army Spc. Shanita Simmons: 3589

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class

Cheryl Dilgard

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class

William Weinert: 3592

Contact us:

Base Information: 2000

Public Affairs Office: 3651 or 3596

From the continental United States:

Commercial: 011-53-99-3651

DSN: 660-3651

Email: TheWIRE@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

ONLINE: www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

COVER:

A member of Port Security Unit 313 mans his weapon while on patrol Jan. 17. PSU 313 is tasked with protecting Guantanamo's waterways and shorelines. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)



The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regards to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by the Document Automation & Production Service with a circulation of 1000.

PSU 313 secures Gitmo waterways and shoreline



Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Daviel O'Neill, Seaman Brent Erwin and Petty Officer 3rd Class William Proctor man their weapons as coxswain Petty Officer 2nd Class Chris Bentley propels their 'Viper' through the bay, Jan. 17. Their crew is part of Port Security Unit 313 from Tacoma, Wash. which is charged with protecting Guantanamo waterways and coastline.

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Joint Task Force Guantanamo requires many different commands to carry out its unique mission. Each of these different groups brings with them various talents and specialties of their services. One of the task force's more visible units patrols Guantanamo's waters, working tirelessly to keep the waterways and coastline secure.

The hard working men and women of Port Security Unit 313 have carried out this crucial anti-terrorism mission since early December.

During the course of their around-the-clock operations, PSU 313 may be found patrolling the open ocean south of the bay or performing Marine insertions in remote parts of the bay thus aiding the Marines in the execution of their force protection missions.

Other missions include providing bay security during commissions procedures and transporting migrants picked up at sea by Coast Guard Cutters to the migrant operations facility on Guantanamo's leeward side.

The primary piece of equipment used to perform these various missions is the heavily armed and highly man-euverable 25 ft. Troop Portable Security Boat – a lightweight Boston Whaler with twin 175 h.p. engines, sometimes referred to as a 'Viper' boat.

"We brought a complement of 25 ft. Boston Whalers

with us that are heavily armed with crew-served weapons," said the unit's operations officer, Lt. Jeffery Engel.

The open-cockpit boats give the crewmen an advantage over the covered boats used by past units. The open design provides the crew with a full range of view.

"When you've got crew-served weapons onboard, they can address a target a lot quicker and a lot easier with the open view," said Engel.

Soon the unit will be getting some new Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats in mid-February to augment the Boston Whalers already on hand. These new boats will be adapted for the multiple missions of the PSU and add greater flexibility to the unit's force protection capabilities.

Prior to the unit's arrival here, PSU 313 underwent extensive training at the Coast Guard's Special Mission Training Center at Camp Lejeune, N.C. During this time, boat crewmen brushed up on coxswain – or boat driver – performance tasks and received specialized training in tactical maneuvers, navigation and suspicious vessel approaches.

At their home port in Tacoma, Wash., the unit is comprised of approximately 140 members. Of those 140, a little under half are here working the Bay with additional Coastguardsmen arriving soon to aid in the multifaceted anti-terrorism force protection mission. A small contingent of PSU Coastguardsmen will remain in the Tacoma area to continue the unit's homeport mission.

Hard work of BSCT validated by peers



A Trooper from the JTF Behavioral Sciences Consultation Team briefs other Troopers on communication techniques to be more effective in handling day-to-day duties inside Camp Delta.

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The negative spotlight placed on psychologists assigned to military detention facilities in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba has now dimmed after the American Psychological Association showed support for the work performed by its colleagues.

Although a small group of psychologists continue to argue that the use of their colleagues in such environments is immoral and unethical, the APA rejected these accusations by voting down a proposal that called for their removal from military detention facilities. Army Col. Larry James, director of the Behavioral Science Consultation Team here, attended the APA convention in August to help educate his colleagues on the important role psychologists play within the military. When the proposal was voted down, James said he received the validation he had hoped for from his colleagues.

“From a moral standpoint, it is always good to feel that not only do you have the support of your loved ones when

you are deployed forward, but you also have the support of your professional peers around the country,” said James. “It’s clear given the vote at the APA convention that there is overwhelming support for psychologists who wear the uniform all around the world in defense of this nation.”

James, a military psychologist for the past 22 years, arrived in Guantanamo Bay in June 2007 for his second deployment with the BSCT. Prior to this deployment, he served as the deputy director of BSCT here from January 2003 to May 2003. He and his team, which includes another licensed psychologist and a behavioral science specialist, work with leaders within the Joint Detention Group and the Joint Intelligence Group to perform two different but equally important missions.

James said his team works with the JDG to help ensure that Troopers have the knowledge and skills necessary to properly manage difficult detainees. By walking through the camps and observing interactions between guards and detainees, the BSCT is able to make suggestions on how to further

improve the communication process. In addition, the BSCT works with interrogators assigned to the Joint Intelligence Group by monitoring their interactions with detainees and providing feedback on how they can strengthen their repertoire-building techniques.

Although the BSCT team has gone through several iterations since its inception in summer 2002, James said its objectives remain the same – to read behavior, look for clues on how to improve communication and to teach techniques on how to manage uncooperative detainees.

“It is not unusual to see myself or a member of my team walking around the camps observing and interacting with the guards, interrogators and analysts. We provide them with feedback by coaching, mentoring and helping to improve their interactions with the detainees,” said James. “The BSCT does not have any command authority over the interrogators or the guards. However, we work with them on a consulting basis where they will

Continued on page 13

U.S. Global Security Affairs officer tours JTF

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Cheryl Dilgard

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Security Affairs visited Guantanamo Bay, Jan. 23, to monitor the progress of the Expeditionary Legal Complex and review detainee operations as part of his managerial duties.

The Hon. Joseph Benkert was particularly pleased with both the remarkable progress of the ELC construction and the state-of-the-art technological modifications to the existing commissions courtroom since he last visited in February 2007.

“To me what is most interesting and noteworthy is the progress since I was here less than a year ago,” said Benkert. “I think it’s just striking.”

Benkert stressed that construction of ELC, due to be completed later this spring, is fundamental to the government’s intention to fairly and efficiently prosecute accused enemy combatants through the military commissions process.

“In order to continue to hold military commissions and prosecute detainees we must have the facilities to accommodate that objective. Due to this need the ELC was conceived and is being built. The new facility will be able to handle more legal transactions at one time offering

a secure environment for all involved,” Benkert said.

Security is a theme that resonated strongly with Benkert. He noted the ongoing significance of the overall Joint Task Force Guantanamo mission: to provide safe and humane care and custody of detained enemy combatants.

“The mission here at JTF Guantanamo is extraordinarily important, because it is a key component of our ability to fight the Global War on Terror. It is important to take individuals off the battlefield who intend to do us great harm,” said Benkert.

Benkert was careful to emphasize that fundamental to the proper care and welfare of these enemy combatants is the institution and application of legal processes – in accordance with our values, obligations and international law – that result in continued detention, transfer to other countries or prosecution through military commissions proceedings.

Ongoing JTF Guantanamo operations to expedite U.S. government decisions regarding individual detainees have not gone unnoticed by Benkert.

“In the past year over 100 detainees in Guantanamo were transferred to other places. All this is very encouraging,” said Benkert.

Benkert became the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global

Security Affairs in December 2006 upon the establishment of the Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Security Affairs.

The Global Security Affairs office is responsible for defense-related issues concerning building the capability of partners and allies; coalition affairs; technology security policy; security cooperation; counter-narcotics, counter-proliferation, and countering global threats; detainee affairs; and POW/MIA issues.



Lt. Col. James Starnes, commander of the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, escorts the Hon. Joseph Benkert, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Security Affairs, through Camp Justice and the Expeditionary Legal Complex. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Sanchez)



Army Brig. Gen. Cameron Crawford, deputy commander of JTF Guantanamo, greets Benkert at Guantanamo's Leeward Airfield. While here, Benkert reviewed ELC construction progress and ongoing JTF detainee operations. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Sanchez)

A Packer fan freezes... looks toward next year

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Todd Wideman

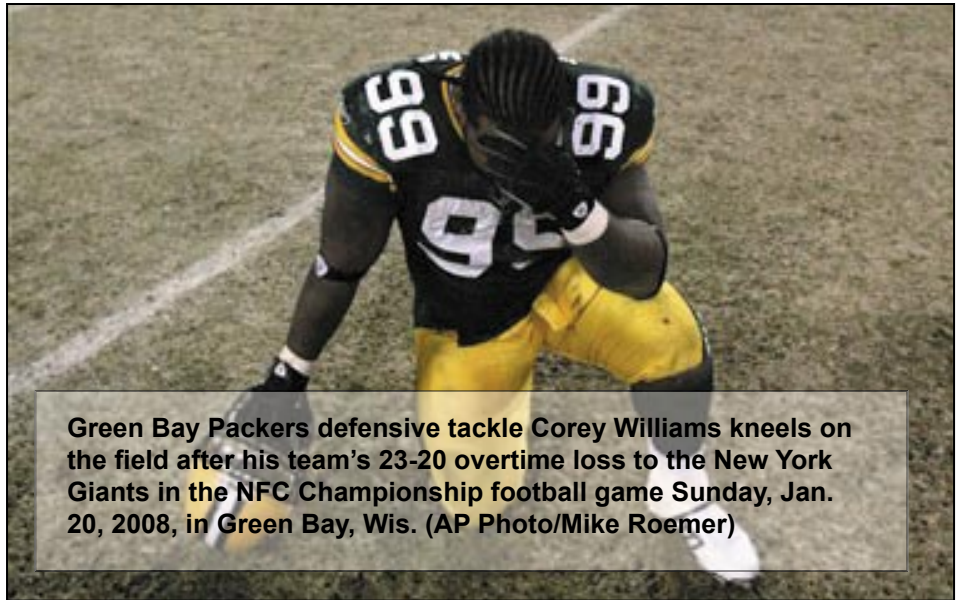
Wisconsin Army National Guard

I woke up Sunday morning in Wisconsin to my wife laughing over her cup of coffee and pointing to the thermometer in the kitchen. “It actually warmed up in the last hour”, she said. I think she was more excited to see if I would actually venture out in minus 20 degrees, than I was to actually start piling on layers to go and pick up the guys for the game. When I left the house, it was 18 below, and the wind chill was somewhere around 30 degrees below zero. The road to Green Bay looked just like all of the films of the Ice Bowl, just better digital quality, and all you had to do was roll a window down in the van to experience it.

We climbed out in our normal tailgating spot behind Brett Favre’s Steakhouse and started offloading supplies. The tent went up as well as expected with 20 mile per hour winds and 10 layers of clothing. With the wind throwing the tent around like a rag doll, we wound up pulling shifts holding the tent down. As two guys acted as anchors, the others lit the 30 pounds of charcoal in the grill, and cranked up the camp stoves for some good hot soup. At 15 below, there is nothing better than chicken dumpling soup, and a slushy bottle of beer. After the soup, we grilled our shish-ka-bobs, ate and drank more, and then tore down the site.

The walk to the stadium was like Mardi gras at 15 below. Beads, vendors, beer and an excitement in the air that we have not had at Lambeau for a decade. The wonderment at how they made it this far with such a young team. The excitement of being one game away from the big show. In 32 years of going to Packer games, I had never seen so many people arrive so early for the game. The stadium filled up almost 45 minutes prior to kick off.

As the sun set and the University of Wisconsin Band took the field, the excitement of the big game made us



Green Bay Packers defensive tackle Corey Williams kneels on the field after his team’s 23-20 overtime loss to the New York Giants in the NFC Championship football game Sunday, Jan. 20, 2008, in Green Bay, Wis. (AP Photo/Mike Roemer)

temporarily forget about the cold. The band held up a flag in the shape of the United States as the singers belted out a wonderful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. As is tradition, the Packers invited a couple of young Troops that were home on leave from Iraq to join them on the field for the National Anthem. It was a young Army specialist along with his Air Force Brother, and you had to feel bad for them. They were standing out there in their dress greens and blues, with that brisk wind blowing on them. The National Anthem was completed with a Navy F-16 fly-over and a huge roar of the crowd. The pilots hit the throttle hard as they crossed the stadium giving the crowd an outstanding light show with the flames from the engine.

The game was a rollercoaster of emotions. Every pass was a heart stopper; every run ended with a frozen smack or thud of shoulder pads and iced skin. Each time a kicker or punter connected with a ball, you could hear the crack of the contact 24 rows up in the stands, almost like a firecracker going off. Over and over again, you would hear people in the stands say it was going to come down to “who wants it more.” We wanted the game in Lambeau. We got it . . . at 15 below zero.

The rollercoaster kept winding, climbing, and dropping clear through to the end of regulation when the Giants kicker shanked the ball in the final seconds for the win. The sound of the crowd was deafening as the game headed into overtime. The Packers won the toss in over time and took possession of the ball. We were all so hopeful in the stands. A single run and throw later, and our rollercoaster came crashing down. The Giants were already in field goal range, and no matter how many kicks the guy missed so far today, he had to hit sometime. And he did. 23-20 – Giants over the Packers – our season was done. No fireworks, no award presentation. A hasty retreat to a warm car in the parking lot.

There weren’t a lot of excuses being made, or blatant finger pointing for the loss of the game. It was neat to see the fans complimenting the team on getting this far and pointing out the fact that the Cowboys, Bears, Vikings and Lions fans were all sitting at home tonight with their seasons over as well. It was a great time at Lambeau field Sunday night.

Congratulations to you Giants fans. Ride the ride while you can. The rest of us will look toward the upcoming draft, free agency, and pre-season football . . . all starting again in another six months.

Team Shock takes GTMO Extreme competition



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing



Photo by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing

By Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

There were plenty of red faces on the six teams that participated this past Saturday and Sunday in the GTMO Extreme competition. Team Shock burnt the competition by over an hour in the two-day event hosted by the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation.

Melissa Belleman, Mario Perez, and Everett Hairston made up Team Shock, which took the top spot in the grueling competition finishing in an astounding

time of 6:52:41. The win qualified Team Shock for the Southeast Regional Extreme Challenge here on Feb. 15-16 as the Guantanamo Bay representatives.

“I did my first extreme race here three years ago and I thought I was well-prepared,” said Belleman. “But the toughest for me and my team was the mountain bike. It was treacherous dragging our bikes up the hills. It felt as if they weighed over 50 pounds.”

The red faces had nothing to do with being embarrassed, as the competitors had plenty to be proud of, especially battling the Guantanamo heat to complete a variety of events. The extreme events on Saturday included an eight-mile kayak relay, an 11-mile mountain bike course and a 12-mile run. Sunday’s events included the one-mile swim, six mile GPS course and finished with the Marine obstacle course.

“The hardest part of the competition was the run after the first two events,” said Jeffrey Brown a team member of Lightning.

“It was 90 degrees at Guantanamo Bay and not a cloud in the sky making it seem that the heat was coming off the pavement.”

The Marine team finished second with a time of 7:57:46, TKO took third at 8:08:20, followed by Team Lightning in fourth at 8:58:19. Fifth was Team OARDEC at 9:54:38 and in sixth was Triple X with a time of 12:44:40.

“I have done competitions like this before,” said Katherine Hostetler, a member of Team Lightning. “But I have never done a two day event before. It presented its own challenges of having to go into the second day.”



Marine Sgt. Jeff Liddic pushes himself to the limit as he makes his way up the treacherous Ridgeline during the Gtmo Extreme race. (Photo by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger)

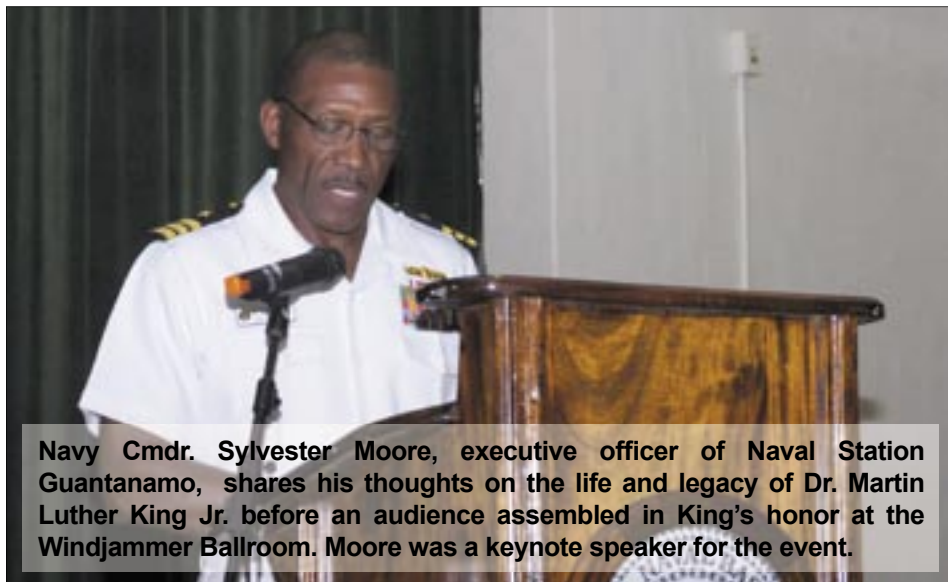
PSU 313: Protecting the Bay

Photos by Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing and
Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Port Security Unit 313 crews patrol Guantanamo's waters and coastlines in 25 ft. Boston Whaler boats, often called 'Vipers.' PSU 313 has been on the water here since December 2007.



Guantanamo remembers a great man's life & legacy



Navy Cmdr. Sylvester Moore, executive officer of Naval Station Guantanamo, shares his thoughts on the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. before an audience assembled in King's honor at the Windjammer Ballroom. Moore was a keynote speaker for the event.

Story and photos by Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Residents of Guantanamo Bay celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monday evening by recognizing his achievements in the securing of constitutional civil rights for all American citizens who have experienced discrimination or marginalization.

The celebration began in the Windjammer ballroom with an introduction by the president of the Guantanamo African-American Association, Maurice Elkins, who welcomed the attendees and set the tone for respectful recognition of King.

Elkins was followed by a formal presentation of our nation's colors by Navy personnel, a moving rendition of our national anthem sung by Army Sergeant First Class Shaun Coker and the invocation by Navy Chaplain (Lt.) David Mowbray.

The executive officer of Naval Station Guantanamo, Cmdr. Sylvester Moore, delivered the first of the evening's two speeches. In his speech, Moore shared with all in attendance the trajectory of King's life and how his work helped secure civil rights for all.

"His mission was a simple message – one that stated that all mankind was created equal and should be treated as such. As a

child young King read most everything he could get his hands on and entered college at age 18. As a man he awakened the conscience of the nation, elevated the moral fiber of the country and emboldened countless people who felt powerless," said Moore.

Following Moore's speech, Elkins organized the 100 or so in attendance into a loose formation out on the street in front of the Windjammer. Escorted fore and aft by Guantanamo Police vehicles, the formation marched around the Cooper Sports complex to the main chapel. Along the way march participants sang spirited renditions of civil rights era songs such as "Lean on Me," "We Shall Overcome" and "This Little Light of Mine."

As the group filed into the main chapel following the march, each person was handed a candle that was lit following a speech by Elkins. In this speech, Elkins told the story of King's dream for harmony and peace between peoples by sharing a dream of his own in which he, King and Malcolm X were engaged in a dialogue about the possibilities for change.

The celebration concluded with the reverential lighting of candles and the benediction by Mowbray. While some moved slowly toward the chapel exit, many stood quietly, savoring the intimacy of the evening.



Monday evening's event included a march from the Windjammer Ballroom to the base chapel (pictured) where a candlelight service was held in honor of Dr. King.

RESERVE AND GUARDSMEN R.E.A.P. ADDITIONAL COLLEGE BENEFITS

By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

If you are a Reservist or National Guardsman who has not taken advantage of your military educational benefits, Uncle Sam has given you another reason to consider your options after this deployment.

Guardsman and Reservists who have served more than 90 days during a contingency operation after September 11, 2001 may now be eligible for additional benefits thanks to the newly created Reserve Educational Assistance Program. A contingency may include operations occurring in Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world, as declared by the President or Congress. This new education program provides up to 36 months of benefits to members of the Selected Reserves, the National Guard and Individual Ready Reserve. Troopers who are enrolled in school anytime after Sept. 11, 2001 and are eligible for the program may be retroactively paid the educational benefit.

Members of the reserve components include the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserves, as well as the Army and Air National Guard. Individual Ready Reserve members who were ordered to active duty service are also eligible for the benefit.

REAP, which was established as a part of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act 2005, ensures that all service members deployed in response to a wartime contingency have access to educational benefits. Since the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security determine eligibility for the program, all Troopers are encouraged to apply so their eligibility can be confirmed. However, Troopers who have been on duty for less than 90 continuous days after September 11, 2001 and those who plan to enter the IRR following their deployment may not be eligible for REAP benefits.

The educational assistance allowance payable under REAP is a percentage of the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (MGIB) rate, which is \$1034.00 per month. Thus, Troopers who serve 90 days but less than one year on active duty will receive 40 percent of the MGIB three year rate, while those who serve one year but less than two years will receive 60 percent. Members who serve two or more continuous years will receive 80 percent of the MGIB three year rate. The only exception applies to persons released prior to 90 days due to an injury, illness, or disease that incurred or was aggravated while in the line of duty and not the result of the member's own willful misconduct.

Members released early due to a disability will receive REAP benefits at the rate they were qualified for when they were released. For example, if a claimant served on active duty for one year and six months prior to being released, he or she would be entitled to receive benefits at the 60 percent rate for as long as they're entitled to REAP benefits. Members released prior to completing 90 days of active duty service would be entitled to benefits at the 40 percent rate. Troopers released from duty due to a disability are entitled to REAP benefits for 10 years from their date of eligibility.

The amount the Veteran Administration pays is based on the type of training program and whether a Trooper is attending school on a full time or part time basis. If attendance is for less than a month or less than full-time, payments will be reduced proportionately. The amount paid only entitles Troopers to be reimbursed for the actual cost of the tuition and fees of the courses taken.

Approved training under REAP includes graduate and undergraduate courses, as well as vocational, technical, apprenticeship, correspondence and flight training. Since the VA does not approve schools or programs for benefits, Troopers must contact their school's VA certifying official or contact the VA at 1-888-GIBILL1.

Unlike the MGIB, there is no time limit set to use the REAP benefit. Additionally, members of the National Guard and Selected Reserves will not remain eligible for REAP if the member transfers into the IRR. However, a member called or ordered to active service from the IRR remains entitled to benefits under REAP by continuing to serve in the Selected Reserves or the IRR. REAP benefits will also be terminated if a Trooper participates in a ROTC program.

REAP participants who are eligible for MGIB educational benefits due to their service on active duty for a minimum of 24 consecutive months must make an irrevocable election as to which program they will apply their active duty time. Generally, Troopers cannot receive assistance from more than one VA educational program at a time. However, if they have exhausted their funds under one program, they could seek reimbursement using any additional programs for which they may be eligible. Any combination of VA educational benefits used cannot exceed 48 months. However, Troopers eligible for the Chapter 1606 kicker may still be paid that kicker while receiving REAP.

Once a Trooper meets the basic requirements, they can go to www.GIBILL.va.gov to complete VA form 22-1990, Application for Education Benefits, which should be sent to the VA regional office that serves the state where they will live. VA regional processing offices located in Atlanta, St. Louis, Buffalo, N.Y., and Muskogee, Okla., are currently accepting applications and supporting documents for REAP claims.

Troopers using the electronic application should follow the instructions on the web site, print out their signature page, sign it and then *mail* it to the VA since an original signature from the claimant is needed to initiate payments. The word "Chapter 1607" should be *written at the top of all pages* to ensure the VA properly identifies the program. Copies of all DD 214s and military orders for the periods a Trooper claims eligibility should be included with the application.

Troopers interested in learning more about their eligibility for the REAP program may contact the VA toll free at 1-888-GIBILL-1 or visit their web site at www.gibill.va.gov. On the website, Troopers can ask questions by sending an e-mail to the VA or by clicking on the *Ask a Question and Find Answers* link to access answers to frequently asked questions.



“Hitman” is proof that “the Matrix” is true ... and a much better film

By Army Sgt. Scott Griffin
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Rated: R, Running Time: 100 minutes

Aaaaaand then I put another notch on my boredom stick and hit myself in the head with it. “Hitman” is proof that “The Matrix” is true: computers have taken over and are now writing our movies, perverting the magic of cinema by forcing the formulaic down our collective throats. The machines are testing their collectivist methodology

on film: humanity has only one mind, and the machines have control of it. Don’t believe me? Then I submit this: this ‘film’ was based on a slightly-above average video game where the protagonist has a bar code on his head.

My friends were right. I did get more cynical once I turned 30.

Timothy ‘I was great on “Deadwood”’ Olyphant portrays Agent 47, a man bred and raised to be an assassin (yawn). His only satisfaction in life is the meticulous pride he takes in his work (yawn). Then something bad happens and everyone turns on 47 and ... (YAAAWN). And there’s a girl ... and she makes him feel funny ... (snore).

Sorry, I nodded off for a minute there. I was remembering the HBO series “Deadwood” in which Olyphant was, y’know, good.

Olyphant didn’t need a gun to enforce the law in that town. All he needed was his fists and a belly full of spite. The only interesting part of his character in “Hitman” is that women make him uncomfortable, but even that just tells us that the target audience is adolescent males. And yet, there I found myself, in my early 30’s, trying to stay awake.

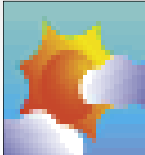
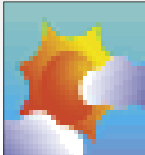
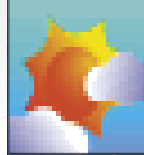
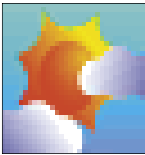
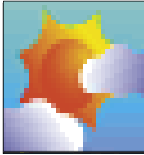

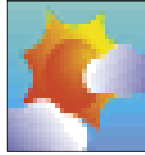
I think I’ve figured out what I didn’t like about “Hitman.” It made me feel old. And bored. And like I needed a nap. It made me feel like yelling “You kids get off my lawn!”

So read ye this, ye early-20s male. “Hitman” has stuff in it and that stuff blows up. A lot. Agent 47 also has guns and he shoots them a lot. “Hitman” also has people in it, and they, too, blow up. A lot.

What could have been a Tarantino-esque piece of quality B-movie entertainment has been turned into a chunk of predictable schlock. The director – who I believe is actually that creepy old ‘Architect’ guy from “Matrix Reloaded,” or maybe that jerk behind the cape in “The Wizard Of Oz” – goes by the name Xavier Gens. Xavier, like the telepathic professor in the X-Men series, and Gens, the title of a Sega Genesis processor. It’s the machines, I tell you! They’ve taken over and we’re all just batteries powering it!

In summation, I did not enjoy the movie. The popcorn, as ever, was excellent.

Rating: ★★★★★

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST <small>Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com</small>			
<p>Saturday, Jan. 26</p> <p>Highs in the low - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.</p>  <p>Partly Cloudy Sunrise: 6:38 a.m. Sunset: 5:49 p.m. Chance of rain: 20%</p>	<p>Sunday, Jan. 27</p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.</p>  <p>Partly Cloudy Sunrise: 6:37 a.m. Sunset: 5:50 p.m. Chance of rain: 20%</p>	<p>Monday, Jan. 28</p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.</p>  <p>Partly Cloudy Sunrise: 6:37 a.m. Sunset: 5:50 p.m. Chance of rain: 20%</p>	
<p>Tuesday, Jan. 29</p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:37 a.m. Sunset: 5:51 p.m. Chance of Rain: 0%</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p>	<p>Wednesday, Jan. 30</p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:37 a.m. Sunset: 5:52 p.m. Chance of Rain: 10%</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p>	<p>Thursday, Jan. 31</p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:36 a.m. Sunset: 5:52 p.m. Chance of Rain: 0%</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p>	<p>Friday, Feb. 1</p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80’s, and lows in the high - 60’s.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:38 a.m. Sunset: 5:48 p.m. Chance of Rain: 10%</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p>

BSCT puts emphasis on communication

Continued from page 3

come to me and ask my opinion.”

Members of the guard force attend periodic training sessions where the BSCT helps reinforce the skills necessary to properly perform their mission. James said his team educates Troopers on the importance of operational security and how sharing information with detainees, family members and shipmates can be detrimental to the mission.

“We help them understand a lot of the detainee dynamics, and we give them examples of how a detainee can manipulate them, or how detainees can work to pit one guard against another,” said James. “Many of these detainees have been here for five and six years now, and they have had the opportunity to hone their skills. We teach Troopers how to avoid some of the traps that detainees will try to lure them into.”

Since the guards here are so well trained and motivated before they arrive in Guantanamo Bay, James said BSCT training serves as a refresher for skills already ingrained in many of these Troopers.

“When I walk through the camps, I can’t tell you that I have stumbled across a lot of things that are wrong. During my time here, I am proud to say that I have not seen a guard or interrogator abuse anyone in any shape or form,” said James. “These young men and women go out of their way well beyond the call of duty to make sure that detainees are treated safely and humanely at all times.”

In addition to working with Trooper’s here, James continues to work diligently to advocate against the removal of psychologists from military detention facilities. As a member of the council of representatives for the APA, James said he has had many opportunities to speak with colleagues working within academic and clinical settings to help them understand the important role psychologists play within military detention facilities. As a representative for military psychologists, his goal is to help his colleagues understand that the political climate surrounding the detention of an individual should not affect the care they receive.

“If you look at some of the difficult-to-manage cases we’ve got right here

at Guantanamo, these cases are no different from those you would see in any other detention facility. The only difference is the population of the people we are dealing with,” said James. “Roughly 5-to-10 percent of any general prison population in the United States will have inmates who experience significant mental health concerns. I think it will be unconscionable and morally wrong to deprive the detainees here or any inmates housed within U.S. facilities of mental health services.”

James, who has deployed to other BSCT sites over the course of his career, said he does not need any statistics to validate the need for psychologists within military detention facilities. He added that the positive, productive and reciprocal relationships that have developed within detainee operations confirms the need for mental health professionals on the grounds that they are integral to fostering these productive interactions.

“It has been a great mission, and I am happy to be here. It is great to be on the tip of the spear working with these young Troopers in the battle to defeat terrorism,” James said.

Boots on the Ground

If you could change your MOS/rating, what would it be and why?

By Army Sgt. Jody Metzger and Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert

Army Staff Sgt.
Kareem Leggett



“I wouldn’t change. I like my job. My MOS is small and it’s like a family.”

Army Staff Sgt.
Aaron Nietfeld



“Diesel mechanic because I’m kind of a gearhead.”

Navy Petty Officer
1st Class
Leilei Walker



“I think I have the best job in the Navy as a Navy Corpsman.”

Navy Petty Officer
2nd Class
Mark Allen



“Mass Communications Specialist. The advancement is much greater and I’d like the opportunity to do radio or television.”

Set your eyes on the horizon



Photo by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger

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

“And we rejoice in the hope . . . not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings” (Romans 5:1-5).

The ability to hope is rooted in the realization that there is more than the present moment, that there is a tomorrow to look forward to.

Hopelessness is a deadly enemy. Nations, peoples or individuals can break down in despair because of a given gray situation. At moments like these, people start to ask: Is there no hope for a weary world? Where is the joy that once was there? Is it gone?

The answer can only come from the verity of our faith. When St. Paul writes about hope, he indicates that it is at the disposal of every believer in Jesus Christ. It is intrinsic to those of us who are His disciples.

It is a hope of sharing future glory. This hope has a future dimension, a hope of sharing in God’s majestic presence.

It is also a hope that springs into present joy. We are not just living for a ghostly tomorrow! Paul brings us back to the present. “And not only so, but we also glory in suffering, because

we know that suffering produces perseverance, and perseverance, character and character, hope.”

Endurance is that which holds up under strain and weight. It doesn’t crack. How does it do that? It does that by forcing us back to God. That is what it means to believe. To believe, in the ancient languages, means to lean your weight upon someone or something. Lean your full weight upon Him, for in your weakness His strength is made perfect.

As suffering bears down, endurance bears up. Endurance produces character, which in turn produces hope!

There is a hope in which we can be confident. Romans 5:5 gives two reasons for that hope. First, we know it subjectively in the heart. Second, we know it objectively through the cross. “For the love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts. His love was poured out on us.”

If God’s love can be as great as that, there can be no doubt that it will ever let us down. In other words, our own experience of love verifies our hope.

The objective reality is the cross of Christ. The cross is the proof

that this hope is based on a sure foundation. If ever we doubt God’s love, all we need to do is to stand again on Calvary and gaze at the wretched yet hopeful scene of Christ on the cross!

Ultimately, our eyes have got to be on the distant horizon. “For this light affliction is but for a moment but works within us something which is of eternal consequence, while we look not at what is seen but at the things that are unseen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

Eternal realities are the only things that will endure. As we await that longing for the sunburst of eternity, in the midst of present pain, something is at work preparing us for eternity. Our suffering will bring endurance, endurance will bring character, and character will produce hope, which will culminate in joy. The quality of the joy is that it will never disappoint.

Therefore, beloved, we have hope that the world can never share with us until it knows Christ. It will never disappoint us. It is the hope of our faith.

'Red Bull' sign creator breathes life into the ELC

Story and photo by Army Sgt.
Jody Metzger

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Being passionate about one's job is something that most look for in life. For Airman Tech Sgt. Patrick Searles, working with his hands is one of his greatest joys. During the 29 years that he has served within the Vermont National Guard, Searles has shown what it means to love what you do.

Searles is a member of the Vermont Air National Guard's 158th Fighter Wing. He is currently deployed with the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron and living and working at Guantanamo's McCalla Air Field, in a tent city designated 'Camp Justice.' His expertise and experience with both vertical and horizontal structures is integral to the successful construction of Guantanamo's new center of detainee legal operations, the Expeditionary Legal Complex.

As a structural carpenter building the courthouse, he also built the 'Red Bull' sign that welcomes visitors to Camp Justice. The sign is testament to the hard work and dedication that the 474th 'Red Bull' team has demonstrated so diligently for the past six months. Though successful in his mission to construct the sign, Searles admits that he could not have done it without the skills of his fellow airmen – Senior Airman Arron Hall, Tech Sgt. Bob Gagnon, Master Sgt. Scott Flowers and Tech Sgt. Richard Minor.

Searles's artistic design is unique and pays homage to the Red Bulls and their contributions to the Expeditionary Legal Complex construction.

"The base of the sign is a large compass with directional marks," said Searles. "If you stand directly in the center of the compass directly facing the sign, you face the United



The newly-constructed 'Red Bull' sign welcomes visitors to Camp Justice and the nearby Expeditionary Legal Complex. Tech Sgt. Bob Gagnon, Tech Sgt. Patrick Searles, Master Sgt. Scott Flowers and Tech. Sgt. Richard Minor worked diligently designing and building the sign, its base and the surrounding landscape.

States."

Another interesting feature of this sign is the coral and shell landscaping that surrounds it. The coral was collected by Searles and his co-workers from area beaches and definitely makes the sign area attractive.

Searles has spent his life dedicated to his passion of building and creating with his hands. Along with being a construction worker for the Air Guard, he also owns a landscaping company. For the most part though, Searles has put his civilian job on hiatus since he has spent most of the last six years on one deployment or another.

"It is funny – out of my many years in the Air Guard, I have done more in the last six years than all the time before," said Searles.

Early on in their deployment here, Searles and his fellow Airmen put up approximately 100 'Camp Justice' tents that include shave and shower facilities, latrines, and TV rooms. Though it was hard

work to set up the camp, they have managed to make a home away from home for themselves here.

"When we first hit the ground we were faced with setting up tents and basically finding a place to live. This tent city is a bare base package. When you hit the ground, everything is boxed up so your first thought is – 'Where am I going to sleep?' You set up the tents to live in and then set up more tents and you build your home," said Searles.

Nearing the end of his tour here in Guantanamo, Searles looks back at all that he and his fellow Airmen have accomplished and feels a sense of pride in being an integral part of history in the making.

Searles explains that like any deployment, some things have gone wrong, but in the end he and his co-workers have managed to work through those problems together.

"This deployment has been a great experience and I've been part of a great team," said Searles.

AROUND THE JTF



▲ Guantanamo Bay residents gather in song at the base Chapel, Jan. 21, to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This service was the culmination of an evening-long celebration that included a memorial march punctuated with songs such as “Lean on Me” and “We Shall Overcome.” (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker)



▲ Oneil Eunick, an employee of the Navy Exchange vending services, moves a ‘Road Burners’ video game into a sea hut at the Camp America Liberty Center, Jan 23. The game will join others used for Troopers’ entertainment during their spare time. (JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)



◀ Hard rock band Night Ranger performs for the Troops at the Downtown Lyceum, Jan. 21. The group is known for its 80’s hit ‘Sister Christian.’ (JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)