



THE WIRE



Honor Bound To Defend Freedom

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Friday, December 2, 2005

15 Minutes of Fame, pg. 11

GTMO engineering: a team of professionals

By Spc. Seth Myers

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Every day, regular maintenance and improvements are done throughout GTMO. What some don't realize, though, is how much work goes into organizing this and how many people are involved in making sure everything on this island is fixed or built when needed. Without the hard work and cooperation of these individuals, nothing would get done, but this well-oiled machine works in perfect unison, gearing the mission toward success.

In addition to quality of life improvements, past successes under Navy Cmdr. Anne Reese, the outgoing JTF engineer, include; a new and improved headquarters building, the Intelligence and Operations Facility (IOF), a new detention hospital mental health ward, and construction of Camp 6 started. But it wasn't just Reese who made these things happen. She was just part of the GTMO engineering team.

When the JTF wants to build something, everyone from the JTF engineers, the Naval Station Public Works Department (PWD), the Resident OIC of Construction (ROICC), the Joint Detention Group (JDG) engineers and contractors are involved in the JTF's engineering projects.

It is obvious the JTF engineers would be involved in the construction of JTF assets, but why all the others?



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace

Camp 6 is just one of the projects GTMO's engineering team is working on together.

The simple fact is every time the JTF wants to build something, they have to work with Naval Station, because JTF is a tenant command. Navy Cmdr. Jeff Johnston, Public Works Officer (PWO), said the relationship was much like that of a landlord and tenant. Whatever the JTF builds is on the Naval station's property and in the end, will become their responsibility. Because of this, Naval Station's Public Works will always be involved in the building of JTF assets.

The JTF engineers and PWD are responsible for finding the necessary fund-

ing, mapping out how much they expect the requested project to cost and doing much of the administrative end of the construction, maintenance and repairs. "We are planners and programmers," said Johnston. Once the estimate has been made and the project is mapped out, the contractors bid on it. When they are done, they draw up the contract, making sure all the necessary details are written in. Once this contract is established it is binding.

At this point, ROICC has a new resp-
(Continued on page 9...)

 **Safety Check: Reflective belts must be worn when walking or running**



Staying Focused

By Col. Michael Bumgarner

Joint Detention Group Commander

We just wrapped up Thanksgiving and right around the corner is Christmas and New Year's. The holiday season is about to be in full swing, a very happy time for all...right? Well, unfortunately, that is wrong. During my time in the Army, I have seen something quite different. I think most in the military who have been deployed during this period know what I am speaking about.

The holiday period conjures up thoughts of family and festive times in the past. Some of us begin to dwell on those thoughts and forget the here and now. For some, this leads to a melancholy feeling, for others a deep depression may set in. Others may just find themselves distracted in their work with thoughts of home. There is no shame in any of the feelings but we all need to focus and stay the course to ensure we get the job done that we were sent here to do and to ensure the welfare of all our Troopers.

Take time to enjoy the holidays in the very best manner you can in this environment. Reach out to your families via phone, e-mail or mail, but at the end of the day, you must remember the significance of what you do here and stay focused on the task at hand. I ask each of you to look out for each other. Be a bit more attune to how your shipmates or brothers in arms are acting. If someone seems a bit adrift, bring them back in line with some personal attention, and if need be, let the chain of command know someone may

need a little extra help.

I am reminded of a scene in the movie *Saving Private Ryan* that may be a bit instructive in how we should approach the holiday season. Leading to the climax of the movie, there is a scene where Capt. John Miller (Tom Hanks) and his squad of rangers links up with Pvt. James Ryan (Matt Damon) and a squad of troopers from the 101st Airborne Division who are on a mission to defend a bridge in a small French town in the days just following the Normandy invasion. Miller and the group of soldiers set about preparing to defend against an imminent attack by a much larger force of Germans. When their work was done, they recognized that this probably would be their last battle as they were very likely to die in the pending fight. Miller and Ryan slipped into a few moments of melancholy as they recalled memories of home. You could see a deep inner satisfaction in Miller as he thought about his wife. Moments later, tanks were heard in the distance and Miller and Ryan sprang into action and successfully defended the bridge allowing for relief forces to flow in and across the bridge.

So as sort of an older soldier, I would suggest to you that you learn from Capt. Miller. Stay focused, know the task at hand, prepare for it and stay engaged. When given a moment to relax, enjoy the moment as intensely as possible. Then get your head back in the game and carry on with the mission. Trust me, this is not only for mission accomplishment but for your own welfare.

HONOR BOUND!■

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Darwinism or Stupidity?

By Chief Warrant Officer Lisa Skiöldhanlin

JTF-GTMO Safety

Driving back to my quarters after dark the other night, I was confronted by a runner on Tarawa Road, the shortcut between the golf course and warehouses on Sherman. Seeing a runner here is not unusual, but this runner almost failed to get my attention!

Not only was he running on Tarawa Road, which along with Skyline Drive is off-limits to all pedestrians after dark, he was running on the wrong side of the road and without a reflective vest. The first thing that came to mind was that he must be really stupid or testing out Darwin's theory of survival of the fittest.

Folks, it truly is very simple:

- Run only at authorized places.
 - Use the sidewalks if available.
 - If no sidewalk, run against traffic (unless in formation).
 - Always wear reflective belt on your torso.
- These are the rules and they are in effect 24/7. ■



Photo altered by Spc. Jeshua Nace

Top enlisted advisor impressed with GTMO Troop quality, dedication

By Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

NAVAL STATION GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba, Nov. 23, 2005 - At the tail end of his first visit here, the recently appointed senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said he's "happy with the quality of people you see here."

Army Command Sgt. Maj. William J. "Joe" Gainey said he is impressed with the dedication he witnessed during a brief visit Nov. 22.

He told several servicemembers they should take pride in their mission. "Display the pride that you have in your service, because pride is contagious," he told two senior petty officers he met at Camp Delta, the U.S. military detention facility for enemy combatants captured in the global war on terror.

Leaders of Joint Task Force Guantanamo and troops Gainey met here went to great pains to debunk what leaders here call misrepresentations widely reported by civilian media outlets.

For instance, guards here were earnest in discounting reports that guards or interrogators disrespected copies of the Koran, the Muslim holy book. "It's very strictly enforced; we do not touch this," Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Mack Keene, the first sergeant of Camp 2 and 3, an area of Camp Delta, said as he pointed to a copy of the Koran hung in "a place of honor" in an unoccupied cell.

A short while later, Gainey asked another guard if he would ever touch a detainee's Koran. The guard, an Army sergeant first class, appeared to recoil in shock at the suggestion. "Oh no, Sergeant Major," he responded.

JTF-GTMO Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Febles pointed out that no interrogation room at any Guantanamo Bay facility has a toilet. His comments were in reference to an oft-re-

ported claim that a Koran was flushed down a toilet during an interrogation. "No interrogation rooms have anything capable of flushing a Koran," he said.

"As far as (the detainees') religion goes, we do the best we can to ensure that they can observe it," Keene said.

He explained to Gainey that during prayer call five times a day in keeping with Muslim practice, guards place a "prayer cone," a traffic cone painted bright yellow with "P" stenciled on it, in the center of each cell block as a signal for the guards to maintain silence out of respect.

Keene said he has faith in the professionalism and restraint of the guard force at Guantanamo Bay. "I have guards that come in and work this block, and (sometimes they get) covered in urine and feces," he said. "They come out and wash their (uniform top) off and go back in, and they never lose their cool."

He said detainees attempt to assault guards at least once a week. In fact, Keene added, the morning of Gainey's visit a detainee tried to head-butt a guard. On hearing of the attempted assault, Gainey asked what the response from guards was.

"He was assisted to the deck," Navy Chief Petty Officer Ronald Cloutier Jr., a platoon leader at Camp 2 and 3, responded, using the Navy term for floor to describe the proper law-enforcement technique for dealing with a violent prisoner.

Cloutier told Gainey he is impressed because the Navy deployed sailors here individually and in small groups from throughout the service and they have built a cohesive unit. "The sailors that are here want to be here," he said.

He attributed this cohesion to good training, enforcing standards and strong leadership.

"Adherence to standards is so important," Army Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Balch, U.S.

Southern Command senior enlisted advisor, said. Balch accompanied Gainey here. "Any mishap would have international ramifications," he said.

"What you do is so important," Balch told several sailors. "We just can't slip one inch."

Navy Chief Petty Officer Pamela Branum, the senior enlisted leader for the detachment hospital, dismissed reports that hunger-striking detainees are being violently force-fed by inserting large and unsanitary nasal feeding tubes without lubricant or anesthesia.

She said the tubes are tiny -- 4 millimeters, officials said -- and flexible and are always inserted using lubricant and local anesthetic, as is common medical practice. "That's our standard operating procedure," she said. "And we don't waver from it."

Gainey visited several base facilities and sought out junior enlisted troops at each stop. During a tour of Camp America, an enlisted billeting area consisting of prefabricated one-room "hooches," Gainey came across a group of young servicemembers conducting an impromptu jam session.

As Gainey approached, the troops stopped playing their music out of embarrassment, but the sergeant major encouraged them to continue. He even "played" along on a percussion instrument.

"We're just trying to bring a little bit of Tijuana to Gitmo," one servicemember said, using the popular sobriquet for the island base.

At every point, Gainey provided words of encouragement. "The next master chief petty officer of the Navy could be in this room," he told some two dozen sailors assembled at the base's new detainee mental health facility.

"I'm very proud of each of you," he said. "And I'm proud to be a part of your team." ■

Keeping your cool during the holidays

By Spc. Jeshua Nace

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Although many people take time off of work and some businesses shut down for the holidays, many continue to work. We still rely on our police officers, firemen and medics. Our civil servants never stop serving. In the same respect, Troopers have a mission that can never be stopped, even during the holidays.

For those who cannot travel home this holiday season, it is extremely important to remember to take measures to handle stress. There are a lot of things that have to be done whether you are at home or abroad.

If you have not already bought your gifts and cards, now would be a really good time. With the mail system busy during the Christmas season, it's a good idea to give your package as much time as possible to be delivered, especially for those with children, because making sure your gift arrives before Christmas will prevent stress.

"Military life often means being separated from those whom we love while traditions, holidays, birthdays and other special occasions continue to show up on the calendar," said Navy Chaplain Lt. Cynthia Kane, JTF Chaplain. "Seasonal sadness is normal. Much of what we know and rely upon is back home and homesickness is a natural response to this sense of loss. Yet we may find a sense of comfort through this season

by holding onto our traditions, creating a few new ones and instilling great memories in the hearts of those around us."

If there are any holiday parties happening back home, give friends and family a call and try to talk to as many people as you can. In fact, call your family more this month than you would normally. Remember that it's not just you on this deployment; you might miss your family, but your family is also missing you. All deployments are a two-way street.

"A source of serious stress during the holidays comes from expecting too much of yourself and others. I must remind myself that the activities of the holidays are in addition to the daily routine. The gap between reality and expectation can become so great that it can make us feel like a failure or feel slighted by those from whom we would have expected more. Take a deep breath and pray..." said Army Chaplain Lt. Col. Stephen Molnar, JTF Chaplain.

If you have time off, you should get together with your other family, your GTMO family. The NEX provides many different foods to make a great Christmas feast, and even in Camp America, there are kitchens for everyone's use. Go down to the camp commandant's office and sign out one of the kitchens and make this holiday special.

"Anxiety is an expensive habit. It splits our energy between today's priorities and tomorrow's problems. Part of our mind is on the now; the rest is on the not yet. The



result is half-minded living," said widely published author and minister Max Lucado.

Don't live half-minded. For a lot of people, this is their first deployment and it might not be their last. But no matter if you're at home or in the Caribbean, take care of yourself, your family and fellow service members this holiday season. ■

Equal opportunity

By Spc. Jeshua Nace

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Department of Defense has high standards in equal opportunity (EO). These uncompromising standards have earned the DoD a reputation of being one of the most successful EO organizations in the United States. The principles the DoD set require respect for others and they make it an integral part of readiness and unit cohesion.

"EO is important because it functions under the umbrella of fairness, equality and justice. Maintaining these values are a critical element of readiness! The reason why we have an EO program is based in military history. During the time period when equality was not a part of the military, there were riots and fights that would occur and needless to say, the mission was not fulfilled. We have to remember that military personnel are people too. People have proven in both military and civilian life that they will not live or function for long in what is perceived to be an unfair, unequal or in an unjust environment," said Army Sgt. Dennis Napier, EO representative.

If a Trooper has a complaint they should seek their unit EO representative. They are knowledgeable in EO information.

"As a trained EO representative, we assist a complainant by providing

information, guidance and assistance with the complaint procedures. It is important to remember that EO representative's work for the commander and act on his behalf. It is our duty to report these complaints and make recommendations to the commander. EO does not offer confidentiality. All reports brought forward are for the commander. This is the commander's EO program. Our goal is to help Troopers resolve the complaint at the lowest possible level," said Napier.

Keep in mind that we work on informal complaints only. If the complainant prefers to file a formal complaint, we will provide the needed form and refer them to another agency. At that point the EO representative is out of the process. We also assist commanders in recognizing detractors from a healthy EO climate, continuously assist commanders in unit climate assessment. We also conduct EO training and assist in ethnic observances. You should know who your EO representative is and talk to him or her and ask questions," said Napier.

The commander fully supports EO for everyone. Working in a joint environment, treating other Troopers professionally reflects upon the JTF and the United States military.

"I am fully committed to equal opportunity throughout this command. Each member of this command will be treated with dignity and respect, without regard to race, color, religion, gender, or national origin," said Maj. Gen. Jay Hood, JTF-GTMO Commander.

For equal opportunity issues contact your unit EO representative or the J1, JTF-GTMO EO representative at x9913. ■

Keeping the Coast Guard armed, trained

By *Spc. Timothy Book*

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Coast Guard Port Security Unit 311 patrols the waters of Guantanamo Bay continuously. One unit that makes that possible is the Coast Guard section that works in the armory.

"This is where the magic happens," said Petty Officer 1st Class John Thompson, port security specialist and NCOIC of the armory.

The primary mission for the armory is, of course, to maintain the weapons. In this environment, that can be challenging. "Under these conditions, you really have to stay on top of the maintenance or it just isn't going to work," said Thompson. "In fact, within hours of being underway, the weapons begin to rust."

Every boat crew is responsible for cleaning their weapons. They are inspected every four hours and torn down and thoroughly cleaned after every shift. The ammunition is also counted, inspected and cleaned every shift.

In addition to this, each week Thompson and Petty Officer 3rd Class David Hartman, gunner's mate, replace the weapons with weapons stored in the armory. "Once we get the guns in the armory, we do a comprehensive detailed disassembly and cleaning," Thompson said. "Every part is thoroughly cleaned using a parts washer. Everything is inspected and reassembled."



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Keith Caires disassembles and inspects a crew-served weapon for daily maintenance.

Once that is done, the weapons are stored and ready for the next week's transfer. This allows a continuous flow of well-maintained weapons. "I can say with pride that we have always met our operational requirements," said Thompson.

"The boat crews need to maintain their weapons throughout the week," said Hartman. "But, if anything happened [to a weapon], we can replace it immediately."

In addition to maintaining the weapons and ammunition, Thompson and Hartman are also weapons instructors. Weapons training is done frequently because of the added complexity of firing from a moving platform, said Thompson.

"Imagine how difficult it is to just change the ammo belt quickly while the boat is moving. That's why we need to train often."

The unit typically runs a range every week and conducts underway shoots every month. The unit has fired more than 40,000 rounds of ammunition in six months, Thompson said. "We are very fortunate that the JTF understands the importance of ongoing training and supports us by providing us with sufficient ammunition to do that."

The training is for the boat crews and therefore contributes to the overall security of GTMO personnel. "Everybody is a shooter in this unit," Hartman said. "Everyone needs to be proficient on all the weapons systems."

Hartman and Thompson both bring a lot of experience and education to the unit. Both are former Marines. Both are in law enforcement, instructors and are in tactical units. In addition, Hartman has a Bachelors Degree in Administration – Criminal Justice and Thompson has a Bachelors Degree in Behavioral Science and a Masters in Psychology.

The armory is an essential part of the Coast Guard's mission here. The Troopers running it are experienced and focused. Thompson said, "Mission accomplishment is paramount. We cannot allow a breakdown in the mission due to a weapons failure." ■

Re-vamped Camp America post office

Story and photo by *Spc. Jeshua Nace*

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

In the effort of making life easier inside Camp America, a fully functional post office has finally opened. Troopers will no longer have to take the bus to the NAVSTA post office, which can take up to an hour of free time.

"We are a six-day operation, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday, and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. We are a cash only facility at this time. We take all packages, with the exception of express mail. Military postal facilities do not do express mail because we can't guarantee express delivery. We do certified registered as well as insured mail," said Army Staff Sgt. Anthony Simpson, non-commissioned officer in charge of Camp America post office.

The Camp America post office has been open since October, but until about two weeks ago, it did not offer all the services the NAVSTA post office does. The new post office offers everything a normal post office has, except for the express mail; this also means that stamps can be purchased there.

The post office wasn't brought to Camp America because of the commissions; it was just a matter of time before they could get the resources to open and run it inside of Camp America. "The JTF wanted to bring back finance service to Camp America before the holiday season and to improve the quality of life for residents of Camp America," said Maj. Troy Jasper, J1 director.

"They [JTF leadership] want to make this part of Camp America, and even with the new units that are coming, they want the post office up and



Army Pfc. James Divito, 189th MP Company, sends a package home in the new Camp America post office. Spc. Keith Hamblin, JTF postal clerk, was brought in to help run the post office. He is the only Trooper who was brought in to work the post office from outside of GTMO. The rest are Cavalry Troopers who were cross-trained.

running indefinitely," said Simpson.

For a fast transaction, it is a good idea to fill out all of the necessary information, including the return address on the package, before coming to the post office.

"One of the most important things you should know is to bring cash. This is currently a cash only facility. It would also help if the packages were already wrapped," said Simpson. ■

AS T



▲Fabian Boucher unhooks an old reel before setting up for the next movie. ►Boucher rewinds one of the many reels viewed at the Camp Bulkeley Lyceum.



By Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Have you ever been to a GTMO movie theatre and wondered, “how did this movie get here? Who chooses what movies to show? And what does it cost to show the film?” Those at the MWR media and marketing office can answer these questions. Every week, they are in charge of making “the show go on”.

With an experienced theatre staff of five, they are an unbeatable team. Putting on nine shows a week at two different locations requires quite a bit of coordination. Director Devon Christie is a man of many skills. He is a photographer for the MWR Public Affairs Office as well as the liaison to the Naval Motion Picture Services (NMPS) here.

Christie’s position as the liaison to the NMPS is vital. It requires him to accept the films from the movie houses, decide when

and where they are shown and return them in a timely fashion.

The NMPS is the branch of the Navy that is responsible for deciding what movies will be sent here. These decisions are often based on the content of the film and availability. Funding is a factor as well; big-ticket movies often require negotiations with the motion picture companies due to their popularity in the states. These costs are consumed by the NMPS and MWR so the movies can be brought to servicemembers at no cost.

That’s quite a bargain considering how many people are involved in the whole operation.

Movies are sent here and will sometimes reach the base prior to their release in the states. “In the event this happens, we must abide by the same rules that theatres in the U.S. have. We can not show the movie before its release date,” said Christie.

In the movie houses across the base

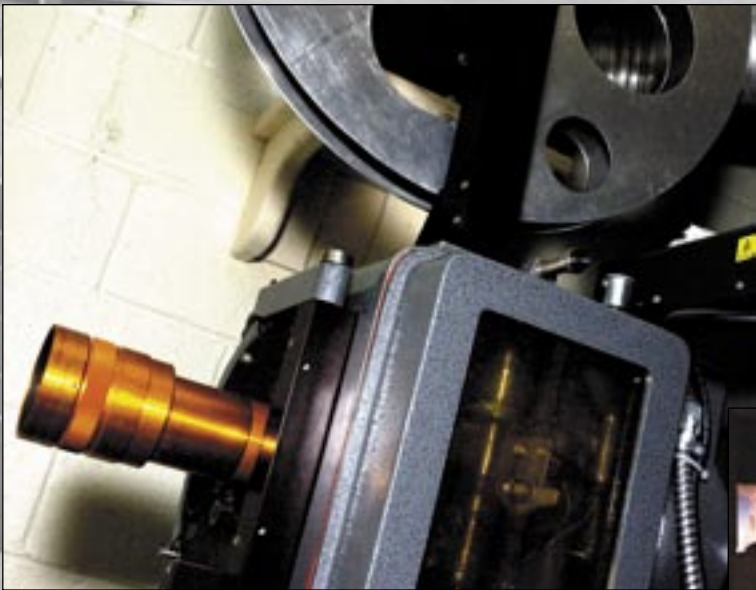
there is one job that is vital to the mission - the projectionist. His role is to make sure the film is loaded into the projector properly and cued up. He also checks the projector lamp for proper output. The lamps in the projectors put out 3,000 watts. If there is any error in loading or positioning the film, that lamp could ruin the film in a matter of seconds.

Fabian Boucher has been a projectionist here for four years and has also worked as an assistant in the graphics department at the MWR. “This may seem like an easy job, but one slip up and you’ve just ruined a movie that may have cost thousand of dollars to make. You need to have a good head on your shoulders,” said Boucher.

So remember, the next time you see a new movie, take a moment and think of those who make it possible. They have a mission - to entertain. ■

Photos by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica
Background photo by Spc. Jeshua

THE REEL TURNS



▲► The projector is located in the projection room and requires manual loading and unloading of the films that are viewed in the theatre.

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Colts trample Steelers

Commentary by Spc. Ian Shay

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Peyton Manning and the Colts' offense have always been an explosive threat in the NFL, but this year the Colts' defense has taken center stage.

No one expected the Indianapolis Colts to go 11-0 or possibly finish the regular season 16-0. The Manning-led offense has always been top notch, but the defense was never that impressive. Well, that was then and this is now. The defense, led by defensive end Dwight Freeney, has played as good as a Colts' defense has ever played. The defense might be small in stature, but their quickness and ferocity has punished opposing offenses. The Colts wish to shed themselves of the "finesse team" label and they did that Monday night against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Colts aren't the only team in the NFL doing well; the Chicago bears sit atop the NFC north at 8-3. The Bears have won seven straight games and boast the top rated defense in the NFL. Coach Lovie Smith has done a great job turning the Bears around and will most likely lead them to their first division title since

2001. Although Chicago sits atop a lousy division, the Minnesota Vikings led by quarterback Brad Johnson might give the Bears a run for the division title.

Not all is well in the NFL; more injuries have occurred and teams have suffered.

Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Byron Leftwich was the latest star to suffer a season ending injury. On the first play of Arizona Cardinals game, Leftwich was sacked, breaking a bone in his left ankle, and will likely miss the rest of the regular season. The Jaguars managed to win the game without him, improving to 8-3, second in the division behind the 11-0 Colts. The Jaguars have a great chance at a Wild Card spot, but without Leftwich, the playoffs might be out of the question.

The Vikings lost starting quarterback Dante Culpepper to a season ending knee injury after starting the season at 2-5. The injury gave Brad Johnson the starting position and has since helped the Vikings win four straight. Johnson and the



Photo found on NFL.com

Colts' defenders Dwight Freeney, top left, and Josh Thomas sack Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger in the fourth quarter Monday night.

Vikings are only two games back from first in the NFC North. During a season where coaches are losing their jobs, like Detroit's Steve Mariucci, coaches like the Vikings' Mike Tice must win to stay employed. ■

NFL PICKS WEEK 13

MONDAY NIGHT: SEATTLE AT PHILADELPHIA

SHAY:
EAGLES 31-21
JOHNSON:
SEATTLE 31-19
WILSON:
SEATTLE 23-7

LAST WEEK
SHAY (10-4) VS. JOHNSON
(11-3)
RISER ELIMINATED

Picks submitted by Spc. Ian Shay, Army Sgt. Jessica Wilson and Army Maj. Edward Johnson.

Week 13

Tennessee at Indianapolis
Green Bay at Chicago
Jacksonville at Cleveland
Minnesota at Detroit
Dallas at NY Giants
Tampa Bay at New Orleans
Buffalo at Miami
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
Atlanta at Carolina
Houston at Baltimore
Arizona at San Francisco
Washington at St. Louis
NY Jets at New England
Denver at Kansas City
Oakland at San Diego



Shay
Colts
Bears
Browns
Vikings
Giants
Bucs
Dolphins
Steelers
Panthers
Ravens
Cardinals
Rams
Patriots
Chiefs
Chargers



Wilson
Colts
Bears
Jaguars
Vikings
Giants
Saints
Bills
Steelers
Panthers
Ravens
49ers
Redskins
Patriots
Chiefs
Chargers



Johnson
Colts
Bears
Jaguars
Vikings
Cowboys
Bucs
Dolphins
Bengals
Falcons
Ravens
49ers
Rams
Patriots
Broncos
Chargers

Identity theft and fraud; how to take back your life

By Army Major Matt Edwards

JTF-GTMO Legal Assistance Office

Recently, several Troopers in the JTF have been victims of identity theft or fraud. Despite your best efforts to manage the flow of your personal information or to keep it to yourself, skilled identity thieves may use a variety of methods to gain access to your data.

If you are a victim of identity theft take the following four steps as soon as possible:

1. Place a fraud alert on your credit reports and review your credit reports.

Contact the toll-free fraud number of any of the three consumer reporting companies below to place a fraud alert on your credit report. The company you call is required to contact the other two.

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285; www.equifax.com;

Experian: 1-888-EXPERIAN (397-3742); www.experian.com;

TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289; www.transunion.com; Fraud Victim Assistance Division

Once you place the fraud alert in your file, you're entitled to order free copies of your credit reports, and, if you ask, only the last four digits of your SSN will appear on your credit reports. Look for inquiries from companies you haven't contacted, accounts you didn't open and debts on your accounts that you can't explain. Make sure that all information is correct and remove

fraudulent or inaccurate information.

2. Close the accounts that you know or believe to have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.

Call the security or fraud department of each company. Follow up in writing and include copies of supporting documents. *It's important to notify credit card companies and banks in writing.* Send your letters by certified mail, return receipt requested.

For charges and debits on existing accounts, or on new unauthorized accounts, ask the representative to send you the company's fraud dispute forms. If the company doesn't have special forms, use a letter to dispute the fraudulent charges or debits. In either case, write to the company at the address given for "billing inquiries," not the address for sending your payments.

3. File a report with your local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place.

Then get a copy of the police report, or at the very least, the number of the report. It can help you deal with creditors who need proof of the crime. If the police are reluctant to take your report, ask to file a "Miscellaneous Incidents" report, or try another jurisdiction, like your state police. The Navy Criminal Investigative Service office here is interested in any cases of fraud or theft which occur or originate here.

4. File a complaint with the Federal Trade

Commission.

The FTC can refer victims' complaints to other government agencies and companies for further action, as well as investigate companies for violations of laws the agency enforces.

You can file a complaint online at www.consumer.gov/idtheft, or by calling the FTC's Identity Theft Hotline, toll-free: 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338); TTY: 1-866-653-4261. You may write: Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580.

The JTF Legal Assistance office is located in A6208 in Camp America behind Troopers Chapel. Call 3561 to schedule an appointment. ■



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

▲Army Sgt. Monica Woods, legal assistant, ready to hand out identity theft brochures. You can pick them up at the legal office in Camp America.

A team of professionals

(Continued from page 1)

responsibility: ensuring the contract is abided by, not just by the contractors, but also the JTF.

"When a contract is awarded, our first allegiance is to the contract," said Navy Cmdr. Jeff Pierce, ROICC.

The contractors do most of the physical labor involved in this construction, but they bring more to the table than a work force. Some of them have been here longer than the current engineering staff; thus, they have more knowledge about previous projects and the experience from working on those old jobs. Because of this knowledge and experience, they often advise on current and future projects.

Not all of the construction in GTMO is done by contractors, though. Any time construction involves the detention camps, the JDG engineer is obviously going to get involved. Much of the work inside the camps isn't even done by contractors at all. This is not only done to "minimize the foreign presence in the camps," said Army 1st Lt. Brent Hamilton, JDG engineer, it saves millions of dollars. Often the time it would take to bring the contractors in would cost more than the actual job. Thus, the JDG has a small engineering work force. If the JDG can't handle it, they approach the JTF engineers for assistance, but they will still advise on any work being done there.

All of these teams have to work together to make things happen, and they do. They have meetings regularly to discuss projects and



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

▲Contractors dug deep so they could lay the pipes that were installed in Camp America to help with drainage.

decipher the best possible solution for everyone. This team has been around for a long time, and even as the names behind the positions change, they continue to work together as a team.

"Bottom line, no matter how big or how small, how urgent or mundane, it takes a lot of people touching [a] project for it to be successful," said Reese. ■

Tackling the holiday blues

By Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Robert Palmer

JTF-GTMO Chaplains office

Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanza are all holidays that, for many, inspire warm feelings of anticipation of good food, good company and good times. For some, instead of “holiday cheer”, they find that holidays only bring “the blues”. If holidays are suppose to be times of joy, why do some people wind up hurting?

All of us at one time or another experience the blues. We may temporarily feel “down” because of past and present experiences. However, when these feelings last over a longer period of time and significantly affect our daily actions, we may be dealing with more significant blues-depression. While depressive symptoms can be triggered by a variety of things, they often relate to feelings of having lost something. This may be where holiday blues come from.

While holidays and other events may get us down, there are a variety of things we can do to combat “the blues”. These strategies come in two “flavors”; those things you can do on your own and things to do with others.

The first step in dealing with any problem is to acknowledge and accept your feelings. Trying to deny or suppress your true feelings doesn’t work; it just adds to the emotional “baggage” we carry around.

A second area of things you can do on your own involves taking care of yourself physically. This includes nutrition, exercise, time and sleep.

A third area of strategies has to do with how you think. The activity that goes on “between our ears” is what makes the difference in how we make sense of what happens to us in life. Doing things with



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others is avoiding “sitting on the sidelines and suffering in silence.” Sadness often breeds isolation which, in turn, breeds more sadness. To break this cycle, spend time with others.

“A cheerful heart is good medicine”- Solomon. ■

Mother Teresa’s perspective on life

By Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Chris Molnar

JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain

Maintaining good relationships always seems toughest around the holidays, particularly from a distance by deployed Troopers. Mother Teresa, the simple nun who lived the life of a saint and changed her world, had a great perspective on life:

“People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies. Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you. Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight. Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget by tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough, but give the world the best you’ve got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God: it never was between you and them anyway. ‘Do it all for the glory of God.’” (I Corinthians 10:31). ■

CAMP AMERICA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant Service	Troopers’ Chapel
	6:00 p.m.	Confessions	Troopers’ Chapel
	6:30 p.m.	Catholic Mass	Troopers’ Chapel
	7:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Troopers’ Chapel
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Soul Survivor	Camp America North Pavilion

NAVAL BASE CHAPEL

Sunday	8 a.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	9 a.m.	Catholic Mass	Main Chapel
	9 a.m.	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Sanctuary A
	9:30 a.m.	Protestant Sunday School	Main Chapel
	10 a.m.	Protestant Liturgical	Sanctuary B
Monday	11 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel
	1 p.m.	Gospel Service	Main Chapel
	5 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	7 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	7 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
Tues. to Fri.	12 p.m.	Daily Mass	Cobre Chapel
Wednesday	7 p.m.	Men’s Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
Friday	1 p.m.	Islamic Prayer	Room 12
Saturday	4:30 p.m.	Confessions	Main Chapel
	5:30 p.m.	Vigil Mass	Main Chapel

Jewish Shabbat Services held every second Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Naval Base Chapel complex Room 11.

15 Minutes of Fame

with Coast Guard PO1 Dante DeMarco

By Spc. Timothy Book

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

What made you decide to join the Coast Guard?

I was still in high school when I joined. Other people I knew were planning to go to college and I just wasn't ready to do that yet; so I joined the Coast Guard. Why the Coast Guard over the other services? I've always been around water. In fact, for the first couple of years of my life, we lived on a houseboat. I loved it.

What is your job?

I guess you could call me a "jack of all trades" here. I'm in the Engineering Department. I keep track of parts inventory and the history logs on the boats. I also have to do a weekly report to the commander on the status of all the boats. I also work on the boats when they need me.

Back home, in my unit, I set up camp generators and power grids to tents. Basically, anything electrical is my responsibility. My Coast Guard job led me to my civilian job.

What do you do as a civilian?

I've been working for a power company in California for 20 years. Safety is definitely the number one priority. It can be deadly. I enjoy it, though. It's a little challenging, a little dangerous. I get lots of overtime. I've done two apprenticeships: one as lineman splicer and one as a substation electrician.

What do you do outside of work?

I like to ride my Harley. I finally got my first Harley. It's a 2000 Road King. I do a lot of long rides on it. I've logged over 50,000 miles so far. I want to get another one. You can't have just



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

one Harley! I ride with a bike club, and I'm a member of ABATE, which fights for the rights of motorcyclists. I'm also a union shop steward, so I guess you could say I like to fight for peoples' rights.

I'm also going after my Bachelor's Degree in business. I'm a certified welder. I have a daughter in college and a son in private school, so I do a lot of overtime. Coming here is a break for me. I've been able to relax a little.

Have you been deployed before?

Yes, I was in Iraq and Kuwait. We were on the oil platforms and I worked on everything electrical. Those platforms were an electrician's nightmare! The power would go out frequently. It's dangerous to have no lights and 20 tons of diesel fuel. Plus, it's not like I could go to Radio Shack if I didn't have a part I needed, so I had to improvise a lot.

What do you think of this deploy-

ment?

This is just another place of employment for me. My mission here is to keep the boats running. The boat crews may get all the glory, but without engineering, they can't do their job. I've enjoyed having good guys who I can count on.

Plus, since high school, I've always wanted to get certified in SCUBA. I've done that here and now I'm going after advanced diver certification. Everyone in the engineering department is now SCUBA certified.

A big plus is I'm back in church. I've also enjoyed the leadership roles I've been given. ■

15 Minutes of Fame

Know a Trooper worthy of being highlighted in "15 Minutes of Fame?" Call Army Sgt. Jessica Wilson at 3594.



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

▲People gathered together to sing carols under the recently lit Christmas lights.



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

►Army Sgt. Jesse Jones, Spc. Joshua Hawkins and Army Sgt. Oralia Barbosa, of J4, put the finishing touches on their Thanksgiving Day meal. All the cooking was done inside one of the kitchens at Camp America.

AROUND THE JTF

►Troopers from HHC turn the corner on another successful 5K run. The run was lead by JTF- GTMO Commander Maj. Gen. Jay Hood.



Photo by Army Sgt. Jessica Wilson

▲Servicemembers had the opportunity to cheer for their service over the weekend. Females from the Army and Navy here participated in the Army versus Navy Powder Puff Flag Football game. The Navy won 12-6.



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

▲Petty Officer 3rd Class Brian Martin (right) conducts man overboard drills with Petty Officer 2nd Class Dave Burch. Martin was named Trooper of the Quarter Wednesday.



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica