

Published In The Interest of Personnel Assigned to JTF Guantanamo and COMNAV Base Guantanamo, Cuba



THE WIRE



Honor Bound To Defend Freedom

Volume 7, Issue 6 www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

Friday, April 28, 2006

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U.S. Coast Guard, doing a job that matters

Making a difference for JTF Troopers

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Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Timm Duckworth

Coast Guard Transportable Port Security Boat on patrol at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba as part of the Joint Task Force-Guantanamo Bay Maritime Security Force Port Security Unit 305.

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Leading from the front

By Army Lt. Col. Lora Tucker

Commander 305th Press Camp HQ

Whether you wear the stripes of a non-commissioned officer or the rank of a commissioned officer you have taken an oath to lead our nation's most precious resource, the American Trooper. Our Troopers deserve the best from their leadership. They deserve leaders who lead from the front. As the commander of the 305th Press Camp Headquarters, JTF-GTMO, I am passionate about leading Troopers. I want to share with you my leadership "kit bag" which has helped me successfully lead Troopers throughout my 19 ½ -year active duty military career.

The basic tools in my leadership "kit bag" are: the Army Values, a selfless leadership heart, trust and common sense.

To lead Troopers greatly, you must be able to live the military values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. In the toughest circumstances leaders must set the example and be "the calm in a raging storm." This can be difficult for new leaders who are leading Troopers their own age. Taking the hard right vs. the easy wrong can be a tough decision, but good leaders will always take the point and do what is right. We all have a moral compass and we know in our hearts what is right and what is wrong. Always follow your moral compass and you will not lead Troopers in the wrong direction.

To me, having a selfless leadership heart means that I truly care about my Troopers and their families. I want them to be their best, not just in the military, but in their every undertaking. I want to make a difference in their lives. As a leader, caring about them doesn't mean making their life easy. It means I push, challenge, coach, mentor, punish, hug and beam with incredible pride as they grow as leaders and individuals. This is the essence of good leadership, having the selfless heart of a leader. To me, it is the great divide between good leadership and great leadership.

As leaders, we must trust our Troopers to do their jobs, but we must also allow them to make mistakes. This is a tough concept for young officers who feel like they must micro-manage everything. Many of us were



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Watterworth

Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis receives media guidance from the JTF-PAO Deputy Director, Army Lt. Col. Lora Tucker, while working in the Joint Information Bureau here.

raised in a "zero-tolerance" military, and today "zero-tolerance" still raises its nasty head. The reality in life is that we learn the most from painful mistakes. Good leaders allow their Troopers the room to make mistakes. It's our job as leaders to ensure we capture mistakes in after action reviews and during coaching and counseling so Troopers learn and grow. Trust your Troopers and they in turn will trust you.

Last but not least is my common sense rule. For me, as a leader, common sense is an important litmus test. I don't care how things were done the same way for years. Does it make sense to keep doing it the same way? Are we doing things the smart way? Can we do things better? These are questions I am always challenging my Troopers with. Leaders must be able to look at and study systems and processes and direct positive change if needed.

Leading Troopers is an incredible honor and a privilege. Without a doubt, commanding Troopers is the best job in the military. The responsibility of leadership in the military is unlike any other leadership challenge. When called upon, we take our Troopers into battle. We must always lead from the front, lead greatly and take care of our Troopers. ■

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Commercial: 011-53-99-3651

DSN: 660-3651

Online:

www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil



The 305th Press Camp Headquarters, Joint Task Force-Guantanamo, produces *The Wire*, which is printed under the provisions of Department of Defense Instruction 5120.4.

Portrait of a sketch artist

Court artist goes from Hollywood studio to covering the military commissions at GTMO.



Sketch art by Janet R. Hamlan

Journalists from the U.S. and the international community are not allowed to take photographs or video recordings of the proceedings of the military commissions at GTMO. Court artist Janet R. Hamlan from the Associated Press provides visual representations of the commissions through sketch drawings. These drawings compliment and support the print and broadcast stories of news agencies worldwide and give the world a visual reference of the commissions process.

By Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Sitting in the quiet, calm and almost somber commissions room here, many people think of the laws, the judicial memorandums and the Uniform Code of Military Justice that govern these proceedings. However, not everyone busies their minds with the lengthy and often convoluted language of these courts.

Janet R. Hamlan, a court artist with the Associated Press, looks at things from a different point of view.

"I try to look at the body language and the actions of the people in the court room," said Hamlan. "By studying their movements I allow myself to see what function each of them play and where I can incorporate them in my portrait," explained Hamlan.

At a young age, Hamlan knew she wanted to be involved in commercial art.

She began by drawing simple pictures of things outdoors and of her family. Being raised in Mountain Home, Idaho, Hamlan had ample opportunities to hone her skills as an illustrator.

"I was surrounded by beauty as a child, everywhere I looked I could find ideas for portraits. From birds in trees to the sun bouncing off a calm pond," said Hamlan.

Throughout high school Hamlan saw to it that she remained immersed in the science of art. "I'm no anomaly, I, just like everyone else, got distracted and pulled in different directions during high school. My only saving

grace, at times, was that I had a passion for art." After high school and college, she attended design school at Central Washington University and then went on to the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Calif. There, Hamlan learned the marketing and commercial sides of being an illustrator. Shortly after she completed college, Hamlan began her career as a freelance illustrator. She worked on many different types of projects, ranging from the movie *Van Helsing* with Universal Studios, to creating portraits for the winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah.

After 16 years of being self-employed, Hamlan was offered a position with the Associated Press where she had a chance to learn all sorts of different skills. "Up to that point I had only really been drawing and I wanted to learn how to do some of the less artsy things," said Hamlan.

Working with the AP is what eventually brought Hamlan to our beautiful island in the Caribbean. Throughout the commission proceedings, Hamlan drew three portraits of the undertakings of commissions.

"It's sometimes hard to see through all the distractions in the room and just focus on the essential elements. You have to cut all the fat away and find the lean," explained Hamlan.

Hamlan takes an audience who has no idea of what is actually taking place in a scene and puts them directly in the middle of the room. Through her art and her perspective, Hamlan enables her audience to see what is taking place and tells them a story with only a pencil and a sheet of paper. ■

How to survive rip currents

By Army Chief Warrant Officer
Lisa Skioldhanlin

JTF-GTMO Safety Officer

Whether at a fancy resort, spring break in Florida or Guantanamo Bay, swimmers at ocean beaches need to know how to survive if caught in a rip current. Understanding how rip tides work is the first step.

Contrary to popular belief, rip tides don't "suck you under" and drown you. Rip currents are like a fast-moving river that goes AWAY from the beach, out to sea. They kill swimmers with a combination of poor swimming skills, fatigue and fear.

A rip current can take place at any coastline and beach that has breaking waves as the water travels from deep to shallow water. Near shore, rip currents are slow and hard to feel or see. As they move further from the shore, rip currents can reach speeds of 8 feet per second. Even an Olympic swimmer swimming at a gold-medal pace (5 feet per second) can't outrace a rip current.

That's why it's vital to never swim toward the beach - you can't swim in faster than the current will carry you out.

If you become caught in a rip current, it is crucial to recognize it and stay calm. Natural reaction will be to swim back toward the beach and in doing so you will significantly lower your survival rate. Swim parallel to the shore until you get out of it, and then make your way back to land.

Being a weak swimmer will add to the problem, but your ability to swim will be immaterial if you are

Never swim into rip currents. Swim parallel to the beach until you're out of the current.



gripped by fear, fatigue and unable to recognize a rip current.

If you observe a swimmer stuck in a rip current call 911, and try to get the swimmer's attention, convey to them to swim parallel to the shore to get out of the rip current.

Always have a friend with you; never swim alone. Recognize the conditions for strong rip currents high waves and strong winds and remind your swim buddy what to do in a rip current BEFORE you go in the water. Then enjoy the waters and remember to be safe! ■

Reporting information for security purposes

By Frank Perkins

JTF-GTMO Special Security Office

Security of classified information is of the utmost importance to our nation's defense. The safeguarding of our secrets ensures protection of missions, operations and personnel. This process depends upon the continuous evaluation of employees who have been granted access to classified information. To remain qualified for a security clearance, all personnel are required to be continually assessed for standards of conduct, patterns of behavior, affiliations, and allegiance. Individuals who become aware of unfavorable information about another individual are required to report that information to the Command Security Manager or Special Security Office.

Unfavorable or potentially disqualifying information can come to the attention of anyone in the supervisory chain, working or social environment. Once the information surfaces, it is every recipient's responsibility to insure it is reported appropriately.

Unfavorable or disqualifying information falls into the following categories: a. Allegiance to the United States b.

Foreign influence c. Foreign preference d. Sexual behavior e. Personal conduct f. Financial considerations g. Alcohol consumption h. Drug involvement i. Emotional, mental, and personality disorders j. Criminal conduct k. Security violations l. Outside activities m. Misuse of information technology systems.

Supervisors and commanders must ensure their personnel are aware of their responsibility to report unfavorable information, maintain high standards of trustworthiness and loyalty, and avoid any personal behavior that would result in rendering themselves ineligible for a security clearance.

Failure to report unfavorable or disqualifying information can be grounds for loss of security clearance both of the individual and of the person failing to report. The reporting of unfavorable information will not necessarily result in the individual's security clearance being suspended. The information provided will be considered in conjunction with other factors, to include the individual's previous record, recommendations of the supervisor, and mitigating circumstances. The point of contact for this information is Mr. James Parker at ext. 9757. Mission first, security always! ■

Are you prepared to take leave?

By Army Spc. Jamieson Pond

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

A Trooper sits at his desk, thoughts racing through his mind. He thinks of family, friends, and of what he will do when he gets back home. He counts down the days until he can begin his leave, even if it is only for two weeks.

Troopers here may take leave during their tour of duty at GTMO. There are many things Troopers may not be aware of that they need to do before they can consider going anywhere.

Troopers need to first request the dates they want to go on leave through their chain of command. Once the dates have been approved, the Trooper must start planning how they want to leave the island and where they want to go.

Troopers are eligible for leave after serving here for 60 days, but once Troopers has only 45 days left here, they can no longer take leave.

Troopers who are afraid of flying will have their chance to conquer their fear because flying is the only way of getting off this installation. Sadly there are no boat rides or cruise ships to take to Florida from here.

There are only two airlines you can choose from when trying to leave, and the third option is a rotator flight, also know as a military space available flight.

Air Sunshine offers round-trip flights to Fort Lauderdale for around \$400, and Kingston, Jamaica for approximately \$200.

Unlike U.S. commercial flights the price of the ticket does not

increase if you wait to buy your ticket, but you are less likely of getting a seat on the plane if you wait. It is best to buy your tickets four to six weeks before you plan to actually fly out, said Alex McLeish, a flight agent with Air Sunshine.

The busiest times to fly out of GTMO are around Thanksgiving and Christmas. So if you plan to go home around that time, be sure to buy your ticket well in advance before the seats fill up. If you plan to fly home for Thanksgiving you should buy your ticket by September at the latest, and if you plan to fly home for Christmas you should buy your ticket no later than the middle of October.

Lynx Air also offers flights to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. A round-trip ticket costs just over \$430 and they are non-refundable. There is also a \$75 fee for canceling or changing your ticket.

For more information on Lynx Air travel you can visit their website at www.lynxair.com. For more information on Air Sunshine travel you can visit their website at www.airsunshine.com.

So when you take leave, to go home or somewhere else, make sure you make adequate preparations so you don't get stuck paying fees or end up missing your flight.

A Trooper sits in his airplane seat as happy as can be; he's leaving GTMO to go back home. He knows he will only be there for a short time, but nothing can take away from his merry mood. ■



ITT travel tips and information

By Navy Petty Officer 1st Class

Lacy Hicks

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

How would you like to go to Jamaica, Bahamas or Brazil and leave the worries and stresses of work behind?

Information Tickets and Travel can help make it possible for a weekend or an extended leave period. The ITT office is located just inside the Bayview Club.

Andre Gordon, Morale Welfare and Recreation's ITT travel coordinator, can assist with booking reservations with resorts and cruise lines as well as coordinating hotels, entertainment and flight reservations with the Jacksonville ITT office for trips to Florida and the surrounding areas.

There are some important things to take care of prior to basking in the sun at a five star resort.

"When booking a vacation, trip or cruise there are stipulations that must be followed," said Gordon. "When making an appointment, have an idea of where you want to go."

Planning ahead is vital when arranging a trip to a foreign country.

"Thirty days notice will be necessary to successfully book and confirm a trip," said Gordon.

Although these areas seem close by, remember that they are foreign countries and you will need a passport or a certified copy of your birth certificate, and photo identification for return to the United States and its territories. JTF personnel must be in a leave status to take any trip offered by ITT. Troopers must also receive a security brief from the Special Security Office before their departure. For more information on the security brief, contact James Parker at ext. 9757.

"I would like to see more JTF Troopers take advantage of these opportunities," said Gordon. "I encourage everyone to stop by or call. We just may have something that interests you."

For more information call Andre Gordon at ext. 5586 or 90116. ■

24-7, THE U.S. COAST GUARD SECURES THE BAY

Story by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Lacy Hicks

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

All branches of the United States armed forces have a role in the Joint Task Force-Guantanamo. The U.S. Coast Guard 305 Port Security Unit is no exception.

“We are here for anti-terrorism force protection,” said Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Dean Dillingham of boat operations.

The Coast Guard is responsible for activity in the South Channel of Guantanamo Bay.

“There is an international shipping channel here, and we can’t just close that,” said Dillingham. “We are responsible for escorting all foreign vessels and cargo ships in and out of the water gate. We also escort distinguished visitors across the bay. In addition, we participate in insertions, taking the Marine patrols where they need to be.”

The unit consists of reserve Troopers out of Virginia, some with experience of 35 years and some on their first deployment. Despite 18 years of experience and 4 deployments with other units, this is a first for Dillingham.

“This is the first time I have worked with a Joint Task Force,” said Dillingham. “I found working with all the other services very interesting.”

Each boat consists of a coxswain and two or three crewmen. The coxswain is the driver of the boat and is in charge. To be a certified crewman or

coxswain, Coast Guardsmen must be evaluated both on the boat and during an oral board.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Heath Jones is on his first deployment with the unit and has recently completed his crewman and engineering certifications. He is currently training to become a coxswain and should be certified before the end of the deployment.

“I have enjoyed this deployment,” said Jones. “It has given me the operation experience I needed to put the skills I’ve been taught into action.”

The security patrols are a full time job, but the Coast Guard doesn’t stop there. They also maintain their own boats and weapons.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Angel Pla and Petty Officer 2nd Class Martin Misjuns are responsible for keeping all of the Coast Guard’s weapons clean and in proper working order.

“There are a lot of man-hours that go into maintaining weapons and qualifying people on the weapons,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Angel Pla.

“Keeping the weapons clean is a crucial and constant task,” said Dillingham.

Though the PSU 305 is almost finished with their tour here, another unit will pick up where they leave off. Regardless of the unit, the Coast Guard will continue to do their part by keeping the bay safe 24 hours a day, seven days a week. ■



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Timm Duckworth

▲Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher McNamara receives weapons guidance from Petty Officer 3rd Class Angel Pla.

▼Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Bernie Blyth prepares to exchange motors.



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Timm Duckworth



Joint Task Force Maritime Security Force Port Security Unit 305 on patrol.

Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Timm Duckworth

PGA Pro gives golf lessons to GTMO



Photo by Army Spc. Dustin Robbins

PGA Professional Mike McCool demonstrates to his beginning golf students how to properly grip a golf club. The clinics taught by Mike McCool were sponsored by the MWR to get more people interested in the sport here.

and MWR, McCool was interested in seeing the GTMO golf course after he heard so many stories about it.

“When MWR asked if I could instruct these classes, I thought it’d be a good thing to do. I love to support the Troopers,” said McCool. “I also wanted to come down out of curiosity. I’ve always heard stories about the course and I wanted to see it for myself.”

The golf course and driving range are open to be played seven days a week, 24 hours a day. However, if you need to rent clubs or want a golf cart, the golf shack beside the course is open Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Clubs only cost \$5 to rent all day and \$10 dollars will cover an all day golf cart rental. For more information you may contact the golf shack at ext. 6820. ■

By Army Spc. Dustin Robbins

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Mike McCool, a PGA golf professional, visited Guantanamo Bay to conduct golf clinics for GTMO residents from this past Sunday until today.

The purpose of this MWR-sponsored event is to get more people interested in golf and to see more people use the golf course.

Of the approximately 35 people attending the clinics, most are new to golf.

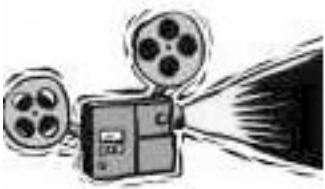
“I got into golf a long time ago because of my friends,” said Bill Willeg, a civil engineer technician here. “My friends stopped playing, but I stayed with it.”

Aside from wanting to spread the sport of golf within the military



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Timm Duckworth

Mike McCool gives some final advice to students attending his golf clinic. There were five different clinics offered throughout the week: beginning golf, golf instruction for ladies, intermediate golf, a session for the advanced golfer and a final day for extra tips on the game. McCool is also the head golf professional at Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, which has an 18-hole course designed by PGA champion and legend Arnold Palmer.



PHIL AND LOUIE'S MOVIE REVIEW

with Army Spc. Jamieson "Louie" Pond and guest reviewer Army Spc. Dustin Robbins

This week's feature reviews: "Ice Age 2" and "Ultraviolet"

LOUIE

- Ice Age 2 -

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

"Ice Age: The Meltdown" is a family friendly comedy that has no shortage of laughs. In this installment the movie starts where the last movie ended. All the same lovable characters are in the sequel, with the same voices from the original.

In this installment, the end of the ice age has come and all of the animals must evacuate their homes in fear of the melting ice. Everyone must make the long journey across their valley to a boat on the other side of the valley before it is too late.

Luckily for everyone who loved the squirrel-like creature from the original movie, he is included in this edition with even more screen time. Without the squirrel, and his never ending hunt for his acorn, this movie would have not been able to reach its full potential. The squirrel seems even more determined in this movie and he brings laughter at the perfect moments.

In "Ice Age: The Meltdown" there is not only a race against time to escape the oncoming flood, but also a love

story between the main character, the lovable mammoth, Manny, voiced by Ray Romano; and Ellie, another lovable mammoth, voiced by Queen Latifah, who thinks she is an opossum.

This fun and friendly movie was better than the original in many ways. The graphics seem much crisper and realistic and the dialogue was new and entertaining.

This movie would be good for all ages and personalities. If you liked the original "Ice Age," then you will love this one. ■

ROBBINS

- Ultraviolet -

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

In this movie Milla Jovovich plays her usual persona of a butt-kicking, name taking heroine who's out for revenge against a corporate enemy.

An outbreak of a very dangerous and extremely contagious disease manufactured by government science labs has thrown the world into a state of sterile hysteria. One side effect of the virus is a new breed of infected humans known as hemophages, a form of vampire hybrids to

be more exact.

The fact that they're vampires can be overlooked because the theme is never portrayed much at all throughout the movie. What the disease does account for though is a race of superhuman fighters who struggle for their lives as the corporate government wages a war to eradicate them. The very disease that gives them strength is also slowly killing them, and it's a race against time to find the cure.

In reality, it's almost a blessing that the vampire theme wasn't played out in this movie, giving it a refreshing retreat from the blade and underworld series; however, this movie highly resembles *Aeon Flux*. And while it tops *Aeon Flux*'s action scenes, it falls short on the dialogue and storyline. There are massive gaps in the story that leave you with much to be desired, but the action scenes will give you a surplus of exciting martial arts-style mayhem.

Even though the dialogue and storyline are poorly composed, you will have a good time with this one if you love a movie with a high body count and massive collateral damage. So go see it for a quick adrenaline rush, and then forget about it later. ■

Army Pfc. Philip Regina asked Troopers around JTF-GTMO...

What do you hope to accomplish while you're here?



◀ **Army Spc. Pablo Andrews, 29th Infantry Division:** "Since I got called up to mobilize I've lost about 40 pounds, but I hope that by the end of this deployment I can lose another 15."

▶ **Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jillian Lesko, surgical technician:** "I hope to better myself financially and physically. I've been mountain biking every day and hopefully by the time I leave here I'll be in really good shape. I think as long as you keep a positive attitude, you can achieve a lot here."



WHERE IS GOD AT GTMO?

By Navy Chaplain (Lt.) William "Nick" Hamilton

JTF-GTMO Navy Provisional Guard Battalion

Since arriving here a number of people have expressed concerns to me about why they have to endure some of the things they've been through at GTMO. I've listened to those who have expressed frustration about deployment, separation from family, career, and numerous other things. Some wonder aloud about the meaning of life and how being here fits into "the big picture." In fact, some feel as if they have been ripped away from home and thrown onto center stage to do the impossible.

Yet, for the world that watches, the impossible never seems to be good enough and our hard work is often not understood.

Maybe you are one who feels as though you are caught between the proverbial "a rock and a hard place." I'm reminded of Psalm 139, which majestically reminds readers of God's ever-present comfort:

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar...

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths,
you are there.

Personally, it is very comforting to know that there is no location in the universe or emotion I experience that goes unnoticed by God, that what I do and feel here at GTMO has the highest level of attention, that of the very throne of God himself. How would your experience at GTMO change if you trusted your life and issues to a God who *knows*? ■

The DaVinci Code: A Discussion and In-Depth Study

Was Jesus Married to Mary Magdalene?
What Is the Holy Grail?
Was Leonardo DaVinci Part of the
Priory of Sion?

**Where: Camp America Chapel,
located behind Troopers Chapel in
A5206.**

**When: Thursdays on May 11, 18, 25
7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

For more information

**Contact: CH (LTC) Martin-Minnich at
ext. 3202**

CAMP AMERICA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:00 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	8:00 a.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	9:00 a.m.	Catholic Mass	Main Chapel
	9:00 a.m.	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Sanctuary A
	9:30 a.m.	Protestant Sun. School	Main Chapel
	10:00 a.m.	Protestant Liturgical	Sanctuary B
	11:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel
Monday	1:00 p.m.	Gospel Service	Main Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	7:00 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
Tues. to Fri.	7:00 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
	12:00 p.m.	Daily Mass	Cobre Chapel
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
Friday	12:30 p.m.	Islamic Prayer	Sanctuary C
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Main Chapel
	5:00 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 Army Pfc. Sabrina Jean

By Army Pfc. Philip Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Guantanamo heat peels the paint from the asphalt outside the commissions building here. Regardless of branch of service or gender, the midday sun shines indiscriminately on all who stand in its presence. In this unforgiving heat, with only a small tent for shade and a single fan for relief, Army Pfc. Sabrina Jean, with her rifle at the low ready, tirelessly checks each individual entering the building.

Jean is the first female to perform sentry duty at the various security checkpoints here.

Jean is a member of the 525th Military Police Battalion. She has been in GTMO since July, 2005. She initially performed detainee operations inside the detention center exclusively, but two weeks ago, she was pulled

to augment the 629th Military Intelligence Battalion, 29th Infantry Division's mission of security at the security checkpoints and towers in the wire.

"I was initially pulled to help with the military commissions. Media, detainee family members and other visitors who want to enter the commissions building must first be searched. Since there are often females who attend commissions, the leadership thought it would be best to have a female perform the searches," explained Jean.

Since military commissions ended Jean has been performing sentry duties at the various checkpoints and served as a guard in some of the towers in the detention facility.

Although Jean is the first female to perform these duties, she reacts to this fact with a humble heart.

"It's an honor to be the first female to perform these duties, but I really don't think it's that big of a deal. Yes, I am a female, but I am also a MP. I have gone through the same training as everyone else in my battalion; I'm no different than the men. If we train the same, then we should be able to perform the same duties," added Jean.

Jean is currently one of only two females attached to the 629th and the infantrymen have welcomed her openly.

"The infantry guys are amazing. I know they're not really used to working with females, but they've really welcomed me with open arms. They don't discriminate; they treat me just like one of the guys," explained Jean. "The job's a little different than what I'm used to. I spend long days in the hot sun, but the guys I work with help me get through the day."

"It doesn't make a difference whether you're male or female. We're all Troopers. If females can work on the cellblock, then they should be able to be gate security. If you ask me, it's more challenging on the block than at the gates," said Army Sgt. Siggall RoShawn, a member of the 525th.

When asked how she felt about making history here, Jean's reply was simple.

"I'm a firm believer in equality, I think that if we train the same, we should be treated the same, no matter if you're male or female," said Jean. ■



Photo by Army Spc. Jamieson Pond

Army Pfc. Sabrina Jean performs security duty at GTMO. Her tireless efforts help keep fellow Troopers safe here.

15 Minutes of Fame

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

AROUND THE JTF



◀ Army 1st Lt. Michael Garcia, from the 305th Press Camp Headquarters, receives his current rank promotion from Joint Task Force commander, Navy Rear Adm. Harry B. Harris, Jr. Saturday, April 22.

Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Timm Duckworth



Photos by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Timm Duckworth

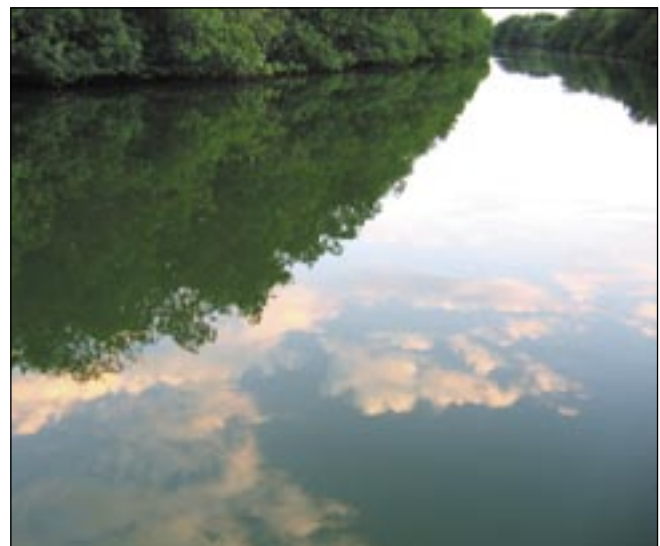
Performers of the Vamphear Variety Act put on a show at the Downtown Lyceum April 23.



Photo by Army 1st Lt. Anthony John

▲ JTF-GTMO commander Navy Rear Adm. Harry B. Harris, Jr. (second from the left), greets the governor of Massachusetts, Mitt Romney (third from the left), the deputy assistant secretary of defense for detainee affairs, Cully Stimson (fourth from the left), and the governor of Arkansas, Mike Huckabee (in yellow), during a visit here.

★★★ PHOTO OF THE WEEK ★★★



Army Maj. Eric C. Brown wins this week's Photo of the Week contest with this entry which shows the sky reflected in the placid waters of the Guantanamo River.