



the Wire

“HONOR BOUND TO DEFEND FREEDOM”

Volume 4, Issue 29

www.nsgtmo.navy.mil/jtfgtmo

Friday, April 2, 2004

Coming up and patrolling with the MSST

By SGT Jolene Staker

Coxswains yell “coming up” to let all on board know to hang on because the boat is picking up speed.

While this is now my favorite phrase because it signifies the beginning of an exciting ride, I learned while on patrol with the Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSST) 91110 that those fast rides are a very small part of the daily duties of Coast Guardsmen patrolling Guantanamo Bay.

“Our primary responsibility is to deny the enemy untested access to Guantanamo Bay,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Kevin DeBoth.

This is a responsibility that the MSST 91110 members take very seriously. To protect Guantanamo Bay, they are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

(from left) Petty Officer 2nd Class Josh Worrell, Petty Officer Mike Goguen and Petty Officer 3rd Class Christian Carrion of the Maritime Safety and Security Team 91110 escort a Coast Guard cutter out of the bay.

a week. Each shift faces challenges from the weather to darkness and even sometimes

boredom.

“Not every day is the same, you never know what is going

to happen during your watch — anything can happen,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Thomas Pease, coxswain.

MSST members provide escorts for incoming and outgoing vessels, ensure that morale boats stay within the boundaries, ensure that unwanted vessels do not come in past those boundaries, transfer people from windward to leeward, investigate anything suspicious and be on call for additional tasks as they occur.

While I was out with them Sunday afternoon, we were called to clear some people out of an offshore area where they were not supposed to be. Although this is not normally a Coast Guard function, we were the only boat within the vicinity, and the crewmembers were happy to help.

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Trooper to Trooper

Febles ready to start work at JTF GTMO

About three weeks ago I received a short notification by the Department of the Army that I was selected to serve as the new JTF Guantanamo command sergeant major, replacing CSM George Nieves.

As your new JTF-GTMO CSM, I am extremely privileged and honored to serve this great team of professionals.

First my many thanks to MG Geoffrey Miller for my selection. Shortly thereafter, he was selected to serve in Iraq and continue the Global War on Terrorism. It is a common term for sailors to say "may the wind be at your back" – for a paratrooper it is the opposite – in order to have a soft landing, you must face into the wind thereby slowing your vertical and horizontal speed, having said that I wish him many soft landings.

The new commander BG Jay Hood has a similar background; he comes with a well-earned reputation. He is a great leader and paratrooper, serving in the very best and elite units in the Army and we both feel ecstatic to continue the great work of the previous command team. I feel privileged and absolutely honored to serve him and the joint task force.

I want to personally thank all of you for the great reception and warm welcome. I will return to my previous duty station for a couple of weeks to outprocess and resettle my family in another home; they will join me here next year as my daughter graduates from college and my spouse's civil service transfer is complete.

This past week we've attended command briefings with focus on mission, capabilities and accomplishments. My immediate impression and observation is summed in one word "impressive." I am absolutely proud of the great professionalism and dedication to mission demonstrated throughout the whole task force.

This is truly a joint task force, comprised of Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, Coastguardsmen, governmental agencies, and civilian work force – a *one team* effort, and, again, I feel privileged to serve everyone.



CSM Angel Febles
JTF GTMO
Command Sergeant Major

I will continue to support the programs that relate to the health and welfare of all our service members, families and civilian work force. This team works hard and should have the very best morale and welfare programs and facilities we can muster. I truly expect everyone to take advantage of the many activities available at Guantanamo and have fun and do it safely.

I have been asked on my leadership and training philosophies; the commanding general issued a great command philosophy, which I truly support. His philosophy is our philosophy. Upon my return, I plan to meet with all the senior noncommissioned officer leadership and talk several key points, with the intent to reiterate mission, training, force protection, standards, and basic leadership fundamentals.

Lastly, I cannot reiterate enough the importance of the one team concept at all levels. I will approach everything as a joint task force not an individual service, because we cannot afford to be divided, our mission is too important.

This is going to be a great year, with historical significance and I have no doubt we will all achieve success. Everyone in this joint task force plays a vital role on the Global War on Terrorism and when your duties culminate, all should leave with a sense of accomplishment, pride, and satisfaction of the service rendered to our great nation.

Honor bound!

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Circulation: 2,100 copies

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The Wire is produced by the 70th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment assigned to the Joint Information Bureau at Joint Task Force Guantanamo. This publication is printed under the provisions provided in Army Regulation 360-1 and does not reflect the views of the Department of Defense or the personnel within.

Getting to know the new JTF command team



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

BG Jay Hood, JTF commander, addresses troopers during the Change of Command Ceremony, March 25.

BG Jay Hood

By SGT Jolene Staker

The JTF is operating under a new commander, BG Jay Hood.

JTF Troopers will not see much of an immediate change in the daily conducting of business, but with new leadership comes specific philosophies and expectations.

"There are three things I would like to see in every leader -- every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, and Coast Guardsman," said Hood.

"I want all JTF troopers to be technically competent, willing to lead and dedicated to taking care of people," he said.

In order to be technically competent it takes individual effort. It's not the leadership training the troopers -- it's the troopers willing to constantly study, practice and do critical self-evaluation, said Hood.

It is asking every day 'am I doing the best I can do' and more importantly 'what can I do better,' he said.

"I expect all JTF Troopers to be willing to stand up and get out front and lead," said Hood.

Hood believes that communication is critical to effective leadership.

"You have to be able to communicate up, down and sideways," he said.

Troopers need to be able to tell their leadership what is good and what isn't good. They need to talk to their peers to learn better ways to do their jobs. It is crucial that leaders can communicate to their subordinates what they expect them to do, when they expect them to do it and what standard they expect to be met.

Dedication to each other is another area that Hood believes to be vital to the success of the JTF.

"Some call it taking care of people," said Hood. "Every single one of us can do something to demonstrate taking care of each other."

One of the things I will do over the next two years is to seek out ways to improve life for JTF Troopers as well as those who serve on the NAVBASE and their families, said Hood.

If we will strive to be technically competent, step out to be leaders and dedicate ourselves to taking care of people, we will continue to be a great organization fighting the war on terrorism -- everyday, said Hood.

CSM Angel Febles

By SGT Jolene Staker

The new JTF Command Sergeant Major, CSM Angel Febles, does not plan on spending much time in his office.

"I want to meet as many troopers as I can. I want to meet the team," said Febles. "I want to see how they do business and what I can do for them."

Febles joined the military to become a medical officer, but after being exposed to the infantry he couldn't wait to become an infantryman.

His combat mindset makes for high standards of leadership, training and taking care of troopers.

"I expect the Non-Commissioned Officers to do their job to ensure that trooper's welfare, mission and training are first," said Febles.

Just as the NCO Creed states, Febles expects the NCOs to take care of business so that officers do not have to do the NCOs jobs.

Febles says that he has seen absolute professionalism as he has gone around meeting JTF Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen,

Marines and Coast Guardsman.

"We have the best," said Febles.

Febles will focus on continuing the programs that CSM George Nieves, former JTF Command Sergeant Major, started. Many of these programs deal with morale and welfare as well as NCO training and education.

"I'll be the CG's eyes and ears throughout the command to be sure everyone understands his intent," said Febles.

Febles' assignments throughout his career have exposed him to the Army's elite -- the very best NCOs and officers, he said.

"I was initially trained by post Vietnam veterans and they had uncompromising standards," said Febles.

He continues to uphold these standards.

Febles believes in some ways it is harder to be an NCO today.

"Junior leaders today have to be able to think quick on their feet and work decentralized," said Febles.

I want the troopers of the JTF to know that what they do here is honorable and important said Febles.

"I want them to leave here with their chests held high and very proud of what they've done," said Febles.



Photo by SFC Tom Guminsky

CSM Angel Febles, JTF command sergeant major, addresses troopers during the Transfer of Responsibility Ceremony, March 25.

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And while anything can happen, there are hours on end that actually nothing happens. This can make the shift long and boring on the water.

“Maintaining vigilance when there is not much going on can be a challenge,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Tom Petro, crewman.

Members of the MSST face this challenge head-on by doing tactical training and maintaining their boats during down times.

Petty Officer 3rd Class David Johnson said that the favorite part of his job is keeping the weapons and ammunition clean.

He’s a gunner’s mate, so he takes particular pride in taking care of the weapons, but he

also knows he has to maintain his focus and always be looking for surface contacts.

When I asked Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert Richardson what the responsibility of crewmen included, he was quick to say that they load weapons, tie up the line and act as extra eyes and ears for the coxswain. But the most important part – “Being aware at all times and knowing what your mission is,” he said. “Anything can happen.”

Petty Officer 3rd Class Gilberto Blanco echoes Richardson.

“I man the weapons and maintain lookout,” he said.

While the MSST members’ job is challenging at anytime, I think the most challenging would be at night. When I went out with them I couldn’t see at

all. I was grateful that it wasn’t my responsibility to keep Guantanamo safe.

“We sweep our zone and tactically drift all night,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Albert Herrington.

I got to drive the boat a short distance on night patrol. I think my driving may have been making the coxswain a little nervous.

He asked me if I liked country music and if I knew the Alan Jackson and Jimmy Buffet song “It’s 5:00 Somewhere.”

When I told him that I did know the song he reminded me of the last part of the song where it talks about “keep it between the navigation beacons” and asked me to do that.

I didn’t keep the wheel long and felt much better when

it was back in his able hands.

When I was out with the patrol during the day I got some hands on experience with the lines and learned how to tie one knot used for stowing them. I learned a lot from my time on the water with the MSST. Doing anything while you’re out on the water is a challenge, and I used both hands to hang on the majority of the time.

The crew is required to perform many tasks which don’t allow them to hold on with both hands.

They have to be diligent to ensure personal safety and safety for anyone else who is in the bay with them. This is another area that MSST members take seriously.

The MSST works hard at keeping us safe.



Photos by SGT Jolene Staker

Top left: Petty Officer 1st Class Daniel Schrader (left) and Petty Officer 3rd Class Jimmel Villanueva check the instrument panel.

Top center: Petty Officer 3rd Class David Johnson keeps an eye out during a recent patrol.

Top right: Petty Officer 3rd Class Warren Mitchell looks through night vision goggles during night patrol.

Bottom right: Petty Officer 1st Class Kevin DeBoth, coxswain, calls in status report.

Bottom left: Petty Officer 3rd Class Tom Petro mans the M2 50 Caliber weapon.



Class 384-04 graduates 31E MP conversion course



The 384-04 31E graduation ended with the cutting of a cake, emblazoned with the JTF slogan, "Honor Bound to Defend Freedom."



Photos by AF Staff Sgt. Joshua Gorman

Class 384-04 listens to the opening comments from Joint Detention Operations Group Commander Col. Nelson Cannon at graduation on March 24.



(Left) SFC John Waters, course instructor, speaks to the graduates after receiving a Joint Service Commendation Medal on March 24.



(Right) BG Mitch LeClaire awards the class 384-04 honor graduate SFC Samuel Wireman with the Army Achievement Medal at the graduation.

Inspector General's office places integrity first

A JTF trooper recently stated that she had been directed to appear for an investigation. The trooper wondered why the IG wasn't involved.

The short answer is Inspector General integrity.

Integrity is the cornerstone of the Inspector General program. This integrity is made up of two parts. These are the personal integrity of the Inspector General team members and Inspector General functional integrity.

All IG team members are subject to careful scrutiny before they are selected. Personal integrity is the first factor considered.

AR 20-1, the IG directive, protects functional integrity. It states that the IGs may not be assigned to any non-IG assistance or evaluation function, be appointed as investigating officers for UCMJ or AR 15-6 investigations, or ANY duty that may subsequently disqualify them from being impartial fact finders in IG matters.

These restrictions are intended to preclude any conflict of interest, protect impartially, and defend the integrity of the IG System. IGs do not do anything that may jeopardize the distinction between the extension of the commander and a fair and impartial fact finder.

This trooper's question is an example of what we are frequently asked, and are always glad to answer.

The IG office can be found at the Commissions Building, Room 204, Monday through Saturday. The IG phone number is 5399.

The Camp America IG office is in Building 7200 and is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday afternoons and Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings. The Camp America Office phone number is 3501. IG assistance is available anytime by appointment.

Courtesy of the Joint Task Force Guantanamo IG office

JTF connects during Month of the Military Child

By SSG Patrick Cloward

Being a military child has its rewards but also its share of difficulties. As a military child, you get to travel the nation and sometimes the world.

For children of members of the JTF, it means being separated from them for a significant amount of time. This can be difficult for both parties, the parent, as well as the child.

So, to honor our military children and recognize the important role they play in our community, the Department of Defense has named the month of April to be the Month of the Military Child. For active-duty bases, that means MWR activities that focus more on family-oriented activities as well as fun that caters to young kids. For members of the JTF, it can be an opportunity to reflect on the relationships that are strengthened as parents leave home to support our nation's fight against terrorism.

"I do miss them, but it's about having your children step up to the plate," said SSG Clifford A. Jones of the 177th MP Bde. Jones works as the JTF J-3 NCOIC. When he's not assisting other training NCOs with equipment or coordinating range control with the NAVBASE, to enable JTF members to practice the skills necessary to maintain proper defense of Guantanamo Bay, he tries to focus on the "personnel" that matter most to him, his children.

"My oldest son has really stepped up in helping his mom," said Jones. "He understands why I instill certain things. My daughters are older and see what I really do. It really hit home at first and they appreciate what their dad sacrifices for them."

On his last visit home during leave, he said the experience brought his oldest daughter closer to him. "I really think my time with them let them know their dad really loves them and



Photo by SSG Patrick Cloward

1SG Sandra Adams-Jones works as the 273rd MP Co. first sergeant says she emails her children almost every day.

made me appreciate my family." Jones said, in order to continue to connect with his kids, he always remembers to ask how they're doing and speak to them when he gets an opportunity.

"It makes me realize what I haven't done and what I'm going to do when I get back home," he said. "It helps me be a better husband and father."

Of course Jones loves to brag about his children and how they're doing. The former Marine talks about the new understanding between him and his oldest son.

"Just hearing from my son to say, 'I love you,' means a lot," he said. "He's doing so well."

Jones speaks fondly of his oldest daughter, who is from a previous marriage.

"She's going to be having a baby soon," he said. "My oldest daughter and I, we're developing a closer relationship, so it makes me more assertive for my job. I want my grandchild to have good memories of me –

that I served in the military."

That pride is also reflected in the relationship CPT Donald Woodley, commander of the 661st MP Company has for his son.

"This is my first deployment and he was OK with it," said Woodley. "Being as young as he is, he didn't have a real reaction."

Woodley, who often spent short periods of time away from his home in the Virgin Islands at his civilian job, feels his son has taken it all in stride.

"I was in Captain's Course for six months before I got deployed; so I think he's gotten a little used to it," he said. "I basically just told him that I have to go again." To compensate for the separation, Woodley says he calls home around five to six days a week. "I know that what I say he remembers because one time I said something, and he wasn't listening at school for two days," he said. "I don't know what I said, but it must have really affected him,

other than that, there's no real negative reactions." To give him a last thought before the end of the day, Woodley calls in the evening before he goes to bed. "If I miss it, then I'll call before he goes to school real quickly," said Woodley.

Woodley thinks fondly of those rare moments when he hears of his son's true feelings. "Sometimes he'll say to his mom, 'I miss my daddy,'" he said. "So I call as often as possible. I don't think it's changed the closeness. When I went home on leave, we picked up right where we left off."

When Woodley calls, he says that it's like he never left. "I don't speak to him significantly different." "I ask him more about school, and stress that he behave himself, his teachers and his mom. He'll say, 'Hey dad, what you doing?'" Woodley added that some days his son talks like a river flowing with things to say, and he just listens. "Other times

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Chaplain's Corner

Attempting the impossible

By CH (LTC) Steve Feehan

We all experience times when everything seems to go exceptionally well and times when everything seems to go wrong. We are all challenged with things that seem impossible. Yet, if we are seeking to do God's will and we keep asking, seeking and knocking we can all be winners. As Edgar A. Guest wrote:

"Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But he with a chuckle replied

That maybe it couldn't, but he would be one

Who wouldn't say so 'till he tried.

So he buckled right in with a trace of a grin on his face.

If he worried, he hid it

He started to sing as he tackled the thing That couldn't be done, and he did it."

Remember, "With God, all things are possible."

Heavenly Bits and Pieces

By CH (MAJ) Daniel Odean

Jesus is an equal opportunity Savior

Jesus is the Savior of the world. He made that completely clear.

God came to us when we could not get to Him. He made the way.

Therefore, there is no other way. He gives us the opportunity to have peace with God---will you receive it?

Romans 5:10 - "For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!"



Thursday Ticket

(Above) SPC Luis Marrero, SSG Steve Drake, and CH (LTC) Steve Feehan watch "Sgt. York" March 25 as the Thursday Ticket movie. This week's film was "The Book of Days." (Right) CH (MAJ) Daniel Odean joins in the viewing of "Sgt. York" starring Gary Cooper, who portrays a drafted pacifist who becomes a World War I hero.



Photos by AF Staff. Sgt. Joshua Gorman

2004 Catholic Lenten and Holy Week Schedule

Every Friday of Lent

Stations of the Cross and Benediction tonight from 6 to 7 p.m.

Lenten Penance Service

Apr. 6 at 7 p.m.

Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Apr. 8 at 7 p.m.

Good Friday

Good Friday Service

Apr. 9 at 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil Mass

Apr. 10 at 8 p.m.

Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service

(Not a Mass)

Apr. 11 at 6 a.m.

Easter Sunday

Mass of the Resurrection

Apr. 11 at 9 a.m.

All services held at the Naval Station Main Chapel

Chaplain Bulletins

Celebration of Passover

Passover will be celebrated April 6, at the Chapel Hill Fellowship Hall.

Please arrive at the chapel by 5:45 p.m. for the sundown service (approx. 6:15 p.m.). For more information, call 2323 or 2843.

Resurrection Run

A 5-K fun run will be held April 12, at 6:30 a.m. It begins at the base gym and ends at Iguana Crossing Coffee House on Chapel Hill.

The first 100 participants to sign up will receive a T-shirt.

For more information or to volunteer to help, call 2323 or 2843.

Women's Fellowship

The Protestant Women of the Chapel Guantanamo Bay Fellowship meets the fourth Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

for dinner, worship, and fellowship.

For more information, call Joan Feehan at 5700 or SPC Katrina Collins at 5241.

Maundy Thursday Service

A Maundy Thursday Service is scheduled April 8 at Troopers Chapel in Camp America at 6 p.m.

Good Friday

A Good Friday Service is scheduled for April 9 at 7 p.m. at the Troopers Chapel in Camp America.

Easter Vigil Service

An Easter Vigil Service will be held April 10 at 6 p.m. at the Troopers Chapel in Camp America.

Easter Sunrise Service

An Easter Sunrise Service will be held April 11 at 6 a.m. Between Seaside Galley and the ocean

Resurrection Run

April 12, 6:30 a.m.

First 100 runners receive T-shirts. Continental breakfast afterward. For more information, call 2323.

From Child, page 6

I have to pull it out of him," he said. "And other times he won't talk. Right now he'd probably give me a whole other book of the Bible. I feel like he's adjusted to it. He's used to me leaving for short periods of time. I think he is somewhat prepared for me leaving home, but hopefully not much longer."

What does a mother of a family do when she gets deployed?

"I keep what I do here separate. I don't mix the two," says 1SG Sandra Adams-Jones of the 273rd MP Co.

Adams-Jones, whose unit was assigned to Pentagon guard duty before being deployed to Guantanamo feels she's lucky to have the children she has.

"They do well in school without me being there," she said. "There's no stress with me being absent. My strong family, my mother, their father and my sisters help me out. They're there to support them too. They don't feel the pressure of the

children. I don't have some of the problems being away from family."

In the beginning, the transition was gradual, but still a strain on her family.

"At the Pentagon they saw me on the weekends. I got to see their functions," she said. "My sister said my fourteen-year-old misses me the most. He tells everyone he's a momma's boy. 'I'm used to looking around and seeing you in the stands to say shhh, be quiet.' He misses my support in everything he does."

Now that she's been deployed to Guantanamo Bay, the concerns from her children were a little deeper.

"At first, they asked me a lot of questions," she said. "'Why you got to go?' But they knew this is my job and that I would go sooner or later." She said that when they were younger her time away didn't seem to affect them as much. Now they're older it bothers them more. "When I first told them

"The questions are more mom-daughter talk, like she would ask me what I would do in certain situations," she said. "I think we've gotten closer. They're more open without me because I have less of a chance of getting upset. A lot of things they ask or say as if I was there."

– 1SG Sandra Adams-Jones

where I was going they said 'GTMO? Where's that? Can we come see you? Are you going to come back?' All I could say was I don't know."

Being separated seemed to have more an effect on her children, so she compensates by frequently talking to them on the phone and through email and cards.

"We e-mail every day," she said. "We talk on the phone twice a week, and I send them cards and letters and souvenirs."

She's also found that often,

her kids are able to share with her things that they might not have shared, had she been with them at home. "The questions are more mom-daughter talk, like she would ask me what I would do in certain situations," she said. "I think we've gotten closer. They're more open without me because I have less of a chance of getting upset. A lot of things they ask or say as if I was there."

Though members of the JTF have their duty, they still can keep their children with them in their hearts.



Photo by SSG Patrick Cloward

SSG Clifford Jones of the 177th MP Bde. and J-3 training NCOIC has found his relationship with his children has been strengthened during his deployment to JTF Guantanamo

Sports highlights

ACC flexes tourney muscles; Busch wins

Compiled by SPC Rick Fahr

Who'll win the next battle at the Alamo?

Any of the four combatants in the NCAA men's basketball tournament – **Duke, Connecticut, Oklahoma State and Georgia Tech** – has a legitimate shot, but the winner, regardless of the final score, will be the **Atlantic Coast Conference**.

The ACC perennially boasts one of the strongest basketball conferences in the nation, and this year is no different. Half the Final Four teams hail from the ACC.

The semifinal games are Saturday, with the championship set for Monday.

With just 10 games left in the regular season, both divi-

sion leaders in the **NBA's Eastern Conference** have all but sewn up their division crowns.

New Jersey and Indiana both have solid leads of about seven games on their nearest competitors, while **Detroit** has also clinched a playoff berth in the conference.

In the **West**, both division races may go down to the wire.

Minnesota and San Antonio are battling in the **Midwest**, while **Sacramento and Los Angeles (Lakers)** are alive in the **Pacific**.

As **Major League Baseball** cranks up its 2004 campaign, the season promises to feature a number of intriguing storylines.

Houston will host the **All-Star Game**, and two hometown heroes could play

prominent roles in the exhibition. **Roger Clemens** and **Andy Petite** both jumped to the **Astros** from the **New York Yankees** in the offseason, making for a hot summer in Texas.

Nomar Garciaparra will most likely miss the opening portion of the season with an injured Achilles tendon. Team officials won't rush his return.

If the **Philadelphia Phillies** can hold late-inning leads, their new closer, **Billy Wagner**, may give them just the boost they need to win the **National League East**, but Wagner hasn't looked sharp in spring training, posting an ERA of more than 10 in his last three games.

Kurt Busch maintained his winning ways at Bristol in Sunday's **Food City 500**.

He held off **Rusty Wallace**

to win his third straight **NASCAR Nextel Cup** race. The win was his fourth in his last five tries at the short Tennessee track.

From the fairways ...

Adam Scott led the **Player's Championship** wire to wire, although he nearly stumbled on the final hole.

Sitting perfectly in the fairway on the 18th hole, with a two-shot lead, Scott pulled his approach into the water hazard. He then chipped to 10 feet, needing to hole the putt to avoid a playoff.

The ball touched nothing but the bottom of the cup.

The Australian, who grew up idolizing **Greg Norman**, earned a cool \$1.4 million for the win.

Compiled from www.espn.com

You have questions? I have answers -- kinda, sorta

By SPC Rick Fahr

From the day I found out that I'd be deploying to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, I had all sorts of questions. To this day, they keep coming.

I imagine everybody deployed here has questions about their mission, their life, their hooch. Maybe I can share a few answers that I've gleaned over the months.

Answer: Yes.

Question: Do smokeless tobacco products count as food and drink, in the context of whether they're allowed in the computer rooms?

Answer: Computer lab cubicles.

Question: Where's one place I shouldn't store my spit-filled soda bottles?

Answer: No.

Question: Is lassoing iguanas an MWR-sanctioned sport?

Answer: Nine per hour.

Question: What is the average number of near-miss accidents between vehicles and pedestrians and vehicles and other vehicles at Gold Hill Galley?

FAHR GAME

Answer: No. Folks three doors down might not want your MTV.

Question: Should I always play my radio/television/whatever at its highest volume?

Answer: Twenty minutes. That's 20 minutes total. Not 20 minutes of e-mailing and then 20 minutes of Dialpadding and then 20 minutes of online poker.

Question: How long should I use the MWR computers before allowing that guy waiting patiently a chance to visit with his loved ones?

Answer: A weak car battery during a Minnesota winter.

Question: What's more reliable than the electricity grid at Camp America North?

Answer: Those little reddish-brown, stand-looking things every few feet out at Camp America North.

Question: Where should smokers put their cigarette butts, instead of dropping

them on the ground for folks on cleaning detail to pick up?

Answer: Rodney King and the Los Angeles Police Department.

Question: What are two things less likely to cause a riot than removing Dialpad software from MWR computers?

Answer: A rabid banana rat.

Question: What's the only thing on the island to avoid more than a patrolling infantryman if I left my identification badge back at the hooch?

Answer: Maybe not. Same.

Question: Will I get caught if I ignore the posted speed limits? Do I really want to take that chance?

Answer: Snoring

Question: Fill in the blank. If _____ were an Olympic event, Guantanamo Bay's team would hands down take gold.

Answer: Nothing in this world.

Question: What's the only thing louder than my roommate's alarm clock going off an hour before I have to get up?

Unexpected guest visits Camp America North

Boa one of several snake types around

By SPC Rick Fahr

It was a muggy evening, with rain clouds gathering around and darkness nearly surrounding Camp America North.

Troopers were finding their way back from the galley. Some were changing patrol shifts. Others were on their way to the exchange.

Following a familiar path, a number of troopers walked outside the camp's fenced perimeter, between the graveled and sidewalked areas and the undergrowth down a small hill on the camp's eastern edge.

Little did they know – or expect – that along their path, coiled up in a circle the size of a manhole cover, was an 8-foot-long snake.

The snake, a Cuban boa, was about 8 inches in diameter and lay virtually motionless while a number of troopers gathered to peer at the reptile.

While posing no imminent threat, the snake's mere presence underscored the fact that many locales within the base

remain habitat for various species of wildlife.

While the snake-spotting may have been unusual, it was by no means unheard of. Cuba is home to more than a dozen types of snakes.

They reach lengths of more than 15 feet, but none of Cuba's indigenous snakes are poisonous. That's not to say that they're not dangerous. At the very least, an ill-placed snake could certainly cause a trooper a fair amount of consternation and alarm, perhaps even a twisted ankle or broken leg suffered, while beating a hasty retreat.

According to Paul Schoenfeld, natural resources manager for the naval base, troopers should pay attention to their surroundings and avoid areas that might harbor snakes.

"It's real important that people don't mess with them," he said. "Any of these reptiles and amphibians can potentially transmit salmonella. It's real important that they just stay away from them. If the animal is a nuisance or its health is in



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

SPC Katherine L. Collins of the JTF Public Affairs office gives scale to a Cuban Boa discovered recently just outside the fence of Camp America North.



Photo by SPC Katherine L. Collins

Although menacing, Cuban boas are not poisonous. The animals, however, can still carry salmonella, and officials caution troopers against coming into contact with them.

jeopardy, call us and we'll come get it."

Schoenfeld said that about five types of snakes are common in the base area. The Cuban racer can reach lengths of 4 feet. There are two species of garden snakes present, and two types of boas are common. The blind snake is small and usually found underground. The dwarf boa may grow to about 3 feet long, and the largest Cuban boa found on the base was 15 feet, 9 inches long.

Schoenfeld noted that each type of snake is beneficial, eating pests of various types, and none of them are aggressive.

"If one of them bites you, it means you were messing with it," he noted.

Researchers are studying the Cuban boa and have outfitted several with radiotransmitting devices. Schoenfeld says the research is ongoing.

If a trooper gets bitten by a snake, first aid guidelines would include washing the bite with soap and water and applying an over-the-counter antibiotic to the wound. The trooper should seek medical attention if other symptoms develop or the bite begins to look infected (redness, swelling, warmth, tender to the touch or red streaks).

To report a nuisance snake, contact the base game warden at 4105; Schoenfeld at 4493 or 84258; or Les Popham, wildlife technician, 84259.

258th MPs adjust fire for new mission within JTF

By SSG Patrick Cloward

Moving from Kosovo to Washington, D.C., members of the 258th MP Co. have seen their share of locations.

Since their redeployment here to Guantanamo Bay, not only has their location changed, but their role as military police.

"This mission isn't a lot like law enforcement at Fort Polk, [La.]," said 1SG Gregory Funderburk, first sergeant for the 258th. "But all deployments have unique properties."

At Fort Polk, members of the 258th worked in law enforcement of about 35,000 soldiers and civilians. "We did road patrols, traffic stops, any fights at the bar, that kind of thing," said CPT Michael Crane, commander of the 258th. "We also monitored the access control points at Fort Polk."

But the environment here is very different from what they expected.

"We're really impressed on the housing," said Crane. "We knew they started out in tents so the housing turned out to be the best part of the deployment."

"Everything is different. There's good and bad about everything we have, like the shopette," said SPC Steven Finch, also of the 258th, who saw the benefits as compared to his six-month Kosovo deployment. "You have freedom of movement here. You can go snorkeling and scuba diving when you have time. I would say I have less stress here than any other place."

Other differences included some challenges.

"We're an active-duty unit," said Crane. "This is the fourth deployment for me and we had just deployed to the military district of Washington. In 2000 we went to Kosovo, so we are always training for future operations. We didn't have a lot of information before we came here, so we came prepared to conduct 24-hour operations and found out we would do shift work."

"There are different locations for the soldiers each day," said Funderburk. "One day they work with a team leader, the other they may not see him until next week. The soldiers are spread out because of the uniqueness of this mission. Every day, at the end of our shift, we give the camp to another company, so we are able to work



Photo by SSG Patrick Cloward

SPC Steven Finch of the 258th MPs said he enjoys the freedom of movement living at Guantanamo Bay affords the troops

real close as a group, team, squad and at the platoon level."

"We have soldiers on special missions; so it's hard to keep them informed," said SGT Robert Choi, a block NCO for the 258th. "But the hardest thing is keeping some of the soldiers motivated. The senior leadership crank down when they see them get a little complacent, but most NCOs are professional enough to know that they need to lead."

"They do real well on training," Funderburk said. "They are receptive to the information they receive and put it into action. After the unit received training at Fort Dix, N.J., we were in the wire [only] a day and were immediately taking charge."

Now that they've been in charge for more than half of their deployment, members of the 258th now work on maintaining focus before their return to the states.

"Getting motivated wasn't difficult when they were focus-oriented," said Crane. "It helped me to deal with a lot of different soldier issues. Now, we're trying to keep soldiers' heads in the game." Crane added that sometimes, soldiers find they want to get complacent when they're nearing the end of their deployment. "We try to keep them involved," he said. "During our training weeks, we try to have company gatherings or social events to keep them involved with what they're doing in the camp and make sure they're doing OK."

"I feel the 258th is the finest company," said Funderburk. "It's not hard to figure out. They have outstanding NCOs who enforce the standard. We have enlisted soldiers who continue on every day. When I hear them say, 'Another day in the wire,' That's another testament of the American spirit of the soldier."

15 Minutes of Fame...

With PFC Rachel Edwards, 258th MP Co.

By SPC Katherine L. Collins

Attracted to the military for its competitiveness, training and adventure, PFC Rachel Edwards joined the Army, full-time, to her family's surprise. Excited about the many ways she continues to grow as a soldier and person and the new people, places and cultures she encounters, Edwards finds her greatest inspiration to serve through the support and pride of her No. 1 fans – her mom, dad and six siblings.

Q: What inspired you to join the military?

A: I learned about the military, in part, from my grandfathers, aunt and uncles who served. I liked the experience I saw, loving different kinds of weapons, competitiveness and travel. I joined when my family and I were ready. I was 21 then.

Q: What do you recall as your best military experience?

A: Guantanamo Bay is my first overseas deployment and best military experience so far. Prior to coming here, my unit finished serving in Washington D.C., which was good, but I wanted to experience an overseas mission. Here I am.

Q: How has this deployment impacted and molded you as a soldier and person?

A: I've learned a lot about being an MP. At Fort Polk, I performed basic MP work. Here I work in corrections. It's great to gain experience in two separate aspects of the job. Here I've also experienced how the different branches of service function in themselves and work together as a joint task force. Personally, I've become a stronger person. There's a lot you have to deal with on a deployment, and you have to adapt to it without the direct support of family and friends.

Q: In what ways has your family supported you in your military service?

A: Thank God for my family; they are amazing! I was supposed to just talk to a recruiter about joining the reserves. Then I said to myself, why not join full-time instead of just part time? My dad said it was the best thing I could do with my life. Mom's initial reaction was more that of shock, but she and everyone else got used to the idea and support



Photo by SPC Katherine L. Collins

Having served in the Army just one and one-half years, PFC Rachel Edwards joins the JTF with the 258th Military Police Company, from her first duty station at Fort Polk, La.

me now. Here, I talk to my family on a regular basis, and they always ask for and send whatever I need, as well as taking care of things for me at home. They make this deployment a whole lot easier.

Q: What has been your greatest challenge here in Guantanamo?

A: Keeping the deployment from getting to me. Our mission is tiresome and often repetitive. We have to keep a sound mind about what we do as a mission and then about coming home every day to live so close to the same peers we work alongside. It's hard at the end of the day when you're all stressed and have only each other to talk to. We created a rule where we will talk about work for no more than one hour at the end of each shift. Then we do whatever we can to relax.

Q: What personal strengths do you find benefit you most in this mission?

A: I interact well with others. This helps me in talking well with so many different types of personalities. I get this strength from my family. My youngest brother and I are the only two alike. So I grew up learning to interact well with many personalities.

Q: How do you relax when deployed?

A: We have water balloon fights, go to the beach and, as squads, we play sports against each other, like soccer. We love to go to the Windjammer to sing karaoke, and we love to

go shopping and just buy the craziest things – like coloring books and magazines. We all pretty much hang out at one house here, playing darts, making model cars, playing [Lego] and stuff like that. There really is a lot to do here; you just have to look for it.

Q: What goals are you striving to accomplish in Guantanamo?

A: Be promoted to specialist and see how far up the chain of boards I can go. I won the soldier of the month board. Now I must do the soldier of the quarter board and so on. No matter how far I make it, I hope to take all I can from the many people who have helped me prepare for the boards. I have some great NCOs, and all the females in my house are a great support to me. They do whatever it takes to show me how to do the things I've never done before, working with me until they think I'm ready.

Q: What has been most rewarding about this mission?

A: I've learned an amazing amount, personally and professionally, through many unexpected friendships and the corrections training and certification. I am a better person, friend and soldier now. I've also appreciated this deployment for all the ways I've been able to prove myself, by simply showing what I can do every day on the block and by going before boards.

Q: Looking back on your overall military experience, what makes you most proud to serve?

A: My family. Every time I call home, they tell me how proud they are of me. As long as my parents are proud, I am proud. My service is special to one of my sisters as well. She volunteered to serve, but it did not work out for medical reasons. I can feel like I serve for us both now.

Q: What are your plans when you return home?

A: Initially I'll return to Fort Polk, then do a road trip to visit my family, stopping in every state we drive through. Military-wise, I look forward to doing all the training I haven't done with my unit yet. There's so much I still want to experience and learn.

The GTMO Guide: Answers to Your Questions

Who can help me? What's for lunch? What movie's playing? Where can I find that? How does this work?

Daylight Savings Time starts
Remember to set your clocks **ahead** one
hour Saturday night



Camp Bulkeley

Downtown Lyceum

Fri., April 2

8 p.m. *Mona Lisa Smile*

PG13 - 117 min

10 p.m. *Kill Bill: Volume 1*

R - 111 min

Sat., April 3

8 p.m. *The Medallion*

PG13 - 89 min

10 p.m. *Wild Things*

R - 113 min

Sun., April 4

8 p.m. *Something's Gotta Give*

PG13 - 117 min

Mon., April 5

8 p.m. *K2*

R - 118 min

Tues., April 6

8 p.m. *The Italian Job*

PG13 - 103 min

Wed., April 7

8 p.m. *Hope Springs*

PG13 - 92 min

Thurs., April 8

8 p.m. *The Haunted Mansion*

PG13 - 88 min

Fri., April 2

7 p.m. *My Baby's Daddy*

PG13 - 87 min

9 p.m. *You Got Served*

PG13 - 95 min

Sat., April 3

7 p.m. *Catch that Kid*

PG - 92 min

9 p.m. *Barbershop 2*

PG13 - 106 min

Sun., April 4

7 p.m. *Starsky & Hutch*

PG13 - 97 min

Mon., April 5

7 p.m. *Miracle*

PG - 135 min

Tues., April 6

7 p.m. *You Got Served*

PG13 - 95 min

Wed., April 7

7 p.m. *Barbershop 2*

PG13 - 106 min

Thurs., April 8

7 p.m. *Starsky & Hutch*

PG13 - 97 min

Charge card scams becoming prevalent

In response to charge-card fraud cases, officials have prepared a list of tips to help cardholders avoid thefts.

■ Do not give out account information in response to e-mail solicitations purporting to be from charge card companies.

Many of these solicitations note that the cardholder must "reactivate" his account or that the information is needed for a "technical security update."

Those perpetrating the thefts have the ability to create fake Web sites that cardholders may mistake for official charge card sites. Entering personal information into these sites allows the perpetrators to use that information to fraudulently obtain funds and/or merchandise.

Officials note that charge card company representatives will not request personal information over the phone or

Your guide to ...

Security

in an e-mail.

■ Another scam involves telephone calls supposedly from government charge card programs.

Again, in this scam, the perpetrators ask cardholders for various information – account numbers, Social Security numbers, etc.

Cardholders should not give this information to anyone other than the program manager.

Cardholders should report any attempts to retrieve their personal information to their bank or charge card company using the toll-free number on their card.

For more information, contact the legal assistance office at 3561 or visit the Camp America office, Bldg. 6208.

Combat stress ready to solve problems

The Combat Stress Team's main office is located at Building 3206 in Camp America. Hours are 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturdays. KB JAS hours are 8:30 a.m. until noon, Monday through Friday.

Personnel are on call after duty hours by pager; dial 4084,

pager 2337.

In an emergency, go to the NAVAL Hospital or to the JAS.

Combat stress services include walk-in consultations and triage, brief solution-focused therapy, crisis intervention, roommate contracting, anger management, command consultation and suicide awareness and prevention.

Deployment Cycle Support Program

is open to troopers

within 90 days of redeploying.

April classes are 6-8, 13-15, 20-22 and 27-29.

Supervisors should call J-3 at 5040

to sign up troopers.

Army official touts voting assistance

Underscoring the importance of voting, LTG F.L. Hagenbeck encouraged troopers to research their rights and take part in this year's electoral processes.

In a memo, Hagenbeck, Department of the Army deputy chief of staff, G-1, noted that troopers around the world have a right to vote and should be involved.

"It's your future. Vote for it," he said, quoting a familiar voting theme of the season.

The process they use is absentee voting, which requires that troopers request a ballot and return it to the proper authorities within a specified timeframe.

Registering for an absentee ballot requires troopers to conform to state regulations, and unit voting assistance officers

Your guide to ...

Voting

are available to help troopers navigate the rules. Troopers should see their chain of command for more information on voting.

Troopers may also visit a Web site that allows them to register online for an absentee ballot.

The federal Voting Assistance Program ensures that troopers have access to absentee ballots. The application is form 76. The site's address is www.fvap.gov.

For more information about the program or voting rights, visit the Voting Assistance Program Web site or contact SFC Zaroff, 3563, Bldg. 6208.

Softball officials needed

Have any experience officiating or keeping official score for softball games?

If so, MWR needs you for the upcoming season.

The positions are paid, and interested persons should contact MWR at 2193 or SSG Freddie Greene at 3670.

Army Rock Band coming to GTMO

The band will be performing four concerts: Monday-Tuesday, 7 p.m., Club Survivor; Wednesday, 8 p.m., Windjammer; Thursday, 7 p.m., Bayview patio.

Artists meeting

There will be a meeting for all artists who will have art on display at the upcoming Art Show.

The meeting will be Monday, at 6pm in the upstairs classroom in the Windjammer.

For more information, call 4795

Swim meet planned

Marine Hill Pool will host a swim meet

Saturday at 10 a.m. Sign up day of the meet

For more information, call 2193



Catholic		
<u>Main Chapel</u>		
Wed.	5 p.m.	Holy Hour and Rosary
	6:00-6:25 p.m.	Confessions
	6:30 p.m.	RCIA (Chaplain's office)
Sat.	4:15 p.m.	Confession
	5:30 p.m.	Vigil Mass
Sun.	9 a.m.	Mass
	10:15 a.m.	Spanish Mass (Sanct. B)
M-Fri.	11:30 a.m.	Mass (Cobre Chapel)
Protestant		
<u>Main Chapel</u>		
Mon.	7 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship*
Wed.	7 p.m.	Men's Bible Study*
Wed.	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
Thurs	6:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study*
Sun.	9:30 a.m.	Sunday school
	11 a.m.	Service
* Fellowship Hall located in Chapel Complex		
<u>Camp America</u>		
Mon.	7 p.m.	Passion Study
Tues	7 p.m.	Alpha
Wed.	7 p.m.	Soul Survivor (Club Survivor)
Sun.	7:30 a.m.	Christian Worship
	9 a.m.	Protestant
New Life Fellowship		
Sun.	1 p.m.	Service (Main Chapel)
Pentecostal Gospel		
Sun.	9 a.m.	Service (Sanc C)
	5 p.m.	Service (Sanc C)
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints		
Sun.	9 a.m.	Sanctuary A
Islamic		
Fri.	1 p.m.	Classroom 12, Chapel Complex
Jewish		
Call 2323 for more information		
Camp America Church Bus schedule:		
Sun.	8:15 a.m.	Tierra Kay
The bus will return following worship.		



Today: Lunch – barbecue beef cubes;
Dinner – ribeye and crab legs.

Saturday: Lunch – fried catfish;
Dinner – veal parmesan.

Sunday: Lunch – roast pork loin;
Dinner – creole macaroni.

Monday: Lunch – pepper steak;
Dinner – roast turkey.

Tuesday: Lunch – chicken tandouri;
Dinner – beef fajitas.

Wednesday: Lunch – country fried steak;
Dinner – sweet and sour pork.

Thursday: Lunch – Caribbean chicken; Dinner – salisbury steak.

Friday: Lunch – beef stroganoff; Dinner – T-bone steak.

