



Review process unprecedented

By Spc. Timothy Book

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Recently, the Department of Defense achieved a major milestone in the detainee review board process – the completion of the first round of Administrative Review Boards (ARB).

The purpose of the ARB process is to assess annually whether each enemy combatant at Guantanamo continues to pose a threat to the United States or its allies, or whether there are other factors that would support the need for continued detention. Just last month, Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England, the Designated Civilian Official (DCO), made final decisions on 463 board recommendations; these decisions consist of 14 releases, 119 transfers and 330 continue to detain. To put this in perspective, roughly 33 percent of the current detainee population will eventually leave the island once the U.S. government has received the necessary assurance from the country of transfer and after our government receives necessary assurances regarding security measures and ensuring the detainee will not be mistreated upon their transfer.

Prior to beginning an ARB, the Office of the Administrative Review of the Detention of Enemy Combatants (OARDEC) notifies U. S. government agencies, including the National Security Council (NSC), Department of State (DoS), Department of Justice (DoJ), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), that it will hold an ARB on a specified detainee. OARDEC also solicits inputs from a variety of DoD commands.



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

The facility where the Administrative Review Boards (ARB) are taking place for detained enemy combatants.

Those agencies will have an opportunity to provide both classified and unclassified information to OARDEC in order to assist the ARB panel in making a recommendation to the DCO. This information is summarized at OARDEC Headquarters (OARDEC HQ), located in Washington, D. C., and, after coordination with the agencies providing data, forwarded to the OARDEC detachment at Guantanamo Bay for use by the ARB panels.

Each ARB panel consists of three commissioned military officers sworn to execute their duties faithfully and impartially. The Presiding Officer must be an O-6, and one member of the board must have an intelligence background. Other participants

in the ARB process include the Designated Military Officer (DMO) and Assisting Military Officer (AMO). The DMO verifies for accuracy and submits to the ARB panel classified and unclassified summaries of factors to be considered in determining the recommendation for release, transfer with conditions, or continued detention. The AMO meets with the enemy combatant (EC), explains the opportunities available to the enemy combatant in the ARB process, offers to assist the EC in making a presentation to the ARB panel or, if desired by the EC, makes the presentation on his behalf.

The enemy combatant may choose
(Continued on page 9...)

Notes from the CSM

By Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Febles

JTF-GTMO Command Sergeant Major

Several weeks ago, we culminated the transition process (reception and integration) and the left/right seat ride between the 40th DIVARTY (GTMO 6.0) and the 3rd BCT, 29th ID (GTMO 7.0). The torch has been passed, closing one chapter of the JTF and beginning a new one. We bid farewell to 40th DIVARTY who accomplished the mission and did so with great honor and success. Thank you for service to our nation and JTF-GTMO.

The 3rd BCT, 29th ID, is a proud unit that has an honorable history and lineage. They are composed of many men and women from the great state of Maryland and have begun to set the tone to what will be another great GTMO rotation. Thank you for serving and taking part in this most critical mission.

The NPGB is also reshaping itself into a more efficient and lean force. Three months ago A Co (7.0) assumed mission and just recently B Co (7.0) successfully assumed their mission. Once again, the Navy has taken sailors from across many commands and molded them into a well-trained unit that is performing very well. Welcome to the team.

There are several more who will join us soon, it is important that we continue the reception and integration process which begins with leaders at all levels. Troopers expect a briefing that specifies and delineates their mission, duties and overall responsibilities. Some leaders shy from their responsibility and expect the Trooper to (through self discovery), research, read and understand what is expected of him/her. It is a leader's responsibility to read and explain (as a minimum) the standard operating procedures, commanders' policies, NAVSTA regulations, safety regulations, etc.

One of the best forums for leader-to-trooper reception and integration is during initial developmental counseling because it is a one-on-one setting that encourages a professional two-way conversation. The counseling session should leave no doubt in the Trooper's mind of what is expected of both the Trooper and the leader. As we all start a new routine there will be understandable issues of adjustment. Eventually, everyone will achieve a degree of operational proficiency that will reflect confidence, competence and teamwork.

This edition of the WIRE has a section devoted to explaining the service symbols of excellence. It reminded me of my first days in the military. As a young recruit, I remember noticing some leaders proudly wearing badges on their uniforms. During that initial period, I had very little knowledge and understanding of the symbols and their significance. As I asked questions about what each represented and I quickly grew to respect those who earned and wore badges of excellence.

I can recall a statement made by one of my early mentors to a group of new soldiers in the unit who stared at what they wanted to achieve. He said to the group "What are you looking at, Private?" The young Trooper in a shaky voice said, "Your badges, Sergeant!" The Sergeant quickly responded, "It is not about the badges, soldier --- it's about knowledge." As I look back, I know he was on the mark, because as I, too, earned some of those badges and received a wealth of knowledge that has stayed with me for many years. I challenge all you young Troopers to earn those symbols of excellence, but most important --- seek the knowledge and pass it on to your troops.

I want to take this opportunity to bid farewell to some of our top leadership, one of whom is CSM Anthony Mendez, the JDG CSM, who will retire after more than 28 years of honorable service to our nation. CSM Mendez played a key role in developing subordinates and leaders across the JTF, but most important, he was instrumental in establishing the standard procedures that are critical to our success. On behalf of the JTF --- thank you and your family for the great service rendered to our nation and this organization.

Lastly, there will be a change-of-command ceremony soon, where after two years of superb service, Maj. Gen. Jay Hood will relinquish command to Rear Adm. Harry B. Harris.

The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on -- Walter Lippman.

Sir, thank you for your mentorship, professionalism and leadership. We wish you and your family our many blessings in your new assignment and God Speed. Honor Bound! ■



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From the continental United States:

Commercial: 011-53-99-3594

DSN: 660-3594

Online:

www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil



The 326th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Joint Task Force-Guantanamo, produces *The Wire*, which is printed under the provisions of Department of Defense Instruction 5120.4.

Tabs, badges and branch Insignia

By Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The way various services differentiate their uniforms is through colors, different patterns of camouflage and various styles of headgear. The desert camouflage uniform worn by JTF Troopers is pretty much the same uniform, regardless of service.

One common attribute of the JTF uniform, amongst the services, is the display of qualification badges, pins and branch insignia. Many of these items have been on US Military uniforms for over 200 years. All branches differ in the wear of the particular item but their breast pockets and collar locations are consistent with each other.

The Army, for instance, will allow five qualification badges to be worn at one time. The Navy uniform regulations states only two warfare qualification badges may be worn at once along with one identification badge. The Marine Corps and the Coast Guard allow the same number of qualification badges, but the Air Force allows up to three badges.

Tabs are a uniform item that is unique to the Army. The Ranger, Special Forces, Sapper and Airborne soldiers are just a few that wear tabs. These special groups have schools, which are often attended by

other branches of the military. Sometimes non-army service-members sew the tabs on their uniforms in an unseen location. For many, it is a sense of pride to be able to wear the tab they worked so hard to receive.

The Ranger tab, one that is often seen at the JTF, represents those who complete the Army Ranger school. This school is a grueling three-month course providing instruction in woodland, mountain and swamp operations. The Rangers are a highly skilled and trained force that can deploy anywhere in the world in 18 hours.

There is one other uniform item, which is common amongst the branches the branch insignia. This is a device worn on the uniform of officers and enlisted based on the branch of the service and type of uniform worn. The Army first started to use the insignia during the 1850's and was in the form of colored epaulets worn by Army officers from different branches.

This design evolved into the current one that is worn by most officers around the JTF. They wear the insignia of their



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

particular branch on the collar of the DCU. The enlisted version can only be worn on the Class A dress uniform.

These devices worn on our uniforms are just a small part of what makes our military unique. So, continue to wear them with pride for you are a member of the world's greatest military. ■

Master Parachutist badge (Army)



Fleet Marine Force badge



Command-at-Sea badge (Navy)



Provisional Guard Battalion (Navy)



Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist badge (Navy)



Air Assault badge (Army)



Information Management badge (Air Force)



These badges represent some of the jobs, qualifications and specialties earned by Troopers in the military.

Harris Poll Shows Military Still Most-Admired U.S. Institution

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON-- Mar. 7, 2006. The military continues to be the most admired institution in America, according to the latest Harris Poll.

A total of 47 percent of Americans said they have a "great deal" of confidence in the military. Some 38 percent of Americans said they had "only some" confidence and 14 percent said they had "hardly any" confidence in the military.

The military was followed in the poll by small business - a new category in 2005 - with 45 percent of Americans saying they had a great deal of confidence; colleges

and universities, 38 percent; the Supreme Court, 33 percent; and Medicine, 31 percent.

At the bottom of the survey, released March 2, were law firms at 10 percent, Congress at 10 percent, organized labor at 12 percent, major companies at 13 percent and the press at 14 percent.

Anchoring the middle was organized religion at 30 percent, the White House at 25 percent, public schools at 22, the courts and justice system at 21, and television news at 19.

The military has done well in the poll since the mid-1980s. The first poll, conducted in 1966, had the military at 61 percent approval rating. The next poll, con-

ducted in 1971 showed the corrosive effect of the Vietnam War on America. Only 27 percent of Americans had confidence in the military then.

The public confidence in the military climbed after the 1970s and by 1989 the military was the most-trusted organization in the United States.

Harris Interactive, based in Rochester, N.Y., conducts the poll without sponsors. "We do this on our own," public relations coordinator Kelly Gullo said.

Gullo said Harris Interactive pollsters canvassed 1,016 U.S. adults via telephone. She said the sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 3 percent. ■

What can I tell my family?

By Army Lt. Col. Jeremy Martin

JTF-GTMO Director of Public Affairs

Is it okay to tell my family what I do here at the JTF?

Absolutely! Our mission of safe, secure, humane, custody of all the detainees we're holding here at JTF GTMO is an important mission that we're accomplishing on behalf of the American people. If your job is to directly provide humane custody and security of detainees, you can certainly tell your family about the important mission that you do everyday in support of the JTF.

If you provide medical care to detainees, the same level

of excellent medical care that's provided to your fellow Troopers, by all means your family can know that the vital skills that you trained so hard to master, are enabling you to accomplish our mission here on their behalf.

Your family can be justifiably proud of the outstanding job that you do everyday here at Guantanamo, as directed by the President of the United States, in support of the Global War on Terrorism. If you have any questions about OPSEC with respect to your job please speak with your chain of command.

Honor Bound! ■



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

▲ **Colin Williams, MWR dockhand, gives some pontoon boats a thorough cleaning at the marina.**



Photo by John R. Raughter

▲ **Unlikely friends. A banana rat and iguana ran into each other recently, while shopping for food at the local dumpster.**

A man of good taste

By Army Master Sgt. Stephen Miller

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Dennis Miller, a pleasant, affable, handsome Cuban, has been efficiently managing Guantanamo's unique Cuban Club restaurant for the past decade, since taking over from his stepfather.

He was born in 1965 at the base hospital to an American father and a Cuban mother. His mom did laundry and housework on the base and had commuted back and forth from Guantanamo City until Castro had closed off access to the base in 1962. When Castro erected his barrier fence, Dennis' mother stayed on the naval base, leaving behind a son and a daughter whom she has not seen in the intervening 44 years. (Later, Dennis' eventual Cuban step-father crashed his bulldozer into the Cuban side of the fence and jumped over it to freedom on the naval base.)

Dennis graduated from W.T. Sampson High School in 1983 and has lived his entire life on Guantanamo. Though living in the small area of GTMO was hard at first, it has kind of "grown" on him. Even though Dennis has traveled and seen other beautiful places, he has always looked forward to returning to his "home sweet home" on the ocean. He particularly enjoys the people here, the beautiful weather and climate, and the eye-catching scenery on base "where one can always find water to walk along and take one's mind off of life's problems.

The Cuban Club building itself was origi-

nally a military calibration room many years ago, then a barracks for Chinese refugees. Abandoned after a while, many of the Cubans on base started using it as a social club. There were craft and sewing classes during the weekdays and dancing, singing, Cuban food and domino playing on the weekends. Eventually, people frequenting the social club asked Dennis' parents why they didn't turn the club into a permanent restaurant. After getting financial help from some of those same friends and formal base approval, his parents started the Cuban Club concession in 1985.

Dennis took over ownership of this informal, family-style, Cuban specialty restaurant in 1995. He manages three full-time and six part-time employees. At any given point in time, there are usually at least two people preparing food in the kitchen, one to two waitresses, a dishwasher and a cashier. Besides scheduling and general management, Dennis does all the shopping for food and supplies, and fills in wherever needed to keep the restaurant running smoothly.

Some of the restaurant's specialties include steaks, pork chops, roast pork, seafood, curried chicken, fried plantains, beans and rice. Dennis has always appreciated the patient politeness of his customers because some of



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

Dennis Miller, owner of the Cuban Club.

these delicious Cuban specialties take a long time to prepare.

Both Dennis and his mom, whom he lives with, do not celebrate any of the old holidays and traditions from Cuba. However, he enjoys speaking Spanish with his family, friends, and Spanish speaking customers and employees – even though he is equally comfortable in English.

One of the most precious moments in his life happened a few years ago when Dennis called a few short miles to Guantanamo City to his sister, whom he has never seen. He then got his mom on the phone to talk to her daughter, who she hadn't heard from in 38 years. Obviously, in the few brief, heart tugging minutes of communication across the fence in Cuba, there was a lot of emotion and crying between the long-separated mother and daughter. ■

Getting the good (GTMO) word out

By Army Master Sgt. Stephen Miller

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Imagine the virtual power of pressing one button and having the good news at GTMO hurtling through cyberspace to reach 478 media outlets instantaneously.

That's what is happening now with the new marketing program developed at the Public Affairs Office over the past few months.

As we all know, the detainee facility at Guantanamo Bay gets plenty of publicity. However, much of this media exposure does not always tell the real, positive story of what is happening at GTMO.

Starting basically from scratch, a large, ever-expanding data base of newspaper, magazine, website, and other media outlets has been built up through painstaking research of media websites for contact information. This database is broken down into the following sublists: the largest 200 U.S. civilian newspapers (such as the Wall Street Journal, NY Times, and Washington Post), the 100 largest international publications, 50 to 60 periodicals of U.S. military service (such as the Army Times and Stars and Stripes) and veteran organizations (such as the VFW and American Legion), and several Pentagon correspon-

dents and TV/radio journalists.

Through contact lists on Microsoft Outlook, articles from The Wire are targeted for transmission to certain, specific audiences or they can be sent for general release to everybody on our distribution lists. This ever increasing database could also be very advantageously used in the future to send out GTMO press releases of breaking news.

Articles from the front page of The Wire and those likely to be of general interest, have been 'marketed' or sent to many different media outlets. So far this year, the PAO's 326th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment has sent out around 100 stories. Besides the Pentagon Channel, Country Music Magazine, and various hometown newspapers, the PAO has had several articles published in military publications like The Military Engineer, The Dragoon, Navy Nurse Corps Newsletter, On Guard, The Guidon, and California National Guard's Grizzly. (In a recent U.S. Coast Guard Reservist magazine, the cover and one-fourth of the magazine was devoted to reporting on what our JTF Coast Guard Troopers do when they are on duty.) Finally, PAO articles have been posted on various websites such as those for U.S. Southcom and Navy News Stand. ■

CELEBRATING WOMENS' R

Compiled by Spc. Seth Myers

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

It is Women's History Month and it is important to remember women's accomplishments throughout history. What may be closer to many of our hearts, though, is what military women have achieved. For over 200 years women have been serving this country one way or another militarily.

American Revolution (1775-1783): Women serve on the battlefield as nurses, water bearers, cooks, laundresses and saboteurs.

War of 1812: Mary Marshall and Mary Allen nurse aboard Commodore Stephen Decatur's ship *United States*.

Mexican War (1846-1848): Elizabeth Newcom enlists in Company D of the Missouri Volunteer Infantry as Bill Newcom. She marches 600 miles from Mis-

souri to winter camp at Pueblo, Colorado, before she is discovered to be a woman and discharged.

Civil War (1861-1865): Women provide casualty care and nursing to Union and Confederate troops at field hospitals and on the Union Hospital Ship *Red Rover*. Women soldiers on both sides disguise themselves as men in order to serve. In 1866, Dr. Mary Walker receives the Medal of Honor. She is the only woman to receive the nation's highest military honor.

Spanish-American War (1898): Thousands of US soldiers, sick with typhoid, malaria and yellow fever, overwhelm the capabilities of the Army Medical Department. Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee suggests to the Army Surgeon General that the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) be appointed to select professionally qualified nurses to serve under contract to the US Army. Before the war ends, 1,500 civilian contract nurses are assigned to Army hospitals in the US, Hawaii, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines, as well as to the Hospital Ship *Relief*. The Army appoints Dr. McGee Acting Assis-

tant Surgeon General, making her the first woman to hold the position.

World War I (1917-1918): During the course of the war, 21,480 Army nurses serve in military hospitals in the United States and overseas. Eighteen African-American Army nurses serve stateside caring for German prisoners of war (POWs) and African-American soldiers. The Army recruits and trains 233 bilingual telephone operators to work at switchboards near the front in France and sends 50 skilled stenographers to France to work with the Quartermaster Corps. The Navy enlists 11,880 women as Yeomen (F) to serve stateside in shore billets and release sailors for sea duty. The Marine Corps enlists 305 Marine Reservists

(F) to "free men to fight" by filling positions such as clerks and telephone operators on the home front. Two women serve with the Coast Guard.

Army Reorganization Act (1920): A provision of the Army Reorganization Act grants military nurses the status of officers with "relative rank" from second lieutenant to major (but not full rights and privileges).

World War II (1941-1945): More than 60,000 Army nurses serve stateside and overseas during World War II. The Army establishes the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in 1942, which is converted to the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in 1943. More than 150,000 women serve as WACs during the war; thousands are sent to the European and Pacific theaters. The Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)

are organized and fly as civil service pilots. The Navy recruits women into its Navy Women's Reserve, called Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES), starting in 1942. Before the war is over, more than 80,000 WAVES fill shore billets in a large variety of jobs in communications, intelligence, supply, medicine and administration.

1947: The Army-Navy Nurse Act of 1947 makes the Army Nurse Corps and Women's Medical Specialist Corps part of the Regular Army and gives permanent commissioned officer status to Army and Navy nurses.

1948: The Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 grants women permanent status in the Regular and Reserve forces of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps as well as in the newly created Air Force.

Korean War (1950-1953): More than 500 Army nurses serve in the combat zone and many more are assigned to large hospitals in Japan during the war. Navy nurses serve on hospital ships in the Korean theater of war as well as at Navy hospitals stateside. Air Force nurses serve stateside, in Japan and as flight nurses in the Korean theater during the conflict.

1953: The first woman physician is commissioned as a medical officer in the Regular Army.

Navy Hospital Corps women are assigned positions aboard Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS) ships for the first time.



ROLE IN THE U.S. MILITARY



1961: The first woman Marine is promoted to Sergeant Major (E-9).

1965: The Marine Corps assigns the first woman to attaché duty. Later, she is the first woman Marine to serve under hostile fire.

Vietnam War (1965-1975): Some 7,000 American military women serve in Southeast Asia, the majority of them nurses.

1967: Legal provisions placing a two percent cap on the number of women serving and a ceiling on the highest grade a women can achieve are repealed.

1969: Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps (AFROTC) opens

to women.

1970: The first women in the history of the armed forces, the Chief of the Army Nurse Corps and the Women's Army Corps Director, are promoted to brigadier general.

1972: The Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) is opened to Army and Navy women.

1973: The end of draft and the establishment of the All Volunteer Force opens the door for expanding servicewomen's roles and numbers. The first Navy women earn military pilot wings. The first woman in the history of the armed forces is promoted to major general. The Supreme Court rules unconstitutional inequities in benefits for the dependents of military women.

1974: An Army woman becomes the first woman military helicopter pilot.

1976: Women are admitted to the service academies.

1977: Military veteran status is granted to the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) who flew during WWII.

1978: The Coast Guard

opens all assignments to women. The first Army woman is promoted to two-star general. She is also the first woman officer to command a major military installation. Judge John Sirica rules the law banning Navy women from ships to be unconstitutional. The Women's Army Corps (WAC) is disestablished and its members integrated into the Regular Army.

1979: The first woman to command a military vessel assumes command of the Coast Guard Cutter *Cape Newagen*.

1984: A Coast Guard officer is the first woman to serve as a Presidential Military Aide.

1988: NASA selects its first Navy woman as an astronaut.

1989: 770 women deploy to Panama in Operation Just Cause. Two women command Army companies in the operation and three women Army pilots are nominated for Air Medals. Two receive the Air Medal with "V" device for participation in



a combat mission.

1991: Congress repeals laws banning women from flying in combat.

1993: Congress repeals the law banning women from duty on combat ships. Women deploy with the USS *Fox*. The Army names a woman "Drill Sergeant of the Year" for the first time in the 24-year history of this competition. Dr. Sheila Widnall becomes the first woman service secretary in the history of the armed forces.

1994: The USS *Eisenhower* is the first carrier to have permanent women crew members. Sixty-three women are initially assigned.

1996: The first women in the history of the armed forces are promoted to three-star rank.

1998: For the first time, a woman fighter pilot delivers a payload of missiles and laser-guided bombs in combat. She is in the first wave of US strikes against Iraq in Operation Desert Fox.

2001: An Air National Guard security force woman becomes the first woman to complete the counter-sniper course, the only military sniper program open to women. The US Army Women's Museum opens at Ft. Lee, Virginia.

2002: The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) was issued a new charter narrowing its focus to issues pertaining to military families, recruitment, readiness and retention. Retired Marine three-star general Carol Mutter was appointed chairman of the new, downsized advisory committee.

Timeline from womensmemorial.org. ■



Will free agency ever start?

Commentary by Spc. Ian Shay

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs

The NFL should have started free agency on Mar. 3 but it took until Mar. 10 before the bidding finally opened. NFL commissioner, Paul Tagliabue, has been working on contract negotiations with NFL owners in order to come up with a contract agreeable to both sides. Until the contract for the 2007 NFL season has been met, the NFL will continue to delay free agency in order to prevent any damage to the next season.

The NFL owners are working on a deal involving a vote guaranteeing NFL players will receive 59.5 percent of football revenue over the six-year extension of the collective bargaining agreement (CBA). That 59.5 percent includes a "cash over cap" limit addressing the concerns of clubs who make less money in a given year.

With the cap of the 2006 season being reduced to 94.5 million, teams are cutting veteran players like the sky is falling in order to reach the cap limit before negotiations are finalized. But with the delay, many NFL teams have taken the opportunity to reach new deals with players who looked to be free agents by the original free agency date, Mar. 3. The deal also includes the ability to give credits and make adjustments on individual teams' spending on cash over the cap, according to Gene



Dallas Cowboys owner, Jerry Jones, looking confused after another failed attempt at the new NFL CBA.



Seattle's team president Tim Ruskell, right, took the delay in free agency as a sign to renegotiate running back Shaun Alexander to a \$62 million, eight-year contract with Seattle.

Upshaw, NFL players association executive director.

The Seattle Seahawks took the extra time and reached a monster deal with veteran back Shaun Alexander for \$62 million over the course of eight years, which will basically limit the star's career to Seattle. Alexander received the 2005 league MVP award and is the top back in the NFL, unless LaDainian Tomlinson enters your mind.

Other players, like Derrick Brooks, have taken the high road and restructured (reduced) their contracts in order to help their teams reach the salary cap. Brooks, a 12-year veteran, is a very capable linebacker and holds a franchise record 1,775 tackles with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. It is not unusual for veteran players to reduce their salaries in order to retire with their franchise, but it means a lot to the sport when they do.

New York Jets Quarterback Chad Pennington is taking the biggest salary cut going from a possible nine million in 2006 to a guaranteed three million dollars. Although if Pennington reaches

certain performance levels he can earn the money back. Pennington missed all but three games in 2005 with a torn rotator cuff and has suffered multiple injuries before.

Besides signing and restructuring contracts, this extra week allows teams to romance possible free agents in order to secure deals in the near future. In the past four days, there has been more buzz about trades than the week before the original free agency date. The new-found rumors sparked more eagerness in fans to urge owners to come to an agreement with the NFL.

Like most sports fans, I understand that contract negotiations can get tricky, but I also recognize negotiations have to be met in order to solidify the future seasons of the NFL. We've seen seasons lost in professional baseball and most recently the NHL. The last thing we need is for the NFL to lose its solidarity over money.

The decision was finally made on Wed. when 30 out of 32 owners agreed to a contract that would extend the CBA for another six years. ■

Review process unprecedented

(Continued from page 1)

whether or not to participate in this process. The EC has the opportunity to attend all open (unclassified) sessions; to testify on his own behalf if he desires; to receive assistance from an interpreter; and to receive assistance from the AMO in understanding the process and preparing for his board hearing. The AMO is not an advocate for the detainee, but serves to assist the detainee in understanding the process and presenting information.

For each EC, an ARB panel considers all information in the government's possession; information (if any) provided by the EC; and any input received from the detainee's home country and family. Some of the main factors considered by the ARB in assessing each EC and developing its recommendation are: the extent of the threat a detainee may continue to pose to the US and its coalition partners if released or transferred; the detainee's level of intelligence value; whether the detainee is under investigation for potential charges of war crimes; the detainee's willingness and ability to accept responsibility for his actions if released or transferred; and the detainee's home country's willingness and ability to accept responsibility for the detainee if released or transferred.

An ARB panel's recommendation is based

on the totality of these factors with no one item outweighing the others. The panel's recommendation is made by a strict majority vote with any dissenting opinions being included in the final report.

The ARB presiding officer is responsible for ensuring that a record of the proceeding is kept; that the ARB panel considers all factors in recommending whether an EC should be released, transferred or continue to be detained; and that a record of the proceedings is forwarded to the DCO for final decision.

After a legal sufficiency review at OARDEC HQ, Secretary England reviews all material submitted by OARDEC before making the final decision whether to release, transfer with conditions, or continue to detain. If the final decision is to either release or transfer with conditions, the DCO coordinates with DoD and DoS for the implementation of that decision. If the decision is to continue to detain, the detainee is scheduled for another ARB within the following year.

"The ARB is discretionary and is not required by the Geneva Convention, U.S. law, or international law," said Rear Adm. Jim McGarrah, Director of OARDEC. "Because of the highly unusual nature of the Global War on Terrorism and because we do not want to detain enemy fighters any longer than is necessary, DoD

has taken this unprecedented and historic action to establish a process to permit enemy fighters to be heard while hostilities are ongoing."

"In order to accomplish this assessment, OARDEC coordinates within the Department of Defense, and with the Department of State, Department of Justice, the Central Intelligence Agency, Department of Homeland Security, and the National Security Council staff to acquire information relevant to each detainee's situation," said McGarrah. "Additionally, unless national security concerns dictate otherwise, we coordinated through the Department of State to provide each detainee's home nation the opportunity to provide information, including the opportunity to submit information from the detainee's family."

The ARB does not determine guilt or innocence. "We consider all the information that is reasonable and relevant and we make a recommendation whether the detainee fighter can be released, transferred, or continued to be detained," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Chito Pepler, OARDEC PAO.

"We seek to balance the safety and security of the American people, and our coalition partners, with the rights of each individual," said McGarrah. "The American people who we represent deserve it; they expect nothing less." ■

Garden of Stone

By Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Prior to the completion of unit deployments at the JTF, command representatives can make requests to the Command Sgt. Major about building a monument that will best reflect their unit. Once they are built, these monuments are placed in a part of Camp America referred to as the "Monument Garden."

The garden has been around for three years and was developed by former JTF-GTMO Command Sgt. Major George Nieves. The original concept was to have a place for units to leave a historical marker by building a monument or sculpture which best defines their unit. These areas of remembrance are not akin to just GTMO. Many of these gardens exist in other areas of operation throughout the world.

Unfortunately, some units took this to the next level and started to leave their marks on places, such as former graffiti hill. This was not a welcomed location and has been an eyesore over the years. All markings and symbols were removed from the hill this year. "When I first got here during GTMO 4.0, there were not that many monuments out there with unit symbology on them. The garden has flourished over the years" said JTF-GTMO Command Sergeant Major Angel Febles.

The archway sign at the beginning of Camp America was originally going to be placed at the front of the monument garden to symbolize the entrance to this sacred piece of the camp. But due to a miscommunication with the contractor, it was placed elsewhere. The original concept had the monuments placed in the yard in chronological order, but those plans were not followed. Contrary to what some may think, the garden still has room for new monuments, at least two more rotations worth.



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

Febles is in charge of approving all requests for construction of any monuments to be built. All commands must submit their plans at least sixty days prior to leaving the island. This gives both sides enough time to agree on a design. "There are strict guidelines which must be met before any construction can begin. Their size is a big factor. The structures must be easily movable in the event they must be transported somewhere else" said Febles.

Some of the monuments are in jeopardy due to some erosion in the area and the fact that some of them are getting too close to the road. A few alternate locations have been chosen already. "The area behind the Camp America archway and Bulkley field are the two sites we have picked, but I will leave the choice to my replacement," said Febles.

The legacies of past units will forever be remembered in this garden of stone. ■

To deny oneself, or not

By Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ron Martin-Minnich

JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain

The season of Lent, for some of us, is like making a New Year's resolution. We often decide to make a positive change in our lives for the New Year. The change can last for awhile or our decision can be an event of lasting success. During Lent, people have long had a tradition of denying themselves something to make a positive change in their lives, or in some way to perform "an act of penance" to reflect upon the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday.

In the branches of Judaism, there is a long-standing practice of being responsible for one's own sins. The individual must make amends and repair breaches of the law and actions that have harmed another. The act of penance is a continuation of the older practice of Judaism. Jesus directed his followers, being a practicing Jew, to be responsible to the needs of others whom they had harmed by their own thoughts, words and deeds. Jesus' words are still applicable to us today

if we call ourselves a Christian.

So, are we called to perform acts of penance during Lent and deny ourselves certain pleasures in order to reflect upon Christ's sacrifice. The answer is, "It depends upon your own faith tradition." In order to receive the correct answer, we should speak to a chaplain or consult an authorized source of our faith group. In some faiths, penance during Lent is required and in other faiths it is optional. At any rate, the passage that is most informative about penance in Jesus' own words is in Matthew's

Gospel, chapter 6, verses 16 through 21: "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you in truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you... But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (NIV) ■

New Chaplain On Board

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

JTF-GTMO Navy Provisional Guard

Hi, I'm Chaplain Hamilton. I'm the new Chaplain for the Joint Detention Group and the Navy Provisional Guard. It's been just a little over a week since I arrived on deck here at JTF-GTMO. In that time I've met a few of you and have begun to get just a small glimpse of the magnitude of your jobs and the stresses involved in them.

I'm looking forward to meeting as many of you as I can in the days ahead. My hope is that I will have opportunities to provide some sort of spiritual guidance and inspiration as you go about the task of running this Task Force. I believe history will show that each of you are real American heroes. Heroes because you have been assigned a difficult task, a task you perform daily with the utmost respect for the humanity of all; just as generations of Americans before you.

My background is unique and I think it will help me understand at least in part, some of the things you face on a daily basis. It includes an enlistment in Army Counterintelligence after high school. Then, after leaving the Army and the intel world, I spent several years in ministry in the civilian world as both a pastor and youth minister. Since coming on active duty as a Navy chaplain, I've had tours on an aircraft carrier, a base chapel, and most recently I've been assigned to a Navy wing on an Air Force base. Just in case that isn't "Joint" enough, I have orders following this assignment to a Marine Corps command.

As you face the unique challenges of working in a joint environment, not to mention the challenges of a one of a kind mission, I hope you will allow me the privilege of helping you to deal with the issues you face.

May God grant you wisdom, safety and patience in the days ahead as you perform your demanding duties. ■



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
Monday	11:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel
	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
	7:00 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
Tues. to Fri.	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	4:30 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 Navy Petty Officer First Class John Dillon

By Spc. Jeshua Nace

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

What is your job in the JTF?

I am a section NCOIC with the JIG and the JIG Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Manager. My job is two fold. As a NCOIC, I receive, supervise and provide for the orientation and training of incoming personnel. I am accountable for the day-to-day operations and maintenance of my section, perform quality control on all enlisted evaluations and facilitating the administration of awards. I do this without sacrificing morale and quality of life.

As the JIG FOIA Manager I oversee all FOIA requests for the JIG.

What kind of deployments have you been on?

I am active duty Navy, so I have been to a couple of cool places: USS Independence CV-62 (Aircraft carrier) stationed in Yokosuka, Japan, I decommissioned CV-62 and cross-decked to USS Kitty Hawk CV-63 (Aircraft carrier) stationed in Yokosuka, Japan, COMUSNAVSO in Puerto Rico, Joint Forces Intelligence Command (JFIC) in Norfolk, VA and the USS Harry S. Truman CVN-76 stationed in VA.

I have done three Persian Gulf deployments, one Mediterranean deployment and was deployed in support of hurricane Katrina.

What kind of training did you undergo in your career?

I've been through Imagery Interpretation school and specialize in that area. I haven't been through Journeymen C School, which is for mid level Intel Petty Officers.

What comes to mind when you think about your time in the Navy, and also during your deployments to Japan, the Persian Gulf and around the US?

I have loved every moment in the Navy.

I have been all over the world: Japan, Thailand, Korea, Guam, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, UAE, Bahrain, Hawaii, Greece, Italy, England, Puerto Rico and now Cuba. Not many people I know back home can say that. I love the responsibility that comes with each new job.

What advice can you give to people who are thinking about staying in or joining the military, and why specifically the Navy?

I would tell people to weigh your options and make sure you have a solid plan before jumping out. Just being in the military opens so many doors for you. Whether it's education, dependable income, benefits, or traveling, the military gives you the tools to shape your future.

What did you do to help people during Katrina?

The aircraft carrier I was on during Katrina Ops was the acting command post. We made maps for the pilots, looked at imagery to plan egress routes and briefed and debriefed the helo pilots. We basically did everything we could: provide water, MRE's and operational and logistical support.

How does it feel to help Americans through one of the toughest and most horrible times in our history?

I worked with some people who had family and friends who lived in the area. Watching them pull through and remain optimistic and professional made me work so much harder. I was proud of what we did, especially the people I did it with.



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace

It is truly amazing how fast we deployed an aircraft carrier to the area and how charged up we were to do it.

What is it like to live on a floating city?

It is so easy to get lost on an aircraft carrier if you are new to one. It is simply an amazing experience watching flights ops for the first time. I have been stationed on my current ship, for two years now and still meet someone new everyday.

What is the first thing you're going to do when you retire?

Buy a house on the beach where hurricanes don't frequent too often! Also, I will be a New York Giants season ticket holder and attend all the games. The waiting list is 27 years but I have been on it for five. ■

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. Seth Myers

▲ Contractors continue construction on the new bus stop in front of the Troopers Chapel.



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers



Photo by Spc. Ian Shay

▲ Navy Chief Eligio Velez was recently commissioned to warrant officer. He was pinned by his two good friends Pablo Melendez (left) and Luis Alvarez inside the Troopers' Chapel.



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

▲ Former JTF-GTMO Deputy Commanding General, John Gong reenlists Navy Supply Master Chief Rufino Delacruz, Naval Provisional Guard Battalion at a ceremony held in the monument garden recently.

◀ Sgt. 1st Class Robert Garrido is presented the Joint Service Commendation Medal, by JTF-GTMO Commander Maj. Gen. Jay Hood, for his service and help controlling the flood waters that previously plagued Camp America.

AROUND THE JTF