



# the Wire

“HONOR BOUND TO DEFEND FREEDOM”

Volume 3, Issue 32

Friday, July 11, 2003

## Raising the Bar: A recipe for success

Story & photos by Erin Crawley

Success can be as straightforward as setting tough goals and achieving them. Simply start off with a little elbow grease, mix in some motivation with a pinch of positive attitude and you are on your way to a lifetime of achievements.

Here at JTF Guantanamo, many troopers have followed this recipe for success in their military careers, and continue to do so by accomplishing their professional development goals and making new ones as they move forward in their careers. Keep in mind there are many ways to go about being successful in the military and the key to success is to simply stay focused on your goal.

You may have heard the phrase, if you want to get something done, ask a busy person. That certainly applies when it comes to Spc. Jason Schmidt of 785th Military Police Bn., a Property Book supply sergeant, who recently received a direct commission, which will be granted to him upon his completion of this deployment. Schmidt says that the key to his success has always been to set realistic goals for himself and to stay motivated. He explained that his first step to becoming



See Raising the Bar on page 4

*Spc. Jason Schmidt of the 785th Military Police Bn. says setting goals has helped him to be both a successful soldier and civilian. He hopes to one day run for senate for the state of Texas.*

### Inside the Wire...

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## Message from the Top



**MG Geoffrey D. Miller**  
Commander  
JTF Guantanamo

Each day, over 2,000 JTF troopers go about their duties and their personal lives, making the most of the time they have here. We all have a routine we follow - regular duties we perform,

hobbies we pursue, and entertainment we seek. Yet, there is nothing routine about what we do in the JTF. There is nothing routine about the war we are waging, to protect our nation, our families, and our allies from the scourge of terrorism.

As we go about our business of detaining and interrogating enemy combatants, there are literally thousands of decisions being constantly made by individuals and organizations that ripple through the JTF and impact our role in this fight. Almost without fail, the decisions you make are the right ones, at the right time, for the right reasons. And on the rare occasion when a wrong decision leads to a mistake, we quickly correct it and learn from it to make us even better at what we do. These ongoing decisions aren't made because there is a leader looking over every trooper's shoulder. They are made because we all know what right looks like. We all share the same values that drive us to make tough choices

and lead us to doing the right thing, rather than taking an easier path, cutting corners, and allowing mistakes to stand uncorrected.

The true test of great leaders and great units are they do what is right when no one is looking. This is the legacy that our units and troopers have established for themselves here in our JTF. It is also the legacy that we must all strive to pass on to those who are coming here to take our place, whether that change occurs in the next days or the next months. We must show them

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***“The true test of great leaders and great units are they do what is right when no one is looking.”***

*MG Geoffrey D. Miller,  
Commander JTF Guantanamo*

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what right looks like, both in words and in deeds, so we can continue to press the war on terrorism each day, with the strength and actions of every trooper here. We are going to win this fight against terrorism as a team - a team that is built on the foundation of every trooper's commitment to doing what is right. Thank you for setting the standard - you make the difference.

**Honor Bound!**

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## Question from the Field

### If I saved my leave, can I depart Guantanamo 30 days earlier than planned?

The short answer is, "No." The JTF Commander's Policy Letter #4 clearly states that leave must end no later than 30 days prior to the date of departure from Guantanamo. If a trooper failed to take the authorized 15 days leave when deployed to JTF GTMO for at least 179 days (or the additional 15 days leave when the deployment was extended), then that leave is accrued for use at a later date. Leaders are expected to manage leave for their troopers to ensure they had the opportunity to take the leave they earned and desired. However, the last 30 days is a critical period

when troopers are expected to do a thorough transition of their duties and responsibilities with their replacements.

In addition, Policy Letter #4 states that newly arriving troopers must be here for at least 60 days before they can take leave. The granting of passes, on the other hand, is a decision made on a case-by-case basis by a trooper's chain of command. These will not be granted when they impact a unit's mission or readiness.

# Foot patrols = fun for this infantryman

Story by Sgt. Benari Poulten

Spc. Richard Bergeron may call Lynchburg, Va., home, but for the past eight months, Bergeron has lived here as a member of the JTF in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. A soldier in A Company, 2-116th Infantry Regiment, Bergeron has a number of responsibilities, including mounted and dismounted patrols, manning the checkpoints, and working in the guard towers of Camp Delta.

"It's a different experience," Bergeron says. "I never expected to come down here, I can tell you that, but ... I like the new experience of coming to a different place."

During almost eight years in the Army, he has served on active duty before, but this deployment has provided him with a unique perspective, as members of the infantry tackle numerous jobs. But of all the tasks he has to perform, he prefers the fundamentals.

"I like doing the mounted and dismounted patrols best. I mean, that's basically what the infantry does, and that's what I enjoy doing ... I like to walk through the terrain."

Bergeron had initially joined the Army for the college money, but he found that the military opened up his eyes to a much larger world. He had been working on a degree in psychology when in November, 2002, he deployed to Guantanamo Bay in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Although military service has interrupted his studies, he remains pleased with his decision to join. "I'm proud to serve my country and knowing that I did more than the average citizen could do," he asserts.

Bergeron had also just begun a new family when he got mar-



Photo by Sgt. Erin Crawley

ried last June. Bergeron explains that he doesn't enjoy being separated from his wife for this long, but he does all he can to stay in touch. "I just try to e-mail her as much as possible, and try to get as many phone calls as I can," he says.

As Bergeron nears the end of his deployment, he looks back on his time here, commending the hard work of his fellow troopers and taking satisfaction in a job well done. "I'm extremely proud about [serving in the Global War on Terrorism], especially after September 11th. I remember I was in school when it happened, and I saw it on TV ... so, I'm glad that I could do something for my country during this time. I think that we're doing a good job while we're down here."

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## This Bond will, "Never Say Never Again"

Story by Sgt. Benari Poulten

Call him Bond. James Bond. Of course, we cannot disclose his real name for security reasons, nor can we reveal his specific job, but Bond has an important mission here as a member of JTF Guantanamo's Joint Interrogation Group. He recently took a few moments out of his hectic schedule to discuss the crucial role of the JTF in the Global War on Terrorism over some morning coffee. Shaken, not stirred.

"Being a part of the war against terrorism, it's an honor," stated Bond. "Being on the Reserves side and being activated to come over here and do my job, it was an honor. That day, Sept. 11th, I remember it like it was just yesterday. I was at home, I turn on the TV and, all of a sudden, I saw

the first plane crash, I just couldn't believe it ... and ever since then, I was waiting for the opportunity to come over here and serve my country, [performing] this precise mission. Doing what I'm doing here, it's ... to save lives back home."

Bond not only takes pride in working to protect people back home, he also enjoys exceeding standards and conquering problems. "It's just the everyday challenge of being able to overcome certain things that, for most people, would probably be impossible," he explained. "Obstacles are put forth and the challenge is to tackle them. And succeed."

Originally hailing from Chicago, Ill., Bond had traded the teeming streets of the Windy City for the blazing heat of Austin, Texas, where he currently lives with his wife of five years. Change is certainly a

recurrent theme for Bond, as he had initially joined the Army after college to get a taste of something new.

"I joined the Army to do something different. Not your everyday, ordinary things like going to school, going to college. I was in college before I joined the Army ... I saw it on TV, 'Be all you can be,' and I thought, 'hey, let's try something different.'"

Yet, sometimes, the more things change, the more they stay the same. Previously stationed here seven years ago, Bond is back and while remaining proud of the JTF's mission, he amusingly reflected on his return.

"I remember saying that I would never come back, and sure enough, seven years later, I'm here. So, never say never!"

## Raising the Bar from page 1

an officer was to be an enlisted soldier first. He felt it would make him a more well-rounded officer and give him better perspective.

Schmidt is not only a motivated soldier, but a motivated civilian as well. He has a bachelor's degree in political science and sociology, a master's degree in business and is currently working on a doctorate in law. In the future he plans to run for senate in Texas.

That's not all. In his spare time here at Guantanamo, Schmidt also teaches several computer classes. When asked why he pushes himself so much, he said he doesn't see it that way.

"I don't consider it pushing myself. I look at it as – that is what we should do, that is your duty – to be the best person you can be. And I don't see my life as any different than anyone else's. I'm just a regular 'Joe,' so to speak. I think everybody should be able to do what I've done," said Schmidt.

While Schmidt will be happy with the rank of major in the distant future, another soldier here would like to be a general some day. 2nd Lt. Ralph Cropley of the 344th Military Police Co. recently received a direct commission from the



*Sgt. Tuan Nguyen, of Alpha Co., 2-116th Infantry Regiment and his squad are continually improving themselves here by increasing their fitness scores and taking classes to enhance their professional military development.*

94th Regional Support Command.

After spending seven years as an enlisted soldier, Cropley decided that he wanted to become an officer. "I want to try to become a general. For me, you always have to progress. I take things one step at a time. I would love to retire as a general, and I'm always looking at the next step and that's where I want to be. I like to always be progressing ... to always go for more," said Cropley.

Cropley claims that his motivation is just part of his personality and that he simply likes to take advantage of any military career opportunities that will help him to be a better MP and a better soldier. "Basically, every time an opportunity comes up for training, I grab it." For example here, Cropley is part of the force protection team. They meet every other week to discuss issues as far as force protection.

With more rank comes more responsibility. Cropley went from being a member of the team, to team leader, to squad leader, to platoon sergeant, and now he is the platoon leader.

"I think the biggest things about pushing yourself and trying to reach goals is trying to set a good example. In my opinion, the most important job in the entire military is squad leader. As a squad leader, you're supposed to set the example and be the role model. When I was a squad leader, I did everything I could to set the example," said Cropley.

For other soldiers who are qualified and may be interested in a direct commission while here at JTF Guantanamo, an Army board will be held here July 17 starting at 9 a.m.

According to Master Sgt. Donald Card, J1 noncommissioned officer-in-charge, the Army is short by some 5,000 company-grade officers. JTF Guantanamo recognizes this and as the need arises, it will make every effort to continue to offer soldiers the opportunity to go before a board.

To be considered for a direct commission, a soldier must be recommended by their commander, and the soldier must complete a checklist from Army Reserve Personnel Command (AR-PERSCOM). While a direct commission can be approved here by a board, it will not go into effect until the soldier finished their deployment here.

By setting goals and achieving them you are leading by example. Sgt. Tuan Nguyen, a team leader and acting squad



*2nd Lt. Ralph Cropley of the 344th Military Police Company recently received a direct commission from the 94th Regional Support Command. He's been with the 344th for the past seven years as an enlisted soldier. He says it would be an absolute honor to be the company commander of the 344th in the future.*

leader with Alpha Co., 2-116th Infantry, agrees that setting realistic goals with regard to his military education and development, is important to one's success. Nguyen is in the top 10 percent of eligible soldiers in his company to be recommended for an E-6 slot. As an NCO he leads by example completing goals he sets for himself. Nguyen encourages his fellow soldiers to do the same.

"Recently on this deployment I've improved my Army Physical Fitness Test score by about 90 points. I've also taken about 35 hours of [leadership and Signal Corps] correspondence courses here. And I've recommended that my guys in my squad to do the same. They have been improving on their PT and they have been taking the correspondence courses. So I try to lead by example. I try to be that type of leader where I never ask my men to do what I wouldn't do myself," said Nguyen.

Nguyen says one of the reasons it is important to set goals and achieve them is that it keeps you focused on what you need to do. "When you achieve certain goals, it shows that you are making progress. If you don't have goals, you don't know if you've really accomplished anything or not. But if you have goals set, you meet that goal, you've accomplished it and you set more goals. It gives you a direction. It is a confidence and morale booster."

# New recompression chamber keeps diving afloat at GTMO

Story & photo by  
Spc. Jared Mulloy

If you're one of JTF's many recreational divers on base, odds are you know what a recompression chamber is, why it's so important, and why you'd probably never want to be in one. As of May 2003, Guantanamo's old aluminum recompression chamber was replaced by a new steel recompression chamber.

Navy Chief Petty Officer Bob Lambertsen, who is the senior military diver and command diving officer on base, heads the Navy Diving Locker where the base's new recompression chamber resides. Guantanamo's recompression chamber is the only American one located in the Caribbean.

According to Lambertsen, one of the most commonly known decompression injuries that a diver can sustain is the bends. "When our bodies are compressed and then decompressed, the size of the tiny nitrogen bubbles in our blood stream increases into larger bubbles that are natu-



Chief Petty Officer Bob Lambertsen lowers the compression depth of the new recompression chamber from 10 feet to zero in order to open it.

rally off-gassed, or released through our lungs when we exhale. If we decompress too quickly the bubbles don't have time to off-gas and can get so large that they'll block the blood flow, usually at the joints in our bodies. Without adequate blood flow providing oxygen, limbs could literally die without treatment."

That's where the new recompression chamber comes in to play. By pressurizing your body the nitrogen bubbles are returned to their original size and blood flow returns to the affected body parts.

Over a minimum treatment of four and a half hours you are slowly decompressed back to health.

"Without a recompression chamber on base, recreational diving in Guantanamo Bay would cease," says Lambertsen, "the chamber is a necessity for diving safety." Lambertsen, who's been stationed at Guantanamo Bay for four years, was originally assigned here for two and a half years, but volunteered to extend another two years to see through the reconstruction of the diving locker and the replacement of the old recompression chamber. "It could save a diver's life," says Staff Sgt. Sean Jakaus of the 303rd Military Police Co., "we can't even dive if it's in use, let alone if we didn't have it."

The Navy Diving Locker building is currently under reconstruction, but it's personnel always remain ready to tend to any decompression injuries a diver may sustain. The \$2 million project will be completed by the end of July.

## Man on the Street

Compiled by Sgt. Erin Crawley, Spc. Alan Lee Knesek & Spc. Jared Mulloy

### This week's question:

**What military professional goal have you set for yourself and what are you doing to achieve it?**



Army Sgt.  
Robert Roderick,  
384th MP Bn.

"I would say that my goal has been to become the best noncommissioned officer that I can. I have tried to do this by following the leadership of my senior NCOs ... and helping all our lower enlisted learn their mission essential tasks."



Navy Seaman Raven  
Brown, Base  
Communications Office

"I want to make Petty Officer before I leave here. I'm going to study via correspondence courses and take as much as I can out of my hands on experience here at GTMO. I really want to dig in and get my hands dirty."



Air Force Staff Sgt.  
Steven Leduc,  
JPRC

"My goal is to make E-6. I have been studying all of the general knowledge needed and also studying all of the more detailed job specific knowledge. I am also planning on going back to school and getting my degree in my career field."



Army Sgt. Joel Harding,  
Bravo Co., 2-116th Inf.

"I would like to get a commission and become an armor officer. I'll try to get a conditional release from the National Guard when I get back from here and go active duty Army. When I get home I'll put together my packet with a recruiter in the Army."



Coast Guard Petty Officer  
2nd Class David Haydis,  
PACAREA PSU Det.

"While I'm here, I've been trying to advance in rank. I have been taking some online courses and I also have been trying to reach the maximum level of physical fitness standards in the Coast Guard."

# Concerts, competitions and celebrations on July 4th

Story by Spc. Alan Lee Knesek

JTF troopers came together this Fourth of July to celebrate their independence and partake in some of the festivities which MWR, NAVSTA and JTF put on for the service members.

The first of the festivities kicked off July 2 with a performance by the rock band Ballentine at Bulkeley Lyceum. The troopers from Camp America and Tierra Kay filled the seats and enjoyed the first of three concerts which Ballentine performed during the Independence Day week.

Independence Day came early for many runners here. At 6:30 a.m., athletes lined up at the G. J. Denich Gym for the Independence Day Fun Run. Those who ran the 3k fun run were given T-shirts and those who placed earned gift certificates to the Navy Exchange. Of the top three positions, JTF troopers took first, second and third place in the men's division and third place in the women's division.

Thirty minutes after the run began, the Independence Day Red, White and Blue Golf Tournament at the Yatera Seca Golf Course was underway. Nineteen teams total, of which seven were JTF teams, hit the links that day, and after 18 holes and a few lost balls most went home to barbecues and parties. However, the biggest barbecue of the day was already underway at Windmill Beach.

It was another JTF GTMO MWR Social Event and one couldn't have asked for a nicer day to have it. Surfers were hangin' 10 and the volleyball pit was full of troopers playing games. Many troopers cut loose and enjoyed some fun in the sun, but the party didn't stop at the beach.



Photo by Spc. Alan Lee Knesek

The 'Psycho Squad,' Army Sgt. Albert Lamont, 785th MP Bn. (right), Spc. Mark Grindall, J-4 Trans. (center) and spc. Josua Edmiston, 384th MP Bn. step off the playing field at the MWR Paintball Range during July 3rd's Paintball Tournament.



Photo by Spc. Alan Lee Knesek

Ben Morris, guitarist and vocals, rocks out while Heather Ballentine, lead vocals, dances in the background during their Fourth of July performance at the Bayview Patio.



Photo by Sgt. Erin Crawley

JTF service members play a game of volleyball at Windmill Beach during the JTF GTMO MWR Social Event on the Fourth of July.



Photo by Spc. Alan Lee Knesek

1st Sgt. Joseph Haddad, 785th MP Bn. buys a few chances to sink CSM George Nieves in the dunk tank that was operated at the Jerk House on the Fourth of July.

After the beach, service members set out for the Bayview, Tiki Bar and Jerk House where CSM George Nieves, JTF Command Sergeant Major, and Sgt. Major Richard Winkleman, 300th MP Bde., were sitting in a dunk tank waiting for eager troopers to get them wet.

After some wet and wild fun at the dunk tank, another performance by Balentine began at the Bayview Patio. It was a night to remember and so were the fireworks that brought the night to an end.

This Fourth of July had it all. With events such as golf, basketball, softball, paintball, barbecues, volleyball, concerts and fireworks, there was plenty to see and do during the Fourth of July here.



Photo by Sgt. Erin Crawley

Lt. Cmdr. Jim Andrews of the Pacific Area PSU Detachment sinks a putt during the Red White and Blue Yatera Seca Independence Day Golf Tournament.



Photo by Spc. George Allen

JTF and NAVSTA service members hit the road during the Independence Day Fun Run, July 4. The 3k fun run began at 6:30 a.m. and was attended by more than 50 runners.



Photo by Sgt. Erin Crawley

Spc. Jomarixa Toro of the 35th Signal Bn. does the salsa with Army Sgt. Juan Santiago of the 807th Signal Bn. at the Fourth of July Windmill Beach party. Both soldiers are from reserve units out of Puerto Rico that served JTF Guantanamo as part of their annual training mission.

# Chaplain's Corner

By CH (CPT) Daniel Odean  
JTF Guantanamo  
Staff Chaplain

There are many ways to look at reaching for goals in our lives. This can involve excelling in life or pursuing the "American dream." For me, I look first and foremost at spiritual aspects when making goals. Therefore, I realize that when it is all said and done, success in my life is not measured in the material things that I possess, in the amount of education I earn, or even the status I attain. Success is measured by the attention that I give to my spiritual life. If I neglect or forget my spiritual life then failure follows. When failure comes then everything in my life seems to lose its perspective.

What am I referring to? I am speaking about how the Scripture directs me to "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Or in Proverbs where it states, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." This is referring to God's will for our lives. Every one of us is a creation of God and he desires to bless us as we acknowledge him. Our understanding is limited, fallible and even subject to error. Therefore, we are better off relying on God rather than on our own judgment. We must pray for God's wisdom and direction in our decisions and goals in life.

There is a way to raise the spiritual bar in our lives. We do this as we strive to excel professionally. We do this as we apply spiritual perspective to all of our plans, decisions and activities. We do this as we acknowledge a strong desire to know and follow God's will in our lives.

Every day we must live in a close, trusting relationship with God, always

looking to him for direction. When we do this, God promises to direct our paths. He will lead us to His goals for our lives, remove all obstacles, and enable us to make the right choices. Sometimes we worry about where life is going to take us. But, if we raise the spiritual bar to a point where we are relying on Him, we can live life with spiritual peace and security.

I believe that we can raise that spiritual bar in three ways. First, raise the spiritual bar of prayer and personal devotion. The writer of scripture wrote long ago, "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land." Are you spiritually thirsty? You are not alone. Many of us find ourselves this way from time to time. Be assured, God is able to supply your need. I challenge you to raise the spiritual bar of renewed prayer in your life and see how it changes your life.

The second way to raise the spiritual bar is by study of the sacred writings. One writer put it this way, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." The Holy Scriptures contain the truths of life. If we neglect to study and to apply them, we suffer spiritual loss.

The third way to raise the spiritual bar is to be more willing to be involved in spiritual service. This can involve several things: Regular attendance at a worship service; reaching out to a hurting person; or seeking spiritual guidance from a respected clergy person. The time is now, not tomorrow to begin raising these spiritual bars in our lives. If we do, we will begin to realize that God is making the way possible and blessing our lives. May you find these truths real and life changing to you.

## Worship Services

### Catholic

#### Main Chapel

|       |           |                          |
|-------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Daily | 6:30 a.m. | Mass<br>Cobre Chapel     |
| Wed.  | 5 p.m.    | R.C.I.A.<br>Cobre Chapel |
| Fri.  | 5 p.m.    | Rosary                   |
| Sat.  | 4:30 p.m. | Confession               |
|       | 5:30 p.m. | Mass                     |
| Sun.  | 9 a.m.    | Mass                     |
|       | 11 a.m.   | Mass<br>(Sanctuary B)    |

#### Camp America

|      |        |                       |
|------|--------|-----------------------|
| Sun. | 5 p.m. | Mass<br>Wooden Chapel |
|------|--------|-----------------------|

### Protestant

#### Main Chapel

|        |           |                                |
|--------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Mon.   | 7 p.m.    | Prayer Group<br>Fellowship*    |
| Wed.   | 7 p.m.    | Men's Bible<br>Study*          |
|        | 7 p.m.    | Spanish Group<br>390-Evan's Pt |
| Thurs. | 6:30 p.m. | Home Group<br>Nob Hill 5B      |
|        | 7:15 p.m. | Youth 7-12<br>Fellowship*      |
| Sun.   | 6:30 a.m. | Praise and<br>Worship Service  |
|        | 9:30 a.m. | Sunday School                  |
|        | 11 a.m.   | Service/Sunday<br>School       |
|        | 5 p.m.    | Bible Study*                   |

\* Fellowship Hall located in Chapel Complex

#### Camp America

|      |        |   |
|------|--------|---|
| Wed. | 7 p.m. | Service   |
| Sun. | 9 a.m. | Seaside Galley<br>(Temporary location until further notice) |
|      | 7 p.m. | Service<br>Wooden Chapel                                    |

### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter

#### Day Saints

|      |        |             |
|------|--------|-------------|
| Sun. | 9 a.m. | Sanctuary A |
|------|--------|-------------|

#### Islamic

|      |        |                               |
|------|--------|-------------------------------|
| Fri. | 1 p.m. | Classroom 12<br>ChapelComplex |
|------|--------|-------------------------------|

#### Jewish

|      |        |                    |
|------|--------|--------------------|
| Fri. | 8 p.m. | Fellowship<br>Hall |
|------|--------|--------------------|

#### Camp America Church Bus schedule:

|      |           |               |
|------|-----------|---------------|
| Sun. | 8 a.m.    | Windward Loop |
|      | 8:15 a.m. | Tierra Kay    |

The bus will return immediately following worship.

## JTF FORUM

You have questions.  They have answers.

MG Miller and CSM Nieves answer your questions on the "JTF-Forum," the JTF's bi-weekly, live call-in radio talk show!

Tune in to FM 103.1, "The Blitz," Wednesday, July 16, between the hours of 5 p.m and 6 p.m. Call in to the "JTF-Forum" at 2300 and 2351 and get the answers you want!



## RECREATION & LEISURE

### GTMO to be “staging area”

Story by Sgt. Erin Crawley

One of the best morale boosters on the island is a night filled with good quality rockin’ entertainment. JTF Guantanamo, along with Guantanamo Bay Morale Welfare and Recreation, are always on the look out to bring quality entertainment to the troopers here.

MWR can bring big name acts to Guantanamo via the USO. For other acts, MWR will go through the Armed Forces Entertainment, which is part of the Department of Defense. While the USO and Armed Forces Entertainment foot most of the bill to bring these acts to Guantanamo, often MWR will contribute funds for room and board.

Sometimes we get lucky such as when Jimmy Buffett graced us with his presence this past winter. Buffett was very generous, as he volunteered his time for free and paid his own way.

When Hootie and the Blowfish came to town, it was graciously sponsored by a private citizen.

Craig Basel, Director of Guantanamo MWR said it is a continual effort to bring high quality entertainment here. Recently, CSM George Nieves and MG Geoffrey Miller requested that the All Mighty Senators, a top 40 rock band, be brought to the island. They will be coming August 20th. It is JTF’s goal to have new and unique entertainment perform at the base once a month.

Basel says anyone can make a request for a specific act by simply sending him an email to him at: n16b@usnbgtdmo.navy.mil.

The line-up for September’s entertainment includes two jazz bands and country singer Jamie Buckley.

In addition, a famous top-40’s act sponsored by the USO may be coming to Guantanamo very soon. Their name can’t be released until they have signed a contract, but according to Basel they are a very popular rock band, which just released a new album in May. Basel added that this band would be generously volunteering their time and would not be getting paid to do the show.



### Grand Opening Club Survivor

Friday, July 11th, 2003 at 5:30 p.m. across from the Seaside Galley in Camp America.

There’ll be...

**-Door Prizes, food, music, volleyball, horseshoes, and fun for all.**

*(Looking for volunteers to paint a mural for the club, for more information contact Sgt. Erin Crawley at 5241 or 8117)*



### Movie Schedule

#### Camp Bulkeley

**Fri., July 11**

8 p.m. *Spiderman*  
PG13 - 121 min

10 p.m. *Blade 2*  
R - 108 min

**Sat., July 12**

8 p.m. *Resident Evil*  
R - 101 min

10 p.m. *Collateral Damage*  
R - 141 min

**Sun., July 13**

8 p.m. *The Majestic*  
PG13 - 150 min

**Mon., July 14**

8 p.m. *Reign of Fire*  
PG13 - 108 min

**Tues., July 15**

8 p.m. *Changing Lanes*  
R - 99 min

**Wed., July 16**

8 p.m. *Deuces Wild*  
R - 97 min

**Thurs., July 17**

8 p.m. *All About The Benjamins*  
R - 94 min

#### Downtown Lyceum

**Fri., July 11**

8 p.m. *X2 Xmen United*  
PG13 - 120 min

10 p.m. *Identity*  
R - 90 min

**Sat., July 12**

8 p.m. *Daddy Day Care*  
PG - 94 min

10 p.m. *The Matrix Reloaded*  
R - 138 min

**Sun., July 13**

8 p.m. *Holes*  
PG - 117 min

**Mon., July 14**

8 p.m. *Bulletproof Monk*  
PG13 - 120 min

**Tues., July 15**

8 p.m. *X2 Xmen United*  
PG13 - 120 min

**Wed., July 16**

8 p.m. *The Matrix Reloaded*  
R - 138 min

**Thurs., July 17**

8 p.m. *Daddy Day Care*  
PG - 94 min

### Pier 6 “Acey Deucey” Club

Located inside The Windjammer  
Monday thru Saturday 5 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Open to all NAVBASE and JTF E6 & E5 personnel

## NATIONAL SPORTS

## On the Mark

*Integrity is a conspicuous no-show in All-Star game balloting*

By Sgt. Bob Mitchell

Does anybody remember a guy named Bowie Kuhn? In my mind, he is the Grinch of Major League Baseball. He was baseball commissioner from 1969 – 1984.

The All-Star game is one event that jogged my memory of this man whose gift to the national pastime gave it all the class of a circus sideshow.

One of his first orders of business as commissioner was to change how players were named to the All-Star team. In the pre-Kuhn era, baseball players were elected to the team by their peers. This made a great deal of sense because the players know who the best competitors are.

When the ballots were cast, big leaguers would vote for who they thought were the eight best position players in their league. To help keep things honest, players could not vote for their teammates.

As a result, every year the best players were on the field for the mid-summer classic. Unfortunately, Kuhn claimed he wanted to, "give the game back to the fans." By this, he meant that fans would vote for the players.

When this was announced, I clearly remember my father saying how this would be a farce because there was no limit on how many times a fan could vote. Ballot stuffing is illegal in every other election, so why is it encouraged in baseball?

If not for some last minute ballot stuffing, Albert Pujols of the St. Louis Cardinals would not have been starting in the outfield for the National League.

Pujols was leading the league in batting average and runs batted in, and was among the top three for home runs. Unfortunately he was fourth in the balloting, which would have him starting the game on the bench in the All-Star game on July 15th.

The game has been recently called a "popularity contest." However, those of us who remember when the best players were on the field for the start of every All-Star game feel shortchanged.

## Sports Highlights

Summary by Sgt. Bob Mitchell

The **Portland Trail Blazers** have given **Damon Stoudamire** a slap on the wrist. The team suspended the veteran guard and fined him \$250,000 in the wake of his being arrested on drug charges. Stoudamire was allegedly trying to pass through a Tuscon, Ariz., airport metal detector with almost 1.5 ounces marijuana wrapped up in aluminum foil. He could face a sentence of up to \$2,500 in fines and unsupervised probation.

On the links, **Tiger Woods** has vaulted up to the number two position on the **PGA** money list on the heels of his record setting victory at the Western Open. Woods wound up at 21 under par and brought home \$810,000 to eliminate any talk of him having a slump. So far this year, he has earned \$4,252,420 and trails leader **Mike Weir** by about \$28,000.

**Venus Williams** and **Monica Seles** will be holding court next month as the U.S. Women's tennis team tangles with Italy in the **Fed Cup** quarterfinals. The winner advances either defending champ Slovakia or Belgium. Seles replaces Williams' sister Serena Williams on the team. The top ranked woman in the world, Serena defeated sister Venus in three sets to defend her Wimbledon title. Seles has a 17-2 record in Fed Cup play. The Williams sisters made easy work of the Czech Republic last April by winning all five of the matches they played. Meghann Shaughnessy and Lisa Raymond were also named to the American team.

Some people are calling **Chicago Cubs'** manager **Dusty Baker's** comments racist, but he is standing by his comments. Baker was recently quoted as saying that black and Latin players were better suited to play in the heat than white players. "It doesn't really matter to me because that's what I said. I'm not going to take it back," he said. "What I said to you guys is what I said to my team. I told my other teammates this a long time ago, too. When we talk about how hot it is, I told them that's why my ancestors were brought over here, for that reason, and that's history."

*Sports Highlights compiled from ESPN.com*

## Head to head ...

*What do you think of the Designated Hitter Rule?*

Army Master Sgt. Dwight H. Conerway, J4 Operations

**PRO-**

"I think it's a protection plan, to protect the pitcher's arm and

body from being injured from a wild pitch or whatever. By a rule, in my experience, pitchers are not the best hitters anyway. They're hired to control the ball, not hit it. They concentrate on keeping people from hitting the ball. And you know, pitchers are probably the worst batters on the team."



Navy Chief Petty Officer Edward Surovey, J1

**CON-**

"I just think that all it does is provide a means for a player to

play offense and not defense and that detracts from the game, and that says it all about the designated hitter rule. I just think it needs to go away. Pitchers should have to bat just like the other players. We should just merge both leagues and have the same rules for all of the majors."

## JTF SPORTS & FITNESS

# Bone Crushers bag holiday tourney title

Story by Sgt. Bob Mitchell

For many JTF members, basketball conjures up memories of bare trees, steely gray skies, steamy gymnasiums and snow on the ground. The Fourth of July weekend in a tropical setting hardly drums up images of slam-dunks, full-court presses and behind-the-back passes.

However, the three-on-three basketball tournament had all the excitement and drama of a state high school tournament. The games were 12 minutes long with no time outs and were played on half courts. Winners were decided by the team that scored 11 first, or was ahead at the end of 12 minutes.

Nine teams showed up at the G.J. Denich Gymnasium Saturday, but only one came out on top. Spc. Yarnell Rickett, 300th MP Bde. and teammates DT3 Tommy Crumedy and DTSN Vernon Babb of Naval Hospital were clicking on all cylinders as Bone Crusher defeated all comers to take the championship.

Two other JTF teams took home second - and third-place honors. Navy Lt. Craig Leaphart, Capt. John Mills, and Airman 1st Class Omar Phillips, all of the JTF J-3 section, took Carolina to a second place finish, while Spc. Joseph Montgomery, Pfc. Bryan Baron and Sgt. Jason Oster led 785th MP Bn. to third place honors.



Photo by Sgt. Eric Dillman

*Spc. Joseph Montgomery of the 785th MP Bn. fires up a jump shot in the three-on-three basketball tournament July 5th. The 785th placed third in the tournament.*

# Playing games on the Fourth of July

Compiled by Spc. Alan L. Knesek

This Fourth of July holiday was full of celebrations, activities, and sporting events that took place during the three days of festivities.



Photo by Sgt. Benari Poulten

*Spc. David Rodriguez, of the 785th MP Bn., slams a ball deep into right field for the JTF Headquarters team during Saturday's one-pitch softball tournament. Unfortunately, the JTF Headquarters' usually thunderous bats fell silent against the powerful GTMO Lites, who went on to win the entire tournament.*

The tournaments and sporting events began July 3 with the Paintball Tournament. Team Copper Heads took first place leaving all the other teams with paint on their face.

The top three finishers for the adult male and female categories during the Fourth of July Independence Day Fun Run were as follows: Men – In first place was Capt. Rusty McGuire, HHC/2-116th Inf. Regt., (19:10); in second place was Sgt. William Payton, JDOG (20:06); and in third was Spc. Alfonzia Yuille, HHC/2-116th Inf. Regt., (20:09). Women – In first place was Colleen Gallagher, Naval Hospital (23:35); in second place was Amie Smith, NAVBAS Security (24:26); and in third was Sgt. 1st Class Jacquie Swanton, 785th MP Bn., (24:36).

While runners hit the streets, golfers hit the links. The Independence Day Red, White and Blue Golf Tournament began Friday at 7 a.m. at the Yatera Seca Golf Course. First place went to Danny Kirtrell and Leroy Graham, with a three under par 69. Close behind was Chief Petty Officer Jim Warren and John Tickner, with a two under par 70. Third place went to Ben Miller and Joe Hettler who carded a two under par 70, losing in a playoff to Warren and Tickner.

After a day of celebrating independence, the games continued last Saturday with a three-on-three basketball tournament and a one-pitch softball tournament.

GTMO Lites took first place in the softball tournament, leaving Hospital close behind in second and Security with third. The JTF Headquarters team fell short during their game against GTMO Lites and wound up finishing in fourth place.

# 15 Minutes of Fame...

## Spc. Donald Evans B Co., 2-116th Infantry

### A college education, an E.I.B., and the drive to excel

Interview and photo by  
Sgt. Dan Johnson

*Spc. Donald Evans of B Co., 2-116th Infantry Regiment out of Lexington, Va., uses personal and professional goals as the road map to success and excellence. Evans, who calls Skaneateles, N.Y., home, has earned the Expert Infantryman Badge, proposed to his fiancée, and is currently contemplating a commission from the Virginia Military Institute.*



*Spc. Donald Evans of B Co., pauses for a moment by his unit's statuette after a long night of defending freedom.*

**Q: What do you do for a civilian career?**

**A:** I'm a civil engineering major at Virginia Military Institute. When I'm not there during the summer, I usually work construction or sometimes in a kitchen as a chef. I plan on finishing my civil engineering degree, but I want to get into law enforcement when I get out of college. I figure I'll probably work for the sheriff for a few years and then try to get into the FBI.

**Q: Why did you join the National Guard?**

**A:** I had a lot of siblings and many of them had a difficult time going through college because it's expensive. I joined the National Guard to try to pay for as much of the college expenses as I could.

**Q: What made you decide to join the infantry?**

**A:** I heard a lot of people talking about infantry at V.M.I. I didn't come from a military family and I didn't know much about it, but the guys at V.M.I. always bragged about it or wanted to join, that's

pretty much all I knew about it.

**Q: What kinds of professional goals have you set for yourself?**

**A:** I just got the Expert Infantryman's Badge ... that was an important goal because it was a unique opportunity to excel. I still want to become airborne and air assault qualified because they're both challenging schools and I enjoy a challenge.

**Q: What types of things do you do daily to help you achieve your best?**

**A:** The job here can be stressful so we try to keep things low key in the barracks because that's our time to relax. I try to stay active in my time off. I like to do some drawing and my family has sent down some model kits.

**Q: What would you say your most significant achievements are?**

**A:** The E.I.B. for starters. That was important to me, but more importantly, I got engaged while I was down here and I want to keep my relationship with my fiancée strong. As far as the job goes, I set out every day to do the best that I can.

**Q: Where do you see yourself in the Army in four to five years?**

**A:** I will have graduated college by then, so I'll have the opportunity to get a commission, but I haven't really decided if I want a commission yet. I do want to graduate both airborne and air assault schools by then. Either way I'm going to continue on and probably put 20 years in.

**Q: What do you like about the Army?**

**A:** You feel like you're doing something for your country when you deploy. You also get to meet a lot of different people and learn a lot of different things. These are the types of things that you ordinarily wouldn't get to do ... especially with the infantry.

**Q: What kinds of goals have you set for yourself on this deployment?**

**A:** Well, I really hope to get promoted to E-5 while I'm down here. I just need to get my transcripts from V.M.I.

**Q: What makes Bravo Company so unique?**

**A:** We have a lot of soldiers who go to V.M.I. For the most part we all get along really well and that helps build a cohesive team.