



# THE WIRE



Honor Bound To Defend Freedom

Volume 6, Issue 1

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Friday, April 8, 2005

15 Minutes of Fame, pg. 11

## California Cavalry takes on security mission



Photo by Spc. David Lankford

**Lt. Col. John Lonergan, Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Flannery and Staff Sgt. Michael Belue uncase the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 18<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment's colors, and assumed authority for JTF force security from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 113<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.**

**By Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Tunney**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry Regiment transferred authority for force security to the 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry Regiment, in a ceremony conducted at Bulkeley Field yesterday.

This is the second major transfer of authority in as many months here, as Joint Task Force (JTF) Guantanamo (GTMO) completes the transition to GTMO 6.

The 2-113<sup>th</sup> of the New Jersey Army National Guard arrived in GTMO in June 2004, and boasts many accomplishments during their 10-month deployment.

"We provided unwavering security during 24-7 operations to defend and protect all personnel working or residing in AO America," said 2-113<sup>th</sup> commander Maj. Gregory Saunders in his ceremony remarks.

"We supported the Office of Military

Commissions by providing the highest degree of security and standards during the proceedings," Saunders said.

The 2-113<sup>th</sup> also validated the JTF Destructive Weather Plan during Hurricane Ivan in September and qualified 20 soldiers for the Expert Infantryman's Badge.

A heartfelt thanks was offered to Saunders' troops for their professionalism during this deployment.

"The work and dedication of the soldiers of the 2nd of the 113<sup>th</sup> Infantry is a tribute to those who lost their lives in terrorist attacks on the United States of America and to those who continue to fight in the Global War on Terrorism," said Saunders.

Saunders was followed by Lt. Col. John Lonergan, 1-18<sup>th</sup> Cavalry commander, who said the incoming cavalry troopers from the California Army National Guard are eager

to assume full responsibility for their mission.

"The Cavalry is experienced and made up of Soldiers from throughout California. These Soldiers have performed in every conflict since and including the Vietnam War," Lonergan said.

"The squad underwent five weeks of intensive training at Fort Lewis, Wash. This training included both individual and collective tasks," said Lonergan. "The cavalry squadron is ready, willing and able to take on this mission and serve our country with distinction."

JTF Deputy Commander, Brig. Gen. John Gong, JTF Joint Detention Operation Group Commander, Lt. Col. Gregory Hager and JTF Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Febles, were among the officials present for the ceremony. ■

# SAFETY

## Don't turn the page yet!

**By Army Lt. Col. Gregory L. Hager**

JTF-GTMO JDOG

If all you read of this article is the first paragraph, ask yourself: Whose job do I have to do today because someone was needlessly injured or lost because of an unsafe act? Did I see an unsafe act that a leader saw and didn't correct? Did I see an appointed safety officer who did not properly identify mission specific hazards within the unit--or worse yet, a unit without a safety officer? Most importantly: Do I have a trooper who didn't ask the question, what would happen if...? We all have a role and responsibility to ensure mission accomplishment and that no one has to do our job, no matter the size or significance.

Many of you may have heard the saying, "Even a perfect plan executed poorly is doomed to fail." The same applies to any program including safety and risk management. All the policies, directives, standing operating procedures, colorful fliers etc., are useless unless there is a well-disciplined force that understands expectations concerning safety and risk mitigation. Those expectations are framed within three groups in the Joint Task Force (JTF). They are leaders, appointed unit safety officers, and "US," every single Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, Coast Guard and Civilian assigned to the JTF.

Leaders first and foremost lead by example and support the commander's safety program. Leaders keep the commander informed and they serve as a role model and mentor to everyone within their unit, defining "what right looks like." They must take immediate action, make on the spot corrections and enforce safety standards. Leaders must be the experts and learn, apply and train risk management principles. Finally, they must know what risk they are authorized to accept at their level.

The second group includes the safety



Photo by Spc. David Lankford

officers, non-commissioned officers and managers. Every company level unit should have an appointed individual or group of individuals that fill these roles. The expectation of this group is to implement and manage the commander's safety program. They must report directly to the commander and serve as the subject matter expert on all safety issues and provide risk management input for all operations or activities. For any program to be effective this group must conduct risk management training, safety training and awareness programs, safety surveys, and assist all sections within the Task Force in accident prevention. If you don't know who that person is, ask.

Finally and perhaps most importantly is "US," every single person within JTF Guantanamo. We must all remind ourselves why we are here, our mission, and maintain the discipline, both on and off duty to do the right thing regardless of who is watching, or better yet, who isn't. Every trooper or civilian assigned to the task force should feel comfortable reporting safety concerns through the chain of command and safety channels. Each of us should take immediate action, make the on-the-spot corrections and enforce standards. Practice risk management and exercise safe behavior both on and off duty whether you are walking a block, walking a patrol, or walking to participate in any recreational activity on the island. We should always focus on the mission and accomplishment of our tasks with no unnecessary risks.

Ask yourself: Do I want someone else to have to do my job today?

Honor Bound! ■

### JTF-GTMO Command

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# Boots ON THE GROUND

*New Members of the JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office share their goals for the deployment.*



◀ “My goals for this deployment are simple. I would like to partake in the recreational activities of scuba diving. I would like to increase my knowledge, get a college education and possibly a degree. If that is not enough on my plate I would like to continue learning and become proficient in my job, public relations. And most of all during this deployment I would like to continue building my relationship with my wife and son while I am over here.”

— Sgt. Justin Behrens  
Media Relations

▶ “I wish to achieve a level of journalistic excellence, dynamically improve my PT, save enough money to put a down payment on a house, and have as much fun as physically possible.”

—Spc. Seth Myers  
Photojournalist



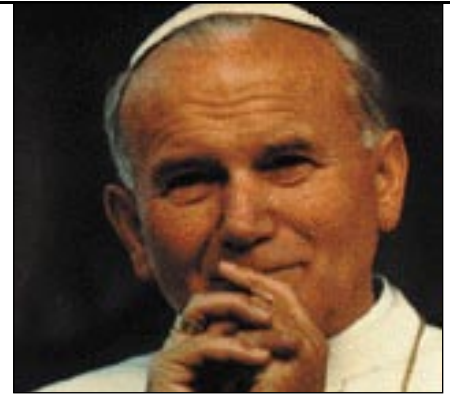
◀ “I don’t know how a grunt finds himself in Public Affairs, but I’ve always felt you should be your best at whatever you do. My goal for this year is to become the best photojournalist I can, and to truly portray the soldiers of JTF-GTMO as the heroes they are.”

—Spc. David Lankford  
Photojournalist



▶ “My biggest goal is to continue being the best NCO I can be, both to myself and my soldiers. I want to set an example for others to follow and respect, no matter what their rank. I want to see my unit complete its mission successfully, and all of the soldiers in it meet or exceed their goals. A few other personal goals would be maxing my PT test, bowling a 300 game, and spending as much time at the gym and beach as possible. And finding some non-abrasive toilet paper, which I’ve realized is next to impossible.”

—Staff Sgt. Jeremy Patterson  
Broadcast NCOIC



## Pope funeral today

by Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Tunney

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The funeral of Pope John Paul II, 84, who died April 2, in his private residence at the Vatican, was held today. The Pope will be buried in St. Peter’s Basilica, Vatican City.

President George W. Bush will attend the funeral. The delegation accompanying him and his wife to the funeral mass will include his father, former President George H.W. Bush, former President William J. Clinton and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

As part of his official remarks, the President said, “Laura and I join people across the Earth in mourning the passing of Pope John Paul II. The Catholic Church has lost its shepherd, the world has lost a champion of human freedom, and a good and faithful servant of God has been called home... All Popes belong to the world, but Americans had special reason to love the man from Krakow. In his visits to our country, the Pope spoke of our ‘providential’ Constitution, the self-evident truths about human dignity in our Declaration, and the “blessings of liberty” that follow from them. It is these truths, he said, that have led people all over the world to look to America with hope and respect.”

Hundreds of thousands of the Catholic faithful made the pilgrimage to St. Peter’s Square during the days after his death to publicly mourn and view the pontiff, who was dressed in red vestments.

According to the Catholic Almanac Online, in 15 to 20 days the Cardinals of the Catholic Church will meet for the election of a new Bishop of Rome in what is termed a conclave.

The cardinals will be in a locked room and will not depart until a new Pope is chosen. ■

# AROUND THE JTF



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

◀ Navy Aviation Mechanic 3rd Class Matthew Register performs preventative maintenance on an AH60 helicopter aboard the USS Halyburton.



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

▲ Members of JTF tour the U.S.S. Halyburton.



Photo by Spc. David Lankford

◀ Local iguana smiles for the camera.



◀ Army Staff Sgt. Jose Rodriguez, a tanker with Troup A, 18<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, flashes his cash to buy a set of DVDs for a bargain at the Camp America yard sale.

Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

Photo by Spc. David Lankford



▲ Army Staff Sgt. Jeremy Patterson NCOIC of the JTF-GTMO PAO broadcast section performs edits on a new video.

▶ Petty Officer second class Rafael Varela assigned to United States Coast Guard, Maritime Safety and Security Team. Performs maintenance on one of the patrol boats used for security operations in Guantanamo Bay.



Photo by Sgt. Todd Lamonica

# Life's a beach



Photo by Spc. David Lankford



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

**by Spc. David Lankford**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Wherever you are right now, whether it's in your room, the galley, or in the field, close your eyes. Tilt your face to the sky and picture the ocean. Feel the cool breeze on your face and the warm sand under your feet. Picture the waves gently crashing on the shore. You can hear it, can't you?

Fortunately, at Joint Task Force Guantanamo (JTF-GTMO) this fantasy can become reality in as little as 10 minutes, but before you run off, it's very important to know the three types of beaches available here.

The first is the family beach. This type of beach offers a wading area for children and does not permit alcohol.

The second is the off-limits beach, but don't throw out the paper yet. There are special circumstances when one may be granted access.

The third and most prevalent type of beach on the island is the public beach. This type of beach almost always offers swimming, diving, snorkeling, fishing and often camping, as long as prior guidelines are met.

Kittery Beach and Ferry Landing/Ocean View are the family beaches and do not al-

low alcohol. Kittery Beach is located in a restricted area, but is opened on weekends and holidays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. unless otherwise posted.

Ocean View is divided into two sections. Fishing is on the north side of the Ferry Landing, and swimming, snorkeling and diving are on the south. Among the amenities offered at Ocean View are cabanas, restrooms, showers, electricity and telephones.

The public beaches include Cable Beach, Chapman Beach, Glass Beach, Hicacal Beach, Hidden Beach Leeward, Pebble Beach, Windmill Beach and Hospital Cay. Amenities range from none, or just one or two cabanas, as at Glass, Hicacal, Hidden Leeward, Pebble Beach and Hospital Cay. The others offer an array of facilities including gazebos, tables, grills, volleyball courts and horseshoe pits.

Alcohol and fishing, as well as dogs, are permitted at all public beaches.

The off-limits beaches are Blue Beach and Cuzco Beach. These beaches are located in wildlife sanctuary and marine replenishment zones. Access is granted only on a limited basis for valid reasons, and must be

obtained through your chain of command. Tampering with or removing any plant or wildlife is strictly prohibited.

Hidden Beach Windward, though not off-limits, is available only by reservation. It offers two cabanas as well as swimming, snorkeling and fishing. This would be the perfect place for a company outing.

In addition, despite what you may have heard, camping is allowed at Cable, Chapman, and Hidden Beach Leeward, as well as Phillips Park and Hospital Cay. To camp overnight you must notify the security department and obtain a permit for your campfire from the fire department 48 hours in advance. Bonfire permits take seven days.

Finally, be safe, be courteous to others and to the environment. It's not only regulation; it's the right thing to do. For additional information refer to the regulation NAVBASEGTMOINST 1710.10J. This will be your recreation and water-sport bible while you are at JTF-GTMO. Read it and you will discover opportunities most people will never experience. Follow it and those opportunities will be available for generations to come.



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gordon Hyde

# Former fishing port a milestone in history



"Columbus Leaving Palos" by Joaquin Sorolla y Bastida

**By Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Joe Lacdan**

JTF-GTMO Archives

Everyone who sets foot on Fisherman's Point walks in the footsteps of a famous explorer.

More than 500 years ago, Christopher Columbus landed on Guantanamo Bay Naval Station's southeastern rim. Columbus came to Guantanamo seeking gold and riches, according to "The History of Guantanamo Bay," by Rear Adm. Marion Murphy. The Italian explorer, who sailed under the Spanish flag, saw what would become a bustling bay in the centuries that followed.

The former fishing port awaits visitors at the ferry landing on the installation's Windward side. Joint Task Force Troopers can visit the historic ground by taking the Sherman Avenue bus to Windward ferry landing.

Fisherman's Point is easy to miss. The only historic marker is a 6-foot stone pillar. Visitors will frequently not see the pillar, which is behind a gazebo. But Fisherman's Point's place has been etched in Cuban and American history.

The night Columbus landed, the explorer and his men feasted on a dinner of

Hutia or banana rats, and iguanas. With no sign of gold, he left the next day. The 1494 expedition marked western civilization's first contact with the bay, and centuries of Spanish domination of Cuba followed. Columbus named the bay "Puerto Grande" or "Great Port."

Four hundred years later, a battalion of U.S. Marines camped on a 30-foot high hill overlooking Fisherman's Point.

The Marines' arrival in 1898 during the Spanish-American War marked the beginning of U.S. occupation.

At the time, the bay held special value by serving as a port to local fishermen. Fisherman's Point was a fishing village then, and also acted as the entrance to the bay.

In the first U.S. strike on Spanish forces at Guantanamo Bay, Navy Commander B.H. McHalla received orders to perform a reconnaissance of the bay area in hopes of establishing a naval base. American troops entered the bay's rich blue waters on the U.S. vessel *St. Louis*. The troops attacked Spanish forces at Fisherman's Point and McCalla Hill. Marines would make camp at Fisherman's Point shortly afterwards. With establishment of U.S. Forces in the bay, and the severing of Cuban communications America turned the tide of the war in its favor.

The Treaty of Paris, signed Dec. 10, 1898, ended the Spanish-American War and Spanish rule of the island. It also granted Cuba its independence. In the ear-

ly 1900s, Fisherman's Point served as the bay's only small business area. In the original American lease agreement with Cuba, the United States agreed to use the bay as a naval and coaling station. A coaling station was established at Fisherman's Point but was later moved north to Hospital Cay. The area would also help ease the effects of a crisis.

To answer the turmoil following the Cuban Water crisis in 1964, the U.S. began construction on a water conversion and electrical plant at Fisherman's Point. The United States arrested 36 Cubans for fishing illegally in Florida waters. Cuba responded by shutting off water to the naval base. With limited water reserved on base, the base issued a water-conservation alert. Swimming pools and dry cleaners closed. President Lyndon Johnson decided the base would supply its own water.

"Military and civilian personnel on this base saw the reality of a long-cherished dream today," President Johnson said, following the opening of the plant.

Today, the old village no longer remains. A parking lot now lies over the historic land. Nearby, Ferry Landing Beach also awaits visitors, one of the island's most spectacular views of the bay. The legacy of Fisherman's Point is marked by two plaques cast in the six-foot stone pillar. Rear Adm. J.B. Hildreth dedicated small monument in 1970. It remains a reminder of centuries-old discovery. ■

Photo by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Joe Lacdan





# A battle of great minds

By Spc. Seth Myers

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The pieces were set and the battle was about to begin. The player's eyes briefly drifted away from the board to examine his opponent's expression. The challenger's face was fixed in a state of concentration. It was time for the ultimate test of the strategic mind: chess. Who would win this great battle?

This was the scene at a chess tournament Sunday evening at the Liberty Center. A tournament is held monthly, and organized by Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Darren Watson.

The rules are simple and have a strong emphasis on courtesy. Players are instructed to shake hands at the beginning and end of the game. No talking is permitted during the game, and tips from people not in the game are forbidden.

The four players sat down to challenge their first opponents. This tournament was double elimination, so even if a player lost a game, they had a second chance.

Five games later the tournament was narrowed down to two individuals—Navy Chief Petty Officer Ron Racelis, a trooper working in detention operations and Air Force Lt. Col. Douglas Taffinder, who works in the Office for the Administrative Review of the Detention of Enemy Combatants (OARDEC). The final games lasted almost two hours, but in the end, Taffinder came out on top.

"Ron played a good game," said Taffinder. Racelis received the second-place trophy.

The tournament was a "great morale booster," said Racelis.

Chess is a "contest of two wills," said Taffinder. The players get to test themselves in some "mental wrestling."

So if you are a fan of chess and want to test your skills, come to the Liberty Center next month and see if you can win the next battle of great minds.

For more information on tournament dates and times, contact the Liberty Center at 2010. ■



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Desmond Varner faces off against Air Force Lt. Col. Douglass Taffinder in the first round of the tournament.**

## Liberty Center

Chess isn't the only thing the Liberty Center is offering. There are pool tables, ping-pong tables, computers for gaming, PlayStation 2 units, and televisions for movies.

The center also hosts tournaments for nine-ball, spades, darts, and ping-pong.

Whether you want to pitch your mind against another, challenge someone to pool, or just hang out, you can do it at the Liberty Center.

For more information on tournament dates and times, contact the Liberty Center at 2010. ■

# Strike three, turkey

By Spc. David Lankford

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Soldiers in Camp America have added a new twist to a classic American sport.

The game is "combat bowling," and the rules are simple, said Senior Airman Lauren Machuga, "Just knock over the pins."

Combat bowling is played in the courtyard between the I and J billets in Camp America. One walkway has been designated as the lane and scores are kept, said Machuga, but this is where

the similarity to standard bowling ends.

The ball can be rolled, bounced or even thrown at the pins in an attempt to knock them over, however, in combat bowling, the pins can fight back. Let's say eight pins have been dropped and the bowler is going for the spare. It would not be unheard of, or against the rules, for one of the fallen pins to come flying back up the lane in an attempt to knock the ball off course on its way to the spare.

Obstacles have a knack for



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

finding their way onto the lane as well. It's not uncommon to see gravel or shoes blocking the lane. And, where but Camp America could a game be held up for an iguana crossing?

Combat bowling is a lot of

fun and goes a long way towards building cohesion in Camp America, according to Army Sgt. Marshall Hutchinson of A Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 143<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Regiment. A cookout often accompanies the bowling.

"Today we (roasted) eight chickens," Hutchinson said, but they didn't last very long. "Next week we're doing 12"

Soldiers at Joint Task Force Guantanamo are fortunate to have a vast array of recreational activities available, but sometimes the ones they create themselves are the most fun.

Combat bowling is more than just a game, it's a social event. ■

# Managing your emotions: contentment, when you're at ease

By Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Robert Palmer

JTF-GTMO Chaplain's Office

Several years ago a "Seinfeld" episode showed George's father, Frank Costanza, coming home from his cardiologist. It seems his cardiologist was worried about Frank's high blood pressure, so he gave this particular character a meditation tape, which suggested that every time he felt stressed he should say, "Serenity now." But of course the way Frank says, "Serenity now!" sounds like he's going to blow a heart gasket. By the end of the episode all the Seinfeld characters are saying it: "Serenity now, serenity now."

If only it were that simple. But serenity doesn't come that way, does it? It's not something we can bring into our lives just by repeating the right words.

Another word for serenity is contentment, or feeling at ease. And serenity or contentment is something we all long for, but it's not something we often find.

Why is contentment so hard for us to find? Part of the reason is that we're restless people. We have an inner longing that nothing can seem to fully satisfy for very long. This is why we can get addicted to things like drugs, alcohol, sports, sex, playing the stock market, or PlayStation 2. Or we think that if only our circumstances would go right, our restlessness longing would be filled.

## Chaplain's Leadership Journal

### Turn your reasons into goals!

By Navy Lt. Bruce Crouterfield

JTF-GTMO Chaplain's Office

When we joined the military, we had reasons for joining. Some of us joined after Sept. 11, 2001, and wanted to defend our country. Others wanted to take advantage of educational benefits. Many joined with the idea of going to college later and the military was a good way to see the world and mature a little first. For some, joining the military was a good option from which to build a life. The point is that when we joined, we had reasons for joining; we had a vision; we had a plan. Joining the service had a purpose.

That's what it was like before we came in. Now that we are in, things might seem a little different. Day-to-day routines and day-to-day challenges can cause us to lose sight of the reasons we joined the service; they can cause us to lose perspective. When we lose sight of

those reasons, we can begin to second-guess our decision for being here, we can lose forward momentum and feel like we are floundering. We can feel like we've lost "steerage" and we are just existing. Soon comes a desire to escape our situation and we find that we are more about running away from something than we are about running to something. When that happens, we are likely to *run into* something.

We must remember why we came in and then *turn those reasons into goals*. If we can recapture the reasons we joined the service and make them goals, we can generate a passion and an interest in them. Then we can regain forward movement; we can recover steerage, renew momentum with a forward focus on a purpose and the promises that come with it.

Effective leaders know their goals and keep them in focus. Remember...turn your reasons into goals! ■

So part of the reason for our lack of contentment is simply that we're restless people.

But another reason for our restlessness is that we live in a consumer driven culture where advertisers purposefully stir up our discontentment. The classic advertising formula for selling a product is to make the customer believe that they need the product, even if they don't.

How can we find contentment in this kind of setting? If our hearts are naturally restless, and if advertisers spend hours and millions of dollars figuring out ways to disrupt our contentment, how can we find it?

It begins with looking up, looking to God as the source of our contentment rather than our circumstances. That means saying "no" to our consumer culture that's driven by advertisers and marketers who want us to believe true contentment is found in buying the right products and services. It means looking beyond our circumstances to the God who exists above them. Then it means moving from looking to trusting, establishing a relationship of trust with the God who made us.

"You, Lord, give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm and put their trust in You." Isaiah 26:3 (TEV) ■

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### CAMP AMERICA

<b>Sunday</b>	9 a.m.	Protestant Service	Troopers' Chapel
	6:45 p.m.	Catholic Mass	Troopers' Chapel
	7:30 p.m.	Protestant Service	Building 3203
<b>Tuesday</b>	7 p.m.	Alpha	Building 3202
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:30 p.m.	Soul Survivor	Club Survivor
<b>Saturday</b>	3 p.m.	Saturday Vigil Mass	Troopers' Chapel

### NAVAL BASE CHAPEL

<b>Sunday</b>	8 a.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Sanctuary C
	9 a.m.	Catholic Mass	Main Chapel
	9 a.m.	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Sanctuary A
	9:30 a.m.	Protestant Sunday School	Main Chapel
	11 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel
	1 p.m.	New Life Fellowship	Main Chapel
<b>Monday</b>	5 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Sanctuary C
	7 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
<b>Wednesday</b>	7 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
	7 p.m.	Men's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
<b>Friday</b>	1 p.m.	Islamic Prayer	Room 12
<b>Saturday</b>	5:30 p.m.	Vigil Mass	Main Chapel

For information on Jewish services call 2323

# 15 Minutes of Fame with Army Sgt. Adrian Galvin

***“...being here is going to make me stronger...”***

**By Spc. Seth Myers**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Sgt. Adrian Galvin is an Army National Guardsman in the 1st-18th Calvary Regiment out of California and is here in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

**The Wire: Where do you come from?**

I from California.

**What was your reason for joining the Army?**

I wanted to get some college money and work experience, but now I feel like I want to contribute my part.

**How long have you been in the Army?**

Since January of 2002.

**What was your initial reaction when you were told you were going to Guantanamo Bay (GTMO)?**

Actually, I was originally trying to go to Kosovo. I basically volunteered for this mission. Since I wasn't going to Kosovo, I was trying to jump onto another unit to go to Iraq, and I heard about GTMO so I said, OK, I'll go to GTMO.

**What is your MOS?**

42A: Human Resources Specialist.

**What was your reason for volunteering?**

I feel like my mission isn't over. I want to continue going on missions as long as possible. I want to contribute

my part.

**What do you think of GTMO thus far?**

It is more than I expected. I expected a lot worse. I wasn't expecting a Subway, McDonalds and Starbucks.

**Have you been on any previous assignments?**

Actually, I just got off a two-year mission—Operation Armored Falcon.

**Where was that?**

Northern California at Moffett Federal Airfield.

**So what did you do there?**

We provided security for the Air National Guard, basically patrols, similar to here.

**In what ways was it similar or different from GTMO?**

We were patrolling around, securing the area basically like the Soldiers do here, except not through terrain. There were flight lines there.

**What are some of the big things you've learned from your experiences in the military?**

In my first mission, I had just come out of AIT (Advanced Individual Training). I went to five drills then I did the other mission--Operation Armored Falcon. I was kind of thrown to the wolves. I really didn't know my MOS. I progressed a lot in my MOS, and being here is going to



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

make me stronger in my MOS.

**What are some of your hobbies?**

I like physical training and surfing, but you can't surf here, so I think I'll pick up snorkeling and diving.

**What are some of your future goals?**

Progressing in my MOS more, physical training, and BNCOC (Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course) phase-one. My big goal that I picked

up yesterday is the Run-For-Your-Life 500 miles. That is my goal before I leave here. Last night I ran four miles and this morning three miles. Education wise, I want to enroll in some college courses. I'm majoring in business administration. ■

## 15 Minutes of Fame

Know a Trooper worthy of being highlighted in "15 Minutes of Fame?" Call Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Tunney at 3594.

## Look but don't touch!

**By Spc. Jeshua Nace**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Attention all treasure hunters: This article is here to inform you the beautiful Queen conch is currently out of season at Guantanamo Bay (GTMO). Starting in March and ending May 31, taking Queen conchs is prohibited. The restriction will be lifted June 1.

The Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) is also referred to as the pink conch and has a bright pink sheen on the smooth inside of the shell. The shell itself grows into a spiral design with protruding spikes. A Queen conch can grow to be 12 inches long and weigh over four pounds. Conchs can be found in shallow water to 250 feet on the ocean floor. Conchs usually stay in sea grass until mating season. Queen conchs enjoy the warm water, so they live in the western Atlantic from northern South America to south Florida, Bermuda and throughout the Caribbean.

Conch season was setup here to let the Queen conchs breed. While in sea grass, they eat off the vegetation, algae and detritus.

When they are about three and a half to four years old, they will go into more shallow sandy areas to find a mate.

They will usually mate when the wa-



Queen conch courtesy of [www.naplesseashellcompany.com](http://www.naplesseashellcompany.com)

ter temperate is between 79 and 82 degrees, and the Cuban water temperature consistently stays in this range.

Queen conchs are great for a mantel at home, and they are also considered a delicacy. The crab inside might look rough, but the meat is very edible.

So remember, if you're going scuba diving or snorkeling leave the Queen conchs alone-- till June that is. ■

*Editors note: facts about the Queen conch were provided by Paul Shoefeld, Environmental 4493.*



Queen conch courtesy of [www.freewebs.com/karensaltwater](http://www.freewebs.com/karensaltwater)

## U.S.S. *Halyburton* visits Guantanamo

**By Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

"Liberty call, Liberty call" comes over the 1MC (the ship's intercom). The ship has been tied up to the pier, the brow is down and it is now time for Sailors of the U.S.S. *Halyburton* to enjoy some much deserved liberty while in port at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

Liberty is permission to be absent from a ship or station for a period up to 48 hours and is the equivalent to a pass. Sailors from around the globe throughout the ages have taken part in this tradition of going ashore to relieve themselves of the stresses of working at sea for long periods of time.

For those on liberty, simple pleasures such as interacting with civilians, taking



tours of local sites and patronizing vendors fulfill a Sailor's needs.

Many Sailors believe it is their right to be able to go on liberty, but this is a privilege that may be revoked by the Captain at anytime. Those who stay aboard find themselves performing maintenance and standing watches.

Once a Sailor is put on restriction to the

ship and their liberty privileges are suspended for a period of time, it usually does not happen again.

So if you ever find yourself on a U.S. naval vessel and a port of call is on the schedule, when you hear the Boatswain's pipe and the call for "liberty," you will understand the sacrifices U.S. Sailors endure while defending the freedom of the seas.



Photos by Spc. Timothy Book

## Tax Center Closing 15 April 2005

Regular hours are by appointment only from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Reminder:

You get an automatic extension to June 15 by virtue of being deployed overseas. However, if you owe taxes, penalties and interest will start to accrue after April 15.

For help after April 15, contact the legal assistance office. (Only those people who are eligible for legal assistance are eligible for tax assistance after April 15.)  
ext. 4692



## Reef Raiders Dive Club

Monthly Meeting

April 12 - 6:30 p.m.

Windmill Beach

(large cabana to the left)

- ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND -

Bring something to throw on the grill,  
the coals will be HOT!!

New Board  
Members Election

Come and support  
your club!

For more information

call 7315

www.Reefraiders.org



## Sound off!

The Wire welcomes letters from Troopers for publication. Letters must have no more than 350 words and include the Trooper's name, unit and contact information. The Wire reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity and to eliminate libelous or tasteless material or anything that might raise operations security concerns. We will do our best to answer any questions posed in letters by contacting the appropriate subject-matter expert. Bring your letter to The Wire office at building 4106, a SEA hut near the Chaplain's Office in Camp America or e-mail pao@jftgmo.southcom.mil.

### TV Channels

Channel	Description	Channel	Description
2	TV 8 Navy Broadcasting	25	TNN
3	TV Guide Channel	26	Comedy
4	Community Billboard	27	WGN
5	CNN	28	Family
6	NOCD Weather Channel	29	Cinemax
7	WABC NY	30	HBO
8	TNT	31	ACTV
9	WSEE - CBS - Erie, Pa.	32	AFN
10	WNBC - NBC - NY	33	CMT
11	A & E	34	C - Span
12	TLC	35	BET
13	Fox Net	36	CNN
14	Telemundo	37	PBS
15	Cartoon Network	38	ESPN2
16	ESPN	39	SciFi
17	MTV	40	History
18	VH-1	41	TCM
19	Lifetime Television	43	AFN- News
20	Nickelodeon	96	Pentagon
21	Showtime	97	AFN-Sports
22	The Discovery Channel	98	TV Land
23	WTBS	99	WPIX WB

## Tae Kwon Do

### New Hours

Kids: M-W-F 1900-2000

Adults: M-T-W-T-F

2000-2100

### New Location

Marine Hill Aerobics Room. This will remain in effect until all renovations are complete in the Aerobics Room.

## Entertainment Magic

MWR presents...

The Magic & Illusion of "Vinny Grosso"

April 13 - Windjammer - 8 p.m.

April 14 - Bayview Patio - 8 p.m.

April 15 - Tiki Bar - 9 p.m.

### Alcoholics Anonymous

meets at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays in Room 4A at Chapel Hill. All are welcome.

## Accuracy

The Wire strives for accuracy. When we fail, we accept responsibility for our errors and correct them. If you see an error in The Wire, call Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Tunney at 3594.

## SNICKER DOODLES

These are quite possibly the best cookies I have ever had. The cookies are soft, chewy, and have the perfect blend of cinnamon and sugar.

### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon

### Directions

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Mix thoroughly butter, shortening, 1 1/2 cups sugar and the eggs. Blend in flour, cream of tartar, soda and salt. Shape dough by rounded teaspoonfuls into balls.

Mix 2 tablespoons sugar and cinnamon; roll balls in mixture. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheet. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until set. Immediately remove from baking sheet. The key thing to remember is not to over bake these. If you do it ruins the cookie.

Makes about 6 dozen cookies.  
-By Spc. Seth Myers

# Kitchen