



the Wire

“HONOR BOUND TO DEFEND FREEDOM”

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Friday, January 30, 2004

JTF opens new military working dog kennel

By SGT Jolene Staker

Four-legged JTF troopers are seeing improvements in their training facilities and their quality of life.

On Wednesday the new military working dog kennel opened. The ground breaking for the project occurred on Sept. 12.

“We are improving the quality of life and training capabilities for everyone in the JTF which enhances the overall mission,” said CPT Linda Sue Schwarz, JDOG facility engineer.

The military working dogs work as hard as any other JTF troopers and play an important role in the security of the JTF mission, according to MG Geoffrey Miller, JTF commander.

“Military working dogs are an enormously important part of who we are and what we do,” he



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

SGT Paul Royer with his dog Dino show off the obstacle course in the new permanent military working dog kennel. This course is designed to give the dogs confidence as well as keep them in shape.

said. “Military working dogs are an essential element of the JTF.

The permanent kennel is hur-

ricane- and weather-proof and allows for climate control. “The dogs have the ability to move

around and be inside or outside according to the weather,” said SGT Charles Bench, MWD kennelmaster.

The increased space in the permanent facility with the new equipment is going to make new training possible.

“We’re able to do training that we couldn’t do before, such as scouting and tracking,” said Bench.

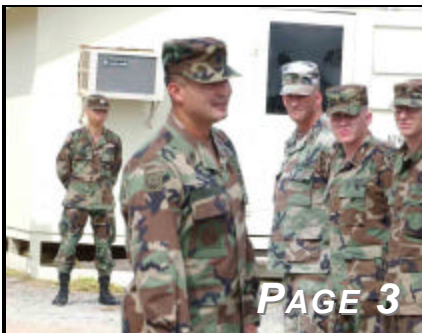
The dogs have an obstacle course that includes ladders, windows, walls, a catwalk, stairs and an A-frame structure for them to practice walking at angles. They also have tunnels so they can practice low-crawling.

“The obstacle course is to help the dogs overcome fears and to keep them physically conditioned,” said Bench.

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Trooper to Trooper

The future is what we make of it

Yogi Berra was once quoted as saying "The future's not what it used to be!" And since Sept. 11, 2001, that phrase somehow seems to make sense. We do things a bit differently now than we have in the past and we will certainly make adjustments in the future. And although we can't predict the future, we can certainly influence it by having the foresight to anticipate change. The true sign of a professional is one who can adapt to change and continue to be successful. Our leaders need to be an integral part of that concept. In other words, plan ahead.

Money and technology have helped us to reduce the JTF footprint. Our construction efforts have and will provide facilities for us to consolidate our operations and become more efficient. A proposed Joint Headquarters in the Camp America Complex, along with other proposed facilities, will streamline our operations and strengthen the team.

Technological modifications to many of our facilities will allow us to operate with fewer personnel. New detention facilities will include state of the art equipment. We are making an investment in our future.

There are other modifications and improvements scheduled. Remodeling of the Bulkeley Fitness Center will allow us to accommodate increased usage of the facilities. A soccer field and running track will add to the overall capabilities.



BG Mitch LeClaire
deputy commander
JTF GTMO Operations

All this in addition to the recent improvements in Camp America provides a balance between mission and quality of life.

The biggest change we will face in the near future will be the next rotation, which will be a significant undertaking. New challenges and opportunities await the next rotation and it's not too soon to begin thinking how we will make that transition in order to make their future a successful one. Keep working on your continuity books. Focus upon making forward progress. We must strive to become better every day.

So, perhaps Yogi had something when he spoke about the future. It never is what it used to be. It is what we make of it.

Honor Bound!

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JTF Guantanamo OPSEC message of the week

Find out what areas on base are restricted and which ones aren't. Although a place may not be marked, it may still be a restricted area. For more information, call 4105.



End of an era

CSM Nieves ends JTF tour, set to lead U.S. Army's 5th

CSM George Nieves, JTF command sergeant major, will begin his new assignment, command sergeant major of the U.S. 5th Army, this week. Looking back at his tour of duty as command sergeant major of JTF Guantanamo Bay, which began in November 2002, Nieves proved several things. (Clockwise from below, top left.) He leads troopers from the front, as evidenced by being first in line to receive his influenza vaccination. Appreciating a job well done by other troopers is also important, shown by presenting a coin to SGM Rick Michael (center) and MSG Terry Longworth for their work during a Battle Staff NCO Course. The top enlisted trooper in the JTF represents hundreds of troopers, forwarding their messages to the chain of command, including SOUTHCOM Commander Gen. James Hill. Another part of Nieves' job involves regular interaction with the troops, in this case the 384th Military Police Battalion.



CSM George Nieves
JTF command sergeant major



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker



Photo by SrA Thomas Doscher



Photo by SPC Rick Fahr



Photo courtesy of JTF archives

A dog handler works with his dog in a back yard in Tierra Kay housing area, where the military working dogs were housed before moving into their permanent facility.



(From left) CSM Stephen Short, JTF command sergeant major; BG Mitchell LeClaire, JTF deputy commander; CPT Michelle Pacheco, temporary veterinarian at the Guantanamo veterinary treatment facility; CPT Linda Sue Schwarz, JDOG facility engineer; and MG Geoffrey Miller, JTF Commander cut the ribbon at the opening of the military working dog facility.

Photo by SGT Jolene Staker



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

The new living quarters for the military working dogs. Up to six dogs can be housed in this facility. The dogs can come and go from the inside to the outside as they wish.

Kennel from page 1

The facility also has a smaller training area for obedience-type training. "It's hard to do that training in the bigger yard, because the dogs get distracted and want to run," said SGT Paul Royer, handler.

The location of the MWD kennel is also better for the dogs because there will be less human traffic than in the previous location in Tierra Kay.

The additional space, facilities and location will allow the dogs to have time off from their duties in an environment that is more soothing to their nerves and more attentive to their need for fresh air and exercise.

"It is a major improvement from where they were kept," said CPT Michelle Pacheco, temporary veterinarian at the Guantanamo Veterinary Treatment Facility.

With the examination room in the new facility, it will be easier to attend to the daily medical needs of the dog.

The dogs can have their basic medical needs met on site and only have to go to the main veterinary facility for major issues, such as surgery.

This project has been in progress for more than a year.

"I appreciate everybody that helped. We couldn't have done this by ourselves," said Bench.

The three dog handler teams who moved in the new facility are Bench with his dog, Dino, from Fort Polk, La., SGT Jeremy Covert with his dog, Rex, from Fort Riley, Kan., and Royer with his dog, Dino, from Fort Bragg, N.C. They now call Bench's dog "Dino Sr." and Royer's dog "Dino Jr." to tell them apart.

All seem to appreciate the new facility. "The new facility is a much better place to house the dogs for their health. We have a much better training area," said Royer. "The secluded area without a lot of people around is much better."

SGT Robert Moore, former MWD kennelmaster, was one of the many who pushed for the facility. When he was asked why he was so persistent he said, "They are soldiers just like we are."

National Guard Bureau chief visits troopers

By SrA. Thomas J. Doscher

A whirlwind tour in a whirly-bird awaited LTG Steven Blum, National Guard Bureau chief, and CSM John Leonard, National Guard Bureau command sergeant major, when their plane set down at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Jan. 22.

Blum visited with deployed National Guardsmen stationed in Guantanamo Bay in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

His visit began with an aerial tour of Camp Delta.

Afterward, Blum got to see the camp up close as well as the National Guardsmen working to keep the camp secure.

Blum also had a chance to eat dinner with several National Guardsmen from all over the U.S. and answer their questions about pay and future deployments. He also talked about the importance of the Joint Task Force Guantanamo mission.

"The American people are very proud of you," Blum said.



Photo by SrA Thomas Doscher
 LTG Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau and CSM John Leonard, National Guard Bureau command sergeant major, don helmets and life preservers in preparation for an aerial tour of Camp Delta and Camp America.

"They know what you're doing is very important. It's every bit as important as what they're doing in Iraq."

Blum also participated in a night-time patrol around the perimeter of Camp America and spoke to National Guard unit leaders during breakfast Jan. 23.

During both troop calls,

Blum told troopers to stay focused and that the war on terror was going to last.

"This isn't going away," Blum said. "They are attacking America, attacking our way of life. They are going to try to snatch away the America we know."

He also said that the

Guardsmen serving in JTF Guantanamo were not alone.

"There are 126,000 of you deployed right now," Blum said. "You are not alone. You represent what's right about America. There is one Army and you're in it."

Blum also talked about the National Guard's plan to make deployments more predictable for troopers.

"We're looking at a predictable rotation schedule where you're in a band of people vulnerable to deploy," Blum said. "It's already started. We're building a five-year schedule."

The goal, he said, is to make mobilization points obsolete, and have troopers deploy from joint force headquarters located in each state.

With National Guardsmen making up 47 percent of JTF personnel, Blum said the Guard was exactly where its should be.

"Who better to guard the nation?" he asked. "When we're needed, we're there. We're needed. We're here."

Honoring good work

Navy PO2 Duanne Hackney, who served in JTF J-4 warehouse, salutes MG Geoffrey Miller, JTF commander, during an awards ceremony on Friday. Hackney was one of three J-4 personnel honored for their service to the task force.



Photo by SPC Rick Fahr

Local students cheer JTF volunteer

By SGT Jolene Staker

“One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight,” said 1LT Luis Rodriguez as he led the group in exercise.

It was not a military exercise session he was leading. Rodriguez – commander of B Co., 1-181st Infantry Regiment – volunteers a large portion of his spare time coaching the W.T. Sampson High School Pirate cheerleaders.

“Luis has done a fantastic job. He’s taught them how to stunt and how to be a team,” said Karen Owens, faculty cheerleader coach. “He’s a very good role model for them.”

Rodriguez heard about the opportunity to volunteer at the school from a trooper here on last rotation who also volunteered at the school. “He heard through the grapevine that I did cheerleading, and he put me into contact with the right people,” said Rodriguez.

He first volunteered to help judge the tryouts and that was when they asked him to help coach.

One of the payoffs that Rodriguez experiences is the sense of community. “Their families are unbelievable. The community they have here is so strong. I have had an opportunity to be a part of it,” he said.

Rodriguez began cheerleading while

attending the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. His first coaching experience happened while he was still in college. His younger sister, Sophie, asked him to coach her and her high school cheerleading squad.

At home he coaches both the Pop Warner program cheerleaders and All Star squads. He shows those he coaches that he still has his cheerleading skills. He can still do a round off, a backhand, jumps and the splits. Stunting is his specialty.

“Cheerleading keeps me in shape and helps me maintain my flexibility which keeps me from getting injured,” he said.

Rodriguez enjoys cheerleading but he really volunteers to coach because of what he feels the girls get out of it. “I call them ladies. I treat them with respect, and I try to teach them to have respect for themselves,” he said. “I try to teach lessons of life that they can start applying. You have to have commitment and responsibility. You can see the difference between kids that are involved and kids that are not.”

Cheerleading is serious and it is hard work. Rodriguez doesn’t just teach the girls the fun parts like stunts. “I make them do stuff they don’t want to do like push-ups and jumping jacks. I teach them the basic skills they need to get to the level they want



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker
1LT Luis Rodriguez steadies W.T. Sampson cheerleader Victoria Olsen during a recent practice.

to be at,” said Rodriguez. “Rome wasn’t built in a day – it’s hard work to get to the advanced level of cheerleading.”

He may make them do the hard stuff, but the girls appreciate him. “I think he’s great. He’s helped us with jumps and stunts,” said Ashley Nieves. “We’ve improved a lot.”

“We all love him. He helps us a lot with our technique,” said Chelsea Mendenhall. “We wouldn’t be where we are if he didn’t help us.”

Trooper on the Street

By Spc William Ingram

This week’s question: Who will win this year’s Super Bowl?



Army
SGT Tom Haviland
1-119th FA Battalion
admin NCO

“I think the New England Patriots will win the Super Bowl. Their defense is too good.”



Army
CPT Khalil Shabazz
chaplain

“I believe that the underdog is going to come out on top. They have everything to play for in this game to win the Super Bowl.”



Army
SPC Derek Heitzman
747th Postal Co.

“The Carolina Panthers will win the Super Bowl. I have to root for the underdog.”



Army
1SG Emil James
661st MP Co.

“The New England Patriots have a number one defense and that is what wins football games.”



Army
1LT Glen Kernusky
HHC
1-181st Infantry

“I have to root for the home team. The New England Patriots are going to take the Super Bowl trophy home.”

PLDC comes to GTMO

By SPC William Ingram

The Army's basic leadership course will begin Monday for JTF troopers.

Primary Leadership Development Course – commonly referred to by its familiar acronym, PLDC – will consist of 15 days of intense training at Camp America.

Participants will live at Camp Bulkeley. The program will begin with in-processing activities. The second day will include an Army Physical Fitness Test and weigh-in to ensure that participants recognize the importance of leading from the front.

From there, potential leaders will study a variety of subjects and acquire a number of necessary military skills.

MG Geoffrey Miller, JTF commander, said that the course will help develop leaders, a needed military resource.

"The military will always need leadership to continue its mission," he commented.

The course's components will focus on three important aspects of military leadership: purpose – giving soldiers a



Photo by SPC William Ingram

SFC Clyde Sanger (standing) and SSG Kevin Kneeland (left) share their experience with SPC Brian Hurd during daily operations at the headquarters of B Company, 1-181st Infantry Regiment. Potential leaders within the JTF will have an opportunity to hone their skills during a Primary Leadership Development Course, which starts Monday.

reason to act because their leadership has earned their trust and respect; responsibility – taking steps to ensure that every soldier accomplishes his or her mission; and motivation – instilling soldiers with the will to complete their missions.

SFC Leo McPherson, Regional Title 11 Assurance noncommissioned officer, said the course's contents will help soldiers hone their leadership skills to better help soldiers in their command to accomplish

their missions.

The course is not MOS-specific. It is taught in a live-in environment, where participants share living quarters throughout the course, which includes classroom instruction with practical application of the skills taught, followed by hands-on training.

Course subject areas consist of military studies, leadership, communication skills, supply/ maintenance, professional skills and training.

Course to integrate communications, leadership, skills

To participate in the Primary Leadership Development Course, participants must complete a pre-resident instruction package before they can begin the course, which consists of various types of training.

They must bring the completed packet with them to begin the course.

Within 72 hours of starting the course, participants must

pass an Army Physical Fitness Test and weigh-in.

The course will include training in:

- Effective communication – using verbal and nonverbal communication, participants will focus on conveying ideas necessary to accomplish tasks and missions.

- Army leadership – identifying levels of leadership and

the human dimension role in development leadership skills.

- Duties, responsibilities and authority of noncommissioned officers – understanding what the Army expects of noncommissioned officers as they lead soldiers on a day-to-day basis and prepare them to be leaders on the battlefield.

- Counseling soldiers –

learning the basic fundamental techniques of counseling soldiers to improve their performance.

- Map reading – developing skills to help soldiers in the field.

- Wearing the uniform – identifying the appropriate wearing and appearance of the Army uniform and how to prepare a uniform for inspection.

PT for the soul: Getting fit spiritually

Are you ready to develop a high level of spiritual fitness in your life?

By Chaplain (LTC) Michael L. Britton

Being fit in the military is a way of life. A great amount of time is devoted to physical health and conditioning. This emphasis is appropriate for our mission accomplishment, but even more important and essential to success in every aspect of life is one's emotional and spiritual fitness. You may be able to power lift 300 pounds, but can you keep focused and remain calm while under stress and distress? Do you have the capability to keep true to your values and to yourself, even when those values are challenged?

Spiritually fit persons have a deep inner well of resources: values, beliefs, and a relationship with God, to sustain and nurture them in life, particularly when they find themselves in bleak conditions and surroundings and when attacked by others on the battlefield of life. People who are spiritually healthy are able to rise up when others fall; they see hope when others are hopeless.

General George C. Marshall once said, "The soldier's heart, the soldier's spirit and the soldier's soul are everything. Unless the soldier's soul sustains him, he cannot be relied on and will fail himself, his commander and his country in the end. It is not enough to fight. It is the spirit that wins the victory. Morale is a state of mind. It is steadfastness, courage and hope. It is confidence, zeal, and loyalty. It is élan, esprit de corps, and determination. It is staying power, the spirit which endures in the end and the will to win. With it all things are possible, without it everything else, planning, preparation and

production count for naught."

Spiritual fitness goes beyond memorizing creeds, a code of conduct or military services values – though it is important to know what one is expected to believe in and act on. A trooper who is spiritually fit develops a God consciousness that gives meaning and purpose to life through reflection and integration of the values and beliefs by which they seek to live.

Are you ready to develop a high level of spiritual fitness in your life? To help you in this endeavor I have developed a brochure, **Exploring Your Spirituality**, which you

can find inserted in this edition of The Wire. It provides a way to assess your spiritual health, determine your spirituality type and describes the spiritual needs of every human being. I hope you and the JTF community will find it to be a helpful tool in developing the spiritual dimension of your life. If you want to achieve total fitness, then take the time to develop your spiritual health as much as you focus on your physical and emotional well-being

The JTF Unit Ministry Team is here to assist you in your quest to develop the richness of your spiritual life and to become spiritually fit. A variety of spiritual resources and activities are offered to help you in this endeavor. If you are serious about becoming a totally fit trooper, then call our office today to set up an appointment to discuss and develop your personal spiritual growth plan.

Join us during one or all of our spiritual fitness activities at Camp America:

Soul Survivor – 7 p.m. every Wednesday at Club Survivor.

Thursday Ticket – 7 p.m. every Thursday in Room L1.

Alpha – 7 p.m. every Tuesday in Room L1.

"It is the spirit that wins the victory."

– Gen. George C. Marshall

Dinner on the ground

Join fellow troopers for food and fellowship.

This Sunday only, 11 a.m., outside Troopers Chapel.

Worship Services



Catholic

Main Chapel

Wed.	5 p.m.	Holy Hour and Rosary
	6:00-6:25 p.m.	Confessions
	6:30 p.m.	RCIA (Chaplain's office)
Sat.	4:15 p.m.	Confession
	5:30 p.m.	Vigil Mass
Sun.	9 a.m.	Mass
	10:15 a.m.	Spanish Mass (Sanct. B)
M-Fri.	11:30 a.m.	Mass (Cobre Chapel)

Camp America

Sun.	5 p.m.	Mass
	7:30 p.m.	Mass

Protestant

Main Chapel

Mon.	7 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship*
Wed.	7 p.m.	Men's Bible Study*
Sun.	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
Sun.	11 a.m.	Service/Sunday School

* Fellowship Hall located in Chapel Complex

Camp America

Tues.	7 p.m.	Alpha
Wed.	7 p.m.	Soul Survivor (Club Survivor)
Thur.	7 p.m.	Thursday Ticket
Sun.	7:30 a.m.	Christian Worship
	9 a.m.	Protestant

New Life Fellowship

Main Chapel

Sun.	1 p.m.	Service
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Pentecostal Gospel

Sun.	8 a.m.	Service (Sanc C)
	5 p.m.	Service (Sanc C)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Sun.	9 a.m.	Sanctuary A
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Islamic

Fri.	1 p.m.	Classroom 12 Chapel Complex
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Jewish

Call 2323 for more information

Camp America Church Bus schedule:

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

The bus will return following worship.

MWR ACTIVITIES

MWR personnel are planning a variety of upcoming activities:

■ Blue pin bowling: Feb. 8 and 22, 7 p.m., Marblehead Lanes Bowling Center. Entry fee is \$6. Blue pin must be in head position to win. Prizes include a three-game gift certificate with a natural strike. For more information, call Nancy or Robbie at 2118.

■ Valentine's Day lunch and dinner: Feb. 14, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., Bayview Restaurant. Cost is \$30 per couple for lunch; \$45 for dinner, and the lunch will consist of soup, salad, tenderloin, shrimp, vegetable of choice or fries, rice or baked potato and dessert. Call 5604 to make a reservation.

■ St. Valentine's Day Massacre Xtreme Biathlon: Feb. 14 at the sailing center; 1.5-mile swim and 20-mile bike ride; two-person relay team or individual competition. Sign up at the marina. Trophies will be awarded to five winners in each age group (19-29; 30-49; 50+).

AT THE GALLEY

Upcoming menus at JTF galleys:

Today: lunch – fried catfish; dinner – T-bone steak and lobster.

Saturday: lunch – baked ham; dinner – Mexican lasagna.

Sunday: lunch – chicken cordon bleu ; dinner – roast beef.

Monday: lunch – deli sandwiches;
dinner – cajun baked fish.

Tuesday: lunch – pork adobo;
dinner – salisbury steak.

Wednesday: lunch – bayou chicken;
dinner – cajun cod.

Thursday: lunch – baked ham; dinner
– barbecue chicken.

Friday: lunch – Caribbean chicken
breast; dinner – teriyaki chicken, seafood.



Dialpad users:

Troopers using "Dialpad" PC-to-phone service are reminded that they are to use the program with an MWR Internet account only, no NIPR or SIPR accounts.

"Dialpad" is a commercial service.

Therefore, troopers must not use the program on any government computer that is not specifically for MWR use.

Downloading any software to a JTF computer is prohibited.

Flight schedule to change

The February schedule for rotator flights off the island will change. The flights will leave on Fridays in February. More information about future flights will be forthcoming.



Camp Bulkeley

Fri., Jan. 30

8 p.m. *The Transporter*
PG13 - 92 min

10 p.m. *Collateral Damage*
R - 109 min

Sat., Jan. 31

8 p.m. *Swordfish*
R - 99 min

10 p.m. *Romeo Must Die*
R - 139 min

Sun., Feb. 1

8 p.m. *Open Range*
R - 118 min

Mon., Feb. 2

8 p.m. *The Hunted*
R - 94 min

Tues., Feb. 3

8 p.m. *Kiss of the Dragon*
R - 98 min

Wed., Feb. 4

8 p.m. *Cradle to the Grave*
R - 93 min

Thurs., Feb. 5

8 p.m. *The Ninth Gate*
R - 133 min

Movie Schedule

Downtown Lyceum

Fri., Jan. 30

7 p.m. *Cheaper by the Dozen*
PG - 99 min

9 p.m. *Veronica Guerin*
R - 98 min

Sat., Jan. 31

7 p.m. *HONEY*
PG13 - 94 min

9 p.m. *GOTHIKA*
R - 95 min

Sun., Feb. 1

7 p.m. *The Missing*
R - 137 min

Mon., Feb. 2

7 p.m. *Cheaper by the Dozen*
PG - 99 min

Tues., Feb. 3

7 p.m. *HONEY*
PG13 - 94 min

Wed., Feb. 4

7 p.m. *GOTHIKA*
R - 95 min

Thurs., Feb. 5

7 p.m. *The Missing*
R - 137 min

Super Bowl Party



at
Club
Survivor.

Sunday at 5 p.m.
Refreshments will be provided.

Sports highlights

Ready for some football? Super Bowl is Sunday

Compiled by
SPC Rick Fahr

Two days removed from Super Bowl XXXVIII – has the pre-game show started yet? – most football fans have already digested enough information to know who the **New England Patriots'** center is (**Dan Koppen, Boston College**) and that the **Carolina Panthers** carry former **Detroit Lion Rodney Peete** on their roster.

Is there anything about this game that serious fans don't know? Maybe ...

■ This will be the first time that neither Super Bowl team is named for a city.

■ Which college football program has the most Super Bowl experience? Consider that this is the 13th straight year that a **Tennessee Volun-**

teer (Shane Burton and Deon Grant, Panthers) will be playing in the big game.

■ The Patriots and Panthers have combined to win their last 20 games.

■ The team that scores first has won 25 of the 37 previous Super Bowl games, and the team leading at the half has won 29 games.

■ The magic number is 28 – no team that scored that many points has ever lost a Super Bowl.

■ Twenty-seven Super Bowls have been won by at least seven points, and only one has been won on the last play of the game.

Men's NCAA college basketball has continued its mad rush toward March.

Duke sits atop the

ESPN/USA Today poll, followed by unbeaten **Stanford**. **St. Joseph's** comes in at No. 3, although the New York school hasn't exactly played a powerhouse schedule.

Louisville has vaulted into the top 5 by virtue of losses by **Connecticut, Cincinnati, Wake Forest** and **Kentucky**.

On the women's side, the **Tennessee Lady Volunteers** have taken over the top spot in the land, a familiar place for **Pat Summitt's** squad, after beating top-ranked **Duke**. **Texas Tech** recently dropped two games, falling out of the top five. **Purdue** and **Penn State** have maintained their winning ways to climb up into national polls' small numbers.

Who has the best record in the NBA?

Los Angeles Lakers? Nope. They're struggling with the health and off-the-court woes of their superstars.

San Antonio Spurs? Uh-huh. A mini-slide has pulled them back to the Western Conference pack.

Indiana Pacers? Kinda-sorta. At 33-13, the Pacers have romped through the season's first half.

But technically, the best record goes to the **Minnesota Timberwolves**, who stand at 30-12. **Kevin Garnett** has led the Wolves on a torrid 24-7 run after starting the season at 5-5.

Who's heading the wrong way? Look no further than the **Chicago Bulls, Orlando Magic, Washington Wizards** and **Atlanta Hawks**.

Sports highlights compiled from www.espn.com.

Celebrating friendship

JTF representatives carry flags in the Jan. 23 Cuban-American Friendship Day relay run.



Photo by SPC Rick Fahr

Maximizing the mission: HHC 1-181st Inf. Regt. delivers and develops skills, brotherhood in Guantanamo Bay

By SPC Katherine L. Collins

Serving in Guantanamo Bay on its first deployment, Headquarters Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment bears great pride in its Operation Enduring Freedom mission and excessive appreciation for it.

"This mission gives us the chance to show all we can do and to grow immensely, too," said CPT Gregg Langevin, battalion S-1.

Serving as a detachment, HHC functions as a command and control element. Its mission areas include administration and personnel, intelligence, operations and planning, mechanics, communications and supply. In addition, HHC contains mortar men, who augment the line companies but who would combine with additional mortar men from the line companies to function as a mortar platoon, if JTF were attacked. HHC also contains medics, who serve on the joint aid station staff here.

According to Langevin, HHC brings great strengths to JTF Guantanamo, which include the soldiers' history with the unit and overall time in service.

"Many of the soldiers have served with the unit for about five years, while only a few are fairly new," he said. "In addition, our most inexperienced people still have about 10 years military experience and a great deal of leadership experience. Also, many of our NCOs have come up through the line units, so they have a great working relationship with their soldiers and understand the soldiers' needs."

Langevin said he views the unit's span of civilian skills as another of its greatest assets.

"Joining the Guard after eight years of active duty, I quickly learned you don't necessarily know the skills you have at your disposal in a reserve unit. We have an E-5 who is in charge of four guys here, but as a civilian he is a contractor with a 50-per-



Photo by SPC Katherine L. Collins

SGT Jason Novia erects an OE-254 antenna to create a communications point for the infantry command and control cell, one task of HHC's behind-the-scenes mission. In order to effectively secure each area of operation, HHC must ensure the infantry successfully communicates within those areas and back to the infantry operations center at Camp America.

son company. So when we have problems with things like the parking lot he volunteers to grade and pave until the lot is fixed," he said. "When we have computer problems our soldiers who are network administrators outside the Guard jump in to help J-6. Even an artist in our unit puts his expertise to work by being able to paint our unit logo on a rock in the rock garden to represent our service here."

"It is amazing the depth of skills we have in our unit," added SFC Patrick Murphy, senior personnel service sergeant. "Reserve units have this definite advantage. The battalion level is supportive of using our unit's civilian and

secondary MOS skills to be of extra use here. It has a two-fold benefit. It helps the mission, but it also helps the guys keep up their skills from the outside."

Equal to the assets the unit brings to the mission, HHC recognizes the many benefits it can gain from its service here.

"First, this is just great training for us," said Murphy. "This is the first time HHC has deployed. Our line units deployed in Operation Noble Eagle and SFOR 10 without us."

Langevin said the unit's training includes common task training, weapons qualification, ruck marching and physical fitness training.

"More importantly, just performing our daily job is excellent training for us. Other than annual training, this deployment is probably the first opportunity many HHC soldiers have had to really practice their MOS skills," he said. "In addition, we do a lot of cross-section training here. As far as the officers and senior NCOs, they do occasionally patrol and work on the check points with the line units to gain experience and a feel for the soldiers' needs."

Leadership schools also play an important role in HHC's training here, said Murphy.

"We try to send as many soldiers to leadership schools as possible, prioritizing those who are condition-promotable," he said. While they are gone the rest of us just pull together to fill their roles."

The extended time period of this mission is one factor in creating an optimal training environment, said Langevin.

Langevin and Murphy explained the many ways this training will benefit the unit in the future.

"We can be more proactive now in how we use our soldiers during drills," said Langevin. "We've now seen the real world experience so we know what's important. We will focus our training on those tasks, so we are even more prepared for our next mission."

Excited about the opportunity to play a major role in history and grasp every opportunity to grow as a unit here, HHC sets forth its best effort every day, working long hours behind the scenes, said Langevin.

"In HHC we often times do the unglamorous, unglorious things," he said. "I tell my guys to keep in mind that our role is to support the line companies, making them successful, and that even though we are not in the spot light like the line companies our job is every bit as important because they can't do it without us," Langevin said.

15 Minutes of Fame...

SGT Bernard Sanabria, HHC, 1-181st Infantry Regiment

By SPC Katherine L. Collins

SGT Bernard Sanabria joined the military with the vision of developing himself personally and professionally. A mechanic with Headquarters Headquarters Company, 29th Infantry Brigade, he serves in Guantanamo Bay augmenting the HHC 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment. Sanabria views his Operation Enduring Freedom mission as an opportunity to grow in his service to his five children, other family, friends and country.

Q: What inspired you to join the military?

A: I was 17 and not really ready for college. I figured that if I joined the military I'd acquire some skills that would show me what I am capable of doing. I was interested in electronics and liked building robots, but when I was told I had the skills to become a mechanic in the military, I thought that sounded interesting too.

Q: How many years and in what capacities have you served?

A: I was with the 110th Armored Cavalry Regiment for eight years. Then I joined HHC, 1-181st for three years before transferring to HHC, 29th Inf. Bde. I've served for almost 16 years as a mechanic now.

Q: Where have you deployed?

A: This is my first deployment. I was excited to come to Cuba. I wanted to experience the culture and the opportunities to improve as a mechanic. I also thought it would be an adventure.

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

A: Serving with the 110th ACR we performed a number of recovery missions during our annual training at Fort Drum, N.Y. We recovered a lot of broken down tank vehicles and once rescued a helicopter. That was interesting. I worked with a great group of guys too. I learned a lot from them to improve my mechanic skills. They also showed great brotherhood and leadership. They probably helped make me the NCO I am today.

Q: How has your military service impacted and molded you as a service member and a person?

A: It has shown me the great responsibility that goes with my role as a mechanic and



Photo by SPC Katherine L. Collins
SGT Bernard Sanabria, HHC, 1-181st Infantry Regiment, repairs the brakes on a Humvee as part of the vehicle's weekly maintenance.

other roles in life. So I try to do the best I can. It made me very agile too. I've improved myself as a soldier and for the outside world. My military service has also shown my civilian employers my skills and strengths. I thank the military and have nothing but respect for it for all it's given to me.

Q: What do you do professionally as a civilian?

A: I have used the Guard tuition assistance to attend New England Institute of Technology. I also worked for UPS, then as an assistant manager for Auto Zone.

Q: In what ways have your family, friends and civilian employer supported you in your active military career?

A: They've seen me change and improve myself through the military. The support of my family and friends has really kept me going to exceed my expectations.

Q: What experiences and personal qualities do you believe have benefited you most professionally and personally during this deployment?

A: My role as a father has taught me how to care for my fellow soldiers, particularly those I must lead. My children have helped me understand all the roles I must play. To them I must be more than a father, but a friend

and a mentor. Here I must be an NCO, a friend and a mentor. I must be someone others can trust. I also look back at what I've gained from my parents and others in my family. I can see the ways they've helped me grow, and I can then do the same as a father and NCO.

Q: What do you do to relax at home and in Guantanamo Bay?

A: I'm a simple guy. We work hard here, so I catch up on sleep by napping. Also, I like to take pictures, and I like to write e-mails and letters and in my journal. At home I cherish spending time with my kids. It doesn't matter if we go to the movies, the park or swimming. I just enjoy watching them grow. Working hard, time goes fast. So I sometimes just watch them, capturing every moment of their life. I relax most doing that.

Q: What goals have you set for yourself while in Guantanamo?

A: To just improve myself as a soldier, mechanic and person. I want to do my very best each day knowing I am part of a unique team that's fighting to make a difference. I've gained a lot from the Army, but I want to see more. I want to use every opportunity in this mission to grow in my skills and character, to better help my family, friends and country.

Q: What do you find most rewarding about this mission?

A: This mission is helping me grow, making me an example to my children and teaching me what I need to know to help them grow. It's made me more responsible too. Also, I've learned from my service in general that you can reach your goals if you remain truly committed to them, and that in order to get much out of anything you have to put heart and hard work into it. That's a lesson I can pass on to my kids to help them succeed in life. Experiencing other cultures here is great, too.

Q: What makes you most proud to serve?

A: Just being a part of history. I serve my family and country as a soldier by protecting freedom, but the military provides the opportunity to serve others in other capacities all along the way because of all the people I encounter. My service enables me to stand proud to accomplish many other great things in life, and it's something I want my children to see and learn from.