



Preliminary Commissions hearings set for next week

By Spc. Seth Myers

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

It's that time again. Commissions are coming and soon. Two detainees (Ali Hamza Ahmed Suleiman al Bahlul and Omar Ahmed Khadr) are scheduled for a preliminary session next week.

These are not the same detainees who were scheduled for commissions earlier in November, though. A total of nine detainees have now been charged. The other seven charged are Jabran Said Bin al Qahtani, Ibrahim Ahmed Mahmoud al Qosi, Ghassan Abdullah al Sharbi, Sufyian Barhoumi, Salim Ahmed Hamdan, David Matthew Hicks and Binyam Ahmed Muhammad.

"These commissions hearings are preliminary sessions to establish the ground rules and to attempt to accept pleas from the detainees... It is a proceeding before one of the

presiding officers, with the lawyers and the detainee present, if he desires, and they will go over some specific points about the proceedings," said Army Col. Jane Anderholt, JTF Commissions Liaison.

A federal court may delay these upcoming sessions, as it did in November, however that does not change the JTF mission preparation. Until the sessions are canceled, the JTF continues to plan and prepare for its support of the commissions hearings.

"This session, for our purposes (the JTF), is no different than if it were the full trial session leading to a decision of guilt or innocence. The reason is that the support we provide commissions is not going to change. We will support the media activities. There will be media on the island. We'll support the OMC (Office of Military Commissions) personnel, the prosecution, the defense and the presiding officer. We'll provide all the lo-



Photo by Sgt. Todd Lamonica

gistics required and the security. So, from our perspective as the JTF, this is a full commissions activity for us," said Anderholt.

The JTF stands ready to do their mission. They will provide all necessary support for the commissions' process and ensure that it runs smoothly. ■

Military Commission charges referred

DoD News Release

The Department of Defense announced Dec. 16 that charges were referred to a military commission in the cases of Binyam Ahmed Muhammad and Ghassan Abdullah al Sharbi by the appointing authority, John D. Altenburg Jr. on Dec. 12, 2005. Altenburg previously approved charges on Muhammad and al Sharbi on Nov. 4, 2005. Referral is the step in the military commission process where the appointing authority designates the presiding officer and panel members who will hear a particular case. A trial date has not yet been set.

Muhammad and al Sharbi's cases were referred as noncapital cases to a panel consisting of six members and two alternate members. Marine Col. Ralph H. Kohlmann who has 18 years of experience as a judge advocate, was selected as the presiding officer for Muhammad's case. Navy Capt. Daniel E. O'Toole who has 21 years of experience as a judge advocate, was selected as the presiding officer for al-Sharbi's case. Both officers are currently performing

duties as military judges.

The remaining panel members for both cases consist of three Air Force colonels, two Army colonels and a Navy captain. A Navy lieutenant commander and a Marine Corps lieutenant colonel are alternate members. The presiding officers will be contacting attorneys in the near future to set an initial trial schedule.

Muhammad and al Sharbi are presumed innocent of any criminal charges unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt at a military commission. Military commission procedures provide for a full and fair trial to include: the presumption of innocence; a requirement for proof of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt; representation by a military defense counsel free of charge with the option to retain a civilian defense counsel at no expense to the U.S. government; an opportunity to present evidence and call witnesses; no adverse inference if an accused chooses not to testify; and an appeal to an independent and impartial review panel. Military commissions have historically been used to try violations of the law of armed conflict and related offenses. ■

The transformation of JTF-GTMO -the Commander's New Year's message

By Maj. Gen. Jay Hood

JTF-GTMO Commander

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas season and that you took the time to communicate with loved ones back home.

I'm sure many of you have reflected on the accomplishments of 2005, and have evaluated priorities and set goals for 2006. From the day detainees first arrived here, JTF-GTMO has undergone a remarkable transformation. Understanding where we came from as an organization, where we are today and where we expect to be in the future is key to our collective success.

Where we were.

In January 2002, the first elements of JTF 160 arrived with the mission to conduct detention operations. Within weeks, the first group of detainees arrived, representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross were on hand to monitor treatment and living conditions, and medical professionals set up the detention medical facility. A month later, JTF 170 began its intelligence-gathering operation. Construction also began at Camp Delta, and the following April all detainees were moved into that newly completed facility. In late 2002, the tent city across from Camp X-Ray that housed Troopers gave way to more permanent facilities in other areas on the base, and the detention and intelligence-gathering operations were joined as JTF-GTMO.

Where we are.

Now, in the four years since the creation of JTF-GTMO, we have achieved many remarkable accomplishments, including:

- Safe detention of nearly **800** enemy combatants since operations began.
- Intelligence collection that continues to produce vital information in support of fighting terrorism world-wide.
- Provision of the highest quality medical care for detainees and Troopers.
- Construction of state-of-the-art detention facilities modeled after a security design used by U.S. federal penitentiaries.
- Construction of intelligence-gathering facilities that leverages the latest technology.
- Development of operational SOPs that continue to incorporate lessons learned into our operations.
- Construction of medical facilities with state-of-the-art equipment and an expert medical staff of nearly **150** personnel.
- Vast improvement of quality of life for Troopers in the way we live, eat and enjoy recreation.
- We've hosted over **460** members of the media, and over **100** members of Congress. We've provided continual updates to the American people on the progress we're making here at JTF-GTMO.



Where we expect to be.

We've made tremendous progress in the conduct of our mission and development of JTF-GTMO, but there's more work to do. Although there are unknowns about the future of operations here, we will continue to move forward with our mission, continue to improve facilities and at the same time find new and better ways to do business. We will continue to conduct detention in a safe, humane manner and we will continue to refine intelligence gathering in support of the GWOT. The most important part of our plan for the future, however, involves taking care of Troopers. We will continue to improve the quality of life here at JTF-GTMO, to include housing, transportation, and communication, and continue to provide opportunities for Troopers' training and professional development.

Over the coming months, we will say farewell to a group of dedicated Americans who have served with distinction during their deployment here. I'm quite confident the lessons they take with them will make them better service members, better citizens and better people.

In early 2006 we look forward to officially welcoming the 29th ID of the Maryland National Guard, who will be a critical part of the continued success of our mission. There will be other active-duty and Reserve units from all the services who will join us as well, and I expect those Troopers, who will be leaving us soon, to continue to exceed the standard to their very last day on the island.

I sincerely appreciate your individual contributions to the success of JTF-GTMO. Through your hard work and dedication you have built upon the foundation put in place by your predecessors and significantly raised the bar for those who will follow. Together, we made 2005 a great year, and I know you will make 2006 even better.

Good luck and Honor Bound! ■

JTF-GTMO Command

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New secretary of the Navy

DoD News Release

WASHINGTON (Jan. 3)--Donald C. Winter was sworn in today as the 74th secretary of the Navy by Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England. In this position, Winter leads the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps team and is responsible for almost 900,000 people and an annual budget in excess of \$125 billion.

The secretary of the Navy is responsible for all the affairs of the Department of the Navy, including recruiting, organizing, supplying, equipping, training, mobilizing and demobilizing.

The secretary also oversees the construction, outfitting and repair of naval ships, equipment and facilities. The office is also responsible for formulating and implementing naval policies and programs that are consistent with the national security policies and objectives established by the President and the secretary

of defense. The Department of the Navy consists of two uniformed services: the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps.

Before joining the Bush administration, Winter served as a corporate vice president and president of Northrop Grumman's Mission Systems [<http://www.ms.northropgrumman.com/home/main.html>] sector. In that position, he oversaw operation of the business and its 18,000 employees, providing information technology systems and services; systems engineering and analysis; systems development and integration; scientific, engineering and technical services; and enterprise management services. Winter also served on the company's corporate policy council.

Previously, Winter served as president and CEO of TRW Systems; vice president and deputy general manager for group development of TRW's Space & Electronics busi-

ness; and vice president and general manager of the defense systems division of TRW. From 1980 to 1982, he was with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency as program manager for space acquisition, tracking and pointing programs.

Winter earned a bachelor's degree (with highest distinction) in physics from the University of Rochester in 1969. He received a master's degree and a doctorate in physics from the University of Michigan in 1970 and 1972, respectively. He is a 1979 graduate of the University of Southern California Management Policy Institute, a 1987 graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles Executive Program and a 1991 graduate of the Harvard University Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security. In 2002, he was elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering. ■

Detainees receive special meal in observance of Eid al-Adha

By Spc. Seth Myers

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

A special meal is being prepared for the detainees on the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Adha.

"It is a special day for them, so we are giving them a special meal," said Sam Scott, manager of the Seaside Galley.

Detainees will be offered anything from tabbouleh (parsley salad), chicken kabsa, aroz Saudi (saudi rice), shish kabab mishwi (grilled shish kabab), orange juice, and milk, with fruit, yogurt, dates and honey for dessert.

"We try to adapt the menu to what they may eat at home and to lend some variety. The last time we prepared an Eid meal, for instance, we served lamb as the entree in the Arabic style," said Navy Lt. Jonathan Sym, JTF food service officer. "All the galley personnel will be working very hard to ensure that the meal will be nutritious and try to make it as close as possible to authentic Arabic cooking. We have special recipes for this."

The Seaside Galley staff, headed up by Scott, is prepar-

ing the meal, which is sure to be good because of their vast experience and skills

"With her 30 years of experience in food service, as well as food specialists like Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Townes (over 20 years of food service experience), we are very capable of not only our routine meal preparations, but any special requirements such as Eid al-Adha or Ramadan. Without them and their skilled staff, JTF food service would not be the professional organization that it is today," said Sym. "There is a lot of care and attention when we plan any meal, whether [it] be for Troopers or detainees. Pentad employees have been [preparing meals for] some time now and they are well aware of the special dietary needs of some of the detainees and maintain a [close] watch on food preparation--not only for the Eid al-Adha meal but for all meals served everyday."

The staff ensures that all dietary requirements that are passed down to them from the JTF medical and nutrition group and the JDG are complied with, said Sym. ■

Gitmo Giants: the Banyan tree



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

The aerial roots grow so large they become individual trunks.



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

The Banyan tree is an unusual tree that grows in many parts of the world. Broad branches spread from the center of the tree and sprout aerial roots that, when they reach the ground, become trunks and support further growth of the tree.



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

What appears to be a group of many trees is actually one individual tree that has spread outward.



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

One tree may have over a thousand aerial roots.

SETH & JESH'S... GAMERS ARCADE

The best game ever edition!

SETH

Into a post apocalyptic world torn apart by greed, desperation, hatred and malice a vault dweller ventured to save his people. He was forever changed by his experiences above ground and could never return home, even though he had sacrificed everything to save it. Now, his descendants are in a similar bind; only this time, it is far worse.

Enter a twisted world of mutants, murderers, drug dealers, mob bosses and slavers. Enter a world that desperately needs a hero but may never get one. Enter the world of *Fallout 2*.

Fallout 2, like the original, is a role-playing game that is almost as open ended as a game can get. Save your people and the world, or vie for power in this corrupt world. Become a Ranger and hunt the vile Slavers or join the Slavers and barter with peoples' lives. Whether you choose to be a force of good, a curse upon the world or anything in between, your sick or righteous mind can do it in this game.

This sounds to be a violent game (and it can be), but it is so open ended, you can practically talk or sneak your way through the whole game, never firing a single shot. Create a diplomat, manipulator, rogue, thief, warrior, savage, or anything the game's di-

verse character creation system allows.

Other more "modern" games brag about how open ended their games are, but *Fallout 2*, which is almost 10 years old, did a better job than them. That, in combination with the incredibly lush world, great story and awesome turn-based strategy combat system, is why this game is my all time favorite game ever.

Runner-ups:

Planescape Torment: Discover the destiny of an immortal by exploring the depths of his dark and hidden past. Journey into the vile world of *Planescape* and learn how truly bizarre the realms can be.

StarCraft: From the makers of *WarCraft* comes a real-time-strategy game of galactic proportions. Blizzard, as always, keeps to their reputation of award winning games with an epic plot.

JESH

Unfortunately for me, the game I think is one of the best games ever, I have yet to complete. However, as soon as this deployment is over, with all the free time I will have, that will be shortly rectified. By far, *Half-life 2* has the best graphics, physics and has just about revolutionized what video games can do.

Throughout the game, there is not a mo-

ment I didn't feel uninterested. Even during the brief moments of calm, there are plenty of things to explore or figure out in the world. There aren't annoying jumping puzzles in the game (so far). With the implementation of *Half-life 2*'s unique physics engine, everything in the game has an appropriate weight, and in so doing, falls or rises as it would in the real world. Constantly during the game, the user is allowed to attack, defend or get through the next area using items in the environment. Later in the game, you are given a device that can pick up heavy objects and throw them with incredible power. This opens up the possibility of using washing machines, radiators and anything else you can find to block the numerous assaults upon your character.

Runner ups:

Planetside: One of my favorite games in the world is *Planetside*. It is a futuristic, on-line first person shooter. In the game you can, hopefully with a few pals, take on hundreds of other players in a continual conquest for several enormous planets. Through level ups (gained by kills and base captures), you gain access to more vehicles, weapons and body armor.

Dues Ex: *Dues Ex* roughly translates as god of machine, and in many ways your character comes pretty close. J.C. Denton, the main character, is a federal agent for the United Nations anti-terrorist unit. The game didn't have the best combat in a first person shooter, but what it lacked in combat it met in spades with awesome storyline and interaction with characters in the game. ■

Registering GTMO specials and POVs

By Sgt. Jessica Wilson

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Troopers who own a "GTMO special" or a POV (privately owned vehicle) are required to register them.

When you purchase your vehicle, you will have to register it according to the rules here. You are required to register your vehicle because the registration office must keep track of the number of vehicles on base. If you do not register your vehicle you can receive a ticket, have your license suspended and your vehicle towed.

When owners register their

vehicle, they must provide a few documents. These documents include the title, old registration from the states (if that applies), a notarized bill of sale, proof of insurance and your driver's license.

Upon registration, you will receive a window inspection sticker. The registration office inspects the vehicle to ensure all the lights are working properly and there are no major malfunctions with the vehicle. The sticker is free.

If a Trooper decides to sell their vehicle, the new owner must re-register the vehicle, even if the sticker on the window is good. The new owner has 72 hours from the time they purchase the vehicle to

register it in their name.

The registration process doesn't take long...it can take anywhere from five to 20 minutes depending on how many people are in front of you. It may take longer if you arrive without the proper paperwork.

The registration office is located at Bulkley Hall, second deck, in room 220. ■



The hours of operation are:
Mon., Wed., Fri., 9a.m.-1p.m.
Tues., Thurs., 8a.m.-4p.m.
Closed daily from 12p.m.-1p.m.
for lunch. ext-5579

New Year's celebrations and traditions

By Sgt. Todd Lamonica

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

“Happy New Year” is a very familiar term heard the days leading up to the end of the current year and the first week of the New Year. The New Year celebration is the oldest of all holidays. The holiday is said to have existed for over 4,000 years and was celebrated by Babylonians during the first new moon after the first day of spring. The original celebration lasted for eleven days.

As time went on, the Romans were the first to change the New Year date from late March to January 1st. Their goal was to synchronize the calendar with the sun. The church viewed these celebrations as Paganism, but as Christianity became popular it started to have celebrations of its own. The holiday has only been celebrated in western nations for the past 400 years.

Most people in the U.S. are used to giving gifts on Christmas, but in many parts of Europe such as Greece, Russia and France, New Year's Day represents a day of gift giving to children as well. For instance, in Russia there is Grandfather Frost, a mythical character similar to Santa Claus. He wears blue instead of red and brings gifts to children after they dance around a tree and tell him rhymes on New Year's Eve.

In Greece, it is known as St. Basil's day. He was one of the forefathers of the Greek Orthodox Church and it was said that he died on New Year's Day and the Greeks would honor him by naming the holiday after him. He was also known for being generous to the poor and giving gifts to children. On New Year's Day, people exchange gifts with friends and relatives and have a big feast. This day is the main gift-giving day for most Greeks.

The French call it the Day of New Year's. Entire families throw dinner parties for themselves and exchange gifts and cards. This is a tradition dating back to the 15th century.

Foods such as pork and sauerkraut, a Pennsylvania Dutch tradition, is said to bring good luck to those who eat it on New Year's Day. Black-eyed peas along with ham have been considered good luck and are consumed by many Americans. Some cultures believe that eating anything in the shape of a ring brings good luck; it symbolizes the completion of a year's cycle.

In the U.S., some revelers ring in the New Year with Dick Clark in New York's Times Square. People gather in the square to count down the minutes until the New Year and watch the New Year's Eve ball drop from the flagpole of the One Times Square building. This time-honored tradition started in 1904 and approximately 1 billion people watch it every year via satellite.

The ball, a geodesic sphere six feet in diameter, weighs 1,070 pounds and is covered with 504 Waterford crystal triangles. It produces an amazing light show for the crowd below.

The New Year celebration symbolically signifies a renewal of life, another page turned in our existence and one to be thankful for. ■



People gather at the Windjammer in celebration of

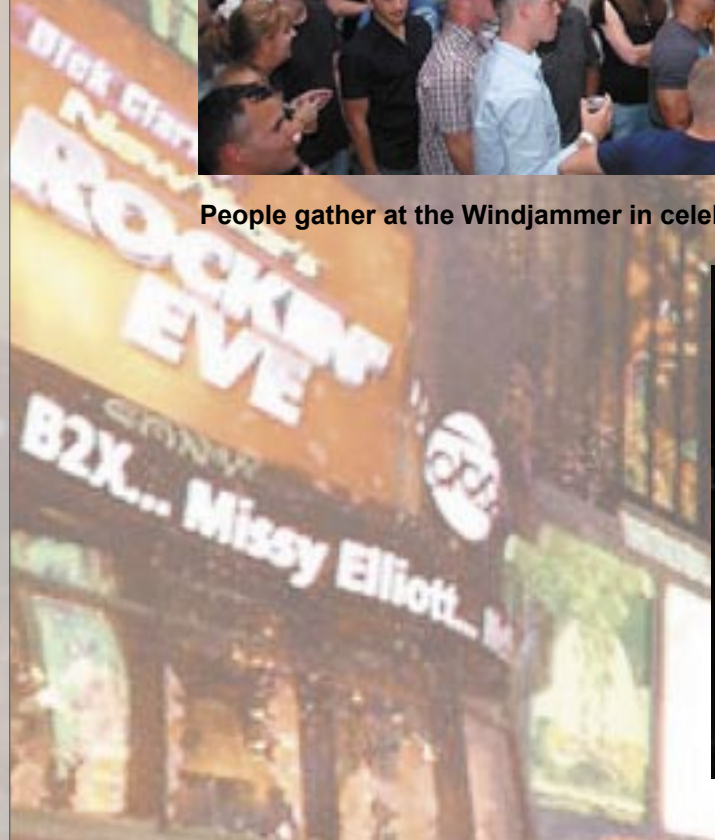


Photo by Spc. Timot

Members of the Dina Preston Band perform at Club Survivor.



Photo by Devon Christie

the new year.



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

The Peter Parsons Project was just one of the bands that performed for the Troopers New Years Eve.



Photo by Sgt. Todd Lamonica



by Book



Photo by Sgt. Todd Lamonica

Legendary entertainer Johnny Grant paid a visit to the Seaside Galley to wish Troopers a happy new year during his visit to the JTF.

College football still not getting it right

Commentary by
Staff Sgt. Jeremy Patterson

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

For all of you who think just because we have an “undisputed title game” that finally the BCS has done well, you’re dead wrong. While USC versus Texas will decide who’s the best, what about everyone else? Look at all the bowl games accompanying this article and you’ll understand where I’m coming from. Tell me why the number six team in the nation, Oregon, isn’t in a BCS bowl game while number 22 Florida State is. I don’t care about conference titles, automatic berths, blah, blah, blah. There are eight BCS berths, is it that hard to just put the top eight teams in those games?

Now, in hindsight, I know everyone wants to see their team in a bowl game. I’m sure Florida State fans aren’t complaining that, despite being ranked 22nd in the nation, they got a BCS berth. All the while, Oregon fans got to see their team in the always prestigious Holiday Bowl against un-ranked Oklahoma. While Oregon did, in fact, lose that game, they probably shouldn’t have

been playing there in the first place. At the very least, they should have had a ranked opponent. You could spend the next year trying to find five people that watched that game.

The bottom line with the bowl season is, of course, money. In case you haven’t noticed, over the past decade the number of bowl games has nearly doubled, necessitating more uneven match-ups just to get more games with ranked teams involved. There were a total of 28 bowl games this year, only nine of which featured two ranked teams. That translates to 19 more games with seven ranked teams. YAWN!

The point I’m trying to make here is the bowl season is fast becoming a joke in many people’s eyes. Cut down the games, give us better match-ups, and in turn the Bowls can have some prestige returned to them. If you want more money, than institute a playoff system of some sort, involving more teams in the national title hunt. I know it’ll never happen, but it would be a pleasant surprise, now, wouldn’t it?

Congratulations to Texas for stopping a USC juggernaut. ■

Standings

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rose Bowl | Outback Bowl |
| (1)USC | (25) Iowa 24 |
| (2) Texas | (16)Florida 31 |
| New Orleans Bowl | Gator Bowl |
| Southern Miss 31 | (15)Louisville 24 |
| Arkansas St. 19 | (12)Virginia Tech 35 |
| GMAC Bowl | Fiesta Bowl |
| Toledo 45 | (5)Notre Dame 20 |
| UTEP 13 | (4) Ohio St. 34 |
| Las Vegas Bowl | Orange Bowl |
| BYU 28 | (3)PSU 26 |
| California 35 | (22) FSU 23 30T |
| Fort Worth Bowl | Poinsetta Bowl |
| Kansas 42 | Colorado St 30 |
| Houston 13 | Navy 51 |
| Hawaii Bowl | Insight Bowl |
| Nevada 49 | Arizona St. 45 |
| UCF 48 | Rutgers 40 |
| Motor City Bowl | Alamo Bowl |
| Memphis 38 | (20) Michigan 28 |
| Akron 31 | Nebraska 32 |
| Champs Sports Bowl | Holiday Bowl |
| (23)Clemson 19 | (6) Oregon 14 |
| Colorado 10 | Oklahoma 17 |
| MPC Computers Bowl | Sun Bowl |
| Boise St. 21 | Northwestern 38 |
| (19) Boston Coll. 27 | (17) UCLA 50 |
| Emerald Bowl | Peach Bowl |
| (24) Georgia Tech 10 | (9) Miami 3 |
| Utah 38 | (10)LSU 40 |
| Music City Bowl | Liberty Bowl |
| Virginia 34 | Fresno St. 24 |
| Minnesota 31 | Tulsa 31 |
| Independence Bowl | Cotton Bowl |
| South Carolina 31 | (18) Texas Tech 10 |
| Missouri 38 | (13) Alabama 13 |
| Meineke Bowl | Capital One Bowl |
| South Florida 0 | (21)Wisconsin 24 |
| N.C. State 14 | (7) Auburn 10 |
| Houston Bowl | Sugar Bowl |
| (14)TCU 27 | (11) West Virginia 38 |
| Iowa St. 24 | (8) Georgia 35 |

NFL PICKS WEEK 17

LAST WEEK
SHAY (6-10) WEIR (11-5)
MARK (9-6)

SHAY SEASON RECORD
144-94

Picks submitted by Spc. Ian Shay, Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Mark Stallins and Army Maj. Jeff Weir.

Week 17
Washington at Tampa Bay

Jacksonville at New England

Carolina at N.Y. Giants

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati



Shay



Stallins



Weir

Tampa Bay Tampa Bay Redskins

Jaguars Patriots Patriots

Panthers Giants Panthers

Cincinnati Cincinnati Pittsburgh

Protecting classified information

By James Parker

J2

Because of the sensitivity of the JTF-GTMO mission, security incidents must reported promptly to the Command Security Manager, Special Security Officer, and/or chain-of-command along with any known or suspected unauthorized disclosures, compromises or loss of classified information. Once reported, a preliminary inquiry into who, what, where, why, and how will be initiated to determine if the incident has caused:

- Compromise of classified information
- Compromise of classified information, with no reasonable possibility of damage to national security
- Compromise of classified information and damage to national security may have resulted.

Security Incidents are categorized in two ways, first:

Security Violation – Any failure, either intentional or unintentional, to safeguard classified information.

Practices Dangerous to Security (PDS) – Poor security practices that may have a negative impact on national security.

Administrative Discrepancy – Any

Some examples of bad security practices:

- Improperly transporting classified material.
- Processing classified information on an unclassified computer system.
- Improper marking of classified information.
- Attempting to “talk around” the subject on an unclassified telephone line.
- Leaving classified material unattended
- Forgetting end-of-day checks.
- Allowing individuals without security clearances to have free access to secure work areas without being challenged.
- Taking classified information off-island without proper courier briefing or documents.
- Overclassifying documents. NOTE: Ensure the JTF-GTMO Security Classification Guide or other appropriate classification guide is used when creating a classified document.

Some of examples of good security practices:

- Closing or minimizing classified documents on computers when not in use.
- Conducting discussions of classified material only in cleared facilities with person(s) that have an appropriate clearance and need-to-know.
- Making sure no classified/sensitive information is visible to personnel without a need-to-know.
- Ensuring personnel in the work area are informed when an uncleared visitor arrives and departs. Additionally, ensure visitors remain within sanitized areas and under escort for the duration of the visit.
- Ensuring end-of-day checks are made of your area and security containers.

Keep good security practices in mind!

infraction of security regulations that does not result in either the actual or potential compromise of classified information.

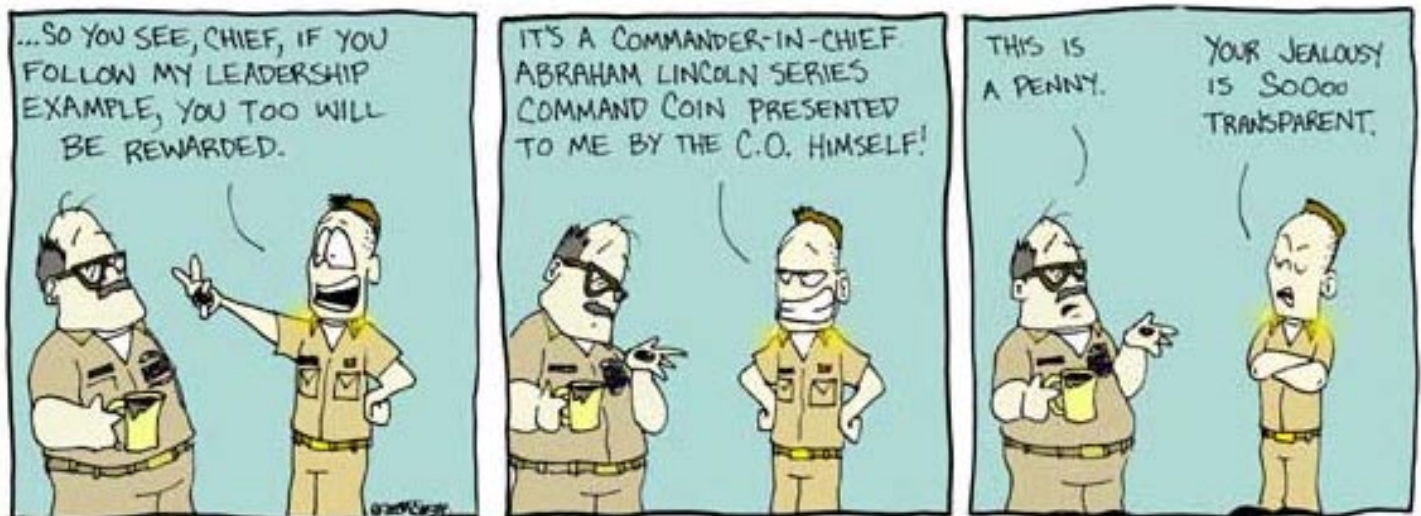
If you find a Security Incident follow the procedures below:

Safeguard it at a location that is cleared for classified storage. If this is not practical, ensure it is out of public

view.

Immediately notify the aforementioned personnel. The command security major can be reached at 9757 and/or SSO/9824 or 9835

By not following the procedures addressed above, national security is at stake, not to mention the lives of fellow brothers and sisters in arms. ■



Comic by Mike Jones

Taking inventory

By Staff Sgt. Mario Canedo

JTF-GTMO Chaplains Office

Sometime ago my wife and I decided that we wanted to complete each year by thanking our Lord. Thanking Him for all that He had done in our lives, as well as everything that He brought us through. Each year we would also ask His blessings on the New Year. Each year submitting and committing our lives to Him for the coming New Year. We wanted to celebrate in a different way that reflected our Christian faith. So we invited friends and neighbors to our home, which gave us all an opportunity to take a spiritual inventory.

As we find ourselves overseas, separated from our family and friends back home, several questions pop up in my mind. "Did I accomplish what the Lord called me to do this past year? Was I as faithful as I could or should have been? Am I seeking God's will for my life? What is it that the Lord wants me to do? Am I going back home with a deeper love for my wife and children?" And the

last biggest question in my mind is: "After everything is said and done here, what am I walking away with that is significant and of eternal value?"

We have been studying the life of Joseph in our Bible study. Joseph was put in prison for over two years. Two points that came up: God was with Joseph, and God blessed Joseph in everything he did. [Genesis 37-40] We looked at the trials and hardships that Joseph had to endure. Short recap: Joseph was hated by his brothers and they wanted to kill him. His brothers threw him into a pit. Rather than killing him they sold him into slavery. Later the Egyptian Potiphar bought him. Potiphar's wife unjustly accused him of rape and he was thrown into prison. While in prison he interpreted the dreams of fellow inmates. One of the inmates was released who had promised to help Joseph, but he forgot Joseph. God did not forget Joseph. God was with him and blessed him. As I look back this past year and see all the trials and hardships that we and our families and friends have endured, I recognize that God is with us and has blessed us.

The end of the year is also a very good time to reflect and prepare for the year to come. Joseph was a very forgiving man, he was not resentful for all that he had suffered. He did not live in the past, but forgave and forgot. All too often we don't forgive and we have a tendency to bring up the past. This is dangerous in our relationships as it sows seeds of resentment that eventually come to full bloom as bitterness.

This is the time to take inventory of ourselves and choose to be like Joseph, to forgive and forget. It is okay to look back, but not to re-live the past. We should be asking: "What did we learn? What did the Lord teach us?" God wants to use us for His purposes. He has a calling on all of our lives. It starts each day with a conscious decision to worship, serve, and honor Him in all we do. Take time and take an inventory. Thank Him for all the trials and blessings, as well as what He is going to do with you in this New Year. Be sure to forgive and forget.

May my Lord Jesus continue to bless you and your family in this coming New Year. ■

Eid al-Adha

Information compiled from various sources

An important Islamic holiday, Eid al-Adha, the feast which caps the annual Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, will be celebrated next week.

Here, the holiday will be celebrated Jan. 10.

Muslims celebrate Eid al-Adha by feasting and donating food to the poor, ensuring no one goes hungry on this holy day.

The holiday also commemorates God's provision of a ram for Abraham to sacrifice as he was about to slay his son.

Over 2 million Muslims travel to Mecca each year on their pilgrimage. ■



CAMP AMERICA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday | 9 a.m. | Protestant Service | Troopers' Chapel |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Confessions | Troopers' Chapel |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Catholic Mass | Troopers' Chapel |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Evening Prayer | Troopers' Chapel |
| Wednesday | 7:30 p.m. | Soul Survivor | Camp America North Pavilion |

NAVAL BASE CHAPEL

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|---|-----------------|
| Sunday | 8 a.m. | Pentecostal Gospel | Room 13 |
| | 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 |
| | 10 a.m. | Protestant Liturgical | Sanctuary B |
| Monday | 11 a.m. | Protestant Service | Main Chapel |
| | 1 p.m. | Gospel Service | Main Chapel |
| | 5 p.m. | Pentecostal Gospel | Room 13 |
| | 7 p.m. | Prayer Group Fellowship | Fellowship Hall |
| | 7 p.m. | Family Home Evening | Room 8 |
| Tues. to Fri. | 12 p.m. | Daily Mass | Cobre Chapel |
| Wednesday | 7 p.m. | Men's Bible Study | Fellowship Hall |
| Friday | 1 p.m. | Islamic Prayer | Room 12 |
| Saturday | 4:30 p.m. | Confessions | Main Chapel |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Vigil Mass | Main Chapel |

Jewish Shabbat Services held every second Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Naval Base Chapel complex Room 11.

15 Minutes of Fame

with Navy Lt. Tom Judy

By Spc. Timothy Book

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

What do you do here?

I am a physician's assistant and the Officer in Charge (OIC) of Kittery Beach Joint Aid Station.

How long have you been here?

When I leave next month, I will have been here for over two years. Originally, I was supposed to be here for 30 months. So, I'm leaving a bit early.

Is this your first deployment?

No, I've served for 19 years, so I've been to many places. I have served with the Marines at Cherry Point. I was on presidential duty at Camp David. I deployed to the first Gulf War with the Marines and I've done some recruiting duty.

What do you think of this deployment?

This is probably one of the most rewarding and unique deployments. It's truly a joint task force. As a Navy corpsman and a physician's assistant, I was always assigned with the Marines. You could say that was a joint effort, but this is the first time I've also worked with Army units and Coast Guard units and all the services at once. For me, it's been a unique experience learning all the different regulations and how each service does business.

How did you get this position?

Originally, I was assigned to the Naval Hospital. When I got here, the JTF surgeon, who is also the commander of the hospital, assigned me to the KBJAS. At that time, the joint aid stations did not have a specific medical person assigned to them. They would rotate through each one. The commander decided to do it this way so we have better continuity.

Is there anything medically specific to GTMO?

I came from Parris Island where we were dealing with heat injuries every day. We don't have many here. We work in a high temperature environment and the leadership pushes everyone to constantly drink water. That's why we don't see that many heat casualties. Some of the interesting things I've seen here are people coming in with iguana bites or jellyfish stings.

Is there anything that you'll take from this deployment that will benefit you in the future?

The cooperation it takes to run a joint task force. That's something I've never experienced before. To have five different services, working



together to achieve one goal, requires good communication. You can't take anything for granted. Don't assume everyone knows what is going on. Pick up the phone and make sure we're all on the same page.

Another thing I'll take with me is the dedication of the Troopers taking care of the detainees. The sheer fatigue they have to endure and the patience they show is inspiring. This place gets a lot of press, but I wish the good stories would get out about what the guys "in the trenches" are actually doing.

Is there anything you'd like to add?

I like to thank everyone for their cooperation with taking care of the Troops. When I got here, the aid stations at Camp America and Kittery Beach were handling around 300 cases per

month. We're now handling over 800 outpatient cases each month. This aid station has expanded operations to include a pharmacy and dental care. All the Troops rotating in and out have done all the work to make this a better place. When you consider that this small group [of medical staff] is taking care of so many Troops, that really says a lot. ■

15 Minutes of Fame

Know a Trooper worthy of being highlighted in "15 Minutes of Fame?" Call Army Sgt. Jessica Wilson at 3594.

AROUND THE JTF



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

▲Brig. Gen. Ken Keen, US Army South Commander, stands with the newly reenlisted Spc. Solero after his reenlistment ceremony.



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

▲Maj. Gen. Hood awards the Distinguished Meritorious Service Medal to Air Force Lt. Col. Barton Schuck, J6 director.



Photo by Sgt. Todd Lamonica

▲Navy Cmdr. Catie Hanft, Navy Provisional Guard Battalion Commander, administers the Oath of Reenlistment to Navy Chief Petty Officer Anthony French, Navy Provisional Guard Battalion.

Joint Detention Group, Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Mendez leads Entertainer Johnny Grant and executive producer of the Los Angeles Music Awards, Al Bowman on a tour of an unoccupied block in Camp Delta.▶



Photo by Sgt. Todd Lamonica