

New rotation takes charge

By Spc. Seth Myers

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

A new unit took charge of the HHC during a Transfer of Authority ceremony last Saturday.

After serving the JTF's needs for a year, the 40th Infantry Division Artillery passed the torch to the newcomers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 29th Infantry Division.

Each unit's commander offered words to their Troopers during the ceremony, spanning from compliments and thanks for a job well done to offers of good luck and expectations of things to come.

"The American people should be proud of the honorable job you have done here..."

--Army Col. Jane Anderholt

"When you come home, there may be those who question what you did here. Most Americans's only knowledge of Gitmo comes from the news media or from a movie with the famous line, 'the truth, you can't handle the truth!' However, I firmly believe Americans can handle the truth. So, I encourage you to hold your head up, look them straight in the eye and tell them the truth. The American people should be proud of the honorable job you have done here and they need to know that you have helped make America a safer place," said Col. Jane Anderholt, the 40th DIVARTY commander.

"Today marks the transition from the 40th Division Artillery to the 29th Infantry Division. Although the 40th DIVARTY is leaving, they have made their mark. Under the dynamic leadership of Brig. Gen. Gong and



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

Col. James Vandegrift and Sgt. Maj. Bernard Hobbs uncover their unit colors signifying that they have taken responsibilities previously held by the 40th DIVARTY.

Col. Anderholt, they have established a high standard that will be difficult to match. We must now acknowledge their service, their performance, and their professional mentoring of the 29th ID soldiers, which will enable us to perform our duties," said Army Col. James Vandegrift, 3rd BCT commander.

This is the first phase of the rotation changeover. In the near future, other units will be rotating in and out of GTMO, and as always, the joint environment will be maintained. In fact, the 29th ID is replacing more than just HHC. More members of the 29th ID will arrive to take on the 1/18th Cavalry mission.

"To the members of the 29th Infantry, we wish you good luck as you assume your duties. It will be, without a doubt, a challenging and eventful year for you," said Anderholt.

"The 29th ID is proud to be a member of the Joint Task Force Guantanamo and we are sure that under the dynamic leadership of Major General Hood and Command Sergeant Major Febles, we will accomplish our mission," said Vandegrift. "Sir, we pledge our devotion to duty, commitment to the mission and the supporting of your high standards. In return, we will earn your trust and respect to reflect the Joint Task Force mantra HONOR BOUND!!" ■

Insights and challenges

By Brig. Gen. Edward Leacock

JTF-GTMO Deputy Commander

As the new deputy commanding general of JTF-GTMO, I welcome all the great troopers from all the services who are serving their nation in support of the global war on terrorism. I am humbled to be your deputy commanding general and honored to serve with each and every one of you in the task force. As the headquarters element of the 3rd Brigade, 29th Infantry Division begins its tour we look forward to the challenges and will work diligently to ensure the success of the mission.

To begin my first trooper-to-trooper article I would like to recognize that we are a combination of active, guard and reserve troopers integrated into one cohesive force with each trooper and each service providing a unique capability to the task force. This synergy of capabilities is the cornerstone for an effective and efficient task force. This coupled with the many civilians from the inter-agency organizations and contractors enables the task force to be second to none in this nation's efforts to help thwart terrorist's attacks.

As for myself I have served for over 33 years in the Army's active, reserve, and guard components. This tour of duty makes a total of eight overseas deployments I have been involved with and the second time I've been federally mobilized. Each deployment or mobilization had its own unique environment and stresses to contend with and to overcome. For me this mobilization is no different. For many of you this might be your first deployment. The stresses of an environment with new people, new ways of doing things, separation from family and friends may make the operational tempo of your daily routine a little overwhelming. Take the time to find a person who you can confide in and let them know what you are experiencing. You might just find the other person's situation might be the same as yours. Together you can help one another reduce the stress and anxiety of the deployment or mobilization.

As the new deputy-commanding general of the task force I challenge all leaders, officers, NCOs and civilians, to seek out new opportunities or processes that could be modified or implemented. Identifying these new opportunities or processes and bringing them up through your chain of command will continue to make the task force work place and living conditions better for those now here and those who follow on behind us.

Whether your tour here at JTF-GTMO ranges from a few months to a few years I ask each of you to identify and achieve a professional goal and personal goal. Your professional goals could be completion of a military school and your personal goal might be to achieve a higher level of physical fitness. Whatever your goals may be take the time to make yourself a better person than you arrived here. You owe it to yourself.

While working hard also have fun while off duty. There are numerous activities on the base that support our Troopers. They range from scuba diving, fishing, various tournaments, golf, free movies, basketball, swimming, and soon to be completed go-cart race-track. We each work hard to ensure the mission is successful but we must also take the time to 'decompress.' Take this time to decompress to help ensure that we are in top mental and physical condition during the daily work schedules and possible emergency or crisis situations. We owe it to each other.

Finally, over the next twelve months I look forward to visiting each of your organizations and talking to each of you about your contributions to this great mission. We are well trained and well equipped to complete this mission. Together we will continue to serve this great nation and to protect our loved ones from the threat of terrorism.

Honor Bound! ■



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African-American history celebration

Speech delivered by JTF Commander Maj. Gen. Jay Hood at Saturday's African-American History Month Gala.

Good evening ladies and Gentleman. It is with great pleasure that I join you in marking African-American History Month – a time to celebrate and reaffirm our enduring commitment to justice, equality and opportunity for all Americans.

Thankfully, I'm one speaker removed from Dr. Ron Archer, aptly nicknamed the "Maestro of Motivation." Dr. Archer is a great speaker whose audiences have called him a "Guaranteed Standing Ovation."

As we celebrate African-American History Month, we recognize the many contributions of African-Americans to our country and reinforce our commitment to be a nation of opportunity for every citizen. To truly understand the rich history of our nation one has to understand the African-American experience in our nation. That experience began when America



Photo Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Terry Matlock

began and continues today. As President George W. Bush said, "Throughout our history, the experience of black Americans has challenged every American to live up to the best ideals of our country: freedom, equality and justice. To-

day, the accomplishments of African-Americans --in every aspect of our society-- continues to encourage people to reach as far as their vision and dreams may take them."

The theme of this year's celebration is an important one, "Building Communities... One Block at a Time." This theme has particular relevance for us in the military because we are a microcosm of our society. The common threads required to build and sustain healthy communities are similar to those that have been required to build and sustain the viable military units that have contributed so much to the defense of our great nation. Those common threads are centered on family, selfless service, commitment, discipline, respect, integrity, and an abiding love for our fellow citizens.

Our military, indeed our nation as a whole, is currently engaged in a global struggle against terrorists who have vehemently vowed to destroy the freedoms we hold so dear. On September 11, 2001, our nation was attacked. The airliners that terrorists turned into fiery missiles that claimed 3000 American lives made no distinctions of race or creed.

Throughout our history, African-Americans have courageously worn our nation's uniform while defending peace and liberty around the globe. Today, America's military is united under a common purpose to defeat the scourge of terrorism to make the world a safer place for us and for our children. The history that is being written today by our men and women in uniform, whether African, Asian, Hispanic, Anglo or Italian, is American history and will be remembered for generations to come as a time when Americans came together. We will use our diversity as a strength and we will demonstrate tolerance overcomes intolerance.

I am proud to be one of those men in uniform and I am proud to serve with all the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen here at Guantanamo. Thank you again for having me on such an auspicious occasion. Honor Bound! ■

This week in U.S. news

By Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Olympics end, Mardi Gras begins despite complaints, Howard Stern is sued and the Dow Jones slips below 11,000 mark.

Olympic games passed us by, but not without providing an endless abundance of entertainment. For example, U. S. speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno skated his way to four medals during the games bringing his Olympic record to five medals tying speed skater extraordinaire Eric Heiden.

The United States dominated the snowboarding events with snowboarders Hannah Teter and Gretchen Bleiler shredded the half pipe. This year, a new event, snocross, a combination of snowboard slalom and jumping, made its debut. The U.S. held on to finish the games second in the medal race with 25, following Germany with 29.

Some people in New Orleans are out of a home, job and money and do not feel Mardi Gras should go on. The effects of hurricane Katrina continue, but for many, Mardi Gras must go on. It is the celebration before the Catholic

season of Lent, a tradition that has existed in North America since the 17th century.

In years past, this event would bring millions in revenue to the city. This year may have seen lighter crowds but the spirit was stronger than ever. "To all the New Orleanians who are not here, this one is for you," said New Orleans, Mayor Ray Nagin.

Shock jock Howard Stern is being sued by his former employer CBS. The 400 million dollar plus lawsuit accuses Stern of using his former morning show to promote Sirius Satellite

Radio by misappropriating millions of dollars of airtime. Stern signed a five year 500 million dollar contract with Sirius prior to leaving CBS. Stern claims his previous employer, CBS, was well aware of the content that

was being used on his show. One month before going off the air, CBS suspended Stern for plugging Sirius too aggressively.

The Dow Jones stock exchange fell 104 points on Tuesday amid growing fears of interest rate hikes, consumer confidence and weakness in home sales. The Gross Domestic Product is made up of consumer expenses, government expenditures, business investments in capital



Olympic snowboarder Gretchen Bleiler.

and net exports. Currently, it is growing at an annual rate of 1.6 percent. This measurement of our economy determines whether or not interest rates can be raised.

Investors are also worried that for the fifth straight week home sales have been weak. This downturn could stop a source of wealth for consumers and spending could become limited. The Dow may have dropped below the 11,000 mark, but at the end of February it had its best two-month rise in eight years. ■

NGOs: many points of view

By *Spc. Seth Myers*

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

What is an NGO? An NGO is “an organization that is not part of a government and was not founded by states or a Non-Government Organization. NGOs are therefore typically independent of governments.

Although the definition can technically include for-profit corporations, the term is generally restricted to social, cultural, legal, and environmental advocacy groups having goals that are primarily noncommercial. NGOs are usually non-profit organizations that gain at least a portion of their funding from private sources,” according to wikipedia.org, but for the NGOs currently here, their purpose is more complex.

With the commissions happening and the world watching, NGOs are also interested in what's happening here.

Representatives from multiple national and international organizations, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Human Rights First and the American Bar Association, sent people here to watch the process. Why do they watch and observe the commission process? When asked, they all agreed that they are here to ensure human rights are protected and make recommendations when needed.

Jumana Musa, a representative of Amnesty International, said she was here to determine whether fair trial standards have been met according to AI standards. Her organization then communicates with the DoD regarding AI's observations during the commissions process. The DoD often takes these recommendations into consideration and sometimes makes changes to

the process based on the dialogue between DoD and NGOs.

Neal Sonnett, a representative of the American Bar Association said, “On the issue of review of convictions, we had been given the opportunity to make some suggestions to a draft set of rules. With the final set of rules issued, it incorporated several suggestions we made. We've seen the changes in the rules, which is encouraging because it means the defense department takes us seriously, takes all of the organizations seriously, is willing to listen and is willing to make changes where our suggestions make sense.”

Because of some of the views they have on some of the policies, NGOs are sometimes viewed as being on a defen-

mentary in public forums to support their client's defense.

During these commissions, several of the NGOs expressed their respect for the professionalism of the Troopers here and how accommodating and helpful the troops have been.

“Having been down here a few times, what comes across frequently is the criticism of the process and policies in place, which were largely created far from here. It comes across as criticism to the individuals working here or working in the commissions and that is simply not the case,” said Musa.

Some members of these organizations are former military as well. One of the current NGOs here, Bierman, has prior military service and she doesn't

see it as a conflict of interest. She sees it as another way of upholding the constitution.

“When I was commissioned, I took an oath to support and defend the constitution

of the United States. When I was in uniform...I knew I was doing that, but now that I am doing this kind of job, I am very actively supporting the values of the constitution,” said Bierman.

The NGOs will sit in on the actual commissions and, based on what they see during commissions, write a report to submit to their organizations.

The reports are readily available to the public so anyone can read about their findings. All one has to do is log onto one of their web sites.

If you wish to read their reports or learn more about their organizations, visit their web sites: hrw.org, humanrightsfirst.org, abanet.org and amnesty.org. ■

American Bar Association
Defending Liberty, Pursuing Justice



amnesty international

WORKING TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS WORLDWIDE



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dants' side, when what they are really working towards is a process that is full and fair.

“We are not here either for or against the defense, we are here to see that correct standards and procedures are applied,” said Katherine Newell Bierman of Human Rights Watch. “A lot of what we say criticizes the commissions, so it may appear as if we are talking on behalf of the accused, [when] we are speaking on behalf of human rights.”

Whether or not Human Rights Watch's definition of “correct standards” is recognized by the U.S. Justice Department or any other legal organization worldwide it remains the decision of that authoritative body. Detainee lawyers frequently refer to NGO com-

Mizzoula children's theater

By Spc. Jeshua Nace

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Many children here are getting an opportunity to be exposed to a professional theater troop. They will be able to do more than watch, though. GTMO children will be in the play. The cast will include children and young adults from kindergarten through 12th grade.

"The plays that have been adapted by Missoula Children's Theater (MCT) are designed to give the children a unique experience in the performing arts. Two professionally trained actors and directors travel from Missoula, Mont. to recruit and produce a show with children. MCT takes local children, rehearses with them for a few days and then produces a large-scale production in which local children are the stars. I have been part of five productions connected to MCT and each and every time they bring out the very best in our children. Within a week, the children's self confidence soars beyond what anybody would expect," said Kenneth Miller, WT Sampson school teacher.

The MCT provides all of the costumes and training for the play. Giving a child this kind of experience is not only fun, but also a learning tool to work with others.

"Anyone who has experience with this touring company will agree that having your children participate in this activity is one of the best things you can do for them to help them gain self confidence and have a great experience performing in a major production. We live in a very isolated environment; our children do not have the same opportunities available to them that their peers on other bases have available. Gitmo is the only military base that has absolutely no contact with the surrounding communities; this means less will be offered for children to grow. This theater group gives them the opportunity to experience a live musical production on a grand scale. It helps the families' morale by watching their children appear in something really spectacular that has been produced by professionally trained actors right here in Gitmo," said Miller.

This is the fourth time the MCT has honored Guantanamo children with a play. The previous shows were "The Wizard of the West," "Red Riding Hood" and "The Frog Prince." This year's play will be a MCT rendition of "Hansel and Gretel."

"One young actress who played the title role in 'Red Riding Hood' impressed the two directors so much that they recommended her for the summer camp, which is



offered by MCT in Montana. Only the best from around the world are chosen to attend the two-week camp, and we were proud to have one come from Gitmo. In fact, that same actress was invited back again the next summer," said Miller.

The MCT takes fairy tales that many heard growing up and gives them a little spin and twist that freshens them up to be entertaining to children and adults.

The play will have around 50 to 60 positions available to the children here.

The play will run from the ninth and the tenth of this month and will start at 6 p.m. Tickets are available during rehearsals and at the door before the play starts. Tickets will be five dollars before the ninth and ten dollars afterwards. All of the money collected is saved to bring the troop back next year. ■

Sgt. Audie Murphy board results

Staff Sgt. Travis Hodge, 193rd
MP Co, 525th MP BN, JDG

Sgt. Ivan Vasquez, Mental
Health Ward, Detention
Hospital, JMG

HHC and B Company award ceremonies



(Above) JTF-GTMO Commander Maj. Gen. Jay Hood thanks former JTF-GTMO Deputy Commander Brig. Gen. John Gong for his service at JTF-GTMO and congratulates him on receiving the Defense Superior Service Medal for that service. (Top Left) Sgt. Maj. Chris Jones is presented the Defense Meritorious Service Medal by Maj. Gen. Jay Hood during an award ceremony in the Troopers chapel Feb. 25. (Left) Maj. Gen Jay Hood congratulates Navy Element Commander Capt. Thomas Beall for his service during a provisional guard ceremony for B Company.

Army expands eligibility for \$1,000 Referral Bonus

By Alphonso Green

Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. (Army News Service, Feb. 27, 2006) - The Army has expanded the list of eligible Soldiers who can earn \$1,000 for referrals that lead to Army enlistment.

The Referral Bonus Pilot Program was expanded to include Soldiers performing duty in the Hometown Recruiter Assistance Program, Special Recruiter Assistance Program, as well as in the Additional Duty Special Work Program.

The referral bonus was authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act.

Soldiers may receive the \$1,000 referral bonuses for referring anyone, except a member of their immediate family, which is defined as a spouse, parent (including

step-parent), child (natural, adopted, or step-child), brother or sister.

A lump-sum bonus will be paid to a referring Soldier once the referred applicant completes Basic and Advanced Individual Training, regardless of component. There are no retroactive provisions to this pilot program. Payments will be made directly to the referring Soldier's military pay account within 45 days of the referral completing AIT.

Those not eligible to receive a referral bonus include anyone who serves in a recruiting or retention assignment or who receives Special Duty Assignment Pay while in those capacities.

"Soldiers continue to play an important role in the recruiting process and, with this program, we are able to recognize their contributions," said Lt. Gen.

Franklin L. Hagenbeck, deputy chief of staff, Army G1 (Personnel). "We thank Congress for their recent legislation to provide bonuses such as these," he said.

Under this program, referrals will be made via the Sergeant Major of the Army Recruiting Team (SMART) process. The Soldier must either submit the referral through a process via the SMART link or through the USAREC 1-800 line dedicated to the program. To receive a bonus, the sponsor (Soldier making the referral) must provide the name of the applicant prior to the applicant's interview with an Army recruiter.

For more information on the \$1,000 referral bonus, visit: <https://www.usarec.army.mil/smart/> or call 1-800-223-3735, ext. 6-0473. ■

International eyes on GTMO



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace

▲Members of the media enjoy a famous GTMO boxed lunch outside the Joint Information Bureau, Bulkeley media center.

▲Air Force Col. Mo Davis, chief prosecutor, makes a statement at the Bulkeley media center during the post commissions press conference.

►Chris Kettlewell, broadcast journalist for the Associated Press, films live photage outside Buckeley Hall during the commissions.



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace



Photo by Army 1st Lt. Angela King-Sweigart

▲As a member of the commissions security team, Petty Officer 3rd Class Nicole Covelli wands an unidentified Marine during rehearsals for this week's commissions.
 ►Correspondent Joe Tabet of Al Hurra television broadcasts live using the commissions building as a backdrop.



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace

Jimmie Johnson wins Daytona 500

Commentary by Sgt. 1st Class John Fries

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Great American Race was held two weeks ago. The pre-race buildup to the climax of NASCAR's premier event set the tone. Attitudes and aggression were addressed before the green flag fell and also at the conclusion to the 500-mile event. With typical follow-the-leader, restrictor plate racing for much of the race, a few heart pounding close calls and a wreck created quite a stir on the 2.5-mile track and along pit road.

Tony Stewart's name was at the tip of many NASCAR drivers' tongues on Sunday evening. Many of the comments were not very complimentary. Like comments from Matt Kenseth, who was knocked out of contention by Stewart. "Tony took me out intentionally...he was mad. If he's worried about people's lives and everything and he's going to wreck you on purpose at 190 [MPH] ... I wasn't happy with that," commented Kenseth.

Stewart's response to Kenseth's words were, "I guess he didn't think anything when he got me sideways in [turn] two either. He should have thought about it first, I mean he got back what he started in the first place."

Kenseth was not the only person to trade paint with Stewart's Home Depot Chevrolet. On lap 49, defending Daytona 500 winner, Jeff Gordon, made contact with Stewart while running near the front of the field. Gordon took half of the responsibility saying he got loose and drove up on Stewart, but felt the veteran driver



Jimmie Johnson and crew celebrate his first Daytona 500 victory.



could have given Gordon the necessary room to avoid the incident. Stewart felt Gordon should bear all of the blame.

With 12 caution flags, including the final lap, this year drivers avoided "The Big One", a crash that takes out a large number of cars in the field – usually associated with restrictor-plate racetracks.

In the end, Jimmie Johnson drove the 48 Lowe's Chevrolet to the finish line for his first Daytona 500 victory. Also, Darian Grubb commanded a NASCAR team for the first time ever when Johnson's regular crew chief, Chad Knauss, was evicted from the speedway, after NASCAR officials failed the team's car in a post-qualifying inspection.

Johnson's victory speech probably summed up the feeling of the weekend filled with aggression and attitude. "After all the trouble this team has been through and criticism, I'm going to dedicate this win to all the haters of the 48 team," said Johnson. ■

Support professionals offer tips to newcomers

By Spc. Jeshua Nace

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

If deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO), is in your future, then the more you know about the place, the better. Twelve months is a longtime, but if you can keep yourself busy and experience everything that GTMO has to offer, then your time here will blow by like the wind.

"I've spent over a year in Gitmo and I've had two birthdays here. This is everything you need to know about your new home. Number one, you can leave your winter coat back home. Number two, banana rats don't attack unless provoked. Number three, learn and accept, 'it's on the barge.' Number four, if you don't have a good attitude, it will be a long year, and number five, Gitmo specials are not just vehicles, they could also be your soul mate," said Army Sgt. Amber Bastian, chaplain's assistant.

Guantanamo can be a great place to save some money, make new friends and even further your college and military education.

"Seriously though, this place isn't bad. Having a good group of friends made my time here go by fast. Don't stick to just yourself. Go out, make friends and have a good time. But get used to things being the same. Every weekend, it was kind of the same thing: the beach, Windjammer or the Tiki bar. However, it was still fun. Don't

get upset that you're in Cuba. Accept it and have a good time and if you don't love the water, learn to. You can't really experience Cuba without going on a boat or snorkeling," said Bastian.

As with any military unit some personnel are brand new to the military so it's important for veteran leaders to remember that they might have Troopers who are on their first deployment and keep in mind that these individuals may be young.

It can be easy to forget that several weeks ago, your Troopers were just part time. Keeping the unit together and morale up is the key to a smooth deployment.

"For some people, this place may seem like life has slowed down and there is 'nothing to do.' Take this time you have to focus on a few goals you would like to achieve here, not necessarily related to your job. Learn a new sport or hobby, take an on-line class or take some college classes, lose weight or get fit, go to church, go to the beach and lie in the sun, read a book, write letters home to your family and friends, send flowers and gifts to friends and family back home, schedule a "phone date" with spouses and kids so they know to expect a call from you, talk to friends or make new friends here, talk to combat stress or a chaplain and chaplains assistant," said Spc. Kay Izumihara, combat stress specialist.

Keeping in contact with family can help

you while you're far away from home.

"Also, stay close to your family back home. Keep communication open and hand write a letter. Email is so easy, but getting a letter in the mail is sincere. Stay close to your loved ones, let them know you care and miss them. Know that you have a role in the Global War on Terrorism. No matter how small your job may seem, you are doing a wonderful thing for your country. We are the reason that our country is so wonderful and the reason that the people of this great country have freedom," said Bastian. ■

Newcomer Tips

- Hydrate! Hydrate! Hydrate!
- Wear a reflective belt when walking or running
- Take off headphones when crossing a road
- Always dive with a buddy
- Don't feed the iguanas
- Don't drink and drive
- College courses available
- Practice computer security
- Keep in contact with family and friends
- Remember OPSEC



GEEDUNK

by Chief Jeff Hobrath



Is Easter about bunnies and chickies or something else?

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

JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain

As children, our first memories of Easter are usually connected with pet bunnies, chickies and Easter baskets filled with jellybeans, chocolate rabbits and a family meal centered around a baked ham. We probably have continued these traditions as adults and have provided our children with the same experience. It is often necessary for children to have religious events symbolized with what they can relate to on their own intellectual level. Trying to describe crucifixion and resurrection to a young child is like trying to explain Einstein's theory of relativity to a child in kindergarten. Still, there is a time to explain the significance of religious events to a child or the child begins to associate Santa Claus and

the Easter bunny as something with which they should believe in. It can create a "crisis of faith". Truth, not fiction, is what is the basis of any faith.

Many religious traditions are connected with events in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ that have nothing to do with either the Christian faith or its teachings. The Easter Bunny, Easter chickies, Easter baskets and the more secular decorations associated with Easter have almost nothing to do with this religious holiday.

First, Easter is not only a holiday but also a season unto itself. The name Easter is derived from the Saxon Eostre (which is synonymous with the name of the Phoenician Goddess of the Moon, Astarte), a Germanic goddess of spring and the deity who measured time. The moon is believed to have been chosen by the ancients

as the way to measure time because of the link between the female cycle and the cycle of the moon. The ancient Hebrews had long followed a lunar calendar. Because Eostre, also known as Ostara, was the goddess of spring and her symbolism dealt with renewal and rebirth, the Christian belief in the resurrection of Christ fit well with these themes. The Egyptian goddess of the Moon, Serabit, was symbolized with the head of a rabbit. Therefore, Easter bunnies are connected with the Christian Easter more for their seasonal connection than religious connection.

The first documented use of the bunny as a symbol of Easter appears in Germany in the 1500's and the first edible Easter Bunnies in the 1800's.

(The reference for this article was www.easter-traditions.com). ■

Handing over the keys

By Navy Chaplain (LCDR) Tim Johns

JTF-GTMO Deputy Command Chaplain

I like the movie Finding Forrester. It's a great movie. Sean Connery plays the part of a legendary writer who mentors a young man with great potential as a writer. Connery tells his student to sit at the typewriter and begin typing — just type what comes to mind. Just start.

Lots of people come to church on Sunday and decide to change but they never make the change. It is difficult to go from awareness to action. The problem is trust.

There was a construction crew putting a drain line in a building. A power cable was directly in the path of their work. Construction stopped while an electrician was called who declared that the power was dead to the cable. The foreman asked, "Are you sure the power is dead to the cable and there is no danger?" "Absolutely," replied the electrician. "Well then, you cut the line." After a pause, the electrician said, "I'm not that sure." Most of us don't take action because we are not that sure. We are not that sure we can trust God.

Turning over control of your life is tough. It's like driving. You give the keys to your car to someone else and turn total control of your car to them. If you know and trust them, it is easy. I have that problem when I am riding with my wife. She is a safe driver but I have a hard time relaxing and letting her drive because I like to be in control.

We do that to God. I give the keys of my life to God, but I gripe and mumble and complain and get stressed because God has a way of putting challenges before me. Doesn't God realize that I like life to be easy and relaxing, not challenging. The problem is trust — I have to know Him to trust Him.

Let's say that you have a chance to win five million dollars. All you have to do is drive in the Daytona 500. You have to finish but not win the race to receive the money. You are a little worried, but then Tony Stewart says he will drive the car for you. All you have to do is give him the keys. If he finishes, you get the money. What are

CAMP AMERICA WORSHIP SCHEDULE			
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Troopers' Chapel
	6:00 p.m.	Confessions	Troopers' Chapel
	6:30 p.m.	Catholic Mass	Troopers' Chapel
	7:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Troopers' Chapel
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Soul Survivor	Camp America North Pavilion
	NAVAL BASE CHAPEL		
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	9:00 a.m.	Catholic Mass	Main Chapel
	9:00 a.m.	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Sanctuary A
	9:30 a.m.	Protestant Sun. School	Main Chapel
	10:00 a.m.	Protestant Liturgical	Sanctuary B
	11:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	Gospel Service	Main Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
Tues. to Fri.	12:00 p.m.	Daily Mass	Cobre Chapel
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
Friday	12:30 p.m.	Islamic Prayer	Sanctuary C
Saturday	4:30 p.m.	Confessions	Main Chapel
	5:30 p.m.	Vigil Mass	Main Chapel

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

you going to do? If you have any sense you give the keys to Tony without a second thought. The amazing thing is that most of us won't do that in a practical situation. We say, "Well, Tony, I think I am going to do it myself. I know that I have never raced before and never driven over 75 MPH, but I think I can do it. I think I can finish." You would say, "You are nuts!"

What is the bottom line? God drives better than Tony, give Him the keys. ■

15 Minutes of Fame

with Coastie Chief Petty Officer Dean Dillingham and Petty Officer 1st Class Connor Dillingham

By Spc. Timothy Book

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Two brothers are serving in the same unit here.

Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Dean Dillingham, boat operations section leader, and Petty Officer 1st Class Connor Dillingham, coxswain and squad leader, have been serving with Port Security Unit 305 for about nine months.

Is this the first time you have served together?

Dean: No. We've worked together for about 12 years. I joined the Reserves back in 1987. Connor started active duty three or four years after.

What do you think of this deployment?

Dean: This is the first time that we've done anything except search and rescue. The mission here is completely new and different.

Connor: I feel like we're taking a more active role on the war on terror.

What work do you do back home?

Connor: I am a manager for an IT consulting firm.

Dean: I am a controller for a company that builds power plants.

What activities do you do outside of work?

Connor: We've been snorkeling, mountain biking and hiking.

Dean: We do a lot of the same things. We also plan on becoming dive certified and getting a morale boat license. I also started working out again. I've lost 15 pounds down here. I have also volunteered to do some tax work. I'm a CPA and just needed to stay active.

What do you get out of this deployment?



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

Dean: I'm getting a better understanding of how other branches of the military work. We're working with the other services and other agencies. Because of the work we do, we get to interact with the upper levels of the commands. It's an atypical day when we don't have at least one general on one of the boats. This has been a very high profile mission for us.

What do you plan to do when you return home?

Connor: I'd like to be an officer. I plan on submitting my packet to get into the Reserve Officer Candidate Indoctrination (ROCI). I want to be just like our executive officer, Lt. Mike Ruwe. He's my inspiration. Beyond the money, the best reason I can give for doing it is that I would regret not trying.

Dean: I want to look into becoming a chief warrant officer. I want to stay with this unit. I want to get as much out of it as I can. There's a lot to learn and I think it can keep me busy enough until I retire.

valry between the two of you?

Connor: Every time I catch up to him, he advances. I guess there is some, but we have fun together.

Dean: I'm glad I joined the Coast Guard, and if for no other reason, I think it has been good for our family. In our normal lives, we might not get to see each other much. But on our weekend drill, we spend some quality time together. We've had some great experiences working together. One interesting thing to add is our call signs down here. Mine is "Tank," Connor's is "Spoon man." There's always a good story behind how you get a certain call sign, but I'll just leave it to the imagination. ■

15 Minutes of Fame

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

Is there any of the typical sibling ri-



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

▲Workers from Del-Jen Corp. give the Marine Corps eagle, globe and anchor symbol a fresh painting at the Northeast gate.

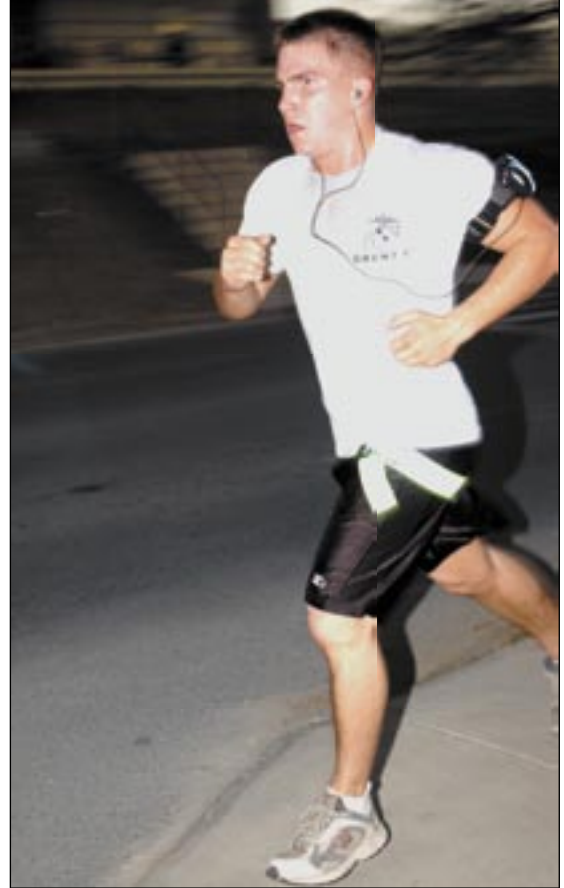


Photo by Spc. Ian Shay

▲Servicemembers had the opportunity to participate in the Valentines Day 5k run. This unidentified Trooper shows good effort nearing the finish line.

AROUND THE JTF



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

▲Army Maj. Jeff Weir, Deputy JTF PAO, gives Dr. Ron Archer, his wife Cynthia and Mr. Rohn Mclean a lesson on Guantanamo Bay history during a recent tour of the base. Archer is the chairman of Archer and Associates and the guest speaker for last month's African-American history event at GTMO.



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

▲Navy Petty Officer First Class Jonathan Winbush trains Navy Petty Officer Third Class Christopher Harrington on how to cut hair as Army Pfc. Emanuel McCray of HHC sits patiently.