

New MP company guards Camp Echo

By Spc. Timothy Book

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Camp Echo is the central location for detainees to meet with their lawyers.

There are advantages to having just one location. "We have set rules in Camp Echo. By having to deal with just one set of rules, it avoids confusion for the lawyers," said Army Capt. Tresa VanHeusen, commander of the 193rd MP Company.

"Having one location provides lawyerclient privilege," said Army Staff Sgt. Ruben McDowell, camp non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC). "If the lawyers met with them on the block, then every detainee [on the block] is going to know what that detainee is telling that lawyer. Here, we can keep the meetings confidential."

Much is done to maintain confidentiality. When a detainee prepares for a habeas visit, he is secured in a meeting room. "The lawyer then enters the room and the guards leave and the door closes," said McDowell. "We have visual capability, but no audio." This enables the guard force to provide confidentiality while maintaining a safe environment for the lawyer to work with his client.

Working in the camp has its challenges. "It can be hectic," said Army Pfc. Joshua Kenison, a guard in the camp. "You just have to keep an eye on what you're doing. You can never let your guard down."

Working in Camp Echo is unique to the other camps. In the other camps, the guards get to know each detainee's behavior, said VanHeusen. "Here, our guards don't spend more than a couple of days with them, so they don't know what kinds of things to expect."

Since Camp Echo is the only facility to handle attorney visits, Troopers have to work with all types of detainees. "We get detainees from all the other camps, regardless of whether they're compliant, noncompliant or highly compliant," said Army 2nd Lt. Curt Fulmer, OIC of Camp Echo. Guards have to be on their toes, they have to stay alert. If they're not, something bad is going to happen, he said.

The 193rd MP Company is the only unit to provide guard forces in Camp Echo and was created here a month ago to fulfill that mission. The guards are experienced

and formerly worked in Camp Five. Being the only unit guarding the camp allows better command and control, said McDowell. "Our company works solely in this camp. We know our Soldiers and how they work," he said. "We can optimize our performance this way."

Kenison, whose shift will rotate in two weeks, said he is looking forward to the change of pace.

Camp Echo is like no other camp here. Troopers provide a safe, secure environment for attorneys to meet with their clients while still maintaining attorney-client privilege.



Army Command Sgt. Maj. William Gainey (left), senior enlisted advisor to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and JTF Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Febles get a ride with Coast Guard PSU-311 during a visit here Tuesday.

CSM gives thanks

Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Febles

JTF-GTMO Command Sergeant Major

Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks for everything we are grateful for --- it is also a time for remembrance. We remember those who serve and most important, we remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We also remember our families back home as they celebrate the holidays and likewise we will be in their thoughts and prayers.

Many of our service members sent messages back home from across 100 plus countries wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. I was impressed with a short message sent by a trooper in Iraq to his family saying not to worry; he is fine and doing what he volunteered to do. In his message one word replayed in my mind --- "VOLUNTEER".

Despite fighting two wars and the services serving in over one hundred countries we all serve as volunteers. Think about it --- the draft ended 30 years ago (1973) and although we are at war many continue to raise their right hand, volunteering to serve, protect, and defend our nation --- our freedom. By choice, we are all serving simply because we want to --- that is powerful! Our nation is truly grateful for what we ALL do, serving across the globe combating terrorism, and bringing freedom and democracy to many who have never experienced freedom.

I enjoyed the expression of gratitude recorded and played at the galleys with messages from our troops here at JTF-GTMO giving thanks and expressing their gratitude. Our JTF Chaplain and PAO staff did a superb job. On behalf of the JTF, thank you and a job well done by the Staff at Café Caribe and Seaside Galley's for providing our troops with a superb thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings of home --- We truly have a first class staff in both galleys --- thank you again.

On another note, many years ago a small group of senior leaders identified the need for a senior enlisted advisor for the Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The concept is to bridge the thoughts, concerns, issues, and solutions of all the service SEAs (SMA, SMMC, MCPON, CMSAF, MCPOCG and with one voice provide that feedback to the CJCS --- 15 years later it became a reality.

On Tuesday, the first Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, CSM William J. Gainey, visited the JTF. His responsibility is to provide the CJCS advice and recommendations relating to enlisted matters and quality of life. That advice is then briefed to the Secretary of Defense and eventually the Commander-in-Chief. As he toured



throughout the JTF footprint he spoke to many of our troops and was absolutely impressed with everyone's professionalism, discipline, great attitude, and motivation. We truly have a great team of dedicated professionals who make us proud on a daily basis.

Kathleen T. Rhem, a reporter from the American Armed Forces Press Service, who is covering CSM Gainey's visit throughout the SOUTHCOM AOR and is no stranger to GTMO, noticed the restoration of the landscape (graffiti removal) and made a positive remark. Anyway, she pointed at the landscape and asked what happened to the graffiti? I told her our Troopers (mostly from PSU 311) volunteered to restore the landscape and we are about 95 percent done. Bottom line is I was pleased someone noticed. We are professionals doing a superb job and our surroundings should reflect that.

Lastly, many of our troops will travel home for the holidays and will spend quality time with there loved ones. I never miss the opportunity to communicate safety. I ask all leaders to provide all Troopers with a concise safety brief to ensure they travel, arrive, and return safely.

Every year we loose Troopers to accidents. Although most are the end state of alcohol consumption, but one other factor that many fail to mention is exhaustion. Exhaustion can be as deadly as driving under the influence of alcohol. Ensure our troopers understand the importance of a good nights sleep before a driving on a long trip. Plan for frequent stops along the way and overnight stay. It is best to arrive late than never at all.

To all our troops --- Thank you for all that you do, be safe, enjoy your leave, and, Happy Holidays.

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Preparations for commissions

By Spc. Seth Myers

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Commissions: After much anticipation and work preparing for them, they have been delayed. Plans were in place to begin commissions with Australian detainee David Hicks. However, his case and the others are on hold until another detainee, Salim Hamdan's case is resolved, which is expected to be in March, according to Army Capt. Bruce Roberts, a public affairs officer for commissions.

The Joint Task Force and other agencies were prepared for the commissions even though there was a possibility they wouldn't take place. Everything was prepped and ready for the detainee's trial. Many changes and procedures were implemented including organizing the courtroom, security including base police and the Port Security Unit, preparing for the arrival of the media, non-governmental organizations, distinguished visitors and family members, said Roberts. Despite the fact that the commissions were delayed, Troopers received valuable training.

"There was a great benefit in preparing for the military commissions, in a lot of different ways, one of those being an education for the Troopers of the JTF and the people involved in the preparation for the commissions' process. I think they learned a lot about what a military commission is, how to properly go about conducting one of those, and learning all the intricacies of providing security for a high profile trial," said Roberts.

Each section provided an integral part in the overall preparedness of the JTF.

Many sections, such as the Joint Visitors Bureau (JVB), the Public Affairs Office (PAO), Navy Provisional Guard, 525th MP Battalion and the Cavalry were involved in these preparations.

"For the commissions, the JVB prepared by training 8 separate escort teams (one officer and one NCO) to handle the many possible visitors we expected. We prepared to host NGO's (nongovernmental org. like Amnesty International), foreign country representatives, detainee family members, and other distinguished visitors.



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

These tents were set up to facilitate Troopers who were involved in commissions training.



Photo by Spc. Seth Mye

Prior to the delay, the trials were set to take place in the commissions building.

through training sessions as well as full dress rehearsals using role players for their guests," said Army Lt. Col. Curt Salveson, JVB Director. "As the commissions drew closer, we coordinated the actual visits of these parties to include travel, transportation, lodging, and general care and feeding.

Escorts were prepared to work from [5 a.m.] to [10 p.m.] every day as long as their visitors were here. We worked closely with the JTF PAO and the Office of Military Commissions to ensure successful and uneventful visits. There is no doubt that the JVB was ready to execute, thanks to the professionalism of the NCO's in JVB and the escort teams."

The Cavalry, Navy Provisional Guard, and the 525th MP Battalion were part of a group known as Task Force Patriot. This group provided security, both inside and outside the commissions building. They managed checkpoints, handled the traffic control points guiding detainee movement teams to and from the proceedings, manned the metal detectors, provided personnel to be the bailiffs along with other crucial security tasks.

"Our mission was to ensure the security and safety for successful military commissions," said Army Lt. Col. John Lonergan, Commander of the 1/18th Cavalry and Task Force Patriot.

PAO made many notable contributions to the mission as well.

"[PAO] rehearsed extensively and practiced reacting to various scenarios where something could go wrong. I have no doubt that this command was well prepared to conduct the absolute best public affairs and media support operation possible," said Army Maj. Jeff Weir, Deputy Director of Public Affairs and the Director of the Joint Information Bureau during the commissions.

"While it was disappointing to not get the unique opportunity to conduct the public affairs mission for the commissions, the training and rehearsals that were conducted will definitely help out any future public affairs Soldiers to do a fine job in their own efforts to inform the worldwide media about commissions and the JTF," said Weir.

When will commissions happen? Will they happen? We will just have to wait and see what takes place with Hamdan's case that is before the Supreme Court. Until then, the Troopers here will continue to train, for if commissions are going to happen, they will be focused and ready.

Codetalkers - a part of Native American military history

By Cpl. Cullen James

Fort Huachuca Scout newspaper

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. -- America's World War II island-hopping campaign in the Pacific was about to start in 1942, and the U.S. military still didn't have something it desperately needed -- a communications code the Japanese couldn't break.

Then, Philip Johnston had a revolutionary idea: Use the native language of the Navajo Indians. Johnston, the son of a missionary to the Navajos, was one of the few outsiders who could speak the tribe's tongue fluently. The language is unique to the Navajos and had no written form at that time, so a person who didn't know the oral vocabulary was helpless.

Johnston tried several times to convince the Navy his idea had merit, but failed. It was a call to then-President Franklin D. Roosevelt that finally convinced the Navy to give his idea a shot, said John Goodluck Sr., a Marine Corps Navajo code talker during the war.

For the test, he said, the military set radios 300-400 yards apart and sent coded messages using both Navajo code



Photos found at defenselink.mi

talkers and regular Morse code machines. "The code talkers deciphered the message in under a minute, the machine took an hour," Goodluck said. After military approval, the Navajo council had to decide whether to support the idea.

"Everyone on the council was for it except for one. They slept on it for a night and decided to do it -- they said it was good and important to support it," he said. Goodluck and others went to Camp Pendleton, Calif., for Marine Corps basic training and code talking school and then headed to the Pacific. Eventually, 379 code talkers would serve.

"Some say there were 400, but many failed," Goodluck said. "You had to understand both Navajo and English."

Code talkers' messages were strings of seemingly unrelated Navajo words. They would translate each word into English, and then decipher the message by using only the first letter of each English word. For example, several Navajo words could be used to represent the letter "a" -- "wol-la-chee" (ant), "bela-sana" (apple) and "tse-nill" (ax). The code was unbreakable so long as an eavesdropper didn't know the oral vocabulary.

While the Navajos used more than one word to represent letters, about 450 common military terms had no equivalent and were assigned code words. For example, "division" was "ashih-hi" (salt); "America" was "Ne-he-mah" (Our mother); "fighter plane" was "dahe-tih-hi" (hummingbird); "submarine" became "besh-lo" (iron fish); and "tank destroyer" was "chay-da-gahi-nailtsaidi" (tortoise killer).

Just by speaking their language, the Navajos could easily transmit information on tactics and troop movements, orders and other vital battlefield communications over telephones and radios. "We were always on the radio. We would see a ship or airplane and tell them what we saw," Goodluck said.

Goodluck said he served in the 3rd Marine Division from March 1943 to December 1945 and participated in the



invasions of Guadalcanal and Bougainville in the Solomon Islands, Guam and Iwo Jima.

After the war, Goodluck returned to Arizona and worked for the U.S. Public Health Service as a truck driver, ambulance driver and translator for Englishspeaking physicians on the reservations.

"They didn't have doctors or clinics on the reservations when I first started. The nurses had to carry these huge bags and would give the shots to people in the areas we visited," he recalled.

The Department of Defense officially and openly honored its Native American code talkers in 1992. The services enlisted code talkers from many tribes during the war. While their purpose was a kind of open secret then, their contributions were still largely unknown to the public. Now, however, the Navajo code talker exhibit is a regular stop on the Pentagon tour.

November is Native American heritage month

Libraries: a lot more than literature

By Spc. Jeshua Nace

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Community Library here is staffed with people who are looking to help the community, but what some don't know is the library has a lot more to offer than just books.

"We provide leisure reading material, provide material for any distance web classes, practice CLEP tests, research for papers, videos, DVDs, a children's room we just opened recently and 18 liberty computers," said Maxine Becker, librarian.

The Community Library accepts material donations, but they also have a large selection of new books. The librarians try to get the new releases they believe people here will enjoy.

"I enjoy going to the library when I can get downtown. It has a really quiet environment that allows me to just sit and browse through whatever interests me," said Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Tunney, JTF Media Relations Section.

The Community Library, although a small library, has a selection of about 20,000 books in its collection. For anyone who is taking classes at Columbia College or on the Internet they can find material for research papers there. Some math and science textbooks used by Columbia College, have

been provided to the library from the college.

The loan policy allows for books and audio books to be borrowed for 30 days and DVDs for three days. The only requirement for taking something out of the library is that the borrowers have a library card. Library cards are free, all you need to do is fill out a short form to obtain one.



"Anyone that has a [research] paper and needs information or wants us to compile a list of books for research can just email me. I'm on the global; just send me an email and I can help," said Becker.■

Maxine Becker, Community Librarian Ext. 4700

Library hours:

Monday - Saturday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday & Holidays 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace

Librarian Maxine Becker puts away a book at the Community Library.



Troopers from NAVSTA and JTF participated in the 5K Turkey Trot Fun Run.

Petty Officer 1st Class Lee Killinger of the Coast Guard Cutter Legare, bowled a turkey (three strikes) to win one at Saturday's tournament. The bowling alley had only 13 turkey-winners, a JTF winner was Army Sqt. 1st Class Britt Cogan.



Photo by Army 1st Lt. Angela King-sweigart



◆Peter Pujanes, Seaside Galley baker, prepares some dough intended for making crescent rolls for an upcoming meal.

Benjamin Cadalig, cook, is putting the final touches on a salad he is preparing for a detainee meal.





■JTF GTMO Deputy Commander Brig. Gen. John Gong assists the oldest Trooper Sgt. 1st Class Jose Becerra Headquarters Platoon Sergeant, 1/18 Cavalry Regiment, and the youngest Trooper Spc. Bryan Hromin, Charlie troop, 1/18 Cavalry Regiment in cutting the Thanksgiving cake at Seaside Galley.

A Trooper from the Naval Provisional Guard Battalion is served up a hearty Thanksgiving meal from Ronald Manalaysay, cook Pentad Corporation.





Todd Hunt, Bravo Troop, 1/18 Cavalry Regiment receives a few slices of steamship round from Jermaine Turner, Pentad Corporation cook. ▶



Behind the Scenes: Troopers Meals

Photos and article by Sgt. Todd Lamonica

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

There is a service provided to Troopers in Camp America and Camp Delta that produces countless meals and clean environments in which to enjoy these meals. The personnel behind these operations work long hours and take great pride in their abilities to offer outstanding service to the JTF.

There are many challenges that Seaside galley and Café Caribe face on a daily basis. Serving over 700 Troops every meal is not an easy task. This is a 24-hour operation and requires a lot of manpower and resources to perform the mission. Logistics is one of the most important phases in the process.

Pentad Corporation is responsible for ordering of all food for the dining facilities. Burns Roe Dick Corporation (BRDC) is the company responsible for the barge that delivers fresh food to the base. When the shipment of food arrives, the Army Veterinary staff is in charge of inspecting it.

They check the food for any contamination and also ensure the shipment has not been tampered with. In addition, temperatures need to be consistent with storage standards in order to approve the shipment. Then, the inspectors decide whether to keep the food or dispose of it.

"After the shipment is approved, Pentad delivers the bers here.

food to a warehouse on the NAVSTA side and issues food out to the galleys based on the menus," said Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Townes, J4 food service office NCOIC. It is not unusual to see forklift operators hauling supplies to the kitchen from the warehouses. This is due to the amount of food that needs to be prepared for the day's meals.

Pentad Corporation is responsible for preparing and cooking of all meals. There are over 50 employees who share the management end of the business with the J4 food service office. These employees make up the workforce that puts out 110 percent everyday when preparing meals. "Many of our employees have years of experience cooking food and working in restaurants, they take great pride in the job they do here," said Bobby Brumfield, Assistant Area Manager for Pentad.

"We try to make the facilities like a home away from home," said Watson. An additional food selection is added during special events such as holidays, in order to make service members feel at home.

Troopers are asked to make suggestions regarding meals and services they would like to see. All requests are reviewed for cost and feasibility and will be fulfilled if they are deemed practical.

The Pentad employees had their hands full this Thanksgiving. They prepared many turkeys including one that weighed over 35-pounds, with all the trimmings and made this holiday meal a special one for over 700 service members here

USC escapes loss 50-42; Lions Roar

Commentary by Spc. Ian Shay

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

On Saturday, No. 1 ranked USC needed a win against No. 16 ranked Fresno State, and they got it; but it was not easy. Fresno State retook the lead 42-41 after Wendell Mathis ran 18 yards for a touchdown. USC responded and eventually won 50-42.

Reggie Bush was, of course, the star of the game. He tacked up 513 total yards, 294 yards rushing and two touchdowns, 68 yards receiving, 13 yards on a punt return and 135 yards on kickoff returns. Bush is everyone's pick to win the Hiesman Trophy and he single handedly saved USC from dropping out of Rose Bowl contention, the national title game.

Miami was ranked No. 3 before the Georgia Tech game, and now they barely cling to the top ten. The Yellow Jackets blitzed the day away and Miami quarterback Kyle Wright could not find an answer. Georgia Tech sacked Wright seven times on the day and decimated Miami's chance at a big bowl game.

With Miami's loss, the LSU Tigers slid into the BSC four spot after easily defeating Old Miss 40-7. Joe Pa and Penn State defeated Michigan State 31-22, moving to the three spot and clinching the Big Ten title. Both the Lions and Tigers have a chance at the Rose Bowl pending a USC or Texas loss in the next two weeks.

Penn State is 10-1, pretty good for a team ranked 6th in the Big Ten before the start of the season. Joe Paterno was thought to be washed up, but the old guy keeps the sports world on their toes after an almost perfect season. The Nittany Lions are back in the national spotlight thanks to a young crop of players like Deon Butler and Derrick Wil-

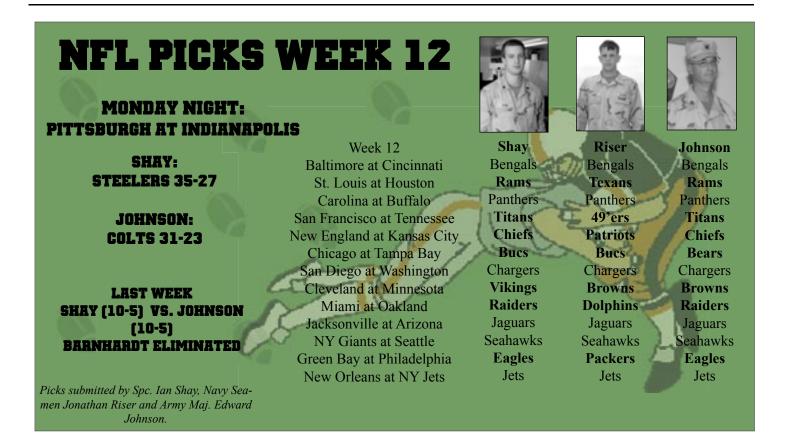


Penn State's Joe Paterno and Florida State's Bobby Bowden work the sidelines this season.

liams. Michael Robinson only got to steer the ship his senior year, but he's led the Lions to a BCS bowl and possibly a national title.

With the win at Michigan State Saturday, Joe Paterno has increased his all-time wins record to 353, only five behind Florida State's coach Bobby Bowden. Paterno and Bowden's records are up there with those few magical sports records that may never be broken (well not in our lifetimes anyway).

Paterno, who turns 79 this December, started out an assistant coach at Penn State in 1950, took over as head coach in 1966 and has been a Lion ever since. Bowden, who turned 76 in November, has coached with three teams.■



THED 2 Movie Review Lord of War

Deane - ***

Nicholas Cage is a Ukrainian immigrant whose family moves to this country to pursue the American dream, but to some people the American dream is not cut and dry. As a child he has an epiphany and becomes what most of us have thought about at least once; an arms dealer.

This exhilarating shoot em' up tale has it's ups and downs but still leaves you rooting for the bad guy. At the end of the day, he is still just a salesman, and very good at it. This movie is rated high because it had everything that makes a good action

film. "What," you ask? Check it out and you'll see what I mean.

Dave - ****

As a fan of writer-director Andrew Niccol, I was expecting something unique, dark and intriguing. None of his previous films, however, could have prepared me for Lord of War. The part of Yuri Orlov, played by Nicolas Cage, could not have been cast any better. Cage rarely disappoints and this time is no exception. His portrayal of Orlov is so dead on you begin to believe he could quit acting and make a fortune running guns.

Orlov manages to stay one step ahead of his arch nemesis Jack Valentine, played by Ethan Hawke, and you begin to wonder when good will prevail. Though Orlov does suffer great loss due to the nature of his chosen profession, his business never seems to falter. This film is frighteningly true to a side of life most people, fortunately, never see. Unfortunately, there are many people who are the victims of these purveyors of violence. While we give thanks at this time of year, we can be thankful that we can experience this lifestyle only as a high quality movie instead of an actual way of life.■





Photo illustration by Spc. Jeshua Nac







Attitude of graditude

By Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Robert Palmer

JTF-GTMO Chaplains office

Thanksgiving as traditionally observed on the fourth Thursday of November is marked by food, fun, family, fellowship and football. It's a one day-once a year-event in which our nation pauses to "give thanks" in a variety of ways. The military community is our "extended family" and is diverse in racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious make up. This provides the opportunity for experiencing the rich variety of traditions and customs that go into the celebration of Thanksgiving. And at the end of the day we go away with full stomachs from good food, fond memories of our experiences, and lasting friendships.

But Thanksgiving doesn't need to stop after the day is over. The attitude of thanksgiving can go on for a lifetime. You see, Thanksgiving isn't just a day, it's an attitudean attitude of gratitudethat carries us through life.

The "how to" of living the attitude of gratitude is as diverse as the talents, abilities, personalities, ethnic backgrounds and imaginations among us. It can be anything from a courteous "thank you", to an act of service like donating blood or training to be a Combat Life Saver. It is the sharing of our individual time, talents and abilities to enrich the lives of those with whom we come in contact.

A first century writer named Paul wrote some

words to a group of people living in a place called Thessalonica that speak to us today, "Give thanks in all circumstances". So, if you are going to have an attitude, let it be an attitude of gratitude.



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. 9 a.m. 9 a.m.	Pentecostal Gospel Catholic Mass Church of Jesus Christ	Room 13 Main Chapel
	o a.m.	of Latter-day Saints	Sanctuary A
	9:30 a.m.	Protestant Sunday School	Main Chapel
	10 a.m.	Protestant Liturgical	Sanctuary B
	11 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel
	1 p.m.	Gospel Service	Main Chapel
	5 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
Monday	7 p.m.	, i	Fellowship Hall
	7	Fellowship	Daam 0
	7 p.m.	. ,	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 F	Room 12
Saturday	4:30 p.m.	Confessions I	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.



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Carl Koch, Chaplain, leads the responsive reading portion of the Commanding General's quarterly prayer breakfast Tuesday.

15 Minutes of Fame with Spc. Eleuteril Aldofo

By Spc. lan Shay

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Spc. Eleuteril Aldofo is a soldier in Alpha Troop 1/18th Cavalry Regiment. Aldofo is one of the many cavarly soldiers assigned to defend our coastlines, detainee camps and operate GTMO's various checkpoints.

Eleuteril was born in the Philippines and came to the United States in 1998. He joined the Army in 2001 and, like many other soldiers his age, went through military training during the events of September 11. Although the events were shocking to Aldofo and other young soldiers, Aldofo never questioned his decision to serve his adopted country during a time of war. He also has a stepfather, who is

a Army Master Sergeant, deployed in Kuwait with a mechanized infantry unit.

His experiences before deploying prepared him for his tour.

"I heard it was gonna be a little rough. But it's a little easier here once you get the routine down." He handles this deployment like a

Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

soldier handles any deployment- by | U.S. citizenship keeping his eyes on the mission and college tuition. ■ completing any task given to him.

Aldofo is a field artillery soldier (13-Bravo) who resides in California. During his four years in the military, he has adopted many other tasks within his unit. Aldofo, who goes to ITT Tech for computer net-

working and engineering, helps out many of his fellow Troopers whenever computer trouble arises. He also handles paperwork for extensions and re-enlistments within his unit.

In July, Aldofo took part in the Cavalry SPUR Ride competition. The SPUR Ride took place over the course of two days and included a multitude of physical and mental tasks.

"The land navigation on the golf course was hard, the sun was tough and the grass was so high you couldn't see what was going on." Although some tasks proved difficult, Aldofo got his spurs and joined the cavalry elite.

Aldofo plans to stay in the Army for 20 years in order to serve his adopted country, gain his

U.S. citizenship and get help with college tuition.■

15 Minutes of Fame

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



Photo by Sgt. Todd Lamonica

JTF Troopers from team Thorazine are jubilant after answering the winning question at the Knowledge Bowl held at the Windjammer.



Photo by Sgt. Jessica Wilson

Briar, an Airedale Terrier, took time to show off his skills by going through the dog agility obstacle course. Briar, a Red Cross Therapy dog, also greeted Troopers who participated in the Dunkin Domino festivities located at the TK pavilion. In addition, Briar's future plans include teaming the Red Cross with Combat Stress. Troopers can look forward to seeing a new canine face around Camp America.



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace

Finishing his second tour here, Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Dave Rodriguez recieves a Joint Service Commendation Medal from Army Lt. Col. Stephen Parke, for his dedication to the JTF.





Photo by Sgt. Todd Lamor

Army Pfc. Nathaniel Peterson of the 525th Military Police Battalion purchases some stamps from Army Staff Sgt. Anthony Simpson, Post Office NCOIC. The new Post Office is located in Camp America. Look for upcoming coverage of the Post Office in the next issue of the Wire. They are offering full postal services except for express mail and money orders; only cash is being accepted at this time.