

Leaders recognize hardwork

By Spc. Seth Myers

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Various prestigious military leaders visited here on Dec. 19 and 20 to learn about and receive updates on the JTF mission as well as to wish Troopers well during the holidays.

Gen. Bantz J. Craddock, SOUTHCOM commander, Admiral Mike Mullen, chief of naval operations, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Terry Scott and other top leaders were among the visitors. Scott says these visits allow them to assess what is going on here, see if the right programs and policies are being implemented and if there is any way to improve upon them.

The leaders continue to do their jobs during the Christmas season, just like the Troopers in the JTF. Also, Craddock and guests recognize the dedication of the JTF

Troopers and appreciate the hard work.

“They [Washington Leadership] never fail to mention the service members who are doing their part serving their country here during the season when people traditionally are thinking of home, and we are thankful for their service,” said Scott.

Our leadership here recognizes the contributions of the Troopers as well.

“On behalf of the command element, I cannot express how grateful we are to all of you. We simply cannot do this mission without your able and willing support,” said JTF-GTMO Deputy Commander Army Brig. Gen. John Gong. “Christmas and the new year are coming real fast, particularly for those who are working our JTF mission here. I hope that you all get a chance to at least pause and reflect on all the fine things you’ve done since you’ve been on the island. More importantly, take some time

out and contact your family if you are not fortunate enough to take a couple of days leave... Take some time, give them a call, or do some email and tell them that you are thinking of them because I’m sure that they are thinking of you.”

Keep your spirits up during the holidays, call your family and participate in whatever traditions you can this season, but keep in mind, your trials and sacrifices are acknowledged. You are a Trooper serving this nation through thick and thin, and people are thankful for it.

“The dedication and professionalism of JTF members, who continue to operate under some very challenging conditions, is evident to all who visit Guantanamo. Our Nation can be proud of what they contribute to the Global War on Terrorism,” said Craddock. ■



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

◀Admiral Mike Mullen talks with Petty Officer 1st Class Ernest Strohl, a sailor who works inside the wire, while at Café Caribe.

▶Gen. Bantz Craddock, SOUTHCOM commander arrived here Monday and ate with several Troopers at the Seaside Galley.



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers



Happy Holidays to the JTF Troopers!



JTF commander's 2005 holiday message

By Maj. Gen. Jay Hood

JTF-GTMO Commander

I want to wish each and every member of the Joint Task Force a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! I am certain that each of you will miss sharing traditional holiday celebrations with family and friends this year. However, you can be assured that your families and the American people back home recognize and appreciate your sacrifices. They know what you are doing here is helping to protect our country and make the world a safer place to live.

This weekend, take the time to communicate with your family and loved ones back home—they will be comforted to hear from you. Exercise your right to worship or celebrate your faith, and then enjoy the company of your comrades in arms; buddies, fellow Troopers or ship-



mates, as you share Christmas 2005 in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Thank you for your hard work, dedication and personal sacrifice. I don't have the opportunity to say that as often as I should to as many members of the Joint Task Force as I would like to.

Honor Bound to Defend Freedom! ■

Season Stirs Pride For Troops' Sacrifice

Laura and I send our greetings and best wishes to the men and women of our armed forces during this holiday season. Many of you are spending the holidays far from home. You are making tremendous sacrifices to serve your country, and Americans are deeply grateful. In a time of war, a heavy burden falls on your families, and our entire nation respects and thanks them for their sacrifices and support.

We pray for the speedy recovery of your fellow servicemen and women who have been wounded. We honor the memory of those who have given their lives in the defense of freedom. America will always remember the sacrifice of these brave men and women, and we ask God to comfort their loved ones.

America is blessed to have citizens like you who answer the call to duty. You are protecting the American people in a time of challenge and danger, and your courage and skills are making America more secure. You represent the best of our nation, and your commander in chief and your fellow Americans are very proud of you.

May God bless you and your families, and may He continue to watch over our nation.

--President George W. Bush, Washington



Photo by Eric Draper

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THE DDP Movie Review

presents

WAITING...



Patt

As far as gross-out comedies go, “Waiting” has very few peers. Staying in line with past masterpieces like *American Pie* and *Van Wilder*, *Waiting* stars Ryan Reynolds (*Van Wilder*), Ana Farris (*Scary Movie*), and comedians Luis Guzman and Dane F’n Cook. The entire movie revolves around the day-to-day operations of *Shenanigans*, a theme-style restaurant. On this particular day, Reynolds ends up training the new guy, Mitch, showing him how to deal with rude, cheapskate customers, how to pick up high school girls, and how to get other guys to look at your genitalia. The latter is a running joke the entire movie, where anytime you succeed in “flashing”, the offender is

kicked in the rear a certain amount of times, along with being teased about their “sexuality”. Another main character in the movie, Dean, is faced with a major decision: accept a promotion to assistant manager and face ridicule from his co-workers, or continue on as a waiter making little more than spare change. This also happens to be the only real storyline in the movie, but let’s face it, you don’t go to these types of films for plot, you go to laugh, which this movie succeeds at tremendously. You won’t go more than thirty seconds without laughing hysterically, a rarity in movies these days. It all comes down to this, boys and girls: if you’re looking for a rich storyline to be immersed in for two hours, stay away. If you

want to feel like you just got done with a two-hour long abdominal workout, then this one is for you. Probably the funniest movie I’ve seen in two years. ★★★★★

Deane

This movie has a lot of distorted themes, but in a good way. Having worked at a restaurant, I fully understand how most of the people in the movie felt.

Non-stop laughs and surprising comedy makes this a smash hit. I feel this movie will become a cult classic, due to the potty jokes like in *Animal House*. If you don’t like Howard Stern type humor, then by all means, don’t see this flick, but if you want to see a truly disgusting film, then check it out. I’ll definitely check it out again when it hits DVD. 4 stars ★★★★★

Better than a 4-day pass	★★★★★
Good flick	★★★★★
Beats working	★★★★
If you’re really bored	★★★
Not worth price of admission	★

Rumsfeld Applauds U.S. Servicemembers

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15, 2005 – The Defense Department’s top civilian leader praised U.S. servicemembers serving at home and abroad during a town hall meeting held at the Pentagon today.

As the holiday season begins, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld observed that U.S. military members fighting terrorists in Afghanistan, Iraq and other locales are volunteers who embody the American spirit to defend freedom and to help others.

“You weren’t drafted,” Rumsfeld pointed out. “Every single person said, ‘Send me.’”

America is an amazing country, whose young people in uniform are willing to fight and die, if need be to defend America and support other peoples’ struggle for freedom, the secretary said.

“The folks here and those watching overseas have enormously important responsibilities,” Rumsfeld observed. “And, because the task has fallen to you to protect our way of life and to keep America a very special place, a place where people all across the globe look at our country in times of turmoil and tragedy, so many get in line to try to come here, to live here, to work here.”

The freedoms, opportunity and self-determination that previous generations of U.S. servicemembers fought and died to preserve for all Americans are the very concepts the terrorists fear and want to attack and destroy, Rumsfeld said.

Throughout history, members of America’s armed forces have proven themselves willing and able to defend their country’s way of life, Rumsfeld said. One writer, the secretary noted, once said

that America possesses “a willingness of heart.”

“And that dream, that willingness of heart, is what each of you have sacrificed,” Rumsfeld said.

The secretary said it’s important not to forget the sacrifices of servicemembers who will not be home celebrating Christmas and other holidays this year including those serving overseas, the wounded and especially those who’ve fallen in battle defending freedom.

“We pray for them and we certainly pray for their families and their loved ones,” Rumsfeld said. “They are supporting troops whose service will never be forgotten and, whose mission of defending our nation will never be abandoned.

“We are deeply in their debt, and we hope they know the depth of our gratitude for their courage and for their dedication,” he said.

Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, echoed Rumsfeld’s comments. “This is a great time of year for us to reflect on the incredible blessings that we have,” Pace said.

“It’s a blessing that we have 2.4 million Americans active, Guard and reserve who are either wearing the uniform today or are willing to put it on tonight to do what this nation needs done,” he said.

Pace also praised the several hundred thousand DoD civilians and contractors doing the nation’s work at home and overseas.

“Because you do what you do,” he said, “you provide support to all those other Americans that I just mentioned, who look to us to ensure that when we give them a mission, that they are properly sustained.” ■

Little-known organization does a big job

By Army Master Sgt. Stephen Miller

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Who would assist the thousands of regional migrants if they suddenly showed up on the shores and sea surrounding Guantanamo because of some crisis?

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) – that’s who. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, this little-known organization handles migration problems throughout the world. An important concept to keep in mind is that the IOM cannot work alone. Its success depends on close, effective cooperation with involved countries, other government agencies, and international and local non-governmental agencies.

Here, the IOM manages migrant support, resettles arriving migrants to accepting nations and manages the Migrant Operation Center (MOC) where they live. Migrant support includes education, medical care, employment, and translation activity for the migrants. Resettlement activities consist of interviewing, counseling and meeting government officials from countries that might take in some of the migrants. Migration management includes serving as a liaison between individual migrants and U.S. military and civilian agencies.

The IOM, through the MOC, also advises these same U.S. government agencies on the preparation and management for a migration surge if GTMO were to house such a surge in population as occurred in the early 1990s.

Here, the U.S. government has supported the IOM’s migrant operations program for several years. This program is a joint

effort of the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security. The Department of Defense here serves as host to the MOC by providing infrastructure and resource support like water, food, and a place to stay.

The U.S. Coast Guard picks up most migrants who end up here at sea. It is a longstanding U.S. practice to give all migrants an opportunity to seek and receive protection against persecution. If, after interviewing, a migrant is determined to have a “well-founded fear” of persecution. Then they are granted “protect” status.

The U.S. houses and cares for that person at the MOC while it finds a third country willing to resettle the individual. Migrating individuals who do not meet the proper requirements are sent back to their country of origin. “Protect” migrants are always free to return to their country of origin upon request.

The migrants who are “protected” are not put in any type of detention facility.

At the MOC, migrants are housed in an apartment-style setting and receive free medical and dental care. They also are permitted to work on base, establish bank accounts, send and receive mail and socialize with others on base by attending religious services and participating in ample recreational activities.

The IOM has been around doing its multitudinous good works in several areas around the world for a long time. Started in 1951 to take care of displaced persons in Europe after World War II, the IOM has directly assisted over 12 million migrants since then. People have migrated because of various economic reversals, ethnic and



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

▲**Ste’phane Trocher, Operations Officer for the International Organization for Migration, hangs up the IOM flag signifying the office is open.**

religious persecution, political problems and natural disasters.

The IOM has been involved in migration situations in Bosnia, Kosovo, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sudan. Most recently, the IOM has been helping the earthquake victims in Pakistan and the victims of last year’s tsunami disaster in Asia.

(The information for this article was compiled from a Guantanamo Bay Migrant Operations fact sheet and the IOM web site.) ■

Safety bulletin

By Navy Chief Warrant Officer Lisa Skiöldhanlin

JTF-GTMO Safety

Are you 21?

If not, then you cannot drink here. No exceptions. Period.

Having said that, do we have an issue with under age drinking? Perhaps.

Underage drinking can be a problem here. It can lead to one of our younger Troopers getting into trouble.

Let’s be proactive here. We should know our Troopers and who among them are under 21. When you as a leader and supervisor are out and about, be it at the beach, Windjammer, or checking

on the Troopers’ welfare in their quarters, you should know who can and cannot legally drink.

Excessive drinking, is not limited to the underage crowd, as drinking is a favorite pastime here. Drinking (if over 21)

is perfectly legal, and for most, enjoyable if done in moderation. Look at your own drinking habits since you arrived here, and I bet most will see an increase in drinking. ■

Why is the drinking age 21?

One of the reasons, is when states lowered the drinking age to 18, traffic related deaths among teenagers increased. When they raised it back to 21, the death toll significantly decreased.

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

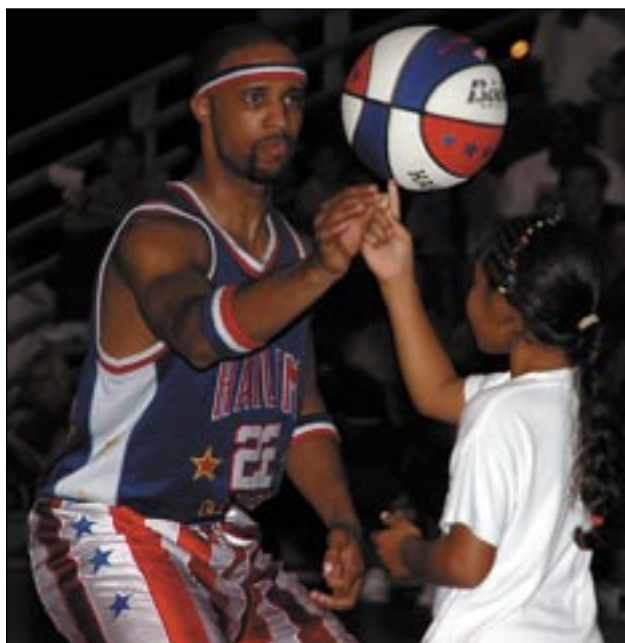


Photo provided by MWR Devon Christie



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace

►The Harlem Globetrotters put on an amazing show with the Nationals, the peerless team that competes against the Globetrotters. The game was enjoyable for all ages. Many children, Troopers and residents of GTMO showed up for a good show. During the show, one of the Globetrotters helped a girl, above, twirl the ball on her finger. The Globetrotters show reaches out to everyone especially the youth. (Top Right) Team members joined Troopers at the Seaside Galley for the uncommon opportunity to share the same types of meals the Troopers enjoy every day.



Photo provided by MWR Devon Christie

Yo! PFC, get me the MAO, PDQ!

By Spc. Ian Shay

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

While the MAO may be a fictional office, the military acronym office could employ a hotline to help out JTF Troopers.

Have you ever talked to someone and, instead of that person responding with actual words, they spouted off some weird acronyms you didn't understand? Well, don't worry, you're not alone.

Acronyms can be confusing, especially for Troopers new to the joint environment or new to the military itself. Every branch of the military has certain acronyms or abbreviations they use in order to communicate to one another.

Being new to a JTF environment can

be quite an experience, like hearing the acronyms MOS, CBQ, ALOC, CSM, HHC, PSU, IOF, JIB, JIG, CDC, or PSD.

While these acronyms are important and serve their purpose for the military, they can be confusing to the uneducated.

So let's break down some of the more common ones heard around the JTF --Joint Task Force, newbie. IOF stands for Intelligence and Operations Facility, Joint Information Bureau (JIB), Joint Information Group (JIG), Child Development Center (CDC) and Personnel Support Detachment (PSD).

Here's a conversation a Trooper may have when going on leave:

Sgt. X

Make sure to contact the SMO in order

to go OCONUS.

Spc. Y

Who's my POC on TDY?

Translation:

Sgt. X

Make sure to contact the strategic movement office in order to go outside the continental United States.

Spc. Y

Who's my point of contact on Temporary Duty?

Military acronyms can be quite difficult to understand, but once you get the hang of it, it can make your life easier. So, if you're talking to someone and hear an acronym you don't understand, ask him or her what it means, and then next time you'll be

STRAC. ■

GTMO holidays



▲ Army Sgt. 1st Class, presents Spc. Carlo Barricent, Alpha Troop and Jose Rodriguez with an award for the best decorated interior.
▶ Navy Petty Officer Januario presents Army Staff Sgt. Becerra, Army Staff Sgt. and Army 1st Sgt. Scott to the alry Regiment, Bravo Troop, the best GTMO decorated house.
◀ Army Sgt. 1st Class Rodriguez and 1st Sgt. Malcolm Campbell, present the award to the best decorated Sea Station. Januario, Salli Knight, and Army Sgt. First Class J.

ay decorations



Jose Velez, J3, presents, 1/18 Cavalry Regiment Army Sgt. 1st Class an award for having the Sea hut.

First Class Kathryn ny Sgt. 1st Class Jose Sgt. Michael Sweetsir t Courtright 1/ 18 Cav-roop with an award for ed exterior Sea hut.

bert Garrido and Army bell, 1/18 Cavalry Regi-d they won for having a hut. Judges Kathryn Spc Kay Izmuihara and ose Velez look on.



Gretzky's Coyotes bite back; NHL scheduling problems

Commentary by Spc. Ian Shay

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The new NHL system has been working great thus far, overtime shootouts are fun to watch, blue lines moved closer allowing for a larger offensive zone and the new rule changes haven't hurt the integrity of the sport, except one.

It's not a rule change to the sport per say, but the new scheduling system has hindered fan morale. It's great that the NHL has made all these changes, which really brought the sport back to life. Also, they have made room for more divisional rivalry type games, but the old schedule allowed fans to see their favorite team play different teams coast-to-coast several times a year.

With the new system, eastern conference teams will play the western conference teams once per season, but it takes three seasons until the cycle is complete. So, if your favorite player gets traded to a team on the other coast, it might take you three years until they meet. Bah humbug.

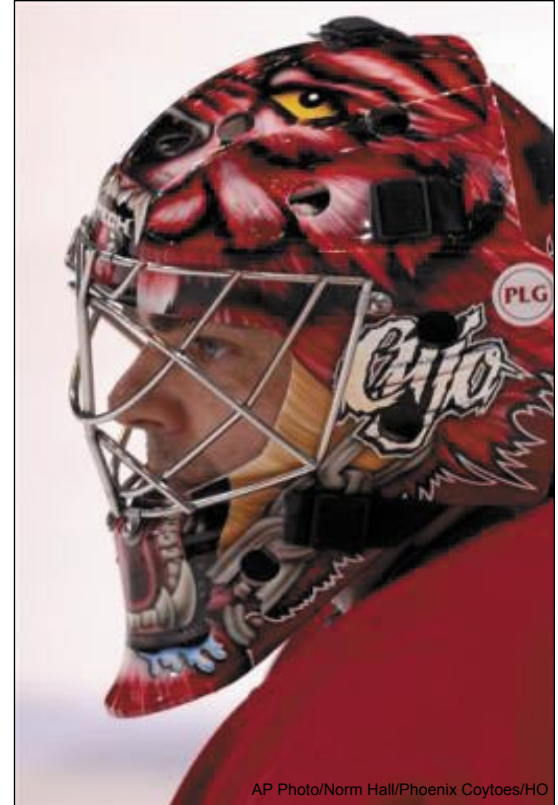
On a brighter note, the NHL is experiencing success in most other areas.

The Ottawa Senators are leading the league at 23-5-2. Team captain, Daniel Alfredsson, leads the team with 22 goals and 47 points, and goalie Dominik Hasek is 17-4 in his 21 starts.

The Detroit Red Wings follow closely at 22-9-3, but the Wings stand atop the worst division in the Western conference, the Central. With stellar plays by Brendan Shanahan and Pavel Datsyuk, the Wings look to dominate the division, unless Nashville has something to say about it.

Wayne Gretzky's Coyotes are starting to play like you would expect them to, great. With hard-nosed coaching and "Cujo" Curtis Joseph playing phenomenally in the net, the Coyotes look to battle for a playoff berth this season.

Gretzky brings fans to hockey regardless of whether he's playing or coaching. And with "the great one" leading the Coyotes and Mario Lemieux commanding the Penguins, the



AP Photo/Norm Hall/Phoenix Coyotes/HO

Cujo ranks in the top 10 in goals-against average and save percentage.

NHL turns to its elders to return hockey to its former glory. ■

NFL PICKS WEEK 16

MONDAY NIGHT: NEW ENGLAND AT NY JETS

SHAY:
PATRIOTS 28-21

WEIR:
PATRIOTS 34-14

WILSON
PATRIOTS 36-10

LAST WEEK
SHAY (9-7) WEIR (11-5)
J. WILSON ELIMINATED

SHAY SEASON RECORD
129-77

Picks submitted by Spc. Ian Shay, Army Sgt. 1st Class Orion Wilson and Army Maj. Jeff Weir.

Week 16

- NY Giants at Washington
- Dallas at Carolina
- Atlanta at Tampa Bay
- San Francisco at St. Louis
- Tennessee at Miami
- Detroit at New Orleans
- Buffalo at Cincinnati
- Jacksonville at Houston
- Pittsburgh at Cleveland
- San Diego at Kansas City
- Philadelphia at Arizona
- Indianapolis at Seattle
- Oakland at Denver
- Chicago at Green Bay
- Minnesota at Baltimore



- Shay**
- Giants**
- Panthers**
- Bucs
- Rams
- Dolphins
- Lions**
- Bengals
- Jaguars**
- Steelers
- Chargers
- Eagles**
- Seahawks
- Broncos
- Bears
- Vikings**



- Wilson**
- Giants**
- Panthers**
- Bucs
- Rams
- Dolphins
- Saints**
- Bengals
- Houston**
- Steelers
- Chargers
- Cardinals**
- Seahawks
- Broncos
- Bears
- Vikings**



- Weir**
- Redskins**
- Panthers**
- Bucs
- Rams
- Dolphins
- Lions**
- Bengals
- Jaguars**
- Steelers
- Chargers
- Cardinals**
- Seahawks
- Broncos
- Bears
- Ravens**

Christmas tree traditions

By Army Sgt. Jessica Wilson

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Christmas tree is a longstanding symbol and tradition dating back to ancient times and has been an important part of holiday celebrations for many centuries. The decorated, brightly lit Christmas tree brings back fond memories of past holidays.

In ancient times, the Vikings considered the evergreen a reminder that the cold of winter would pass and the green of spring would return. In northern Europe, in order to honor their gods of harvests, the Druids decorated oak trees with fruits and candles. The Romans also participated in winter festivities. They decorated trees with small pieces of metal during Saturnalia, a winter

festival in honor of Saturnus, the god of agriculture.

There are many legends surrounding the Christmas tree. One legend tells of Martin Luther, the first Protestant, walking through the woods one clear, starry night. As Luther looked up through the trees, the stars were shining through the branches and gave the impression of twinkling lights. Luther was inspired and before returning home, he cut down a small evergreen in order to decorate it with candles.

The indoor Christmas tree may have originated in Germany. Eventually, the tradition spread through Europe and the Royal family adopted the custom and helped popularize the tree. When immigrants traveled to America, they also brought their trees. Ger-

man settlers set up one of the first public Christmas trees in Pennsylvania. However, it wasn't until the late 1800s that Americans began accepting the Christmas tree due to the idea that the tree was a pagan symbol.

Today, the Christmas tree is a common feature in many American households. Many families adopted this tradition and light their trees on the same day every year. Also, the tree is ceremoniously lit in places like the White House and Rockefeller Center. For Troopers spending the holidays away from home, request that your family take photos of them decorating the Christmas tree and send them to you. Exchanging photos this holiday season is a great way to participate with your family in the Christmas tree tradition. ■

Deodar Cedar *Pinaceae Cedrus deodara*



Leaf: Evergreen needles, dark green but may have some silvery bloom giving them a blue-green color; one to two inches long, sharp pointed; occur singly on new growth and then later on spur shoots; remaining on the tree for three to six years. **Flower:** Monoecious; male cones two to three inches long on the lower parts of crown; female cones erect, purplish, occur on upper portions of crown.

Fruit: Upright cones, three to four inches long and three inches across; deciduous scales; initially green and purplish, then later turning a reddish brown when mature, usually resinous. **Twig:** Slender, with numerous short spur shoots, branches droop with age; buds are very small and round. **Bark:** Initially smooth and gray-brown, later developing short furrows with scaly ridge tops.

Form: Young trees have a broad pyramidal crown that becomes wider with age; branch tips and leaders

droop and have a fine texture. In the landscape it can reach 80 feet tall but becomes much taller in its native range.

Douglas-fir *Pinaceae Pseudotsuga menziesii*



Leaf: Evergreen, single needles that lack woody pegs or suction cups, yellow-green to blue-green, 3/4 to 1 1/4 inches long, tips blunt or slightly rounded, very fragrant.

Flower: Monoecious; males oblong, red to yellow, near branch tips; females reddish, with long bracts, occurring near branch tips.

Fruit: Very distinctive, three to four inches long with rounded scales. Three-lobed bracts extend beyond the cone scales and resemble mouse posteriors. Maturing in late summer.

Twig: Slender and red-brown, with long, sharp, pointed, red-brown buds.

Bark: Smooth and gray on young stems, becoming thickened, red-brown with ridges and deep furrows.

Form: A pyramidal crown that is somewhat open and self-prunes poorly. Stems are characteristically straight.

Common types of Christmas trees

Ponderosa Pine *Pinaceae Pinus ponderosa*



Leaf: Evergreen, five to 10 inches long, with three (sometimes two) tough, yellow-green needles per fascicle. When crushed, needles have a turpentine odor sometimes reminiscent of citrus. **Flower:** Monoecious; males yellow-red, cylindrical, in clusters near ends of branches; females reddish at branch tips. **Fruit:** Cones are ovoid, three to six inches long, sessile, red-brown in color, armed with a slender prickles, maturing late summer.

Twig: Stout, orange in color, turning black. Buds often covered with resin. **Bark:** Very dark (nearly black) on young trees, developing cinnamon colored plates and deep furrows. **Form:** A large tree with an irregular crown, eventually developing a flat top or short conical crown. Ponderosa pine self-prunes well and develops a clear bole.

Leyland Cypress

Cupressocyparis leylandii

The name Leyland cypress is used to describe a group of trees where all the members are sterile hybrids. There are no naturally occurring Leyland cypress. They must be propagated by rooted cuttings.



Helpful hints to improve your life

By Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Chris Molnar

JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain

It has been a habit of mine for many years to spend some of the time between Christmas and New Year's Eve thinking about ways to improve my life and the lives of those around me. Dealing more effectively with stress is always an issue. Here, I offer some tips I have picked up here and there regarding:

Ways to Eliminate Unnecessary Stress

- 1) Remember nobody is perfect, including you.
- 2) Don't rely on your memory; write it down.
- 3) Enjoy the moment.
- 4) Accept people for the way they are, not the way you are.
- 5) Get up fifteen minutes earlier.
- 6) Keep things simple and uncomplicated.
- 7) Recognize what you can't control and let it go.
- 8) Talk less and listen more.
- 9) Avoid negative people.
- 10) Know your limitations and say "no" more often.
- 11) Have duplicate keys made.
- 12) Stop thinking tomorrow will be a better day.
- 13) Believe that good happens.
- 14) Realize that some things just are.
- 15) Separate the trivial from the important.
- 16) Recognize the importance of unconditional love.
- 17) Laugh, daydream, and take time to pray.

In addition to practical tips to eliminate stress, I add three good questions to ask yourself as you think about the future: 1) Where am I going?; 2) How will I get there?; 3) How will I know I have arrived? As you think things through in the next couple of weeks, I offer you this New Testament blessing: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13) Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! ■

Chaplain's Holiday Schedule

Trooper's Chapel

Dec. 24

6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service @ TK on the basketball court near the mini-mart
7:45 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Dec. 25

9 a.m. Christmas Day Protestant Service
6:30 p.m. Christmas Day Mass
7:30 p.m. Christmas Day Evening Prayer

Jan. 1

9 a.m. New Year's Day Protestant Service
6:30 p.m. New Year's Day Mass @ Troopers Chapel
7:30 p.m. New Year's Day Evening Prayer

NAVSTA Chapel

Dec. 24

5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass
7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Protestant Service

Dec. 25

9 a.m. Christmas Day Mass
12 p.m. Christmas Day Protestant/Gospel Service

Dec. 31

5:30 p.m. New Year's Eve Vigil Mass
11 p.m. New Year's Watch Night Service

Jan. 1

9 a.m. New Year's Day Mass
12 p.m. New Year's Day Protestant/Gospel Service

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 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 Air Force Staff Sgt. Judy Payne

By Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

After 11 years of service in the military most people have their jobs down to a science. The same can be said for Air Force Staff Sgt. Judy Payne, OARDEC court reporter and an individual augmentee from New Mexico.

After spending many years working as an Air Force paralegal, Payne's previous training helped her to excel in her job as a court reporter.

"Once you have been doing this job for awhile it becomes routine and there is usually nothing I haven't seen as far as challenges go," said Payne. Through the years, she has retained the type of experience and attitude any employer would love.

Being a court reporter is somewhat similar to being a stenographer. The latter takes shorthand notes as they are spoken in the courtroom. "Court reporters tape the proceedings and later go back and listen to the tapes. While listening to the tape they type out all speech verbatim," said Payne.

She enjoys her job here more than she does as a claims examiner at her permanent duty station. Service members usually fill out claims when something is either damaged or stolen. Often, this can happen during a move



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

to a new duty station. "My job is to determine how much money the member is going to receive. A great deal of research is required to come to the determination," said Payne. It does not end there, she is also involved in Tort claims (these are claims that are filed for and against the government) as well.

This is her first time working for a joint task force and first TDY in a non-training status. However, she has worked in joint environments at her previous duty station in Okinawa, Japan.

Payne has two children whom she misses very much. They are very supportive of her. "My children are typical military kids,

they understand what is going on and with this being my third temporary duty (TDY) this year, they know the routine," said Payne.

Presently, she is working on a bachelor's degree in healthcare administration and would like to become an officer. Troopers like Staff Sgt. Judy Payne are just one of many professionals who make up the JTF. ■

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 Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

▲ Spc. Eric Bishop, 525th MP Battalion, puts the finishing touches on a Christmas tree, decorated using unit patches from other Troopers in his unit. Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur Vanwyn-garden, 525th MP Battalion, said this is an old Army tradition.



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace

▲ The Gitmo King was recently docked for maintenance. The device surrounding the boat can raise and lower ships into the bay.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer Denis Querrard

▲ A few determined Troopers are working to eliminate the graffiti that stains some area mountainsides. Here, 1st Sgt Malcolm Campbell, Camp America commandant's office, rappels and sprays brown, earth friendly paint to mask the graffiti.



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

◀ Army Brig. Gen Ken Keen, US Army South Commander, awards the Retention Excellence Award to Army Staff Sgt. Brian Bastian, 525th MP Battalion retention NCO