



A salute and farewell to outgoing Troopers

By Spc. Seth Myers

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

In the past year, JTF Troopers have set a new standard of excellence, made notable improvements and shown everyone how to carry out the mission. These improvements would not have been possible without their hard work and soon, many of these Troopers will be going home.

Some of the less noticeable units may believe much of their work goes unnoticed here, but during this final stretch of their deployment the leaders are getting the message out. They not only see Troopers have done their jobs, they recognize the vast improvements they have made despite all the challenges.

"Many of the Soldiers brought here were infantry or field artillery, but when they got here they were assigned to various positions to meet the full spectrum of Joint Task Force needs. We had individuals assigned to the Joint Visitors Bureau, the Office of Military Commissions, J1, J2, J3, J4... I have a field artilleryman who is serving as the deputy engineer. For the past year, many of them (Troopers) have been serving in nontraditional roles in comparison to the jobs they were trained for by their units at home," said Deputy Commander Brig. Gen. John Gong.

"The awesome thing is that because of the nature and caliber of these Troopers, they rose to the occasion. When you live and work with them on a daily basis you get the chance to see their full potential and worth. I can't say enough about how each and every one of them has performed since they arrived here."

Many Troopers are Reservists, citizen Soldiers, and this deployment allowed them to improve themselves not only as people but also as Soldiers. They stood tall, learned what needed to be accomplished and performed their mission with respect and honor. For Reservists, to rise to that level is very impressive, said Gong.

"Since they arrived here, these citizen Soldiers have improved their stature as patriots and as people who can go that extra mile," said



Photo by Army Sgt. Dave Lankford

Gong. "These Soldiers should be very proud of their accomplishments. They are truly veterans and should be proud knowing that."

Every job here is vital and significant for the success of the mission and the leadership is grateful for every contribution, said Gong.

"For duty, for honor, for country, I am grateful and humbly proud of growing and serving with you all," said Gong.

It is more than the upper chain of command who have taken note of these accomplishments, though. Leaders have taken the opportunity to recognize these Troopers' great deeds. Here are a few of their thoughts on those who have served under them.

**1/18th Cavalry Commander
Army Lt. Col. John Lonergan**

What was your unit's experience like at GTMO?

The unit had a very productive and satisfying year in GTMO. The cavalry successfully met all missions assigned and set a high standard for future units coming to GTMO. The CAV soldiers are proud of their performance and contributions to the War on Terrorism.

What unit accomplishments are you most proud of?

I am most proud of the way the CAV conducted themselves during this deployment. The GTMO CAV team consists of Soldiers with various experience levels from over 15 different units spread throughout the state of California. The soldiers came together and formed a cohesive team. They served with distinction and
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Don't accept the status quo!

By Command Sgt. Major Anthony Mendez

JDG Command Sergeant Major

After giving 31 months here to the fight against terrorism, I have seen over 3,000 Troopers rotate through this challenging, yet rewarding mission.

Since August 2003, we've continued to get better by growing stronger and smarter in every facet of this operation. This is a tribute to the training Troopers received prior to assuming their duties and while physically engaged in the fight. In my humble opinion, the cornerstone of their success lies with the guard mounts prior to assuming duties and the after action reviews at the end of each shift. I would like to note that this continued superior performance not only applies to the detention operations aspect, but also to the external security force.

Let us not forget about those troops serving in supporting roles. Even though they are not "physically" engaged in detainee operations, these professionals play an important role. The troops serving in administration, communication, food service, engineering, intelligence, mechanical, and supply roles are the backbone of this mission. I cannot emphasize enough without their steadfast commitment; this operation would not be successful.

Not accepting the status quo and seeking continuous improvement keeps our leaders focused on the mission, which translates to keeping their Troopers eager to take on more responsibilities. I am proud to show off our troops to distinguished visitors and members of the media from around the world while they are visiting our facilities. Because of your exquisite performance, these guests left Guantanamo Bay with a positive outlook of the mission.

As we get ready to welcome the new Troopers, do not forget the reception and integration phase. The first impression gives a sense of security and comfort for those Troopers embarking on this mission.

It's been my honor and privilege serving with the Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. Together we have worked lengthy hours, sweated, and came to appreciate our various military traditions. I will never forget the highs and lows we've endured while engaged in this Global War on Terror. As we continue to keep these enemy combatants secured, always remember that the sweat that beads off your body sums up to the amount of blood that is being saved around the world. ■

Honor Bound!



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Learning just got easier

By Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Getting your education office closer to your housing area will soon be possible due to another computer room opening in Tierra Kay. The objective is to provide Troopers with educational tools to complete college programs, while staying close to living quarters.

The location in Tierra Kay, currently known as the reading room, will be the new site of the college computer learning center. Lifecycle computers donated from J1 and Columbia College were used in the rooms. But, due to the amount of Troopers that were involved in extended studies, more computers needed to be procured to make the rooms operational.

The computer equipment in the college education room differs from those that are used in the MWR computer rooms. These computers are loaded with full Microsoft Office Suite. This program helps Troopers fulfill course requirements more easily. NIPRNET access is limited to half of the workstations.

Printers, as well as scanners and optic readers, will also be added to the rooms giving Troopers access to more hardware.

The current college computer rooms in Camp America require a key to enter. The room is available for use 24- hours a day.

Troopers who would like to use the computer

rooms need their commands to write a memo stating their Troopers are enrolled in college courses. Access will be denied if this paperwork is not completed. "This room has seen extensive use since my tenure as the Camp Commandant with eight to ten Troopers using the facilities on a daily basis," said 1st Sgt. Malcolm Campbell, 1/18 Cavalry Regiment, Camp Commandant.

Providing computer access to Troopers enrolled in college courses in a controlled environment twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week is an element of a larger package, "These rooms are similar to a program that the Army is currently using around the world called eARMYU.com that allows Soldiers to work towards college degrees anywhere, anytime," said JTF Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Febles.

Any additional software requirements the Trooper has is brought to the attention of the Camp Commandant's office. "Often, universities will issue a CD to the Trooper to use with their course work. We, in turn, will coordinate with J6," said 1st Sgt. Malcolm Campbell, 1/18 Cavalry Regiment, Camp Commandant. The goals are the same regarding the opening of the



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

education center in Tierra Kay.

"Phase three of this concept, due to be in place in the next year, is to put one computer in each set of quarters. This way, Troopers can do their schoolwork, banking and communicate with family members with out ever leaving their rooms," said Febles.

The Army is making it a lot easier these days for Soldiers to get an education. One program involves cutting out the middleman in procuring funds for tuition and allows the Soldier to work directly with the money managers all while online. Programs like these, and ones currently in place here, are leading the military into the world of e-learning. ■

USERRA, how to get your job back

By Army Maj. Matt Edwards

Chief, Legal Assistance

Within the next few months many of you will return to civilian careers, and the time to think about that job transition is right now. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) provides for your rights and job protection as you transition from military to civilian life. As with most benefits, however, you must follow the rules set out by Congress or you may forfeit the very rights that are so important to you and your family.

USERRA provides job protection for employment you held before you entered active service. It does not guarantee you a new job, but does require your employer to place you in a position similar to that which you held when you went on active duty.

When returning to work, you have a certain period of time after you leave active service to apply to your employer for reinstatement. For periods of military service up to 30 days, you must report back to work at the next regularly scheduled shift on the day following release from the military, safe travel home, and eight hours of rest. Following a period of service of 31-180 days, you must apply for reemployment within 14 days following release from active duty. Following a period of service of 181 days or more, you must apply for reemployment within 90 days after you leave active service.

In applying for reemployment, you should identify yourself, state that

you left to perform military service, that you have completed the service and want to be reinstated. Failure to return to work or apply for reemployment within the specified time limits, through your own fault, does not necessarily forfeit your reemployment rights, but makes you subject to the employer's rules concerning unauthorized absence from work.

The key is that you must notify your employer of your intent to return. The law allows this notification may be written or verbal, but I strongly recommend that you make written notification. With written notification there can be no dispute down the road that you provided the necessary notice. If you mail the notification, make sure that you ask for a return receipt so you can show that the employer actually received the notice. As an alternative, you can hand deliver your letter, and then request that the employer date stamp it and provide you with a copy.

Finally, don't wait until the last minute to notify your employer about your intent to return. They have supported you during your service to our nation, and they will appreciate your courtesy in keeping them informed well in advance of your desire to return to work with them. Send an email, or make a telephone call as soon as you can to let them know that you appreciate their support and that you look forward to returning to work on their team.

If you have any questions regarding your reemployment rights contact the JTF Legal Assistance Office at extension 3561. The Legal Assistance Office is located in Camp America in Building 6208 (near Troopers Chapel). ■

Teamwork the JTF-GTMO way

Commentary by Navy Capt. Murray Norcross

Hospital Staff Physician

“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.” (Andrew Carnegie)

Something significant has evolved and grown at Joint Task Force – Guantanamo. To the causal observer, JTF-GTMO appears to work like the proverbial well-oiled machine. Functioning twenty-fours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year, JTF-GTMO has earned a reputation of outstanding mission performance. This reputation doesn’t just happen overnight. How do over two thousand individuals from five different services come together to bond into a cohesive, fighting unit? What is JTF-GTMO’s secret for success? The answer is TEAMWORK.

Right now, JTF-GTMO is firing on all cylinders. No matter what the OPTEMPO, JTF-GTMO is ready to answer all bells and move full steam ahead. There is a common sense of purpose and vision within JTF-GTMO that is not often seen elsewhere. Leaders at the operational and tactical levels are inspiring their personnel with clear purpose, direction, and motivation. The result is a sustained level of performance that has become the established benchmark for every Trooper at JTF-GTMO, officer and enlisted alike.

In the Joint arena, we at JTF-GTMO stand on the shoulders

of previous JTFs that have gone before us in history. During the American Revolutionary War, soldiers who worked together to move General George Washington’s army across the Delaware River one night in late December 1776 resulting in a strategic victory over the Hessians at the Battle of Trenton. On 6 June 1944, American armed forces worked jointly with our Allies on D-Day, launching the largest armada the world had ever seen in Operation OVERLORD that led ultimately to the defeat of Nazi Germany eleven months later. Building upon these traditions, JTF-GTMO, established in 2002, has distinguished itself in conducting detention and interrogation operations to collect and exploit intelligence in support of the Global War on Terrorism, coordinating and implementing detainee screening operations, and supporting law enforcement and war crimes investigations. Future JTFs will undoubtedly stand upon the shoulders and legacy built by today’s JTF-GTMO Troopers. JTF-GTMO Troopers, you have the right to be proud!

Teamwork is a force multiplier. Teamwork elevates individual performance synergistically so that the group’s overall performance is raised to a higher level. True teamwork is a rare thing. In the words of Michael Jordan, “Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships”. JTF-GTMO, you are a championship team. All JTF-GTMO Troopers should be proud of the team that you have built together. You have re-defined the meaning of TEAM. At JTF-GTMO, TEAM means Together Everyone Achieves the Mission. Honor Bound. ■

Eligibility for GWOTEM

DoD has approved Columbia and Guantanamo Bay as additions to the designated areas of eligibility for award of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM). Soldiers serving in these areas on or after September 2001 in support of GWOT operations (OEF/OIF) are authorized to be awarded the GWOTEM.

While Colombia and Guantanamo Bay do not fall under current areas of “hostilities” for Combat Veteran status as noted in VHA Directive 2005-020, “Determining Combat Veteran Status”, receipt of the GWOTEM does qualify a veteran for such status. To be eligible the veteran must show written proof of receipt of the medal via his or her DD-214 noting award of the GWOTEM, official service records, or military orders of the award; presentation of the medal or service in Columbia or Guantanamo Bay alone does not constitute eligibility for Combat veteran status.

FMI: www.va.gov



A salute and farewell to outgoing Troopers

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honor. Their families, the state of California and the United States Army can be proud of the outstanding job they did.

Is there anything you would like to say to the Troopers who served under you during this deployment?

As I have continuously reinforced throughout the deployment, I couldn't be prouder of the great job the CAV has done. They made my job as the Squadron Commander easy. However, until we land back in California, we are still on mission and have a job to do.

Any recommendations you feel should be passed to your replacements?

Keep in mind the force security mission you are about to begin is one of the most challenging on the island. Complacency and inattention to detail could kill you and others. One aspect of our mission is to provide for the security and protection of all those within our joint operational area, to include military, civilian, third country nationals and detainees. If the CAV fails to successfully perform this part of the mission, lives could be at risk.

HHC Commander

Army Capt. Edward Johnson

What was your unit's experience like at GTMO?

Our experience was great; learned about joint environments; learned about how guardsmen interrelate with active duty; took advantage of all GTMO has to offer.

What unit accomplishments are you most proud of?

As a whole; my Troopers had a great part in many vital and important staff positions; we were asked to make things happen and we did.

Is there anything you would like to say to the Troopers who served under you during this deployment?



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

Army Sgt. 1st Class John Fries and Army Sgt. Dave Lankford, 326th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, prepare to shoot some footage for an upcoming episode of "Combat Camera Minute."

To my Troopers—thanks for being so professional and making my job as simple as it could be; HHC basically requires no "adult supervision" and it has been an honor to serve with them.

Any recommendations you feel should be passed to your replacements?

Recommendations to replacements: don't try to change the world or reinvent the wheel; the JTF has a 90 percent solution on almost everything and refinement is the name of the game.

HHC First Sergeant

1st. Sgt. Efren Cornejo

I am very grateful for all our troops hard work, dedication, sacrifice, for the good leaders,

good followers and mission first attitude. They are a very motivated hard working unit, and I would deploy anytime anywhere with them, Honor bound.

326th MPAD Commander

Army Maj. Jeffrey Weir

What was your unit's experience like at GTMO?

Our experience here was long and seemed to have achieved a weekly routine. Our print section will have produced 50 versions of the Wire and while the sequence of events to produce a paper are the same, the actual events were different and varied. Our broadcast section had more room to write and produce broadcast pieces but their schedule was less routine than the print. Media relations had a whole different perspective each week. The multitude of varied journalists and their medium - print, broadcast, radio, photojournalists, authors/writers and wire sources were constantly changing. Their home countries and their views about our mission really had our team switching from week to week and often from hour to hour.

What unit accomplishments are you most proud of?

I am most proud of the improvement of the Guantanamo image worldwide. JTF-GTMO has a mission here and what is currently being done for Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) at GTMO is what our country wants us to do despite the fact that we can't make everyone agree with us. All sections and their products greatly influenced directly or indirectly the opinion of the world toward GTMO's contribution to the GWOT. ■



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace

JTF Commander Maj. General Jay Hood leads the JTF-HHC Troopers in the quarterly 5k run. The run is conducted to boost morale and have fun.



SCOUTS SERVE

By Spc. Timothy Book

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

This week is the 96th anniversary for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). It was founded Feb. 8, 1910.

The mission of the BSA is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values taught by the Scout Oath and Law.

To earn the highest rank, Eagle Scout, scouts must prove themselves as leaders, serve others and fulfill requirements in various outdoor skills.

Eagle Scouts are expected to become leaders in life. The highly respected rank is considered to be a significant timeless honor, which is often recognized throughout their entire lives. "It is a singular event in a young man's life," said Navy Capt. William Vaughan, JTF engineer and Eagle Scout. "Less than four percent of all boys who enter the Scouts make it. It sets the young man apart for life."

Although only a small number have earned the title, the ranks include many well-known people. "Eagles have been to the moon (Neil Armstrong, James Lovell), to the White House (President Gerald Ford) and to Congress," said Vaughan. "They can even be found here and up the chain of command (Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld)."

Scouting trains young men in citizenship, service and leadership. Merit badges signify mastery of certain skills. There are more than 100 badges available. A scout must earn 21 badges to qualify for Eagle Scout. "These 21 focus on three points," said Vaughan. "There are three citizenship merit badges (Community, Nation, World); some stress preparedness and service to others, such as First Aid, Emergency Preparedness, and Life Saving; and still more focus on the young man's personal development, such as Family Life and Personal Fitness."

The badges help scouts to learn what their interests are. "When I went through, I liked and excelled at first aid," said Navy Capt. James Fraley, family nurse practitioner and Eagle Scout. "When I graduated

Eagle Scouts of GTMO

Navy Capt. William Vaughan

JDG

Navy Capt. James Fraley

Nurse practitioner

Navy Capt. Murray Norcross

Physician

Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian White

Port security PSU 305

Thomas Wolfe II

Contractor

Army Maj. Jeffrey Weir

PAO commander

Army Maj. Ted Johnson

HHC commander

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Matt Davis

Coxswain PSU 305

Navy Lt. Cmdr Clayton Smiley

Physician

Jonathan Riser

JDG supply

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Mike Conley

Boatswain's mate PSU 305

Navy Lt. Michael Franks

Psychologist

Army Pvt. Skeeter Upton

JDG

Dennis Bradish

Contractor

Navy Ensign Jose Lepesuastegui

JDG

Army Capt. Robert Sulier

Army Capt. John Stephenson

Christopher Hileman

Army Sgt. Edwin Rushton



WITH HONOR



high school, I decided I wanted to go into medicine.”

Scouting also helps anyone interested in a military career because it has a very similar structure. “It was an easy jump to go from the civilian sector to the military because the organizations are about the same,” said Fraley. “You get promoted based on your ability and the amount of work you do.”

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Clayton Smiley, a physician and an Eagle Scout, has also benefited from his experience. “Everything was done as a team,” he said. “You do work on merit badges individually but you’re always helping others to get theirs. You had a vested interest in making sure everyone in the troop was progressing.”

Although attaining Eagle Scout is a great accomplishment, all stressed that the work and experiences leading up to earning it are what is more important. “My time in the Scouts was one of the happiest times in my life,” said Navy Capt. Murray Norcross, physician and Eagle Scout. “There are core values. The Navy has Honor, Courage [and Commitment]. The Scouts have the Scout Oath, which is, ‘On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law. To help other people at all times. To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.’ I’m 44 years old, and I still know that and follow it.”

Scouting has obviously made a huge impact on the lives and careers of these and other Eagle Scouts. Norcross, whose son is also an Eagle Scout, said, “If a young man can make the pinnacle of Eagle, there is nothing that man can’t do.”

“During this anniversary week of Scouting in the United States, all former Scouts should take time to particularly remember our brother Scouts who took the lessons of our youth to heart and have made the ultimate sacrifice in the performance of their duty, whether it be in our nation’s uniform, a fire fighter’s turn-out gear or the orange flight suit of a space shuttle astronaut,” said Vaughan. “Happy 96th birthday Scouts. Be Prepared.” ■



List of notable Eagle Scouts

Neil Armstrong

Astronaut, first man to walk on the moon

Willie Banks

Olympian, former world record holder

Lloyd M. Bentsen Jr.

Former Secretary of the Treasury and former U.S. Senator

Bill Bradley

Former United States Senator, New Jersey

William C. DeVries, M.D.

Surgeon and educator, transplanted first artificial heart

Thomas Foley

Former Speaker of the House

Dr. Robert M. Gates

Former director, CIA. President, Texas A&M University

Gerald R. Ford

38th president of the United States

J. Stephen Fossett

First to circumnavigate the earth solo in a balloon

Michael Kahn

Stage director. Academy Award-winning film editor

James A. Lovell Jr.

Apollo astronaut and business executive

Richard G. Lugar

United States Senator, Indiana

J. Willard Marriott Jr.

Chairman of the board and president, Marriott Corporation

Sam Nunn

Former United States Senator, Georgia

H. Ross Perot

Founder, Electronic Data Systems Corporation and The Perot Group

Donald H. Rumsfeld

Secretary of Defense

Harrison Salisbury

Pulitzer Prize-winning author

Togo West

Former Secretary of Veterans’ Affairs

2006 NASCAR Nextel Cup Season Preview

By Sgt. 1st Class John Fries

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

This month is special. For many Troopers, it means going home or preparing to depart. If that isn't enough to celebrate about, we have a climax of sporting venues.

Last week we saw Pittsburgh defeat Seattle in Super Bowl XL. This weekend, it's the NFL Pro Bowl and the unofficial kick-off of the 2006 NASCAR Nextel-Cup series with the Budweiser Shootout at the Daytona International Speedway followed up by the Daytona 500 next weekend.

NASCAR is the only major sporting event that begins the competition calendar with the biggest event on the schedule.

The two and a half mile super-speedway is home to some of the biggest highlights and tragedies in NASCAR's 52-year history. This year should not be any different.

The transition from any year of racing is always filled with rumors and speculation as to who is staying and who is going and who is gone. Since the final race in Miami, much has changed in the Nextel Cup Series. Fortunately, the series name wasn't one of the changes.

In what probably was not a real big surprise, Martin Truex Jr. will be joining the ranks of the Cup drivers for a full season in the Dale Earnhardt Inc. (DEI) number one car. This is probably a good thing for teammate Dale Earnhardt Jr., who is looking to put his uncharacteristic 2005 season behind him. Also retuning to Earnhardt's corner, or should I say pit box, is his cousin and former crew chief, Tony Eury Jr. Earnhardt and Eury had a fall-out in the 2004 season and Eury was replaced.

Leaving DEI is long-time teammate and two-time Daytona 500 winner, Michael Waltrip. When Waltrip left, his sponsorship followed. Waltrip will now drive the number 55 car with all the familiar markings.

Mark Martin is on his final season ...



Tony Stewart gets ready to defend his second Nextel Cup Title after a uncharacteristically low-key performance in 2005.

again. With more drama in the Rousch stables as there is over at DEI, Martin should add some stability and credibility to the team as the team rehabilitates itself.

Jamie McMurry handed his Texaco Star over to Casey Mears and will replace all traces of Kurt Busch from the Rousch Racing Team with a new chasis (Ford) new sponsorship (Crown Royal) and a new number (26).

Kurt Bush was picked up by Team Penske to replace Rusty Wallace in the Miller number two car. Busch also has some residual PR issues to deal with in the wake of last year run-in with a local sheriff's deputy, where Bush was stopped for speeding and arrested for reckless driving and suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol in Maricopa County, Ariz.

Jeff Gordon is hoping the change of crew chiefs in his Hendrick Motorsports team that were made at the end of last season will put him in contention for this year's Chase for the Nextel Cup.

The biggest shock of the silly season is the decision by Sterling Marlin's

team to remove him from the number 40 car at the request of his long-time sponsor, Coors, citing marketing strategy as their reason for unseating him. Instead, Marlin will be driving the number 14 Waste Management car.

This year, the Armed Services are well represented with only a few changes. "Front Row" Joe Nemechek will drive the 2001 Army car. There have not been any major adjustments on the team, just high hopes for a better season. Greg Biffle is hoping to pick up where he left off in 2005 as he tries to better his runner-up position in the number 16 Army National Guard car. The Air Force will be picking up the tab for a few Cup races, sponsoring Ken Schrader and the number 21 Wood Brothers entry.

No matter what happens next weekend at the "Great American Race", I am looking forward to an entire season of rubbin, bumper smashing, tempers flaring, close finishes, drama and more rubbin (all while sitting at home on my reclining chair!) ■

From GTMO with love

Troopers messages

By Spc. Jeshua Nace

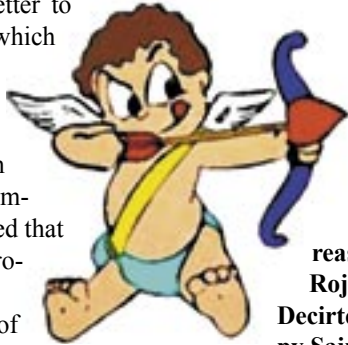
JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Feb. 14 is approaching and, for many Troopers, it's going to be time away from their loved ones. However, Valentine's Day was born from lovers being apart.

There is a legend from the medieval era of a Saint by the name of Valentine. Valentine was to be executed for being a Christian on Feb. 14. The night before his execution he wrote a letter to his jailor's daughter, which read, "from your valentine."

Valentine also secretly married Roman Soldiers. At that time, Emperor Claudius II declared that Roman Soldiers were prohibited to marry.

The first records of love being associated with Feb. 14 was during the fourteenth century in England and France. It was believed that birds paired off on Feb. 14.



Wishing you a Happy Valentine's Day! I want to take this time to thank you for all your love and support during our time apart. I just want to let you know how much I appreciate everything you are doing and have done while I am away. You are a wonderful wife and I couldn't ask for anything more. Love you always Glenn XOXO

P.S. Kiss the kids for me XOXO

To Lora Lee, my sweet Valentine: I love you with all my heart and soul Rob.

Happy Valentine's Day Hillary! Knowing you're there taking care of the home and family makes me even prouder to serve. Will you be my Valentine? I'm yours. Always with love, Sean.

Happy Valentine's Day Rachel. Love, Smaddy!

Alvin, sorry I'm so far away, again. I still

want to wish you a beautiful Happy Valentine's Day. All my love, Donnita.

I would like to wish my wife Angie, son Nicholas and daughter Olivia a Happy Valentine's Day and thank them for their support.

Nelson, Happy Valentines Day. I appreciate everything you do for us.

Love Angel.

Happy Valentine's Day Jamie & Chase! With love from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Love, Daddy.

Puchu, you are the reason for all my successes. Rojo es Red, Azul es Blue, Decirte Te Amo, I love you. Happy Saint Valentines Day, Mechu

Happy Valentines Day, "G"! Holler at cho boy!

Happy Valentine's Day "Pie," I love you! You're a great wife and mother! Guess Who?

Happy Valentines Day Lulu and baby Gwen. Daddy's coming home soon!"

To my darling wife Hetty, You are the love of my life and my one and only, forever and ever, Oppa.

To my one and only love Lisa, I love you not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you. Happy Valentine's Day, Love Wil

Happy Valentine's Day! I hope and pray this message, as well as this special day, brings nothing but the purest of happiness, love, joy and fulfillment to your lives. I miss and love you all so very much and so very deeply. Janey, keep the countdown rolling baby. Not much longer and we will be back in each other's arms. Jessica, keep up the good work in

school and I am looking forward to going to the playground with you everyday that I am home. Emily, I know this is your 2nd Valentine's Day and I have been away for both of them. Hopefully, one day, the good Lord will

allow me to be home for one real soon. Lee Anna, keep doing well in school and continue to do well in all that you do.

Hugs and kisses to each of you. I love you and pray everyday for the time to go by so that we can all be together again! Again, Happy Valentine's Day!!!



Baby, I miss you this Valentine more than any other. You have been my Valentine for the last 26 years. I look forward to 26 more and then some. I love you so very much Bear, XOXOX

Happy Anniversary Jason, love Tara.

I just wanted to take the opportunity to tell you that nothing can break our love. You mean the world to me and you are my wife, who I will love forever. I can't wait to be home to be with you and the kids again soon.

Love, John

Happy Birthday to my wonderful Mother, Mrs. Helen Martin.

Ulumma, I want to let you know that I love and appreciate you more than ever and I thank God you are my wife. Love always Henry.

Dearest Kara, missing you on your birthday, love your hubby.

To Passenger 17B, so glad we met Feb. 13, 2000 love, Passenger 17A.

Making your money work for you

By Petty Officer 1st Class Andrew Stanley
Chaplain's Assistant

It has been said "beauty is in the eye of the beholder". Interview ten different people and each will give a different opinion as to what constitutes beauty. Wealth seems to also be in the eye of the beholder. I have asked people their idea of wealth and received a variety of responses in return. But there is some common ground and that is what I would like to address. For the sake of simplicity, let's define wealth as achieving a net worth that allows one to retire comfortably and with the ability to take advantage of the opportunities that bring meaning and fulfillment to life.

Building wealth is a combination of three factors: time, discipline and money. Money is often thought of as the most critical of the three, but when time and discipline are given the opportunity to do their work, money becomes a secondary concern. For those of you living on a small paycheck, there is good news. It doesn't take a lot of money to make money. Let me show you why time and discipline are the more critical factors.

Time is the multiplier of wealth. Time and the compounding of interest will turn molehills into mountains. Compounding interest is the affect of your money earning interest on interest already earned and magnifying itself over time. Think of it as a snowball rolling downhill. The more snow it accumulates, the more it collects with each revolution. The following examples assume a retirement age of 65 and an annual return on investment of 10 percent. A young lady investing \$150 per month from age 20, will save a total of \$81,000 of her own money to build a nest egg of \$1,305,956.

Discipline is the watchdog of wealth. When it comes to money, keeping what you've earned is far more important than the amount you earn. The pattern tends to be "the more you earn, the more you spend" with little or no thought given to saving and investing. Most of us need to rethink the way we use money and organize our finances around keeping what we've earned. The best place to start is to

track your spending (yes, right down to the penny) and develop a budget.

Pay yourself first! Set aside money for saving and investing before doing anything else with your paycheck. (Tithing is included for those whose faith leads them to do so). Savings are monies put aside for infrequent expenses such as car or home repairs, vacations, gifts, medical bills, etc. Investing is setting aside money for education, business startup, retirement, etc. Never pay full price. At least not for anything you can legally and ethically get for less. Plan your purchases as much as possible to take advantage of sales, bargains, etc.

Focus your spending on assets not liabilities. Assets are those things that increase your net worth. They appreciate or produce an income. Investments, business opportunities, and real estate are examples of assets. Liabilities are things that take away from your net worth for example, cars, furniture, appliances, etc. Liabilities depreciate in value over time.

Live within your means. Spend your money wisely. Is a purchase something you want or is it a need. If a need, what other factors are involved? An extra 1000 square feet in a home would be nice but is it worth the additional cost?

Beware of debt. Debt is someone else's way of building their nest egg using your money. There are good forms of debt as well as bad. A good use of debt would be to purchase an asset, but even here you must be careful to keep your debt load at a manageable level. Most

financial advisors suggest a debt-to-income ratio (D/IR) under 20 percent with less than 15 percent being the ideal. To calculate your D/IR, simply divide your monthly debt payments (all debt excluding mortgage, rent, utilities) by your monthly after-tax pay. If your D/IR is below 20 percent you're in good standing. If your D/IR is anywhere near 30 percent, you're in danger of going the way of the Titanic and need to get help immediately.

The last factor is money. Money is the material of wealth. Here I would like to focus on the simple aspect of making money. The average person will work 45 years of their life before retirement. It is more important to find work that will bring satisfaction and fulfillment than just a large paycheck. Money doesn't have the power to bring joy and contentment to life, it is only a tool. Don't give it more credit than is due.

Wealth is attainable for anyone willing to follow a few simple guidelines. The principles discussed are basic but foundational to the process. ■

CAMP AMERICA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant Service	Troopers' Chapel
	6 p.m.	Confessions	Troopers' Chapel
	5 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
	11 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel
Monday	1 p.m.	Gospel Service	Main Chapel
	5 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	7 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
Tues. to Fri.	7 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
	12 p.m.	Daily Mass	Cobre Chapel
Wednesday	7 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.

15 Minutes of Fame with Army Sgt. Alan Epley

By Spc. Ian Shay

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

For the last five years, Army Sgt. Alan Epley has been serving his country in the National Guard. He signed up five years ago for two reasons, peer pressure and patriotism. Epley's best friend signed up for the National Guard and because of that, Epley could no longer ignore his calling to serve his country.

Like many of us, Epley started his military service at Fort Jackson, S.C. where he attended basic training and Advance Individual Training (AIT) for financial management (44C). After that, Epley was deployed to Fort Rucker, Ala. for six months. To Epley, the Fort Rucker deployment felt like training but it was that training that prepared Epley for his duties here.

What are some of the highlights of this deployment?

"It's been awesome. One of the highlights for me was to take on diving; it was something I looked at doing for a long time. I've talked to a lot of people back home and they're jealous because at home you have to plan expensive trips to go diving. I enjoy working in the Joint Task Force; it's giving me an appreciation for the other forces. It shows you can have fun even though there are major differences amongst each other."

What is your job here?

"My job is to understand and process documents for funds that are budgeted in the JTF. We work directly in hand with NAVSTA because with a lot of our utilities, we have to pay the NAVSTA. I process paperwork for JTF construc-

tion projects, which means I get to see the money applied before construction even starts."

I heard you're training for the GTMO Extreme Challenge.

"Yea, the GTMO Extreme Challenge is coming up on Mar. 4. It's an 8-mile bike, run and kayak. It's a four-man team, co-ed. Each person has to do each event."

How has the training helped you as a Soldier?

"It requires dedication. Training for 8 miles on three events like that is no easy task. I've been riding my bike to and from work, and I'm fixing to start training on the kayak. I kayaked back home but always on rapids, never flat water."

What are your main goals in the military?

"My main goal in the military is to finish my degree in bio chemistry so I can become an officer. I believe we're in need of officers who have previous enlisted time, and can appreciate the troops."

What do you plan on doing after the military?

"After the military, I plan to teach and get into politics. Using my financial management skills, I plan to focus on economics and social security."

As an NCO what are some of



Photo by Spc. Ian Shay

the values you try to instill in other Troopers?

"I always want to ensure that personal responsibility is the main deciding factor of a good or bad soldier. Everyone makes mistakes, but how you handle that mistake and learn from it, decides if your heart is setting the standard as a soldier." ■

15 Minutes of Fame

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

AROUND THE JTF



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

◀During the NEX customer appreciation day, several pro skaters traveled to Guantanamo to put on a show. One of the pros decided to jump a barrier to show off his skateboarding skills.

▲1st Sgt. Efren Cornejo is laterally promoted to 1st Sergeant. Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Febles is shown replacing the rank.



Photo by PADI Instructor John Vasile.

▲Congratulations to recently promoted Col. Mike Vance. Personnel held a practice promotion ceremony for Vance out at depth in the ocean prior to the real promotion ceremony which was conducted later that same afternoon by Maj. Gen. Jay Hood.



Photo by Army Sgt. Dave Lankford

▲Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Kyle Strohl and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Charles Bell, Pittsburgh Steeler's fans, go all out for Super Bowl XL by painting their faces black and gold and sporting Steelers t-shirts.