



the Wire

“HONOR BOUND TO DEFEND FREEDOM”

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Friday, March 19, 2004

Tax assistance available for JTF Troopers

By SGT Jolene Staker

Tax time does not have to be taxing for troopers. There is assistance available at the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Center in the legal assistance office located in the former Camp America Joint Aid Station.

“We’ve had troopers walk in with just the question ‘can I get my taxes done?’ and 30 minutes later they walk out with their taxes done and eight days later they are getting a refund,” said MAJ Michael Pelot, chief of legal assistance of the 177th Military Police Brigade.

The VITA center is open: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Appointments are preferred, but the center has never turned away a walk-in.



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

SPC Jeremiah Sherman, B. Battery, 119th Field Artillery, attached to the 216th Military Police Company helps SSG David Peltier of the 661st Military Police Company with his tax return. Peltier pulls out his wallet to show how much he is going to appreciate having a refund to put in it instead of having to pay taxes.

Tax volunteers want troopers to bring any documentation they have with them, but if they don't have anything to bring in volunteers can still assist them. The volunteers can help troopers

access both their military W-2 and direct deposit information on the Defense Finance Accounting Service website.

The VITA is linked to Tax-Wise, an electronic filing service that has a contract with the IRS. There is usually a 24-hour review, and troopers will know their tax returns have been accepted. On an average 8-10 days later the refund will be in their accounts.

SSG Lee Arnold, of the 177th MP Bde., gets the most satisfaction from helping troopers who don't have all their documentation and will do anything she can do to help. “I put the word out not to be afraid – come on in,” she said. “I know procrastination costs people.”

Troopers may have any additional information from home

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MSST ON MISSION



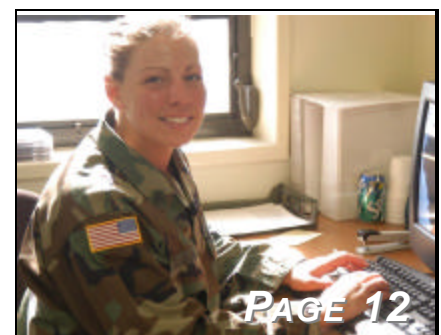
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Trooper to Trooper

Saying farewell to Guantanamo

Today is a tough day, because I must say farewell to this great JTF. It has been a great ride and a privilege to serve with you for the past 18 months. I am enormously proud of leaders and Troopers who have come together here at Guantanamo to make a difference for our nation as we go about winning the Global War On Terrorism.

We fight from our foxhole here at Camp Delta, but your reach goes to Afghanistan, Iraq, and many other areas where our country is engaged in defeating the enemies of freedom. You are winning everyday, and our nation, our families, and our loved ones are safe because of your commitment and sacrifice.

Great organizations, like this JTF, are about accomplishing the mission—rigging leaders and Troopers for success today, while setting standards that lead to winning in the future. Committed, caring leadership is the glue that brings units together. Our officers have guided the JTF to success, and have invested enormous quality time in making us better each day. Our non-commissioned officers are the true strength of our services. They have made us competent and every day they teach our junior leaders what “Right looks like.” They teach how to lead, how to set the example, how to be demanding and establish high standards, yet take the time to be caring and compassionate. The legacy of great, caring leadership is units and individuals who do what is right when no one is looking. Leaders, thanks for taking responsibility for making us winners.

I would like to thank our teammates from the Interagency Task Force—the CTC, FBI, and CITF—and NAVBASE personnel who all bring unique skills and



MG Geoffrey D. Miller
Commander
JTF Guantanamo

talents to this joint operation. As we know, you cannot get too many friends in this fight and we could not have asked for better support.

For me, it has always been about the Troopers—Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen—being with them, being part of a team, the shared experiences, incredible camaraderie; respect for each other; and knowing we would be there for each other no matter what. You can walk into a room full of Troopers who are strangers to you, but be completely comfortable because you know what they stand for—being so proud to be one of the team. Our Troopers give life and meaning to our motto “Honor Bound to Defend Freedom.” It just does not get any better.

BG(P) Jay Hood will be taking the reins here shortly. I have known this great warrior leader for many years and he will make a difference. Please give him all your best efforts.

I depart the JTF proud of what we have done and confident you will become even better in the future. Our country is depending on you. Fight’s on.

HONOR BOUND!

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JTF Change of Command

The Guantanamo Bay community is cordially invited to a change of command ceremony as BG (P) Jay Hood assumes command of JTF Guantanamo from MG Geoffrey Miller. The event will be held at Bulkeley Field, Wednesday, at 5:15 p.m. dress is duty uniform.



MSST 91110 Detachment 2 arrives in Guantanamo

By SSG Patrick Cloward

Recently, a quiet change has taken place in the harbor of Guantanamo Bay.

Detachment two of Maritime Safety and Security Team 91110 has joined the JTF to replace detachment one, who finished their three-month rotation recently.

"I knew their expectations, which was a big plus," said Chief Petty Officer Stephen McDonald, operations chief for detachment two. "It made it a seamless transfer between the two detachments."

Though both teams are part of the same unit, the small, easily mobile groups are sent in various directions depending on the need.

"We operated around New York City when the threat level was heightened for two



Photo by SSG Patrick Cloward
Lt. j.g. Paul Casey looks over Guantanamo Bay during operations with the MSST 91110.

hours. It was daunting but we did it."

"I've had a lot of experience getting guys qualified on small boats," said McDonald. "A lot of guys in our detachment come from the 'small boat station' side of the house. From a training standpoint, we're really good at what we do."

That experience paid off as the challenges of working with the JTF came to task.

"As the personnel officer here, the JTF is different," said Casey. "We're used to working with one entity of a team. Here we're one piece of a larger puzzle."

Casey added that his team hasn't worked with such a large operation until now. Usually MSST units operate in ports like Philadelphia or New York where the civilian population is larger and different rules of engagement apply.

"It's a very delicate procedure," he said. "We're still here to defend, but at home we're more on edge because there are more civilians to complicate the situation."

"One challenge is we have new guys just out of 'A' schools," said McDonald. "[some] of them recently graduated. They haven't been in an operational environment a lot, but they're highly motivated. We still expect a lot out of them. I expect everyone to be qualified on the mission."

McDonald even has goals for himself during the next three months.

"I'm definitely going to work on physical fitness," he said. "I'm the oldest guy on the team so that's always my personal challenge. I know I can say that I'm twice your age and I'm getting the job



Photo by SSG Patrick Cloward
Chief Petty Officer Stephen McDonald (center) oversees weapons maintenance with Petty Officers 3rd Class Michael Pugh (left) and Gilberto Blanco (right) after routine operations in Guantanamo Bay.

weeks in December and Philadelphia back in the states," said Lt. j.g. Paul Casey, executive officer and deployable team leader for detachment two. "We serve as a liaison with [Department of Defense] units or Coast Guard units in different areas."

Now their time has come to aid the Naval Base Harbor Patrol in keeping the base secure from enemy assault on the water.

Though the transfer time window was small, the new team members easily stood up to the task.

"The biggest challenge was making sure there wasn't any stop in operation [while] swapping teams," said Casey. "We had to be getting the guys to understand the new mission and they picked it up quickly. In order to have everyone online, we needed to qualify the crewmen in weapons in a matter of 26



SSG Lee Arnold, tax preparation volunteer (left) and SSG Dawn Pulliam, Legal Office NCOIC, both of the 177th Military Police Brigade work with SGT Michael Ross, tax preparation volunteer of the 14th Finance Detachment to ensure that troopers get the best refund legally possible.

Photo by SGT Jolene Staker



MAJ Michael Pelot, Chief of Legal Assistance of the 177th Military Police Brigade helps CPT Stu Robbins, JTF Outbound Inspections OIC of the 217th Military Police Company with his tax return.



Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Christian Carrion from the 91110 MSST sits in the VITC waiting room.

Troopers normally do not have to wait long to be seen at the VITA Center, but there is a television to watch as well as a wide variety of magazines to read. Water and coffee are also available.

Troopers comfort is a concern to the volunteers.

Tax from page 1

faxed to the VITA, and commercial phone lines are available for quick calls home to request information.

Married troopers can also get their taxes done. If they do not have a power of attorney for their spouse there is an IRS form that the VITA personnel will either fax or e-mail for signature. This form allows the troopers to sign all tax forms.

Many troopers have benefited from advice from VITA volunteers. "The tax center did a great job; if I had filed the way I had planned I would have paid, but with their advice I don't owe anything," said SSG David Peltier, of the 661st Military Police Company.

"The tax center saved me \$366 of preparation fees compared to last year and my refund is about double," said CPT Stu Robbins, JTF outbound inspections OIC of the 217th Military Police Company. "I'd advise all JTF troopers to come have their taxes done."

"It was an easy process, and it was nice to know I didn't have to worry about sending my stuff home to get them done," said SSG Shawn Pulliam, legal assistant NCOIC and member of the 177th MP Bde.

The VITA has already served many troopers this year, but volunteers would like to break last year's record. Last year volunteers did 170 returns with a total of \$118,000 in refunds while this year they have filed 125 returns with about \$133,000 in refunds.

The facilities for the VITA center have improved. Last year the office was a small building with two computers, and this year they have four individual offices and four computers. There is more privacy in the new facility.

Volunteer tax preparers received intensive training. Pelot went to Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, Fla.

for a forty-hour course in how to run a VITA. He and Navy Lt. Cmdr. Lori Nygard, NAVBASE VITA center, trained the volunteers.

Most volunteers had some background with taxes and all had a desire to help troopers.

"Law school included 12-15 hours of tax classes," said Pelot. "And I have always been interested in tax code."

"I have prior experience with taxes, so I decided to volunteer," said

PFC Preston Miller, an individual active Army augmentee who works in J-6.

SPC Jeremiah Sherman, B Battery, 119th Field Artillery, attached to the 216th Military Police Co., was in his last semester for an accounting degree when he was deployed. He has taken nine hours of tax classes.

The personal income tax class helped him the most. He enjoys volunteering, "I see troopers getting their taxes taken care of and being excited about a good refund," he said.

"I want to help troopers to do their taxes. I know I had problems doing my taxes and it was a chance to learn something new," said SGT Michael Ross of the 14th Finance Detachment.

Troopers who have used the VITA have been impressed with the volunteers. PFC Raysa Pujols, of the 463rd Military Police Company described the service she received as "great work, like an expert."

If troopers just can't complete their taxes by April 15, the VITA center can still help them. Military members are granted a two-month extension just for being deployed. The center will be open through June 15 to help troopers who use this two-month extension.

The tax center is open for troopers and assisting them in any way possible is the volunteers mission.

"I enjoy when troopers leave with a smile," said Pelot.

Mechanic uses spare time to build bike

By SSG Patrick Cloward

SPC David Reeves of the 216th Military Police Company loves to ride bikes. He just likes to relax when he does it.

Built from a popular recumbent bicycle model, Reeves took his love of mechanics and used his spare time (and bicycle parts) to create a three-wheel wonder for his unit.

"It's a real stress reliever," Reeves, whose initial military occupational specialty was lightweight vehicle mechanic, said of the time it took to create the machine. "I had just come back from leave and spending time with my wife. I realized I had another seven months to go before I get to go home again, so I wanted to keep myself occupied."

Reeves had a lot to say about his ideas and aspirations for the bicycle. He talked about the specifications, how he had to fudge and alter what was in his mind to work with the materials he had available here at Guantanamo Bay.

"I initially wanted to build a gas turbine engine," said Reeves, with a smile. "And I know I could do it, but there would be a lot of machining to be done. It still takes mechanical aptitude and patience to build a bike like this." Reeves added that a few people took rides on the bike and liked it.



SPC David Reeves of the 216th MP Co. displays his three-wheel recumbent bicycle he built during his deployment here to Guantanamo

Photos by SSG Patrick Cloward

Reeves took a lot of pride as he went on to talk about his next project, a newer version of the bicycle, which he hopes to begin assembling after his return from his next leave. When asked why he works on these ideas, he said, "It's what I do."



A Co., 1-181st patrols to keep the JTF secure



Photos by SGT Jolene Staker

Members of the three infantry companies of the 181st Infantry Regiment take turns providing outer perimeter security for the JTF.

"The constant patrols are essential to ensuring the security of our area of operations," said CPT John Drohan, A Co., 181st Infantry Regiment Commander.

The shifts are long and the work hard, but the infantry soldiers take pride in doing their best to secure the JTF.

(top left) SPC Dustin Bonina, of A Co. 1-181st Infantry Regiment, maintains radio contact with the unit headquarters while on mounted patrol.

(top right) SPC Minor Flores of A Co. 1-181st Infantry Regiment walks down a steep hill during a dismounted patrol. Soldiers are subject to all terrains as they do these patrols.



(bottom left) SPC David Shahan of A Co., 181st Infantry Regiment takes a knee during a dismounted patrol. He uses this time to observe and listen.

(bottom right) SPC Jonathan Algarin of A Co. 1-181st Infantry Regiment maintains a defensive position while others explore the area during a dismounted patrol.



YOU can make a difference

By CH (LTC) Steve Feehan

Ever feel insignificant? Ever wonder just what difference you are making? I think we all have these feelings from time to time. We feel we are small cogs in a big machine. Always remember, in God's economy there are no insignificant people. You might be the one person who can reach someone. You may be the one person in the right place at the right time to make an eternal difference. To the world you might be one person, but to one person you might be the world.

Learning to lead through faith

By SPC Katherine L. Collins

Looking back on his 11 years of active Army service as a chaplain's assistant, SSG Reeve Winters passes on the lessons he has learned in regard to succeeding as a non-commissioned officer (NCO), drawing his wisdom particularly from his experience in Guantanamo Bay.

"Desiring to impact the lives of those with whom you serve is the first key," said Winters. "When I entered the military, I chose a job where I thought I could make a difference in people's lives. I've learned since then that as NCO you can make a difference every day, and that working in the chaplaincy is just an added benefit."

Winters said he has grown most as an NCO here by observing the parallel between serving as a Christian and an NCO, applying his Christian values to his service as an NCO.

"I think the roles of an NCO and a Christian are very similar. Christian values are the same values every NCO needs to live out daily to be a good leader; they are the Army values. Also, both roles should serve as examples, bearing positive effects on others," he said.

He further explained the parallel, saying, "As a Christian, I strive to be more like Jesus every day in my walk with Him and to assist in creating a place where any [trooper] can comfortably worship and grow, regardless of his or her faith. Serving as an example of Christ and of how to share His love plays into being a good leader."

In addition, Winters said he has learned to trust the abilities and training of his subordinates through the unexpected incident of breaking his foot while here, saying, "This has been a very hard deployment for me. I prefer to have a hands-on approach, but my injury forced me to often serve strictly as the supervisor in daily missions. As a result, I learned to trust and rely on the assistants under me to carry out the tasks at hand."

Winters noted that he has also grown as an NCO, in turn, from observing his own leaders in the chaplaincy, asserting, "The chaplains here care deeply about their faith and about passing it on to others. I've definitely learned a lot from them as an NCO and a Christian."

Winters also commented on how his Guan-



Photo by SPC Katherine L. Collins
SSG Reeve Winters, JTF chaplaincy NCOIC, operates the sound system during service at Troopers Chapel.

tanamo experience has been especially rewarding, as well as serving as an invaluable tool, saying, "The most fulfilling part of being an NCO is working with [troopers] and seeing them grow both professionally and personally. That kind of growth I've been able to witness and help create down here."

Appreciating all he has learned as an NCO from each of his military assignments, Winters said he looks to life beyond JTF with anticipation of discovering more opportunities to further expand and apply this knowledge.

In summarizing all he has learned as an NCO, particularly from his Guantanamo experience, Winters leaves this message of encouragement with his fellow JTF NCOs: "NCOs should always be an example of the Army values, being the example of what every [trooper] should want to become. An NCO can define how much or how little [troopers] will positively develop as [service members]. If you are a poor NCO, your troops will simply learn bad traits from you," failing to see an image they can aspire to," he said. "Finally, and most simply, just always look out for your [troopers] and put their welfare ahead of yours."

Heavenly Bits & Pieces

By CH (MAJ) Daniel Odean

If you feel far away from God, who moved? Things happen in life.

Some things are our fault, some are not. At any rate, when we fall into sin we feel bad and far away from God. Be encouraged; stop looking at your past and start looking at your future. There is hope in Christ!

"Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him."

Hebrews 9:27, 28

Women's Bible Study

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Join us in fellowship and the study of God's word.

*Thursdays / 6:30 p.m./ Fellowship Hall / *except the fourth Thursday of each month -- Join us then for our PWOC Dinner, Worship & Fellowship*

<><

Any questions or need a ride, call Joan at ext. 5700

Trooper Appreciation



Photos by SFC Thomas Gumminsky

JTF Commander MG Geoffrey Miller honors Air Force Maj. Nhung Nguyen with the Meritorious Service Medal for his consistent behind the scenes service to JTF as director for the Joint Visitors Bureau.



Photos by SFC Thomas Gumminsky

MG Geoffrey Miller presents MSG Randolph Hay, of the 177th Military Police Brigade, with a JTF commander's coin, commending him for his continuous diligent hard work as NCOIC of JTF food service.

Proficiency: a JTF goal



Photos by SPC Katherine L. Collins

Listening and taking notes, 217th Military Police Company soldiers learn from the instruction of SFC John Waters during their first day of 31E training. This Alabama National Guard unit is the final currently deployed JTF unit to undergo the corrections MOS training in Guantanamo Bay.

(above left, from left to right) SGT Julius Dancy, SFC James Walton, SSG Rueben Rogers, SFC Darrel Scott and SGT Carl Tarver study materials supplied during the course. (above right) SSG Charles Johnson also reviews what he needs to know to qualify for the 31E MOS.



(at left) Instructor SFC Rudolph Smith (left), of the 273rd Military Police Company, and SSG Alvin Winters (right), of the 217th MP Co., demonstrate detention facility in-processing procedures to the class.

RECREATION & LEISURE



Photo by SPC William Ingram

JTF Troopers show skills in the sand

Members of the Joint Intelligence Group (JIG) Volleyball team try to save a hit from the 258th Military Police Co. team at Saturday's volleyball challenge. JIG won the double elimination tournament going undefeated with a 4-0 record. The 258th MPs were knocked out by the JIG with the score of 11 to 1, winning the volleyball tournament.

Tops in Blue entertains JTF troopers



Photo by SPC Katherine L. Collins

A member of the Tops in Blue performs a soulful classic Stevie Wonder hit.



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

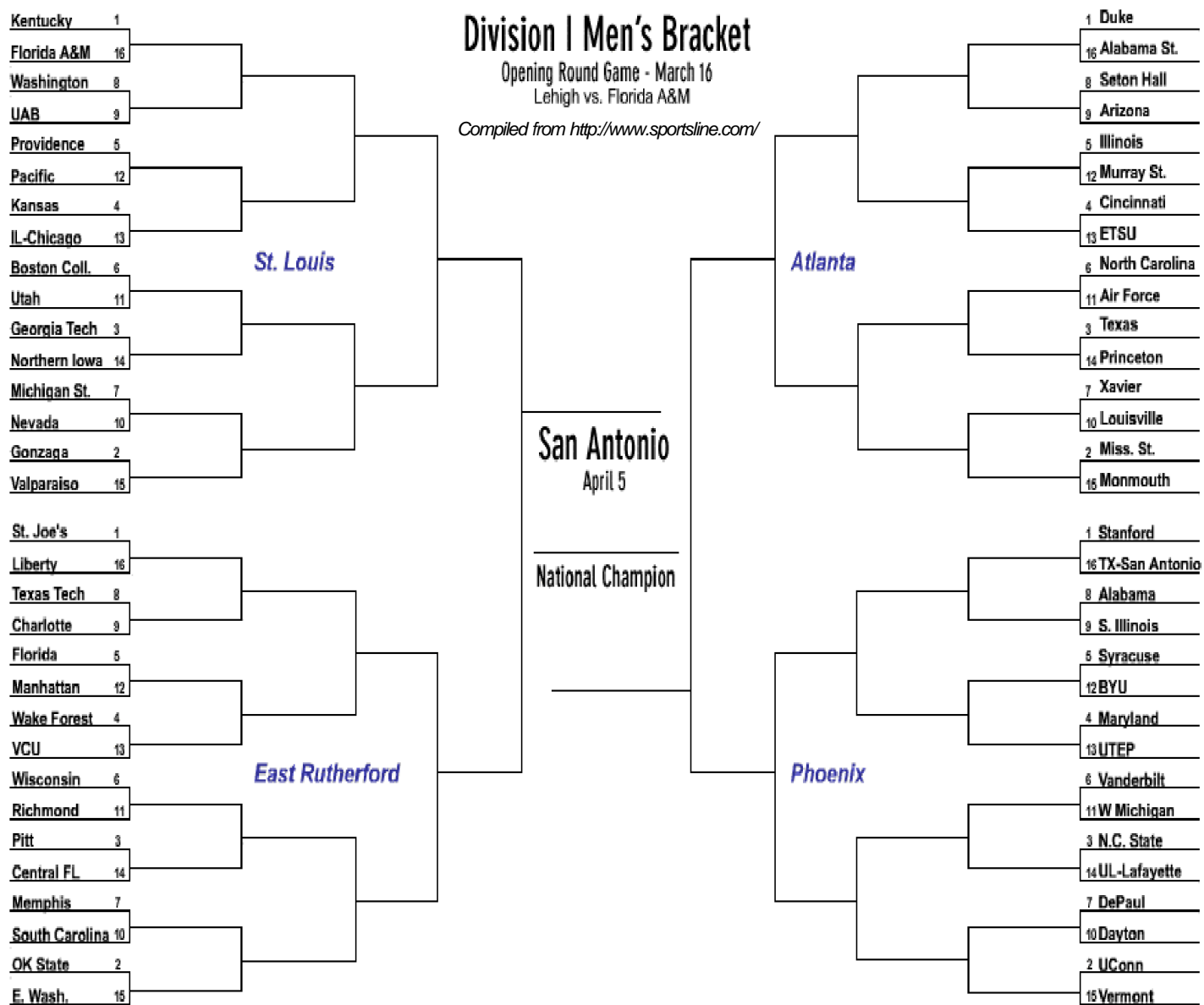
COL Vaughn Caudill (right), J-8 Comptroller, meets with Tops in Blue performers after the concert. Caudill was instrumental in arranging their visit.

SPC Cindy Singer, J-8 finance staff member from the 384th MP Bn. stands as the winner of the AT&T 1000 minutes calling card contest at the concert



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT BRACKETS



64 teams go in; 1 comes out March Madness winner

By SPC Rick Fahr

FAHR GAME

There are few spectacles that can rival the first few days of the NCAA men's basketball tournament each spring.

This year's tournament promises a ton of excitement in its first rounds.

At this point, there are just many questions.

■ Who's going to win the whole thing?

Stanford's gaudy 29-1 record

shows them to be a tough customer. The only other team with just a single loss, St. Joseph's, doesn't come with the same strength-of-schedule pedigree. The Cardinal's road to San Antonio might not be severely tested until it potentially locks up with Connecticut.

■ Which region has the

strongest lineup?

Consider that the Southeast has Duke as its top seed, followed by Mississippi State, Texas and Cincinnati. Arizona, a perennial power, is a No. 9 seed in the bracket. Geesh.

■ Which teams that aren't No. 1 or 2 seeds have a chance to go far in the tournament?

Look to the East, where St. Joseph's and Oklahoma State could fall early, opening the door for a team like Pittsburgh

or Wake Forest to make a run to the Final Four. In the Midwest, Michigan State has a chance to upset Gonzaga's cart, paving the way for the Spartans or the Ramblin' Wreck from Georgia Tech to meet Kentucky in the regional final.

■ Biggest upset?

St. Joseph's might go down in the first round. If Liberty doesn't get the job done, Texas Tech could do so in the second round.

177th MP Bde. represents 'Motor City' at JTF GTMO

By USAF Staff Sgt. Joshua Gorman

More than eight months ago Michigan National Guardsmen assigned to the 177th Military Police Brigade arrived at Joint Task Force Guantanamo here in Cuba.

The 177th MP Bde. Headquarters is located in Taylor, Mich., with the unit's soldiers sub-divided into three battalions - the 210th MP Battalion, 1st Battalion 182nd Field Artillery, and the 156th Signal Battalion, which are spread across the state.

"We've become a part of the joint task force, and we're filling many staff positions," said BG Mitchell LeClaire, deputy commander of operations for JTF Guantanamo, adding this is the first truly joint assignment that the unit has been a part of before.

Examples of positions the soldiers are filling are food service workers at Camp Delta, and staff positions, including the inspector general's office.

"We've assigned people to positions pretty close to their home unit jobs, and placed them where they will be most effective," he said.

One of these individuals is SFC Danny



Johns, who's assigned to the IG office. He deals with an array of problems ranging from emotions, moving and square footage requirement complaints.

"I wish people would put things in perspective here and remember that no one is shooting at us here," said SFC Johns, adding that he has a son leaving for Iraq soon.

In Michigan, SFC Johns was assigned to the 156th Signal Bn, and dealt with secure telephone and radio communication as part of the 177th MP Bde. during his 27-year career with the Army.

Another trooper assigned to the 177th MP Bde. at JTF Guantanamo is SPC Kurt Witucki, who was also part of the 156th in Michigan. Witucki delivers meals to be provided to detainees.

"It's an honor to work with the other branches here," he said. "If they've learned as much from me as I've learned from them, then this was a good experience. We work hard, and we play hard."

The 177th MP Bde. has a history dating back to its initial creation and official recognition in the Michigan Army National Guard on July 14, 1921, as the Headquarters Detachment, 1st Separate Squadron, Cavalry.

Following the formation, the 177th reorganized and re-designated more than five times over 60 years, until it finally became known as the 177th MP Bde. on Nov. 7, 1985, and was relocated to Taylor in 1991.

The unit's insignia was originally approved for the 177th Military Police Group in 1977, but was re-designated and had its description updated in 1986, for the military police brigade.

The insignia consists of a green background with two gold snow-capped mountain peaks with blue and white waves at the base.

Over this is a vertical double-warded gold key bearing a black gear wheel charged with a white five-pointed star, all



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Gorman

SFC Danny Johns, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, researches information as part of his duties in the Inspector General's office here. Sgt. 1st Class Johns is deployed here as part of the 177th MP Bde.

enclosed by a continuous four-folded gold scroll inscribed at side, top and side "PROTECT DEFEND PRESERVE" all in green letters.

The shoulder sleeve insignia was approved June 29, 1988, and consists of a twelve spoke green gear wheel bearing two yellow keys in bend addorsed, the sinister inverted, and interlaced with two yellow keys in bend sinister addorsed with the sinister inverted.

Green and yellow are the colors associated with military police.

The gear wheel suggests the heraldic term "embattled" representing a fortress and reflects the unit's involvement in defense.

The keys allude to the organization's mission of protection and law enforcement. The gear wheel also represents Detroit, the "Motor City," the present location of the unit.

The 177th MP Bde. will leave this summer and will leave behind its one-year presence to return to family members, friends, and employers awaiting their arrival.

This has been a great assignment and a tremendous learning experience, said BG LeClair. Everyone is proud to serve the nation, and do his or her part in the Global War on Terror.

"We're part of history," he said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Gorman

SPC Kurt Witucki loads food and beverages onto a truck to be provided to detainees here. Spc. Witucki is deployed here as part of the 177th Military Police Brigade.

15 Minutes of Fame...

With SGT Amy L. Ruggero, 177th MP Co.

By SPC Katherine L. Collins

SGT Amy L. Ruggero has maximized her military experience by using it to learn more about her career interests, earn money for college, develop herself socially and physically and, to her great pleasure and surprise, meet her future husband. In return, she serves her part in protecting freedom from behind the scenes, where her mission is to serve JTF troopers through conducting various administrative tasks. She is honored to serve her part in America's mission and proud of herself for all she has become through her Army service.

Q: What inspired you to join the military?

A: After my recruiter talked to me for about three hours concerning all the Army had to offer, I couldn't believe that everyone doesn't join! I mainly did it for the job experience though. I used to want to be an accountant, and I was able to become one for four years on active duty.

Q: How many years and in what branches and components have you served?

A: I was on active duty at Fort Hood, Texas, for four years. Then, in July 2001, I re-enlisted into the Michigan Army National Guard for four more years, with the 177th MP Bde.

Q: Where have you deployed?

A: While at Fort Hood, I was deployed to Bosnia for six months.

Q: Why did you switch to the National Guard?

A: I left active duty and joined the National Guard because I wanted to start my degree in dietetics, eventually becoming a dietitian for the military as an officer. I changed my mind about studying accounting after working in that MOS.

Q: What do you recall as your best military experience?

A: Definitely the best thing that has happened to me since joining the military is meeting my fiancé, Adam. I met him here last August, and we just got engaged Feb.



Photo by SPC Katherine L. Collins

SGT Amy Ruggero, of the 177th Military Police Brigade, serves in J-1's Joint Personnel Service Center, employing her Active Guard Reserve administrative skills toward JTF's mission success.

20. He has made this deployment wonderful for me and so much easier to be away from home. Coming here and meeting him was the best thing that has ever happened to me. I am the luckiest girl in the world!

Q: How has your military service impacted and molded you as a soldier and person?

A: The military has made me more outgoing and less shy than before. I am still a quiet person but not like I used to be.

Q: In what ways has your family supported you in your military service?

A: My family is always telling me how proud they are of me, and it helps that they e-mail me all the time to let me know what's going on back home. I also call home a few times a week.

Q: What is your mission with the JTF and your employment back home?

A: Here, I work in the J-1's [Joint Personnel Service Center]. I mainly process paperwork involving awards and promotion boards. Back home I work Active Guard Reserve as the brigade S-1 administrative sergeant. There, I [compile] the brigade strength report, [process] brigade

orders and review evaluations and discharge packets.

Q: What has been your greatest challenge here in Guantanamo?

A: The greatest challenge in Cuba has been learning my job. I am still learning new things every day.

Q: What personal strengths do you find benefit you most in this mission?

A: I think personal strengths that benefit me most are having a lot of patience and being nice to everyone I meet here.

Q: What do you do to relax when you deploy?

A: I run a lot, but after meeting Adam I have cut down so we can spend a lot of time together. I love that most.

Q: What goals have you set for yourself while here?

A: To bring up my physical fitness test score to 300 plus. I always get 100 points on the run, but I need to work on my push-ups. I've raised my score a little bit, but I still need more upper body strength. I'll get there.

Q: What has been most rewarding about this mission?

A: The most rewarding thing about this mission is to know that I'm helping keep our country safe. Also, I've met a lot of great people and made many new friends.

Q: Looking back on your overall military experience, what makes you most proud to serve?

A: I think I am most proud to have served in the military because I am the only one in my family that has been in the Army and my parents are always telling me how proud they are of me.

Q: What are your plans for when you return home?

A: When I get back home, I'm going to be "soooo" busy planning for the wedding and then moving to New York with Adam. After that, I will concentrate on finishing my college degree, having completed my military service commitment. Then, maybe we'll start a family.

The GTMO Guide: Answers to Your Questions

Who can help me? What's for lunch? What movie's playing? Where can I find that? How does this work?

IG action requires preliminary steps

Having successful interaction with personnel in the inspector general's office involves several important steps.

Give your chain of command a chance to solve the problem. The chain of command can solve most problems. A soldier's chaplain, congressman, or local inspector general can help on occasions, but they must ultimately work with the chain of command.

If you haven't informed the chain of command about your issue and given them a chance to work it, in most cases, the inspector general will simply refer you back to your chain of command.

Be honest. A great deal of time and effort can be wasted when a soldier only presents half of the story. Very often, soldiers only present the information that they feel is in their favor. Save everyone's time and provide all of the facts, even the ones that you don't like, or don't agree with.

Understand that the inspector general advises, not takes action. Some soldiers get upset when nothing seems to happen as a result of their complaint. Keep in mind that the IG can advise a commander but cannot order action.

You may visit the IG office in Room 204 of the Commissions Building Monday through Saturday. The phone number is 5399.

The Camp America office is in Building 7200 and is staffed Monday, Wednesday, Friday afternoons and Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings. The Camp America Office phone is 3501. Assistance is available anytime by appointment.



Camp Bulkeley

Fri., March 19

8 p.m. *Highlander*

R - 111 min

10 p.m. *Highlander: End Game*

R - 85 min

Sat., March 20

8 p.m. *Goldfinger*

PG - 112 min

10 p.m. *Live and Let Die*

PG - 121 min

Sun., March 21

8 p.m. *For Your Eyes Only*

PG - 128 min

Mon., March 22

8 p.m. *Die Another Day*

R - 129 min

Tues., March 23

8 p.m. *Thunderball*

PG13 - 130 min

Wed., March 24

8 p.m. *Never Say Never Again*

R - 134 min

Thurs., March 25

8 p.m. *Golden Eye*

PG13 - 130 min

Downtown Lyceum

Fri., March 19

7 p.m. *Win a Date with*

Tad Hamilton

PG13 - 96 min

9 p.m. *Welcome to Mooseport*

PG13 - 115 min

Sat., March 20

7 p.m. *My Baby's Daddy*

PG13 - 87 min

9 p.m. *Big Fish*

PG13 - 126 min

Sun., March 21

7 p.m. *Cold Mountain*

R - 154 min

Mon., March 22

7 p.m. *Win a Date with*

Tad Hamilton

PG13 - 96 min

Tues., March 23

7 p.m. *My Baby's Daddy*

PG13 - 87 min

Wed., March 24

7 p.m. *Big Fish*

PG13 - 126 min

Thurs., March 25

7 p.m. *Cold Mountain*

R - 154 min

Farewell reception for MG Geoffrey Miller

The Guantanamo Bay community is cordially invited to attend a farewell reception for MG Geoffrey Miller.

The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Windjammer Club and will include a Texas barbecue buffet.



RUGBY is back!

Practices are every Tues & Thurs, 1800-1930, Cooper Field. No experience necessary, beginners welcome. Bring your rugby boots and water.

FMI-contact JOC Puello 4520



Federal program guarantees access to absentee voting

An Army program will help troopers stationed at Guantanamo Bay, or anywhere in the world for that matter, participate in election processes back home.

The Voting Assistance Program ensures that troopers have access to absentee ballots, which troopers can apply for at the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site. The application is form 76. The site's address is www.fvap.gov.

In addition to generating an absentee ballot, the application process registers troopers to vote in federal, state and local elections.

Troopers wishing to vote using an absentee ballot should request it in plenty of advance of the election (primary or general). Election officials gener-

Your guide to ...

Voting

ally mail the ballots out 30-45 days ahead of an election.

The ballots are usually due back to election officials by the close of business on the day of an election. However, some states have exceptions. New York mandates that the ballots be postmarked the day before the election. Louisiana's deadline is midnight before the election. North Carolina requires the ballots to be in by 5 p.m. the day before the election.

For more information about the program or voting rights, visit the Voting Assistance Program Web site or contact SFC Zaroff, 3563, Bldg. 6208.

Legal office ready to assist

Troopers in the JTF's legal assistance office offer a variety of legal services and advice, including help preparing income tax forms.

The tax center is located in Bldg. 6208 at Camp America. It is open for business from 9 a.m. until 4:30

p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday; and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. The service will continue through April 19.

For more information on the tax center or other legal issues, call 3561.

Reef Raiders plan party

Members of the Reef Raiders Dive Club are sponsoring a party Saturday at 6 p.m.

The party will be at the club and will feature free food and soft drinks. Hot grills will be available for attendees to cook their own favorites.

For more information, e-mail harrisonmk@jftgmo.southcom.mil.

A Farewell luncheon
honoring Mrs. Pam Miller, will be held in the Bayview Dining Room on Monday at noon.
Those interested in attending should call
Those interested should call Terri McCoy at 3777



Catholic		
<u>Main Chapel</u>		
Wed.	5 p.m.	Holy Hour and Rosary
	6:00-6:25 p.m.	Confessions
	6:30 p.m.	RCIA (Chaplain's office)
Sat.	4:15 p.m.	Confession
	5:30 p.m.	Vigil Mass
Sun.	9 a.m.	Mass
	10:15 a.m.	Spanish Mass (Sanct. B)
M-Fri.	11:30 a.m.	Mass (Cobre Chapel)
Protestant		
<u>Main Chapel</u>		
Mon.	7 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship*
Tue.	7 p.m.	Men's Bible Study*
Wed.	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
Thurs	11 a.m.	Service/Sunday School
	6:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study*
* Fellowship Hall located in Chapel Complex		
<u>Camp America</u>		
Mon.	7 p.m.	Passion Study
Tues	7 p.m.	Alpha
Wed.	7 p.m.	Soul Survivor (Club Survivor)
Sun.	7:30 a.m.	Christian Worship
	9 a.m.	Protestant
New Life Fellowship		
Sun.	1 p.m.	Service (Main Chapel)
Pentecostal Gospel		
Sun.	9 a.m.	Service (Sanc C)
	5 p.m.	Service (Sanc C)
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints		
Sun.	9 a.m.	Sanctuary A
Islamic		
Fri.	1 p.m.	Classroom 12, Chapel Complex
Jewish		
Call 2323 for more information		
Camp America Church Bus schedule:		
Sun.	8:15 a.m.	Tierra Kay
The bus will return following worship.		



Today:	Lunch – fish almandine; Dinner – ribeye and lobster.
Saturday:	Lunch – roast pork loin; Dinner – vegetable lasagna.
Sunday:	Lunch – chicken breast with broccoli and cheese; Dinner – teriyaki beef strips.
Monday:	Lunch – cajun baked fish; Dinner – chicken parmesan.
Tuesday:	Lunch – braised pork chops; Dinner – country fried steak.
Wednesday:	Lunch – roast turkey; Dinner – szechwan chicken.
Thursday:	Lunch – beef sauerbraten; Dinner – meatloaf.
Friday:	Lunch – BBQ beef cubes; Dinner – ribeye and crab legs.

