

THE WIRE

Joint Task Force
Guantanamo's
Finest News Source

A News Magazine

HONOR BOUND TO DEFEND FREEDOM



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with Army Lt. Col. Ron Martin-Minnich

Reunion

By Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ron Martin-Minnich
and Army Sgt. Maj. Bernard Hobbs

JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain
J3 Sgt. Maj.

This is a follow up to CMC LeVault's article in the 8 December 2006 issue of the Wire.

Personnel at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba are arriving and departing every month. Some of us are serving here briefly and others are here for an extended period of time. The longer we are deployed the more we need to pay attention to the eventual reunion with family and friends. This reunion, no matter if you are single or married; have children; are a reservist returning to a civilian employer; or active duty returning to work at your home station, requires some readjustment. The following considerations will help bring about a smoother transition.

Forget your Fantasies - Most of us have been mentally planning what we will do when we return home. We have been creating a mental picture in our minds as to what we will eat, where we will go, how we will spend time with the people we love and the friends whom we have missed.

Our fantasies tend to be unrealistic and set us up for disappointment and frustration. Therefore, the fantasies we have been using to get us through the deployment need to be forgotten and discarded before we go home.

Take it easy and let things happen naturally - Don't rush the process of reunion, trying to do everything you've wanted to do in one day. The more you give yourself time to ease back into your family and home routines the easier it is to adapt to any changes. It helps to remember that returning to life after deployment is more of a process than a single event. The adjustment



Photo by Navy Chief Petty Officer Timm Duckworth

often takes place gradually and is sometimes undetectable. It usually takes several months to feel completely back into the swing of things. If you are patient with yourself, you will adjust according to your own timetable.

Returning to work - You may feel "out of place" for a time. At the same time, you may feel some resentment that co-workers have done fine without you. These feelings are a normal part of the adjustment process. Some may find your regular non-military job less exciting than the work you were doing while deployed.

People and circumstances may have changed. You are coming from a place where everyone understood the military mission, and could share the common experiences of deployment. People around you may not understand what you did or saw. Realize that your return to the workplace may be an adjustment for your co-workers as well as for you.

Seek support - If you are having problems coping, seek support from friends, family, and your supervisor or employer. There is also information in the Redeployment piece under Civilian Deployment at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Headquarters website www.hqusace.army.mil. ■

JTF-GTMO Command

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305th PCH Commander:

Army Col. Lora Tucker: 9927

305th PCH Sergeant Major:

Army Sgt. Maj. Oscar Diaz: 3649

Command Information Officer:

Army 1st Lt. Michael Garcia: 3651

Command Information NCOIC:

Navy Chief Petty Officer Timm

Duckworth: 3596

The Wire

Circulation: 1,000

Editor:

Army Staff Sgt. Vince Oliver: 3593

Assistant Editor:

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class

Trevor Andersen: 3594

Layout Editor:

Army Spc. Jason Kaneshiro: 2171

Photo Editor:

Army Sgt. Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs: 3592

Staff Writers & Design Team:

Army Spc. Dustin Robbins: 3589

Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis: 3589

Army Spc. Phil Regina: 3499

Contact us:

Base Information: 2000

Public Affairs Office: 3651 or 3594

From the continental United States:

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Online:

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Webmaster:

Army Spc. Dustin Robbins: 3589



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Gary Sinise and the **LT. DAN BAND**

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Trevor Andersen

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band rocked Guantanamo Bay's Downtown Lyceum Sunday evening with everything from Hendrix to Beyoncé cover songs. Sinise, the actor who played Lt. Dan in "Forrest Gump," also visited Joint Task Force Troopers earlier that day at Club Survivor to shake hands and sign autographs.

In 2003 he did his first tour for the United Service Organization (USO) greeting the troops, shaking hands and signing autographs. One day he asked the USO if he could bring a band with him, they said yes so he called up his friend and said "we need to rehearse."

Since then, the band has toured military installations throughout the country and in various locations to show their support to the troops.

"We're at war. We have defenders like you; great, great people in the military in all branches of service that are doing it voluntarily. It's the least I can do to go out and pat our defenders on the back and say that I'm grateful and that I appreciate what you all do 'cause I know you don't have to do it," said Sinise.

Before his role in "Forrest Gump," Sinise had been involved with veterans groups and even has Vietnam veterans in his family, he said.

Speaking about the veterans of Vietnam he said, "they came home from what was already a terrible situation to an ungrateful nation.

"Now we have deployed troops all over the world in some serious battles and war zones. We can't afford to let that happen to our Servicemembers again; where they come home from serving their country and feel bad for their service. We're a lucky nation to have Troopers like you."

The band had a show in Florida and wanted to visit Troopers at GTMO before they went back to their real jobs, said Sinise.

One of the band's vocalists, Gina Gonzalez, performed a song she wrote for the Troopers called "A Letter Home." The song was written to praise Troopers for upholding freedom and honor and for the sacrifices they make to protect those at home.

During the concert Sinise thanked the Troopers for their service and told them how honored he was to be with them. ■

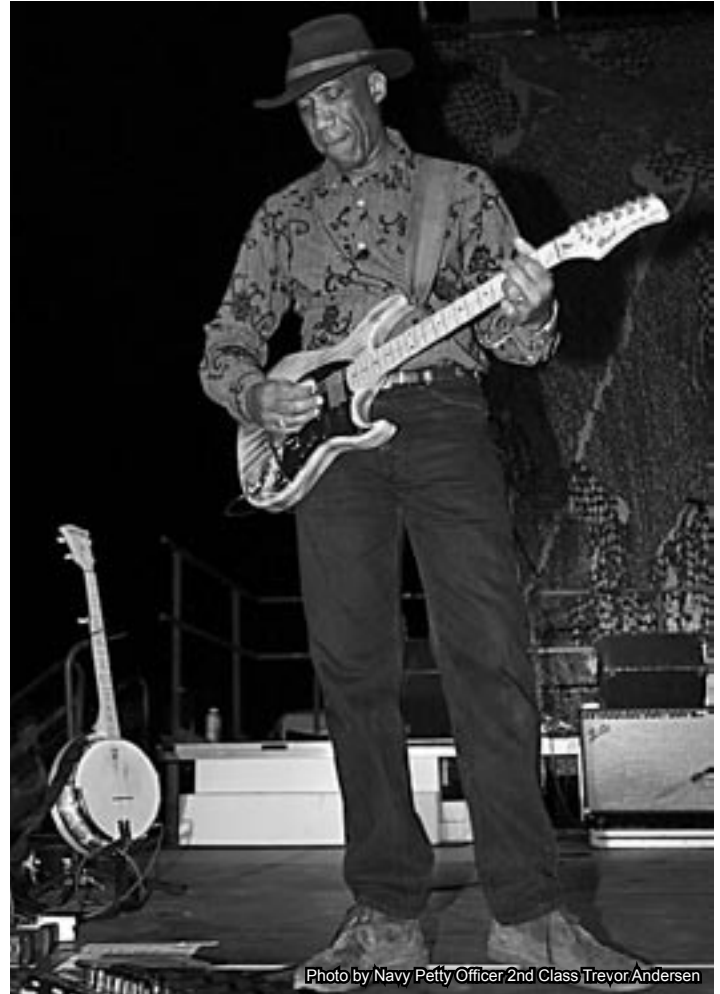


Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Trevor Andersen



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Trevor Andersen

You Drink You Drive You Pay

By Army Spc. Phil Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

It's that time of the year again, flashing Technicolor lights adorn rooftops, wreaths hang from every door and Christmas trees stand proudly in Troopers' living rooms. The holiday season brings with it merriment and joy; however this holiday cheer can entail alcohol excess.

With the holiday season right upon us, it's important to remember the dangers of driving under the influence.

Driving under the influence is defined as the act of operating a motor vehicle after having consumed alcohol or other drugs to the degree that mental and motor skills are impaired.

All U.S. states consider a blood alcohol content of .08% or higher as illegal. Reaching the legal limit doesn't take much. Your blood alcohol content is dependent on your specific body weight, as well as the type of alcohol

you drink. For a 180 pound individual, it takes roughly four 12 oz. beers, or two 5 oz. glasses of wine, or one and a half strong mixed drinks to bring you within the legal limit.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that there were 16,885 alcohol related fatalities in the U.S. last year, representing 39 percent of total traffic deaths.

Today's DUI statutes consist of two separate and distinct criminal offenses. The first offense is based on an individual driving while impaired, or under the influence of alcohol. This is determined by observations by the arresting officer. The second offense is dependent on the BAC of the individual, rather than officer observations.

DUI consequences vary from state

to state. Some of these consequences include; administrative license suspension, court penalties, license suspension, license reinstatement expenses, increased insurance costs and public disclosure.

The consequences of driving under the influence in Guantanamo are six points on your license and a one year license revocation. Also, if your BAC is .05 percent and above, you will be deemed to be driving while impaired and penalized six points on your license, as well as a six month license revocation.



With the holiday season right upon us the temptation to drink and be merry is immense, but remember the consequences of driving under the influence are just too detrimental. Remember to stay safe and drink responsibly. ■

Security bulletin: Personal security investigations

By Frank Perkins

JTF-GTMO Special Security Office

Individuals are given access to classified information or assigned to sensitive duties only if their loyalty, reliability, trustworthiness, and judgment are determined acceptable. The initial determination is based on a personnel security investigation (PSI) appropriate to the access required or to other factors involving the sensitivity of the duties assigned. Information relating to the following issues is considered significant in relation to holding a clearance: Allegiance to the U.S.; Foreign Influence; Foreign Preference; Sexual Behavior; Personal Conduct; Financial Considerations; Alcohol Consumption; Drug Involvement; Emotional, Mental and Personality Disorders; Criminal Conduct; Security Violations; unacceptable Outside Activities; and Misuse of Information Technology Systems.

The Defense Investigative Service or the Office of Personnel Management conducts or controls all PSIs. A PSI is an inquiry by an investigative agency into a person's activities conducted for the purpose of making a personnel security determination. Investigations conducted

for other purposes may affect a person's employment, clearance, or assignment, but are not PSIs. Examples are investigations of compromise, criminal activity, sabotage, espionage, or subversion. Because the Department of Defense uses various levels of information, it must have a system of protecting all types of information that could jeopardize our national security. Some materials could have a more devastating effect on our nation than others. For that reason, PSIs are conducted before granting a security clearance to individuals who handle sensitive information.

There are several types of investigations dependent on the level of security clearance being requested. Investigations can cover a person's last 15 years before application depending on the type of investigation and clearance accesses requested. Agencies and organizations queried may encompass law enforcement agencies, medical providers, former employers, supervisors, friends and relatives, credit bureau checks, organization and neighborhood affiliations and schools.

For more information, contact Mr. Frank Perkins at ext. 9835. Mission first, security always! ■

Communicating with your kids: Enjoying holidays with your children

Article from Military One Source

What children want during a holiday season is much the same thing they want all year long; relaxed time with their parents and to be showered with gifts and attention. But the thing that makes a season “magical” for children (presents and celebrations) can also make it stressful for parents. The results can be unmet expectations and disappointments for the whole family. But there are ways to have a more meaningful and enjoyable holiday with your children. By looking at your child’s needs, your needs and what kind of holiday you want for your family, you will all be better prepared to truly enjoy the holidays. Try to stick to routines:

With all the excitement surrounding holidays, many children become overtired and wound up, skipping naps and meals and not getting to bed on time. Your child will do best if you keep to regular routines, especially sleeping and eating routines. Manage your child’s expectations about gifts:

Letting your child know in advance what he can expect in general terms will help prevent a meltdown on the actual holiday. Remember that television plays a big role in shaping children’s expectations about gifts. Encourage generosity and the gift of giving:

Add a “giving” tradition to your family’s holiday ritual. Ideas include donating clothes, helping out a senior citizens’ center, or contributing a gift for a child through a toy drive. Settle on traditions that feel right for your family:

Children take tremendous comfort and security from being able to count

Network News

Your DoD E-Mail Address: For Official Use Only

By Air Force 1st Lt. Jim Northamer

JTF-GTMO Information Assurance Officer

One of the fundamental rules governing Department of Defense networks is that they are to be used for official government business only. While most people clearly understand and abide by this rule, many often overlook the applicability of this rule to their e-mail accounts. Government e-mail accounts can only be used for official government business. There are countless examples of how people can use their official e-mails for unofficial purposes, but from an Information Assurance perspective, one of the biggest concerns is when individuals register their official e-mail address on a non-official website or mailing list, especially a commercial one.

Registering your official .mil e-mail address with a commercial website creates many vulnerabilities to Joint Task Force-Guantanamo Bay networks. These commercial websites often use their e-mail lists to send out correspondence and commercial solicitations. Seemingly innocent e-mail from one of these websites could contain a *virus*, a *Trojan*

Horse or other *malware* that could be installed on the DoD computer from which the e-mail is opened. The e-mail could also contain embedded links to websites that contain malware. This obviously threatens the security of our DoD networks. Additionally, once a valid DoD e-mail address is registered with a non-DoD entity, controlling what is sent to that address is impossible.

You can help protect our networks by ensuring you use your network account and DoD e-mail address for official government business only. While it may be tempting to register your DoD e-mail address with a commercial website, it is illegal to do so, due to the risk this poses to DoD networks. If you want to register an e-mail address with a non-official website or mailing list, the best thing to do is to use a personal one.

If you have any questions or concerns about a computer security issue, please feel free to contact the JTF-GTMO IA Office at j6-ia@jftgtmo.southcom.mil or ext. 3333. ■

on the same rituals and traditions every year. Keep in mind that something new you do this year to commemorate the holidays could become next year’s cherished family tradition.

Mark the end of the holiday with a closing ritual:

All the buildup and excitement before a holiday can lead to feelings of letdown afterward. You can help your child get back to a normal routine by marking the end of a holiday period with a closing ritual. ■

THE WIRE

As you’ve noticed, we’ve changed the design of *The Wire*. Questions or comments? Call Army Staff Sgt. Vince Oliver at ext. 3593. ■

76ers have opportunity to put draft to use

By Caryl Kauffman-McCaffery

delcotimes.com

PHILADELPHIA -- It was time, probably more than time, that Allen Iverson moved on. While Iverson can still play, and still can put up 30 points a night, it was time for the 76ers to salvage what they could for the 31-year-old guard and look to the future.

Iverson, although still exciting to watch, was never again going to lead this team to the promised land of the NBA Finals. In all probability, he wouldn't be enough to get them into the playoffs for the second straight year.

The problem wasn't so much Iverson as the players around him. Some will say they're just not good enough, but that's a debate for a later time. What they aren't are the kinds of players you put around Iverson to create a winner.

Those players were guys named George Lynch and Tyrone Hill. To expect Andre Iguodala to become a one-dimensional player, content to concentrate on defense, or for Kyle Korver to be satisfied with a few shots a game when Iverson had decided to take 30 for himself that night was just wrong.

The cracks began to show last year with different players grumbling at different times about Iverson, albeit in a veiled way.

It's not that players didn't like Iverson as a person. But playing with him was a

different matter.

So, it's time to look forward, and King has given the franchise its best shot to do that. Next year, the Sixers will lose Joe Smith's \$6.8 million from the salary cap. Although Andre Miller is under contract through 2009, he'll make about half what Iverson will make in the next two years. That gives the Sixers a little bit of flexibility with the cap.

But the biggest and best aspect of the entire trade was the two 2007 draft picks they acquired from Denver, picks that give the Sixers three first-rounders in a year when the draft is supposed to be very deep.

"I think we've got a good idea where they are, but now we're going to go in a different direction," King said. "This team was built around Allen and he helped carry us for a long time. Now we need to step back and evaluate with different players, different personnel and with the draft picks and the cap room it will give us a chance to really build again."

Perhaps this time they can build the right way, going for a dominating big man over a quick, elusive scorer.

That presence could very well be there if Ohio State freshman Greg Oden decides to come out. Already Oden is being called his era's Bill Russell by Sports Illustrated, and one of the Sixers' talent evaluators also made that comparison.

Of course the Sixers not only have to get in the lottery to get him, they'll have

to win the lottery, and there is no guarantee of that. But three first-round picks is a start, even if two of them will be later in the draft.

Since the departure of Larry Brown, the Sixers have drafted fairly well. While Iguodala isn't a superstar, there aren't players taken after him who are glaringly better than him. Not the way Paul Pierce or Dirk Nowitzki are to Larry Hughes.


Rodney Carney, too, was a solid pick, particularly at 16. And the one player the Sixers arguably should have passed on, Louis Williams, is just 20 and members of the organization swear to this day that the young guard will be a real player one day.

So it's not a disaster that King will be doing the drafting. And if he gets lucky enough, his first call will be a no-brainer.

In the coming months King and his people will be spending more time than ever at college basketball games, looking for the players who will become the building blocks of this franchise.

And just because the Sixers have three picks, it doesn't mean they'll be saddled with three rookies next year. One or more of those picks could be packaged into a draft-night trade for more immediate help.

Yes, the trade for Iverson didn't make them instant contenders. Nothing could have done that. But if those two picks are used wisely, it could become the basis for a solid future, one with a more secure base than Iverson ever provided. ■

	Army Col. Dennis Plemmons Army Command Sgt. Maj. Joint Detention Group	Army Maj. Pearson Vanwyngarden Army Command Sgt. Maj. Joint Detention Group	Navy Cmdr. Winter Chief Conley Navy Command Master Joint Detention Group	Army Col. Tucker Diaz Army Sgt. Maj. Joint Task Force Public Affairs	Army Capt. Hughes Fitzgerald Army 1st Sgt. Headquarters, Headquarters Company
Last Week	10-3	4-9	8-5	5-8	7-6
Season	112-83	114-81	115-80	117-78	117-78
Minnesota at Green Bay	Minnesota	Minnesota	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay
Kansas City at Oakland	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City
Baltimore at Pittsburgh	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore
Carolina at Atlanta	Carolina	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta
Chicago at Detroit	Chicago	Chicago	Chicago	Chicago	Chicago
New England at Jacksonville	New England	Jacksonville	New England	New England	Jacksonville
New Orleans at N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Giants	New Orleans	New Orleans	N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Giants
Tampa Bay at Cleveland	Tampa Bay	Cleveland	Cleveland	Cleveland	Cleveland
Tennessee at Buffalo	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Buffalo	Buffalo
Cincinnati at Denver	Denver	Cincinnati	Denver	Denver	Denver
San Diego at Seattle	San Diego	Seattle	San Diego	San Diego	San Diego
Philadelphia at Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas
N.Y. Jets at Miami	Miami	N.Y. Jets	Miami	Miami	Miami

Fire Department scorched by NEX

By Oswald Troy Brooks

Guest Contributor

There was a carnival-like atmosphere at Coopers Field Friday night as Morale, Welfare and Recreation Captain's Cup men's soccer teams NEX and Fire Department faced off for the final game of the season.

The two talented teams split their first two meetings with one win each, but this time around the Captain's Cup Men's Soccer Tournament trophy was at stake.

Fire Department went into the game still smarting from their loss of the Captain's Cup regular season trophy, and were bent on stopping NEX from holding both championships.

NEX dominated the game early and the soccer fans in attendance didn't have to wait long for the game's first goal.

Striker Craig Campbell collected a pass from mid-fielder Merton Gray inside the penalty area and scored a beauty of a goal.

On the next possession, NEX forward Marlon Pendergrast, drove the ball towards Fire Department's goal, and expertly scored the game's second goal, making the score 2-0.

With the first half almost ended, NEX fired another shot through Fire Department's goal but it was ruled off sides.

The half ended with NEX fans chanting, "No more fire. No more fire."

NEX kept the pressure on in the second half, forcing Fire Department's midfielders and defensive backs to contain NEX's hungry offense.

NEX defender Brioney Mothersill was at his best. His

game had been lackluster all season but he was like a man on a mission Friday night.

He was calm and accurate with his passes and not even the more experienced players from the Fire Department could contain him.

NEX's third goal came from a gem of a play by team captain and midfielder Merton Gray. With defenders closing in on him, Gray sent a through pass to striker Craig Campbell, bringing the score to 3-0.

It was all South American style soccer after the third goal by the NEX much to the dismay of Fire Department fans. At the end of regulation, the score stood at 3-0, NEX.

"We weren't hungry for it and some of our players got injured during the game," stated Fire Department fan Glenroy Holmes. ■

GTMO United takes 2006 Women's Captain's Cup



Photo courtesy of Morale, Welfare and Recreation

GTMO United, the winners of the 2006 Women's Captain's Cup Soccer Tournament are: (front row, from left to right) Shaniece Steer, Keshia Steer, Avery Keane, Patty, Stacie Leonard, Pauline Thompson, "Mad Mary", and Tatiana Clarke. Back row from left to right: Christina Douglas, Michelle Martin, Carmen Wilson, Craig Campbell, Tanisha Wilson, O'Neil Steer, Manley Mclean, Christy Lambert, and Sediqua Mctier. Also on the team but not pictured, are: Aishia Hall, Andrea Navar, and Katie Flohr.



WINTER WO

PHOTOS BY ARMY SGT. J





WONDERLAND

JONSON TULEWA-GIBBS



New licks same tricks

By Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The dull, low rumble of the crowd surrounds you, cigarette smoke and the distant whistles from invisible lips fill the air. An enormous stage stands empty, except for silhouetted instruments.

Suddenly and without warning, the beat of a bass drum and the crash of a cymbal pierce the air while the vibration of a bass guitar reverberates through the venue. The stage lights remain turned down, but you can just barely make out the white knee of ACDC's Angus Young bobbing up and down to the beat. As he breaks off into a mesmerizing guitar lead, it hits you like ton of bricks and you say to yourself, "I want to learn to play rock-and-roll."

However, if everyone that said that to themselves learned to jam like Jimi Hendrix or Eddie Van Halen, then playing the guitar wouldn't be so unique. But that's no reason not to chase your dream. However before you get too carried away there are a couple of things you should consider before cranking up the electric guitar and driving your neighbors crazy.

First and foremost, and likely the most commonly asked question for beginners is, "what type of guitar should I buy?" This is a great question, but most experts would caution you not to dwell on it for too long. While the purchase of your first guitar is an important event, buying a Fender Stratocaster won't make you sound any better than the guy who bought a Carlo Robelli ... at least not initially.

Secondly, and arguably just as important, is to figure out what type of music you want to learn to play. If you listen to a lot of Jack Johnson or Ben Harper, then an acoustic guitar would probably suit your needs best. However, if bands like *Def Leppard*, *Whitesnake* or *Aerosmith* get you going, then you will definitely need an electric guitar. There are pros and cons to both and it's for that reason most guitarist own at least one of each.

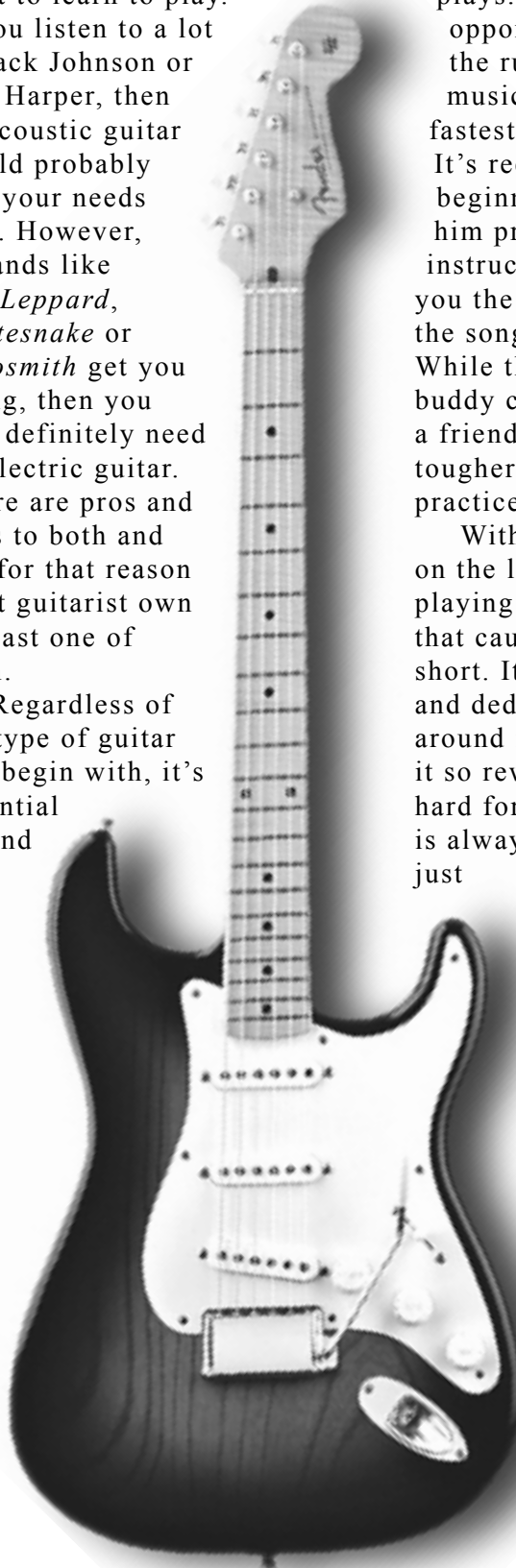
Regardless of the type of guitar you begin with, it's essential to find

someone who can teach you to play. A lot of beginners get their first lessons from a friend who plays. While this is a great opportunity to learn some of the rudimentary principles of music, it typically isn't the fastest method of discovery. It's recommended that a beginner find someone to give him professional lessons. An instructor will be able to teach you the musical theory behind the songs you really enjoy. While there is no reason your buddy couldn't do the same, a friend will typically have a tougher time pushing you to practice and stick with it.

With that, it's time to touch on the less glamorous side of playing the guitar, the part that causes most people to stop short. It takes a lot of practice and dedication. There's no way around it. But that's what makes it so rewarding. When you work hard for something, the outcome is always sweeter than when it's just given to you on a silver platter.

"Playing the guitar is my release man, it's my way to unwind from a stressful day," said Eric Clapton in a 1998 MTV interview.

Whether you're playing music or just listening to it, music in itself is healing. It's an insightful expression of humanity, something we are all touched by and something we can all connect to. ■



Military housing rates boosted 3.5 percent overall

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 2006 – Servicemembers will receive an average 3.5 percent boost in their basic allowance for housing compensation benefit in 2007, Defense Department officials said.

The planned BAH increase starting Jan. 1 works out to about \$300 million more than what was paid in 2006, officials said.

“The continued improvement in housing allowances represents our commitment to the preservation of a compensation and benefit structure which will provide members with a suitable and secure standard of living that will sustain a trained,

experienced and ready force in the future,” Cynthia Smith, a DoD spokeswoman, said today.

Officials said military housing allowances are computed according to three key criteria: median current market rent; average utilities, to include electricity, heat and water/sewer costs; and average renter’s insurance.

BAH rates also are based on dwelling type and number of bedrooms in a given area and then calculated for each pay grade, both with and without family members.

For servicemembers with family members, average increases in the BAH are approximately \$44 per month. For example, a typical specialist/corporal (E-4) will receive

about \$34 more in BAH than in 2006, while a master sergeant/first sergeant (E-8) will receive about \$42 more than this year.

The BAH rate system has built-in protections to ensure that an individual servicemember in a given location won’t see his or her BAH rate decrease. This provision assures that members who have made long-term lease or contract commitments are not penalized if the area’s housing costs decrease.

Some areas’ housing costs have remained relatively stable, while others continue to rise. Most of the costliest housing in the United States with the highest BAH rates are clustered on or near the East and West coasts, and the state of Hawaii. ■

Special message from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Joe R. Campa

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Diana and I would like to wish all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As you celebrate this joyous time please keep in mind that we need every one of you if we are to continue to succeed in the Global War on Terror. Stay safe. Drive safely. Take every precaution on duty and off. Take care of each other and your loved ones.

I’ve met so many of you in my brief time in office. And each one of you has left a lasting impression on me. I’ve spoken with you in Iraq, Afghanistan, Norfolk, Great Lakes, San Diego, aboard ships at sea and stations ashore. You are members of the greatest Navy ever assembled, and you perform at a level we could have never foreseen just a decade ago.

You are the first line of homeland defense and you are the greatest deterrent to terrorism on the planet. You’re stopping piracy and drug trafficking in the Caribbean and assisting nations in need. You are deckplate warriors and humanitarians. You are the world’s finest Sailors and I couldn’t be prouder.

There has never been a fleet as technically proficient, yet so varied in abilities. You are educated and fearless, compassionate and self-sacrificing. Thousands of you will spend this Christmas far from home, in defense of democracy and freedom. To those of you deployed, know that the rest of the Navy and the nation appreciate your dedication on our behalf.

And we appreciate the sacrifices made by the family members at home. Every one of you supporting a Sailor at sea or overseas is a patriot. Your important role in our daily mission cannot be overstated.

Enjoy your holidays, and please stay safe.

For related news, visit the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/mcpon/. ■



Reuniting with children means getting reacquainted

By Army Lt. Col. Ron Martin-Minnich

JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain

If you have children and are returning from deployment, there are some basic behaviors that can be expected.

1) Some children get angry about their parent being gone.

Toddlers and preschoolers may act like their parent is a stranger. They don't understand duty or mission.

2) Elementary school children and teenagers may understand, but show anger or fear by "acting out."

You need to get reacquainted and take things slowly. Children are able to adjust to change better than we are, but you have to give them time. The younger your children are, the harder it is for them to put their feelings into words. This is why they misbehave, show anger, shyness, and fear toward us when we return.

Counselors through Fleet and Family Support Centers, Family Assistance Centers, and Childhood Development Centers can assist us with understanding our children's reactions and suggesting methods to help them overcome the problems of reunion and reintegration.

The most important reaction to avoid is becoming a stern and strict disciplinarian as a reaction to your children misbehaving upon our return. They so desperately want us to love them and want to become reconnected with that love. Discipline can be interpreted as hate and disapproval to a child. This can only amplify their misbehavior.

Again, time and support from our friends, family, chaplains, counselors, medical staff, and child psychologists are all resources we should consider if our reunion with our children is difficult for more than a couple of weeks. ■



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army

WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com

Saturday, Dec. 23

Partly Cloudy. Highs in the upper 80's, and lows in the low 70's.



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:32 a.m.

Sunset: 5:28 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 20%

Sunday, Dec. 24

Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80's, and lows in the low 70's.



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:32 a.m.

Sunset: 5:28 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 20%

Monday, Dec. 25

Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80's, and lows in the low 70's.



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:32 a.m.

Sunset: 5:29 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 20%



MOVIE REVIEW CORNER

with Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Trevor Andersen's review of: *The Grudge 2*

Ju-on (roughly translated as *The Curse* or *The Grudge*) started as a direct-to-video horror flick in Japan, but it gained popularity through word of mouth. After the success of two direct-to-video releases, the director was able to make two more *Ju-on* movies for theatrical release. The popularity of the series lead to two American remakes. *The Grudge 2* is the second of the two.

The movie, like the other movies in the series, is about a haunted house. The premise is common in horror movies from Japan like *The Ring*. The vengeful ghost kills everyone in its path – the end.

There were some genuinely scary scenes, but that doesn't make it a good movie. *The Grudge 2* introduces us to a new cast of characters from three different times (which made it very confusing) laced into one story. Then they all die. When the last one dies ... the movie is over.

Throughout the movie, characters try to escape the ghost of a boy who makes cat noises and his ghost mother who seems to kill people with her hair ... somehow.

If nothing else, I'll say this movie was creepy and didn't resort to gore or violence to create its scares. However, the plot was seriously lacking.

I give this movie two stars for creepiness alone. It's not a mentally engaging movie, but if you're in the mood for something disturbing, this is your movie. ■

- The Grudge 2 -

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Rated: PG13

Duration: 92 minutes

Boots on the Ground:

“What’s your fondest Christmas memory?”



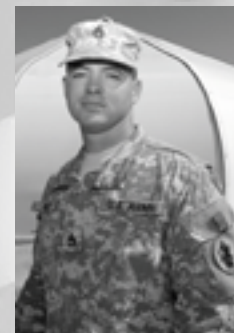
“Family Dinner at my aunt’s house.”

-Army Spc. Ronnie Dishon, 29th Infantry Division



“My best memory is the Christmas when my son was born.”

-Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Rob Looney, NEGB



“My best memory is when we were driving around Indianapolis and looking at all of the lights.”

-Army Staff Sgt. Chad Miller, 525th MP BN

THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

By Navy Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Tim Johns

JTF-GTMO Deputy Command/NEGB Chaplain

I have always been accused of being afraid of the dark, but actually I'm not. I just like lights. When my wife and I were first married, she always joked with me about leaving lights on in the house, even when we were just watching a movie or TV. She likes it to be totally dark when a movie is playing but I don't. I also have a colleague who comes into my office and turns my light off, so he can open the blinds. Both of them pick on me for having the lights on most of the time. I let them know that I am a child of the light and not of darkness like them.

Maybe one of the reasons I like Christmas so much is because of all the lights that people put outside on their houses. I enjoy seeing the many lights around the community. And most people like to ride around and see the lights and displays in our neighbor's yards, especially the ones with the most lights. We enjoy Chevy Chase's character, Clark Griswold of *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, at Christmas time.

West Virginia folklore carries a tale about a couple that called for a doctor late one night when the wife was ready to deliver a baby. The country physician turned the rustic farmhouse into a makeshift delivery room. The husband was handed a lantern and instructed to hold it up so the doctor could see. After a healthy baby boy was born the man lowered the lantern. The doctor shouted for the new father to get the lantern up as he delivered another baby – this time a girl. The father was thrown into shock when the doctor once again insisted that the light be held up. He said, "We can't stop now, it looks like there's another one." The shaky father then asked the doctor, "Do you think it's the light that's attracting them?"

Light can be confusing. A teacher asked his class, "Which was more important to us, the moon or the sun?" One of the students answered, "The moon." "Why?" the teacher asked. "Because the moon gives us light at night when we need it the most. The sun gives us light in the daytime when we don't really need it." He was just a little confused.

Old or young, light can be confusing, but I'm not talking about the sun or the moon; I'm talking about spiritual light. Unfortunately, sometimes we are

more afraid of the light than attracted to it. That first Christmas when the light was so bright, the shepherds were afraid. Why are we afraid? Because light exposes who we really are. Do you ever wonder why people say, "Candlelight is so romantic?" Candlelight is romantic because you can't completely see the other person. In candlelight my flaws are not as obvious. The reason I wear a moustache is to cover a mole under my nose. Our tendency is to hide when we're afraid.

A lady who was late with her rent saw her landlord coming to her door. Thinking he was about to evict her, she turned off all the lights and hid in the darkness until he quit knocking and went away. Later in the week, he passed her on the street in broad daylight. Unable to hide from him again, he stopped her. He told her that he came by to visit and let her know that a friend of hers had paid her rent. The light of day was not a light of punishment, but one of pardon.

When God knocks on your door it is not to evict you but to welcome you into His eternal light. Don't hide in the darkness this Christmas. Celebrate the light, the eternal light. In the Christmas story, Jesus entered our dark world, was born in a manger and voluntarily entered the dark room of death. But when He left, He left the light on for us. Step into the light of God's Love and have a great Christmas. ■

CAMP AMERICA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Troopers' Chapel
	5:45 p.m.	Confessions	Troopers' Chapel
	6:30 p.m.	Catholic Mass	Troopers' Chapel
	7:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Troopers' Chapel
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Soul Survivor	Camp America North Pavilion

NAVAL BASE CHAPEL

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	9:00 a.m.	Catholic Mass	Main Chapel
	9:00 a.m.	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Sanctuary A
	9:30 a.m.	Protestant Sun. School	Main Chapel
	10:00 a.m.	Protestant Liturgical	Sanctuary B
	11:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel
Monday	1:00 p.m.	Gospel Service	Main Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13
	7:00 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
Mon. to Fri.	7:00 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
	6:00 p.m.	Daily Mass	Main Chapel
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
Friday	12:30 p.m.	Islamic Prayer	Sanctuary C
Saturday	4:15 p.m.	Confessions	Main Chapel
	5:00 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.

15:00 Minutes of Fame

ARMY CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) RON MARTIN-MINNICH

By Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

In life, there is no straight path from start to finish, no perfect answers to the tough questions we have. In fact, often times we must rely solely on our experiences and lessons learned to help shape and mold us throughout an ever-changing road of existence. Many folks cast their questions, grief and concerns into the hands of a higher power but can find themselves remaining miffed and bewildered by something happening in their life. In the military, just as in the civilian spectrum, we have access to men of the cloth; men who can help bridge the gap between our mortal lives and the divine; men who can offer spiritual help and guidance to our issues, or, as is often the case, just be an ear that listens.

From playing a rabbi in the stage play *Fiddler On The Roof* to working as a personal trainer and aerobics instructor; there is no question why Army Lt. Col. Ron E. Martin-Minnich is this weeks 15 Minutes of Fame.

Born in 1952 to a preacher, it might have seemed Martin-Minnich was destined to have a career in the service of his Lord. However, that would hardly be the only act of servitude for this caring individual.

"I was in college towards the tail end of Vietnam, but I knew I wanted to work in the Military," said Martin-Minnich. However, he was uncertain of what job he wanted to take. His "flash of light" came when a friend invited him to a drill weekend.

"A buddy of mine was a chaplain in the guard and so I went and shadowed him for a couple of days ... I was immediately interested,"



Photo by Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

In service to Lord and land, Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ron Martin-Minnich administers to the spiritual needs to JTF Troopers.

said Martin-Minnich.

To Martin-Minnich, the opportunity to work as a chaplain was perfect. It provided him a chance to serve the Lord and at the same time serve his country. However, little did he know his service to God and country would place him face to face with some of the most tragic disasters this country would see.

"I went to the Pentagon five days after 9/11," said Martin-Minnich. It was there that he participated in family assistance and was sometimes required to bring the devastating news of a lost loved one home to the victim's family members.

Understandably, that was one of the toughest things Martin-Minnich has ever had to do. Flushed with emotion, he explained the experience; "I had to sort of turn off my emotions and feelings; I mean I

had to be able to feel but not to the point that I lost control and wound up in a puddle of tears."

With that, it makes perfect sense that Martin-Minnich feels the most important characteristic a chaplain must have is being self-sacrificing.

"It's not about you and your interests; it's about the Troopers and their families, as chaplains we support them," said Martin-Minnich.

Through the support of free exercise of religion, Martin-Minnich upholds the constitution and is doing his best to ensure that everyone in the military always has a chaplain to speak with regardless of religious preference. ■

15 Minutes of Fame

Know a Trooper worthy of being highlighted in "15 Minutes of Fame?" Call Army Staff Sgt. Vince Oliver at ext. 3593.

AROUND THE JTF



Photo by Army Spc. Dustin Robbins

A detailed food sculpture graces the interior of the Seaside Galley in the spirit of the holiday season.



Photo by Army Spc. Phil Regina

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Richard Zych is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal by NEGB Commander Navy Cmdr. Kris Winter in an award ceremony at Camp Delta.



Photo by Army Spc. Phil Regina

Newly frocked Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Kent Landis of the Joint Task Force-GTMO post office receives a congratulatory handshake from Army Lt. Col. Theodore Fox following his frocking ceremony Tuesday.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Trevor Andersen

In a showing of the creative urges that rest within the Troopers of the Joint Task Force, residents of Camp America decorated the exterior of their living quarters with lights and sculptures made from materials readily available.