

Volume 8, Issue 27

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Friday, August 31, 2007

# THE WIRE

A News Magazine

Joint Task Force  
Guantanamo's  
Finest News Source

**GTMO WILDLIFE**

Womens Equality

JTF Web Site

Tattoo Guidance



# Military Customs and Courtesies

**By Army Sgt. Maj. Angel Alvarado**

JTF-GTMO Joint Detention Group

America's armed services have a long and rich history. Many customs and traditions have been established during this long history and they can be broken down into a variety of customs and courtesies we as service members follow routinely.

Customs are regular, expected actions. They have been repeated again and again over the years and passed from one generation to the next. Courteous actions show your concern and respect for others and your country as a whole.

A custom is a way of acting—a way that has continued consistently over such a long period that it has become like law. These customs and traditions are a part of our military service and our American culture and subsequently, our conduct. Laws and customs are most effective when a person firmly believes in the standards in which they strive to demonstrate on a daily basis both on the job and off. Proficiency in this manner of behavior consists of two things: knowledge of these standards and having the strength of character to live by them. A courtesy is a form of behavior that demonstrates not only an excellence of manners, but respect for others aside from you.

A courtesy is an act or verbal expression of consideration or respect for others. When a person displays courtesy toward another, the courtesy is likely to be returned. We are courteous to our seniors because we are aware of their greater responsibilities and authority. We are courteous to our juniors because we are aware of their important contributions to the mission. If you know and practice military courtesy, you will make a favorable impression and display a self-assurance that will carry you throughout your career. Acts of respect and courtesy are required of all members of the military service; the junior member takes the initiative, and the senior member returns the courtesy.

One required act of military courtesy is the hand salute. The salute is simple and dignified; but, there is great significance in that



gesture. It is a time-honored demonstration of courtesy among all military personnel that expresses mutual respect and pride in the service.

**Whom to Salute:** Enlisted personnel salute all commissioned officers, and these officers salute their seniors.

**When to Salute:** On occasion, you might be uncertain whether the person approaching you in uniform is an officer, thus rating a salute. The safest course of action is to salute immediately and not wait for the individual approaching you to disclose his or her rank. In other words, when in doubt, render a salute.

The courtesy of the salute is not only the required recognition of a senior officer; it's also the expression of mutual respect and pride in service. The courtesy of rendering honors to the USS Arizona Memorial and Washington's tomb is a sign of respect.

The custom of officer personnel boarding a ship's boat following enlisted personnel is another sign of respect. The customs and courtesies of removing your hat indoors or rendering honors to the American flag and playing the national anthem during morning and evening colors are also signs of respect.

There are many more customs and courtesies that will continue to be a part of our daily routine as long as we maintain pride and respect in our nation, our service and ourselves.

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DSN: 660-3651

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The Public Affairs Office JointTaskForce-Guantanamo, produces *The Wire*, which is printed under the provisions of Department of Defense Instruction 5120.4

# Chief, National Guard Bureau visits Guantanamo

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd class  
Jeff Johnstone

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, visited Guantanamo Bay Friday, Aug. 24 and addressed National Guardsmen and Reservists attached to the Joint Task Force during a 'town hall' meeting at JTF Headquarters. Holding a position appointed by the President, Blum is the senior uniformed National Guard officer responsible for formulating, developing and coordinating all policies, programs and plans affecting more than 500,000 Army and Air National Guard personnel stationed around the world.

During the course of the meeting, Blum emphasized the importance the Army and Air National Guard and Reserve personnel play in our nation's armed services. Blum stated that the National Guard and Reserves are integral and essential to homeland defense, domestic missions and the Global War on Terror, which Blum described as being a "generational campaign" with the potential to span the course of many Troopers' careers.

"We [the U.S.] couldn't support the Global War on Terror as effectively with-

out the Guard and Reserves," said Blum. "We can't perform the counter-drug missions, border support missions or do what we're doing in 40 countries around the world without the Guard and Reserves today."

Blum fielded questions from National Guard Soldiers and Airmen in the audience on critical personnel issues including pay and benefits, reserve retirement and the Trooper mobilization/de-mobilization process. He stressed the importance of building relationships and effective patterns of communication between Troopers and leadership.

One such question was raised involving the confusion many Troopers face during the rapid de-mobilization process for Guard and Reserve forces returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. Blum put the responsibility on the shoulders of leadership to ensure Guard personnel make a smooth and well-informed transition back to their home life following deployment.

"Command Sgt. Majors, 1st Sergeants



Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum  
Chief of National Guard Bureau

and Company Commanders have an obligation to talk to and educate Troopers before they get to their mobilization centers," said Blum. "Be sure and tell those [Troopers] not to rush out of here [the de-mobilization site] if they don't understand the procedure. Nobody's going to punish you or look down upon you if you slow the line down or the process a day or two if you have further questions."

Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby, Commander, JTF-GTMO, closed the town hall meeting by echoing Blum's sentiments about the importance of the Guard and Reserve forces to the overall JTF mission.

"To all the men and women of JTF-GTMO, especially the Guard and Reserves that are here, I'd like to thank you for what you're doing for your country," said Buzby. "I'm dedicated to leading you young men and women who are such a critical part of our armed forces today. As far as I'm concerned, we are all one team. I don't see reservist. I see fighting men and women."



Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum addresses Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers during a town hall meeting Friday, Aug. 24 at JTF Headquarters. (Photo by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin)

# Women's Equality Day



(Photos by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger)

**By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

A Women's Equality Day Observance held at the Windjammer Club at Guantanamo Bay, Friday, Aug. 24, recognized the accomplishments of female leaders from the past and present.

Joint Task Force civilians and Troopers gathered to honor the extraordinary women who spearheaded the women's suffrage (right to vote) movement and to acknowledge female leaders whose efforts have helped foster equality within our society.

During the Windjammer observance, selected guests stepped up to the podium to highlight the accomplishments of pioneers from the past and present such as Susan B. Anthony and Navy Rear Adm. (Retired) Lillian Fishburn, the first African American woman promoted to Rear Admiral.

Navy Cmdr. Kimberly Evans, Joint Task Force – Guantanamo, urged attendees to reflect on the triumphs of women whose sacrifices helped pave the way for future generations.

"They [women] had to change America's view of gender roles, which was no small undertaking by

any definition," said Evans. "[They accomplished their goals through] education, speaking engagements, journal articles, parades, political rallies, petitions, and civil disobedience; and for that they were harassed, ridiculed and arrested. These people worked diligently on behalf of a cause that many of them never saw come to fruition in their lifetime."

The journey to equality for women was led by a group of visionaries who proclaimed the belief that "all men and women are created equal," and they are all "endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights." This group took their ideas to a national forum in 1848 when they attended the world's first women's rights convention held in Seneca Falls, NY. Many of these women returned to their communities with a drive to pursue economic and political reform aimed at extending suffrage to women.

This 72-year long civil rights movement eventually led to the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which granted women the right to vote in 1920. In 1971 President Jimmy Carter designated August 26 *Women's Equality Day* as a reminder of women's continuing efforts for equality.

In her address, Evans also discussed how a deployment to Afghanistan helped her understand the importance of acknowledging those who have fought for equal rights in our society. As commander of a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan, Evans provided assistance to many villagers who walked for miles to exercise their right to vote. She gave an account of one Afghan's determination to vote and how this experience caused her to develop a new appreciation for a privilege that many in the United States take for granted.

"It did not matter how long it took him to get to the polling location. All that mattered was that he and his entire village could change the outcome of the election. He wanted to have a voice in the elections no matter how small," said Evans.

Evans concluded her remarks to the Windjammer audience by exhorting them to exercise their right to vote.

"[In the United States,] our vote is our choice" said Evans. "Many people have forgotten the decades of struggle so many Americans have gone through to guarantee that all of us have the right to vote. Thus, we should honor their memory by exercising our right to vote."

## JTF launches new Web site

By Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Supporters and critics alike of the Joint Task Force mission at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba have a brand new venue for current information about Joint Task Force operations and the work performed by the Troopers deployed here. A dynamic new Web site opened to the public, Tuesday, Aug. 28 with an express purpose to communicate to the world that the Joint Task Force conducts its operations ‘*ethically, legally and transparently.*’

Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby, Commander, Joint Task Force – Guantanamo, praised the new look of the Web site, describing it as looking “very professional, without being too militaristic looking.” He went on to explain that the Web site had a professional, business-like appearance with features that allow the public to easily navigate its links.

While praise for the Web site’s aesthetics and functionality should not be taken for granted, it is the Web site’s portal to extended operational transparency that really pleased Buzby.

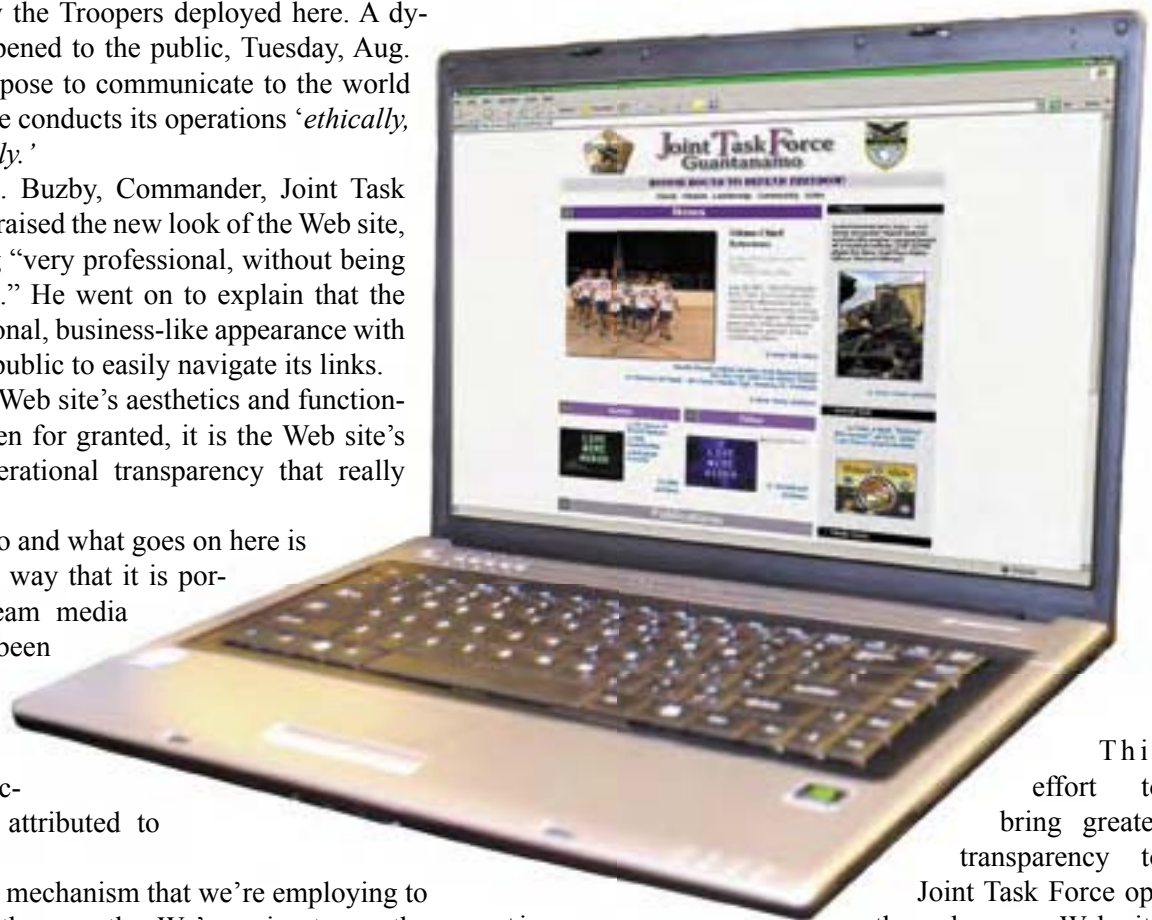
“The reality of Gitmo and what goes on here is very different from the way that it is portrayed in the mainstream media and that portrayal has been going on for many years – some of it is even based on incidents that may have occurred elsewhere, yet attributed to Guantanamo.

“The Web site is one mechanism that we’re employing to aggressively challenge these myths. We’re going to use the new Web site to actively push out our message by actively and transparently showcasing the good work that our Troopers do down here,” said Buzby.

According to Buzby, some of the critical audiences that the Web site is intended to attract are interested citizens such as those represented by the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference, a Department of Defense program. Members of that organization spent time in Guantanamo earlier this month touring the detention facilities and meeting with Joint Task Force leaders.

“Those folks are critical. They’re all movers and shakers in their community. We don’t tell them what to say. We show them what we’ve got and allow them to draw their

own conclusions. They’re the people who write articles, give speeches, and influence others. We’re OK to take some risks and let other people come down and provide some commentary. I think this is one of the most powerful ways to get our message across,” Buzby said.



(Photo illustration by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Gary Keen)

This effort to bring greater transparency to Joint Task Force operations through a new Web site reflects a great deal of support from many different sources. Buzby attributes time spent working up the chain with detainee and public affairs agencies within U.S. Southern Command and the Office of the Secretary of Defense as being crucial. Interested parties, including those who are critical of Joint Task Force operations, now have a venue for accessing timely and relevant text and visual information regarding the conduct of the mission here and the performance of the Troopers assigned here.

“Our greatest strengths are the truth and our Troopers,” Buzby said. “The new Web site presents a truthful view of Joint Task Force operations and the professional and ethical work our Troopers are providing here.”

# UFC

ULTIMATE FIGHTING  
CHAMPIONSHIP



**By Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) had another successful event this past weekend, UFC 74, as the ageless Randy “The Natural” Couture successfully defended his heavyweight title by stopping Gabriel Gonzaga in the third round. Couture controlled the action from the beginning, wearing down the much younger fighter en route to a third round stoppage. In other action former welterweight champion Gorges “Rush” St. Pierre won a unanimous decision over Josh Koscheck. While these fighters may not yet be household names in the general sporting world, they soon will be. The sport’s rapidly growing fan base recently propelled the UFC to number one in pay-per-view TV sports revenues.

In 2006, the UFC broke the pay-per-view industry’s all time record for a single year of business producing over \$222,766,000 in revenue. This amount was the highest ever produced by any one company, surpassing the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) and boxing.



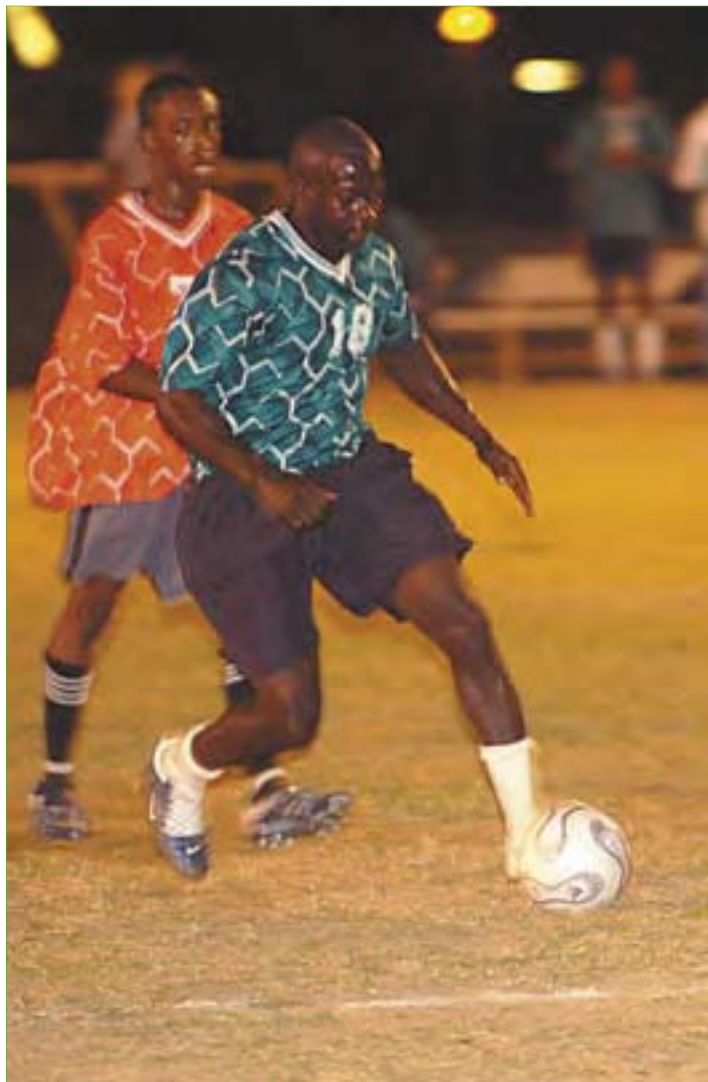
**Randy “The Natural” Couture pounds Gabriel Gonzaga en route to a third round victory. ([www.ufc.com](http://www.ufc.com))**

Things have not always been so rosy for the UFC. In 1993, when the UFC started it had no rules and no weight classes. Tournament matches were structured round-robin style so that a single fighter might fight four times in one night. The UFC came under a lot of political pressure lead by Republican Senator John McCain who said that UFC fighting was like human cockfighting. This kind of notoriety forced the UFC to reform. UFC 12 introduced weight classes and by UFC 14 mandated wearing gloves and prohibited hair pulls, groin strikes and kicking downed opponents in the head. The UFC continues to reform by adding rules to better protect its fighters and by shedding the ‘anything goes’ anarchy of its early beginnings.

In January of 2001, Frank and Lorenzo Fertitta and Dana White bought the struggling company for two million dollars. The UFC steadily rose in popularity and by June, 2002, made its national cable television debut on Fox Sports Net. In 2005 the UFC really took off when Spike TV began to air “The Ultimate Fighter” reality show that gives the winners of its TV show contests UFC contracts. The success of this show prompted the UFC to release a weekly one hour show highlighting previous UFC fights. Spike also hosts live fights and previews for upcoming fights. The “Ultimate Fighter” series helps hype UFC pay-per-view main events by featuring its TV coaches in the main events. Following the second season of “Ultimate Fighter,” coaches Couture and UFC veteran Chuck Liddell inspired an estimated 410,000 purchases for UFC 57, season three coaches Tito Ortiz and Ken Shamrock drew 775,000 buys for UFC 61, and UFC 66 featuring coaches Ortiz and Liddell had 1,050,000 buys.

Professional boxing and professional wrestling just aren’t generating these kinds of revenue numbers any longer. Boxing continues to slide in popularity due to years of alleged corruption and lack of real star power, while the WWE is reeling from the murder/suicide deaths of wrestler Chris Benoit and his family, plus related allegations of rampant steroid abuse. So far, the UFC continues to adapt to changing conditions and avoid scandals. It markets its likeable fighters brilliantly and always hosts exciting fights. The UFC has all things pointing to a long healthy life as a mainstream sport.

# EASTMANS SMASH 300



**Eastmans' Anthony Baltimore (right) fights his way through the defense on his way to a scoring opportunity.**

***Story and photos by Army Spc. Daniel Welch***

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The match up between Eastmans and 300, Tuesday night at Cooper Soccer Field, looked like a mismatch on paper. Eastmans came into the game trying to keep pace with the league leaders, NEX, while 300 was looking to salvage something from a thus far winless season. To make matters worse, 300 started the game with only nine players, after some team members failed to show.

As expected, Eastmans took the attack to 300 early and often, swarming toward the net and coming close to taking the early lead.

It didn't not seem like things could get much worse for 300, until defender John Gilda went down with a knee injury that sidelined him for the rest of the game, leaving eight players to repel the offense of Eastmans.

Throughout much of the first half 300 played heroic defense, as goalkeeper Cinco Brian made save after save under a constant and sustained Eastmans' attack. 300's offense was reduced to counter-attacking with little success. Without sustained pressure, it was just a matter of time before Eastmans' crushing offense would finally break the scoreless deadlock.

As the second half opened, the lack of field players really began to take its toll and 300's luck finally ran out. With eight minutes left to go in the game, Eueral Commezck redirected a crossing pass in the box and lifted the ball past Brian to grab a 1-0 lead.

Fruitlessly, 300 tried to find a way to generate some sort of offense; however, the near constant pressure they suffered for the entire game took its toll. With five minutes to play, Eastmans counterattacked, and Eunick O'Neil headed in a picture perfect crossing pass to extend their lead to 2-0.

With time running out, and 300 down by two goals, Eastmans played keep away with the ball, running the rest of the game out and capturing the victory.

Eastmans improved their record to 4-1-1, while 300 dropped to 0-5.



**Eastmans' Kenhr Johnson (left) plays keep away from 300's Richard Robert, a scene that was repeated often throughout the course of the game.**

SAW-SCALED CURLY-TAILED LIZARD



AMEIVA AUBERI SABULICOLOR LIZARD



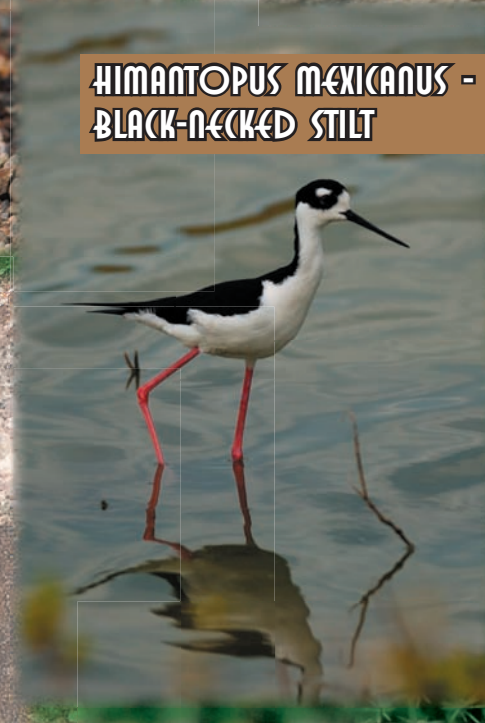
GEORGINUS LATERALIS - MANGROVE RED LAND CRAB



TURKEY VULTURE



HIMANTOPUS MEXICANUS - BLACK-NECKED STILT



CUBAN IGUANA



(Photos by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger and Army 1st Lt. Kevin Cowan )



# Wildlife

CAPROMYS PILORIDES, COMMONLY KNOWN AS BANANA RAT OR HUTIA





# Guantanamo Ink

By Army 1st Lt. Kevin Cowan

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

As far back as the early 40s, there were three things that signified someone was in the military – uniforms, short haircuts and tattoos. This, to an extent, is still true today.

Where tattoos were once mainly worn by military personnel, convicts, bikers and gangs, they are now a staple in today's popular culture. The popularity of tattoos is greater now than it has ever been in mainstream America thanks to actors, musicians and professional athletes.

Nowadays, it is not uncommon to see a mother and daughter or father and son getting tattoos together. Young or old, it is common for more and more people to get one or more tattoos to adorn their bodies, especially because of the ease and availability of the process.

Well, maybe not at Gitmo. One can't just run outside the gate to get inked after payday. So, the tattoo artist will come here.

Tyler Green, of Port of Worcester Tattoos in Worcester, Mass., will be at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba from Sept. 2nd through the 10th to decorate all of those wishing to be decorated. He will be set up in the Windjammer Classroom which is located upstairs. Starting at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd, those interested can bring in artwork or stop by to talk to Tyler and set up an appointment.

Original artwork is encouraged, but as with all tattoo artwork for military personnel, it should still conform to certain guidelines. Green understands the restrictions and regulations and says "Respect the regulations because this is my third trip and I know the rules."

He also says he's not going to do anything to jeopardize his welcome here.

"It's a hell of an honor to be down there again and I'm sure not going to do anything to screw it up," says Green.

So just as a reminder, here are some guidelines for ALL services:

- No tattoos on the head, face or neck
- No tattoos that are extremist, obscene, indecent, sexist or racist
- No tattoos that discredit the Armed Forces
- No tattoos that are prejudicial to good order, discipline or morale

It's always better to be safe than sorry, so be sure to check the applicable regulation of your service for guidelines.

Air Force – See AFI 36-2903

Army – See AR 670-1

Coast Guard – See CI 100.1A

Marines – See M A R A D M I N 198/07

Navy – See N A V A D M I N 110/06

Even if you are in complete compliance with the regulation for your service, there are other factors to keep in mind. This is a long-term commitment you're

getting into that doesn't just wash off.

"Before you go and do something that will be a visible and permanent part of you, make sure your family, especially your spouse if you are married, is in agreement with what you are doing," says Joint Task Force Command Master Chief Brad LeVault. "I don't have a single tattoo, but I have nothing against them. Just think about what you are doing."



A JTF Army Trooper displays tattoos that are consistent with current Army regulations. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer Gary Keen)

# Army Chief: National Guard Vital in Long War



By Army Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

NGB, American Forces Press Service

The National Guard is making a vital contribution to current wars and will continue to be integral as the U.S. military enter a period of persistent conflict, the Army chief of staff said Sunday, Aug. 26 in San Juan, Puerto Rico

With the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks fast approaching, Gen. George W. Casey Jr. counseled citizen-soldiers and -airmen to reflect on the future.

“We are at war. We are facing a period of protracted conflict. . . . Stop for a minute and think about what’s at stake here,” he urged those attending the National Guard Association of the United States’ 129th General Conference. “What’s at stake here in this war is the power and the values of our civilization.

“What’s at stake here is whether terrorism or freedom charts the future.

“What’s at stake here is nothing less than our way of life.”

As they have been since the First Muster of 1636, the nation’s Minutemen are on the front lines. “The men and women of the Army and Air Guard are out there every day . . . fighting to ensure that the values and ideals upon which this country is based aren’t forgotten,” Casey said.

The comments came during an hour-long speech and question-and-answer session that included a sobering global geopolitical assessment.

“There (is) near unanimity among people

who think about the future -- intelligence officials, academics, think tanks, people within the Department of Defense -- that the next decades will be ones of persistent conflict,” Casey said. “We’re in for a protracted period of confrontation that is fueled by state and non-state individual actors who are increasingly willing to use violence to achieve their political and ideological bents.

“We’re seeing that now, and there is no reason to believe that that is not going to continue.”

Several trends are fueling conflict, he said. These include:

-- Globalization. “Globalization has had unquestionable positive impacts on prosperity around the world,” Casey said. “Unfortunately, most of that has been north of the equator. The people that are not beneficiaries of the increased prosperity can become recruits for some of these ideological groups or terrorist networks.”

-- Improved communications. “The same connectivity and technological advances that are boosting prosperity also now are being used by terrorist organizations to export terror around the world,” Casey said.

-- Increased energy demand. “The competition for energy is going to become more intense,” Casey said. “Because of rising middle classes in China and India, for example, the demand for oil is going to outstrip the supply and the resources that are currently being dedicated to look for new (deposits) and to look for alternatives aren’t going to be able to bridge the gap. We’re going to see increased competition for these different resources and probably also a switch to cleaner fuels like a move to natural gas. Almost 60 percent of natural gas reserves happen to be in three places: Russia, Iran and Qatar. . . . What we’re going to see is probably more dependence on the Middle East.”

-- Disasters. “Climate problems and natural disasters are going to create more difficult problems for the less-developed countries,” Casey said.

-- Population growth. “Analysts are predicting that some of these less-developed countries -- primarily South America, Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and Southeast

Asia -- are going to almost double in population in the next 25 years,” he said. “That’s going to create a young population that, again, is more vulnerable to ideological terrorists.”

-- Weapons proliferation. “The increased proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their likely use by terrorist organizations” are looming threats, Casey said. “Recent intelligence estimates conclude that al Qaeda is looking for weapons of mass destruction, and there is no question that they will use them, most likely against a developed country, if they find them.”

“What I see in the coming decades: You have a propensity for conflict that will be fueled by these local trends, and they’ll likely be taken advantage of by these global terrorist organizations,” Casey said.

Previously commander of Multinational Force Iraq, Casey has been the Army chief of staff since April 10. “How proud I am of the contribution of the National Guard to this war on terror over the past almost six years,” he said, repeatedly emphasizing his gratitude to both the Army and the Air National Guard.

“I’ve seen firsthand the contributions. . . . (The National Guard) performed extremely well. . . . Half of the Guard and Reserve are combat veterans. . . . You continue to fill the role of citizen, soldier and patriot: citizens most of the time, soldiers some of the time, and patriots all the time,” he added.

“What will victory look like?” an audience member asked.








“Unfortunately, there is not going to be a D-Day invasion,” Casey replied. “This is an ideological confrontation. Frankly, it’s not going to be won until Muslim moderates achieve success over Muslim extremists. Our job is to keep Muslim extremist groups from prevailing in the Middle East as well as from attacking our country.

“It’s not going to be a big battle; it’s going to be an ideological struggle that’s going to play out over the next several decades, not unlike the Cold War. It’ll be something that’ll gradually, over time, get better. But I can’t see that you’re going to wake up one morning and say, ‘Boy, I’m glad that’s over.’ That’s not going to be the case at all.”



# WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

<p><b>Saturday, Sept. 1</b></p> <p>Highs in the low - 90's, and lows in the mid-70's.</p>  <p><b>Isolated T-Storms</b> Sunrise: 6:45 a.m. Sunset: 7:16 p.m. Chance of rain: 20%</p>	<p><b>Sunday, Sept. 2</b></p> <p>Highs in the low - 90's, and lows in the mid-70's.</p>  <p><b>Isolated T-Storms</b> Sunrise: 6:45 a.m. Sunset: 7:15 p.m. Chance of rain: 60%</p>	<p><b>Monday, Sept. 3</b></p> <p>Highs in the low - 90's, and lows in the mid-70's.</p>  <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b> Sunrise: 6:45 a.m. Sunset: 7:14 p.m. Chance of rain: 10%</p>	
<p><b>Tuesday, Sept. 4</b></p> <p>Highs in the low - 90's, and lows in the mid-70's.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:45 a.m. Sunset: 7:14 p.m. Chance of Rain: 20%</p> <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b></p>	<p><b>Wednesday, Sept. 5</b></p> <p>Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the mid-70's.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:45 a.m. Sunset: 7:13 p.m. Chance of Rain: 60%</p> <p><b>Scattered T-storms</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday, Sept. 6</b></p> <p>Highs in the low - 90's, and lows in the mid-70's.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:45 a.m. Sunset: 7:12 p.m. Chance of Rain: 60%</p> <p><b>Scattered T-storms</b></p>	<p><b>Friday, Sept. 7</b></p> <p>Highs in the high - 80's, and lows in the mid-70's.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:46 a.m. Sunset: 7:11 p.m. Chance of Rain: 60%</p> <p><b>Scattered T-storms</b></p>



# RUSH HOUR 3



**By Army Spc. Daniel Welch**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

When “Fast and Furious 3” was released last year around this time, I figured the money hungry trilogy craze that Hollywood studios have been on for the past 10 years might have finally hit rock bottom. Then I sat through the 90 minute abomination known as “Rush Hour 3.”

The first Rush Hour movie was a fun, campy adventure blending a by-the-book detective from China, Chief Inspector Lee (Jackie Chan) and a hip, outspoken, Los Angeles street cop named James Carter (Chris Tucker). The fantastic action scenes featured Chan’s talented martial arts, as well as funny back and forth one liners that placed the first film on par with other popular buddy films such as “Lethal Weapon” or “48 Hours.”

This time around the premise is simple enough: a high level Chinese ambassador is nearly assassinated while giving a speech in Los Angeles. Chan and Tucker team up yet again, after promising the ambassador’s daughter that they will find the people responsible.

It is quickly revealed that French politician Varden Reynard (Max Von Sydow) may know who is responsible for the assassination attempt, so the movie quickly shifts to Paris.

The problem is that each joke and fight sequence is recycled from the previous movies. Even worse, Jackie Chan is either seriously showing his age or just cashing in on a big pay day; either way his normally exciting martial arts moves look stale and old and totally uninspired.

However, none of this is so surprising considering that this monstrosity of a film was directed by Brett Ratner, who is known for running another successful movie franchise into the ground with his direction of the third X-Men movie.

The only thing rushing in “Rush Hour 3” was me, heading for the exit when the credits rolled.

Rated: PG 13

Duration: 90 minutes

Rating: ★★★★★

## Boots on the Ground

*By Army Spc. Daniel V. Welch*

**“Who is the best leader you have ever worked for in the military and why?”**

-Navy Petty Officer  
2nd Class Brittany  
Sanders



Lt. j.g. Wright. She helps teach younger Sailors and is a wealth of knowledge.

-Army Staff Sgt. Ramon  
Noel



My Uncle. he served in Vietnam and I was always impressed with all his medals on his dress uniform.

-Army Staff Sgt.  
Difred Pascual



I have taken something from everyone I have served under in the Puerto Rico National Guard.

-Navy Petty Officer 1st  
Class Loretta Akemon



Master Chief Schneider. He always puts Sailors first and he is always by the book.

# Competitor or Complement?

## GENESIS 4:1-11

*By Army Chaplain (Capt.)  
Glenn Gregory*

*525th Military Police Battalion Chaplain*

In Genesis 4:1-11, we read a story of worship, anger, murder and punishment. It is the story of Cain and Abel and how they related to God and to each other. In dealing with his brother, we find that it was the aim of Cain to eliminate him. So, rather than seeing his brother as his complement, Cain saw him as his competitor.

The story reflects Cain's pride, ignorance, hurt, insecurity, shame and brokenness. These conditions are found in every human being. These are conditions we bring to relationships with others, and they impact how we relate to and handle these relationships.

In relating to each other, a key question has to be asked: How do I perceive other persons? If we identify others as competitors, a power struggle can develop and issues of who is superior and who is inferior can creep into the relationship. This can cause us to see others through judging eyes, viewing them as insignificant. This means we expend energies that could better be spent living peacefully with others, rather than jockeying for power and maintaining our seeming advantage.

If in our daily journey called life we accept that other persons are connected to us and are natural parts of our lives, then greater efforts can be placed on understanding, respecting, working with and building up each other rather than diminishing and tearing down each other. This suggests



a change which both calls us to faith in God and being possessed by God. This further opens our hearts to accept the love and forgiveness of God through the transforming power of His Word and Spirit. In light of this, we are challenged to a fixed commitment to work through the difficulties and grow together towards God and each other, resulting in restoration and reconciliation — which is our God-given goal.

As we strive for change in our relationships and to be complements to others, let us keep in mind that the grace of God is non-effective in our lives if we fail to relate properly to each other. After all, our relating to one another is a reflection of our understanding of ourselves and a reflection of our relationship with God.

# 15 Minutes of Fame

## Army Sgt. Joseph Scozzari

(Photos courtesy of Army Sgt. Joseph Scozzari)

Story by Army Spc. Daniel Welch

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

From the outset of a Soldier's initial training in the U.S. Army, he or she is taught the Soldiers Creed which outlines what each Soldier should aspire to become. For some, the Soldiers Creed is just a piece of Army jargon to be forgotten and cast aside, but for Sgt. Joseph V. Scozzari of Joint Task Force – Guantanamo, the creed defines all that it means to be a Soldier.

Scozzari epitomizes what an Army Soldier should be: *one willing to always place the mission first, never give up and never leave a fallen comrade.*

Growing up on the outskirts of New Orleans, La., Scozzari joined the Louisiana National Guard right after high school as a field artilleryman.

"I wanted to join the military and blow things up," explained Scozzari. He also liked the idea of serving close to home, one weekend a month and two weeks every summer.

After the United States experienced the tragedy of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Scozzari played a major role in defending the Crescent city from potential terrorist attack.

"My unit and I were activated for post security at Jackson Barracks for Operation Noble Eagle," said Scozzari.

While some National Guardsmen and reservists were caught off guard by the rapid mobilization of their units to combat the threat

of global terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan, Scozzari always knew the potential was there.

"If you train for war, you have to know that it is possible," Scozzari explained.

Scozzari explained.

Scozzari was activated as a member of the 1/41 Field Artillery Battalion, but then was attached to Company A, 3/156th Light Infantry Battalion as an infantryman for a year-long deployment to Iraq. Scozzari said this deployment was one of the most significant and life-changing events he has ever experienced.

"I can't imagine anyone could not be changed by something like that," said Scozzari. "It was scary, exhilarating, frightening, heartbreaking and heartwarming. I saw the beauty of the human spirit in the American Soldiers and Iraqis, and [I] also saw the awful tragedy that war brings," he said.

Scozzari soon became a team leader and senior gunner in charge of four to six fellow Soldiers on constant patrol in Baghdad.

"It was my job to make sure that every time we went out that my guys came back safe and with all of their parts, luckily we all did," said Scozzari.

For close to a year Scozzari braved some of the toughest neighborhoods in Baghdad, helping to bring peace to a troubled land.

"We worked 18 to 24 hour days. It was hard; it was hot, but no one complained because the mission was bigger than any of us," explained Scozzari.

On February 4, 2004, when Iraqis went to the polls for the first time, Scozzari was right there providing security for those looking to exercise a democratic right most had never experienced before.

"Like a lot of things, it was amazing being there for that," he said. "Sometimes it is hard to imagine that I was there for such a pivotal moment in that country's history."

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina that devastated much of the Gulf region,

Scozzari was again struck by the beauty and humility of his fellow Soldiers serving in Iraq. Members of the 1/69th Infantry Battalion, New York National Guard, who were ahead of the Soldiers from Louisiana on the rotation to re-deploy back to the States, gave up their spots to Scozzari and his fellow Soldiers from New Orleans so that they could get back quickly to their families and flooded homes.

"I was incredibly grateful when our command said they [the 1/69th] were will-



**Scozzari preps a member of his team of possible danger before they enter a house in Baghdad while on patrol.**

ing to do that," said Scozzari, "I felt such a sense that we were truly brothers-in-arms since many of them were affected by the events of 9/11 and could understand what many of us were going through."

In February, Scozzari volunteered to accompany a mobile public affairs detachment of the Louisiana National Guard to come to Guantanamo. Scozzari, with no formal training in any aspect of military journalism, quickly learned camera skills and has become that unit's main photographer for distinguished visitor events.

Speaking of his new mission in the Joint Task Force, Scozzari said "It has been a challenge. This is so much different than anything I have ever done in the military. Even though here I am clearing my digital camera card and not clearing rooms, this mission is no less valuable or important."

# AROUND THE JTF



Rear Adm. Mark Buzby, Commander JTF-GTMO, and Army Col. Bruce Vargo promote Navy Cdr. Kris Winter to the rank of Captain. Per tradition, Capt. Winter's new rank was soaked in salt water indicating that salt from the sea would always accompany her. Winter's expressed her gratitude saying, "I'm a product of a lot of very smart Troopers." (Army Sgt. Joseph Scozzari)

Chief Petty Officer (Sel) Judy Danns sprays an automobile during the CPO carwash Sunday, Aug. 26. CPO selectees held the carwash in order to raise funds for their induction ceremony next month. (Photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard)



Chief, National Guard Bureau, Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum congratulates Lt. Col. Miguel Mendez, Capt. Marylane Garcia and 1st Lt. Tiffany Ramsdal after their promotion ceremony Friday, Aug. 24. (Photo by Army Sgt. Joseph Scozzari)