



THE WIRE



Honor Bound To Defend Freedom

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Friday, October 06, 2006

15 Minutes of Fame, pg. 11

NEX to hold customer appreciation day

By Army Spc. Philip Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Navy Exchange here is hosting their fifth annual customer appreciation day October 14th at the Main NEX here.

Although the event is billed as customer appreciation “day” (CAD), in actuality it consists of a series of events over four days, starting Thursday and ending Sunday.

On Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. the NEX will be offering running shoe clinics for all base residents. Shoe vendors from Nike, Reebok, Adidas, New Balance and ASICS will conduct the clinics. Those who participate will have their feet measured properly and the vendors will find the suitable shoes for your specific foot shape and size. There will also be 20 percent off all athletic footwear.

On Saturday, there will be an all day



affair, consisting of various different events being held at the NEX, with over 25 vendors conducting demonstrations and giveaways, along with a variety of free entertainment and exhibitions.

On Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., a NAS-CAR Race team will be on hand for a meet and greet amongst the troops. At 5 p.m. there will be a Sketchers paintball tournament at Cooper Field.

The NEX hopes that by offering this CAD, the Troopers here will know just how much they appreciate what they do.

“We appreciate what you do for us and the NEX, in conjunction with a slew of willing vendors, we are holding this event just to say thanks to all the military personnel here,” explained Catherine Case, the main NEX store manager

Highlights of Customer Appreciation Day - Saturday, Oct. 14

- 6:30 a.m. – New Balance 5K Race
- 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. – Breakfast at the NEX parking lot
- 9 a.m. – NEX sales event begins
- 10 a.m.-3 p.m. – Giveaways and prizes announced every 30 min.
- 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. – Free lunch
- 12:30 – 5 p.m. – Various demonstrations and competitions
- 2:30 p.m. – Drawing for Harley Davidson motorcycle
- 3 p.m. – Drawings for free trips begins
- 8 p.m. – Jeffrey Ross Comedians and Ryan Oakes Magic Show – Windjammer

*Please visit the main NEX for a complete list of events.

Prepared for the mission at hand

By Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

After serving 24-years in the military, including a three-year assignment to the Sergeant's Major Academy working in military operations, Navy Command Master Chief Petty Officer Bradley LeVault is now serving his country as part of the Joint Task Force, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. While LeVault has never worked in a JTF before, he says he is more than honored to have been chosen by RDML Harris to serve as the senior enlisted advisor here.

From serving as an air crewman to working as "ship's company," LeVault is more than prepared to take on the challenges facing him here.

"The soul of our mission is the Troopers," said LeVault. "I am here to ensure that they have all the tools necessary to perform their duties in a professional manner," added LeVault.

The mission here is a unique one and requires certain considerations unlike any other deployment theatres. It's extremely important that while ensuring the safe, humane care and custody of detainees we keep on track with the commander's intent, said LeVault.

"Troopers are the greatest asset and I am here to ensure their wellbeing and that they are being properly taken care of," said LeVault.

With all the attention that GTMO gets LeVault feels that it is very important that all the different branches of service represented here practice



Photo courtesy Department of the Navy

Navy Command Master Chief Petty Officer Brad LeVault

a good work ethic through straight-forward and clear communication.

"We must practice what I refer to as the three-Cs, communicate, cooperate, and coordinate." Though it seems that everyone is already embracing the different challenges in front of us very well, there is always room for improvement, explained LeVault.

What we have facing us is an outstanding opportunity to exceed the standards set previously and to prove ourselves as true professionals making our family, friends and nation proud of our service, added LeVault.

"I plan to use the NCO corps to ensure this command is well organized and remains mission oriented. NCOs are the backbone of the U.S. military and when working as one, they will not only lead Troopers, but mold them to be strong responsible leaders," said LeVault. ■

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Navy Professional Reading Program

**By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class
Trevor Andersen**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen introduced a new Navy Professional Reading Program Monday to replace the previous CNO and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy reading lists.

The new program is part of the CNO's priority to develop 21st century leaders.

"Put simply, reading fosters critical thinking, and critical thinking makes us better leaders and better warfighters," said Mullen.

The NPRP includes five 12-set collections covering topics such as military heritage, leadership,

joint warfare, cultural awareness, management and critical thinking. Each collection is aimed at a specific experience level from the most junior recruit to the most senior admiral. However, Sailors will benefit from any book on the program list that catches their attention.

To make the books widely available, the Navy is providing collections to every operational unit in the Navy. The MWR Community Library here expects to have the book sets by the end of the month, said Maxine Becker, base librarian here.

Audio versions of some books will also be available for free download on the Navy Knowledge

Online Web site.

A panel of Navy leaders and scholars has carefully chosen the books on the list. They include award-winning histories, biographies, business bestsellers and even novels like "Ender's Game," by Orson Scott Card.

The program is interactive so Sailors will be able to contribute their opinions and suggestions by visiting the program's Web site, www.navyreading.navy.mil where all five collections are listed.

The books will also be available for purchase at the Navy Exchange or on www.navy-nex.com. They'll sell for 35-40 percent below list price and are available by title or in five 12-book collections. ■

Security bulletin: Dumpster diving

By Frank Perkins

JTF-GTMO Special Security Office

There is an old saying that, "one man's trash is another man's treasure."

That is certainly true in the intelligence world. For many years, a variety of US military "Red Teams" have used the technique called "dumpster diving" (or "trash surveillance", if you're a snoot) to recover sensitive but unclassified information about US military operations, intentions and capabilities.

Inevitably, the term trash intelligence, or TRASHINT, became common usage among intelligence collectors and agents throughout the world. Data retrieved has included a wide range of information, including flag and general officer travel, pilot proficiency in the cockpit, organizational strength, training and deployment schedules.

Although seemingly innocuous, these pieces of information can tell a great deal about intentions and capabilities. Dumpster diving is a common tactic used by commercial information brokers as well as foreign intelligence services, including some traditional allies.

Trash may also be stolen from wastebaskets by cleaning crews. According to the National Security Institute, this data can include financial information, telephone records, production information and marketing data.

Collecting and going through the trash left out for collection in front of residents and businesses is not illegal. The Supreme Court ruled in 1988 that once an item is left for trash pickup, there is no expectation of privacy or continued ownership.

Strict procedures govern the disposal of classified information. All classified and sensitive but unclassified documents need to be destroyed by using available crosscut shredders located throughout the JTF. The pulverizer at the IOF can be used for bulk materials.

Take the time to properly dispose of outdated, superseded and non-pertinent documents- both classified and unclassified. Doing so allows for better protection, reduces needed storage and facilitates emergency planning.

The point of contact for this information is Frank Perkins at ext. 9824. Remember, mission first, security always! ■

SAVI facts

Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Acquaintance rape is often called “the ultimate betrayal” - victims are violated by someone they know and trust. As JTF Troopers are learning in mandatory SAVI (sexual assault victim intervention) training sessions, everyone has a role in preventing sexual assault. The training tears down myths and arms troops with facts.

One of the most common myths is the concept that the majority of sexual assault happens in dark alleys in the middle of the night. While Hollywood is likely to blame for this misconception, the truth of the matter is that most cases occur between people that know and are familiar with one another, said James Mandley, Guantanamo Bay Sexual Assault Response Coordinator.

Sexual assault is almost always

preventable, explained Mandley. Most rapes are planned. A location is selected, enticement used, and the victim deliberately targeted and coerced into sexual relations.

“People should be allowed to have a good time. However, in so doing they should be aware of their environment and their limitations,” said Mandley.

By partying and drinking too much, victims often give the perpetrator the means by which to commit the offense.

“Everybody is a potential victim and everyone needs to be aware,” said Mandley.

However, while remaining cognizant of one’s surroundings is important, it is also crucial to be aware of what steps to take after the fact. There are generally two avenues of approach that a victim has available to them once an offense has been committed. The first is to contact a chaplain, a Sexual Assault Advocate or the I-

CARE-LINE at ext. 42273, a sexual assault hotline. All of which will initiate a “restricted report” but not an official investigation.

Sometimes it can be very tough for a person to talk about something so personal to anyone outside of their own circle of friends. However, therein lies a problem because once a friend has been informed, that person is required to report the incident to his or her chain-of-command, which in turn initiates an “unrestricted report” and will lead to an investigation.

The most important thing for victims to understand is that they are not alone. There is a system set in place that offers support and guidance to them if they choose to utilize it. “Most people live under the delusion that this can’t happen to them, but it can. And when out with friends, everyone needs to remain active and vigilant to protect themselves as well as safeguarding their friends,” said Mandley. ■

Network News

Phishing - the only defense is you

By Air Force 1st Lt. Jim Northamer

JTF-GTMO Information Assurance Officer

Phishing. It’s one of the most difficult threats to recognize and perhaps the biggest threat to our computer networks. Phishing is defined in Webster’s New Millennium Dictionary as “the practice of luring unsuspecting Internet users to a fake Web site by using authentic-looking email with the real organization’s logo, in an attempt to steal passwords, financial or personal information, or introduce a virus attack; the creation of a Web site replica for fooling unsuspecting Internet users into submitting personal or financial information or passwords.”

Typically, a phishing attempt will be an official-looking e-mail from an official-looking e-mail address that asks the recipient(s) to click on a link, open an attachment, or reply to the e-mail with sensitive information (user id, password, SSN, etc.). If any one person executes this request, the entire network and all the information residing on it can be compromised. Obviously,

this compromise could have dire consequences.

Many people assume that a phishing scam would be easily identifiable, but that’s usually not the case. Successful phishing attempts are very difficult to recognize and sometimes even originate from a source within the network. The only effective defense against these scams are knowledgeable, skeptical network users. Any time you receive an e-mail that requests information, asks you to click on a link or file, or seems remotely suspicious, question the source and the intent of the e-mail. While there are obvious mission requirements to gather information, a skeptical user can oftentimes spot a phishing attempt, report it, and prevent a significant compromise from occurring. If you are ever in doubt about the authenticity of an e-mail, please contact the JTF-GTMO Information Assurance Office and we will assist you in properly handling the e-mail.

The bottom line: phishing is a very real threat to our network and the only defense is you. Be aware. Be skeptical. Be proactive. If in doubt, report your suspicions.

If you ever have any questions or concerns about a computer security issue, please feel free to contact the JTF-GTMO IA Office at j6-ia@jftgmo.southcom.mil or x3333. ■

A defining moment: The Battle of Iwo Jima



By Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Throughout the months of February and March in 1945, the United States Marines fought a battle that would be forever remembered in the hearts and minds of Americans. From end to end during long, hot grueling days in the sun, coupled with paranoid, terror-stricken nights, the Marines on Iwo Jima slogged through heavy enemy gunfire. Gunfire that came from an unseen enemy; friends were picked-off without a shooter in sight. The U.S. Marines proved their valor and honored their country in what would later be called “America’s most heroic battle.”

The battle was part of the “Pacific Campaign” and claimed 25,851 U.S. casualties including nearly 7,000 dead, according to James Bradley, author of “Flags of Our Fathers.” Along with its strategic and tactical importance, something much more timeless and sacred would later result from it; a photograph taken on Mount Suribachi of six men raising a flag that embodied their honor and pride.

While the photo itself is one of the most famous shots ever taken and consequently initiated the forging of a national monument, the men who raised the flag have been largely forgotten. Scattered among the pages of history,

these six men are a respective portrayal of the United States during WWII.

John Bradley, the most identifiable of the six, standing in the middle with both hands grasping the flag pole, was a Navy Corpsman from Appleton, Wisconsin who, according to James Bradley, remained completely silent about Iwo Jima to everyone, even to his wife of 47-years. Standing on the far side of John and almost completely obscured by him is Rene Gagnon, a mill hand from New Hampshire. Rene was acclaimed as hero by the President, Time Magazine and audiences across the country. On the far right of the photo, leaning into and taking on the bunt of the flag pole’s planting is Harlon Block. A star football player from Texas who enlisted in the Marines along with the seniors of his high school football team, Harlon died six days after the flag was raised and was then forgotten, according to James Bradley. The figure directly behind John Bradley is Franklin Sousley, a freckle-faced Kentuckian from Hilltop, Kentucky. Franklin sailed for the Pacific on his nineteenth birthday and would never return home to his husbandless mother. If you look closely at Franklin’s hands you can see that the man behind him has grasped Franklin’s right hand and is helping him push the enormous

pole. That man, doing whatever he can to help, is Marine Sergeant Mike Strank. The oldest and most seasoned of all is helping the youngest and most inexperienced. This was typical of Mike who would, years later, be described as a “Marine’s Marine,” according to James Bradley. Mike would never see home again as he was killed while drawing a diagram in the sand to show his men the safest way to attack a position. On the far left of the image is a Pima Indian from Arizona, Ira Hayes. Ira was described by James Bradley as a very quiet and often extremely shy person. Ira is the one in the photo who is just a bit short of grasping the pole. Ira was later hailed as a hero, but he did not agree with that description. When Ira was later asked he responded by saying; “How can I feel like a hero, when I hit the beach with 250 buddies and only 27 of us walked off alive?”

Ira was unable to fully recover from what happened in Iwo Jima, but would later say that he left some of the best men he knew on that island. So is the case with many of those who served in WWII, the freedom and liberties we now enjoy were purchased by those who paid the ultimate price and left their lives upon the altar of freedom for the United States of America. ■

HISPANIC AMERICAN

PHOTOS BY ARMY SP



By Army Spc. Philip Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Hispanic American Heritage Association held their annual dinner/dance Saturday at the Windjammer.

The event was a celebration of Hispanic American heritage with food and dance of Hispanic origin.

Peruvian shrimp ceviche, roast pork loin and rum bread pudding tantalized the palates of the people in attendance.

Students from W.T. Sampson Elementary School, as well as Naval Station and Joint Task Force members, performed dances from various Hispanic regions. These dances included the cumbia, salsa, meringue and reggaeton.

The dinner dance ended with an open dance floor for those wishing to dance. ■

HERITAGE MONTH

C. PHILIP REGINA



“Where’s Waldo?” Runners’ Safety

By Navy Commander K. S. Evans

JTF-GTMO J-6 Director

Are you familiar with the “Where’s Waldo?” game? The challenge is to locate Waldo out of a background into which he blends perfectly. One evening in August, I found myself playing a real life version of “Where’s Waldo?” Fortunately for all, I found Waldo and his buddy.

After a long day at work, I was driving back to my quarters, looking forward to kicking off my boots and catching an hour of mindless TV. The sun had set hours earlier; the street lights shone dimly. With the darkness came the respite from Guantanamo’s oppressive heat. As with the hour before dawn, this was a popular time for runners.

This night was no different. Driving up Kittery Beach Road, listening to the radio, I saw the telltale sign of a runner – the bouncing reflective belt glinting in the beams of my headlights. He was ahead of me not far from the intersection where I would be turning. Given our relative speed, I would reach the intersection before

he did and would be able to turn safely before he reached the crosswalk.

As I drew closer to the intersection, I spied another glinting reflective belt coming toward me. Another runner was headed down Kittery Beach Road, probably from the Tierra Kay housing area. As I drove my vehicle, I spotted two runners from opposite directions while we were approaching the intersection where my turn would cut across their path. Drawing nearer to West Iguana housing, I scanned back and forth between the two runners, judging their speed and distance relative to mine. Clearly, I would be through the intersection before either runner reached the crosswalk.

What’s this? Drawing even with the first runner, I saw movement ahead of him. Straining to see, I spotted the silhouette of another runner with no reflective belt and wearing dark clothes. I found Waldo! But wait, I saw a tiny, brief glint near the ground in the headlights. Another runner! The tiny reflective patches on his shoes betrayed his presence in the dark, again



Photo by Army Spc. Dustin Robbins

A dramatization of Navy Cmdr. K.S. Evan’s scenario.

with dark clothes and no reflective belt. The surprising presence of Waldo and his buddy changed the dynamics significantly. I reached the intersection and waited while all four runners crossed. The safety precautions of two runners paid off for four.

The reflective belts made the runners stand out from their environment. Blending into your surroundings is a useful skill on the battlefield that can save your life. Off the battlefield, it is a skill that can end your life.

Be seen. Be safe. ■

| | Army Col. Dennis Army Command Sgt. Maj. Plemmons Joint Detention Group | Army Maj. Pearson Army Command Sgt. Maj. Vanwygaarden Joint Detention Group | Navy Cmdr. Winter Navy Command Master Chief Conley Joint Detention Group | Army Lt. Col. Tucker Army Sgt. Maj. Diaz Joint Task Force Public Affairs | Army Capt. Hughes Army 1st Sgt. Fitzgeralds Headquarters, Headquarters Company |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|
| Week 4 | 7-6 | 6-7 | 7-6 | 9-4 | 7-6 |
| Season | 32-20 | 32-20 | 32-20 | 34-18 | 33-19 |
| Navy at Air Force | Navy | Air Force | Navy | Air Force | Air Force |
| VMI at Army | Army | Army | Army | Army | Army |
| Maryland at Georgia Tech | Georgia Tech | Georgia Tech | Georgia Tech | Georgia Tech | Georgia Tech |
| Nevada at Hawaii | Hawaii | Hawaii | Nevada | Hawaii | Hawaii |
| Buffalo at Chicago | Chicago | Chicago | Chicago | Chicago | Chicago |
| Detroit at Minnesota | Minnesota | Minnesota | Detroit | Minnesota | Minnesota |
| St. Louis at Green Bay | St. Louis | St. Louis | St. Louis | Green Bay | Green Bay |
| Tampa Bay at New Orleans | New Orleans | New Orleans | New Orleans | New Orleans | New Orleans |
| Washington at New York Giants | Washington | N.Y. Giants | N.Y. Giants | N.Y. Giants | Washington |
| Kansas City at Arizona | Kansas City | Kansas City | Kansas City | Arizona | Arizona |
| Oakland at San Francisco | San Francisco | San Francisco | San Francisco | San Francisco | San Francisco |
| Dallas at Philadelphia | Philadelphia | Philadelphia | Dallas | Philadelphia | Philadelphia |
| Pittsburgh at San Diego | San Diego | San Diego | San Diego | San Diego | San Diego |

MOVIE € SUMMARY



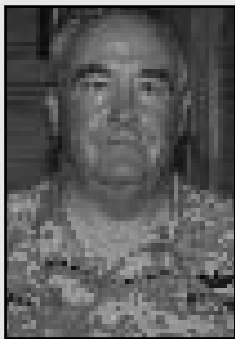
By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jim Brown

“The Descent”

This adventure/horror film centers on a story of a cave exploration trip that suffers a mountain cave-in. The female cast meets internal and external horrors in the form of beastly creatures (crawlers) and each other. The women must survive failing friendships and the beasts and escape the cavernous conditions. Starring Shauna Macdonald, Natalie Jackson Mendoza and Alex Reid. Rated R. 99 minutes. ■

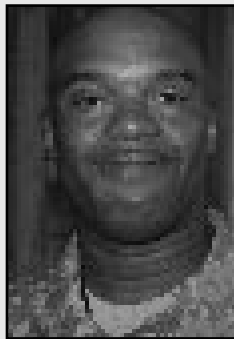


Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis asks, “What are your plans for when you leave GTMO?”



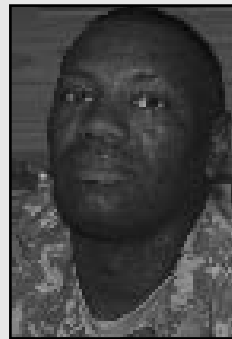
“Whatever my wife tells me to do.”

-Army Sgt. Maj. David Hare, HHC



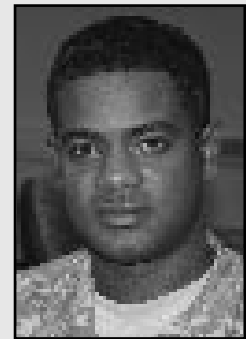
“I will take a cruise to Brazil.”

-Army Sgt. David L. Spiller, HHC



“I’m just going to go home and relax.”

-Army Staff Sgt. James Murray, 110th Field Artillery



“Continue with my self-operated business and visit the Bahamas with my wife.”

-Army Sgt. Durville E. Singh, HHC 3rd Brigade

SPRINT THRU LIFE!

By Navy Lt. Cmdr. Tim Johns

Deputy JTF/NEGB Chaplain

How do you make positive changes in your life? How can you be a better person when you leave GTMO and go back home to your family? Let me give you a short but tried way to make some positive difference in your life.

Get **Specific**. Life is not lived in general. Life is lived very specifically. You have to decide exactly what you are going to do. You can say that you're going to have to improve your communication in your marriage. Guess what? You won't improve it unless you have a plan. You have to be specific. You have to decide what will make it better. Educate yourself on how to communicate with your spouse. Learn to be an active listener when your partner is talking. Write a letter once a week and tell him or her how much you really love him or her. If you want your dreams to come true, then wake up and do something Specific.

Be **Positive**. You cannot do anything. It seems the more you try to stop something, the worse it gets. The things that you resist, persist. The more you try to stop a habit, the more you want to do it because you think more about the habit. In order to stop something, it helps to start something in its place. You must erase and replace.

Let's relate that to the world. Let's say you have a problem with anger. So you decide to control your temper and not get angry anymore. First of all, that's too general. It is also negative. What are you going to do instead of getting angry? An example would be, "When I get angry, I'm going to count to ten, take a few deep breaths, and hum some silly song that makes me smile." Now you have a strategy that is specific and positive.

Be **Realistic**. Many people get discouraged because they set unrealistic goals. One time my goal was to play Major League Baseball. Since I am not that good and could not hit a fastball, I had to change the goal and settle for playing softball instead. A counselor from Dallas saw a lot of people who were stressed out about the traffic. When he asked them what they expected every morning, they described a perfect trip: no traffic jams and no crazy people cutting them off. That's very unrealistic. There are no perfect trips in a big city. There are benefits, but traffic is not one of them. So he told them to be realistic about their drive. When they got into the car they should expect two traffic jams and five crazy people. It was amazing how their attitude changed. They called and said they were having a great day: one traffic jam and two crazy people.

Be specific, be positive, be realistic and **Involve others**. If you are making a change, you need someone who knows what you're changing, someone to encourage you and hold you accountable and to let you know how you're doing. There's something about going public that puts positive

pressure on your performance – just like sprinting alone is more difficult than sprinting with people cheering for you.

That brings us to the next word, which is **Nice reward**. Sprinting for a touchdown is easy because there is an immediate reward. Overall, people do what is rewarding. Decide in advance a nice reward for changed behavior. Be careful about rewarding yourself with what you're trying to change. If you're changing your eating habits, do not reward yourself after four weeks of good eating with a trip to the ice cream shop.

Finally, set a **Time deadline** for your accomplishment. In other words, a dream without a deadline can become a nightmare. If you had a dream, you need discipline and a deadline to accomplish it. Your accountability person should know when to expect your changed behavior.

Spell S.P.R.I.N.T. the way I talked about here: Specific, Positive, Realistic, Involve Others, Nice Reward and Time Deadline, and you'll discover that it can be an enjoyable way of making progress in life. If you need help in setting goals and making changes talk to someone you trust or come see your Chaplain. ■

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 |
| Wednesday | 7:30 p.m. | Bible Study | Camp America North Pavilion |

NAVAL BASE CHAPEL

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------|---|-----------------|
| Sunday | 8:00 a.m. | Pentecostal Gospel | Room 13 |
| | 8:15 a.m. | Confession | Main Chapel |
| | 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 |
| Monday | 10:00 a.m. | Protestant Liturgical | Sanctuary B |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Protestant Service | Main Chapel |
| | 1:00 p.m. | Gospel Service | Main Chapel |
| Monday | 5:00 p.m. | Pentecostal Gospel | Room 13 |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Family Home Evening | Room 8 |
| Mon. to Fri. | 5:15 p.m. | Confessions | Main Chapel |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Mass | Main Chapel |
| Wednesday | 6:30 p.m. | Men's Bible Study | Fellowship Hall |
| Friday | 1:15 p.m. | Islamic Prayer | Sanctuary C |
| Saturday | 4:15 p.m. | Confessions | Main Chapel |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Vigil Mass | Main Chapel |
| | 6:15 p.m. | Confessions | PPI Chapel |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Mass | PPI Chapel |

Jewish Shabbat Services held every second Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Naval Base Chapel complex Room 11.

For more information, call ext. 3202 or ext. 2323.

15 Minutes of Fame

with Army Sgt. First Class Christopher C. Royal

By Army Spc. Philip Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The price of freedom is high. The majority of individuals in the U.S. are many miles away from a battlefield, enjoying the privileges earned in blood by Troopers on distant lands. For most citizens the idea of being in combat is merely a secondhand experience and willfully kept that way.

Army Sgt. First Class Christopher C. Royal of the 525 Military Police Battalion doesn't shy away from the battlefield, rather, he is doing everything in his power to go back to Iraq.

Royal has had a long and fruitful Army career. He has served 13 years in the Army, with two tours in Iraq in logistics and food operations, providing bushels of beans, bullets and bandages to the soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division. This is his first tour away from the famed paratrooper division.

"My entire career I have served with infantryman and although my military specialty may be food operations, if you serve with the 82nd you're a paratrooper first," explained Royal with the subdued bayonet of his Combat Action Badge clearly visible on his chest.

After 13 years enlisted, Royal has chosen to make the jump from chevrons to gold bars.

"I was coming up close to my opportunity to get out of the Army while I was in Iraq. I lost a few soldiers out there and it put a lot of things into



Photo by Army Spc. Philip Regina

Army Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Royal surveys the salad bar at Cafe Caribe, ensuring the quality of food for the Troopers working inside the wire remains top notch.

perspective. I truly feel that if I left the Army now, I would not have done all I could. Although I may have served two tours in Iraq, the war is still going on," said Royal.

Royal's unwavering support of the U.S. in the War on Terror is a testament to his endearing resolve.

"For me, serving in the military is pretty much black and white, there is no gray area. My mentality is they started it and now we'll finish it, no matter how long it takes," added Royal.

After finishing up his tour here in Guantanamo, Royal will be attending Officer Candidate School and Ranger School. He will then be sent back to serve as an officer with the 82nd.

"I could be at home with my kids, but they're not the ones fighting this war and I don't want them to be. Completing the mission in Iraq and topping off my career by eventually becoming a company commander in the 82nd is what I feel I must do in order to be truly satisfied with ending my Army career," explained Royal.

Royal is a true American and his commitment to serving is an inspiration. ■

15 Minutes of Fame

Know a Trooper worthy of being highlighted in "15 Minutes of Fame?" Call Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jim Brown at ext. 3594.

AROUND THE JTF



Photo by Army Sgt. Jonson Gibbs

◀ A Coast Guard HH-60 "Jayhawk" lands at the Downtown Lyceum here in preparation to be placed on display during the showing of the movie "The Guardian" which depicts their crew's training and daily life.

▶ Air Force Chief of Chaplains, Major General Charles C. Baldwin (left), walks past a prayer cone during a walk through of an empty detention block with the Deputy Commander of the Joint Detention Group while visiting, Monday.



Photo by Army Sgt. Jonson Gibbs



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Watterworth

JTF Public Affairs Office Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. Lora Tucker presents Lupe Beltran with a \$250 donation. The Hispanic American Heritage Association was the September recipient for the unit's monthly contribution to organizations throughout GTMO.



Photo by Army Spc. Dustin Robbins

Petty Officer 1st Class Randy Adame from the Naval Expeditionary Guard Battallion swears in Petty Officer 1st Class Carlos Martell and Petty Officer 2nd Class Edward Smith during their re-enlistment ceremony Monday.