



THE WIRE



Honor Bound To Defend Freedom

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Friday, December 30, 2005

15 Minutes of Fame, pg. 11

President calls GTMO Trooper Christmas Eve

By Spc. Seth Myers

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

On the morning of Dec. 24, a Coast Guardsman here received a phone call and a happy holiday greeting from President George W. Bush.

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Travis Johnston, Port Security Unit 305, was one of ten lucky servicemen who received such a call that morning. Various deployed units from around the world chose one of their service members to be added to a list of possible candidates for these calls. The Coast Guard unit here, PSU 305, selected

four years and this is his first deployment. He was quite pleased to have the opportunity to speak with the President of the United States.

“It was an interesting experience, a once in a lifetime opportunity,” said Johnston.

During the conversation, the president expressed his gratitude for Johnston’s service.

“The Coast Guard is a great outfit – sure proud of



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

...the country’s proud of ya...

--President George W. Bush to the Troopers

Johnston. In the end, he was one of the lucky people selected from that list for this honor.

“We were contacted by the master chief of the Coast Guard to submit one of our personnel to receive a presidential phone call. We submitted him because he was the youngest Coxswain in our unit,” said Coast Guard Master Chief Petty Officer Wayne Miesen.

Johnston has been in the military for

your service,” said President George W. Bush.

After the call, Johnston expressed that this call was for more than simply him, though. President Bush not only wished him a Merry Christmas; he wished all the Troops here a happy holiday.

Bush said to tell all the men and

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Travis Johnston talks to the President after much waiting and anticipation.

women you’re with and your families “the country’s proud of ya,” and Merry Christmas. ■

The New Year's resolution – a once a year tradition or lifelong endeavor?

by **Army Lt. Col. Kevin Burk**

Commander, 525 MP BN

'Tis the season of new beginnings and resolutions to improve yourself. It's the season when millions of Americans will vow to lose weight, get in shape, stop smoking, stop drinking, be a better spouse, spend more time with the family, get their finances together – all sorts of vows to improve one's self will be going on.

Where does this tradition come from? The tradition of the New Year resolution goes all the way back to 153 B.C. when Janus, a mythical king of early Rome, was placed at the head of the calendar. The Romans named the first month of the year after Janus and made him the god of beginnings and the guardian of doors and entrances. He was always depicted with two faces, one on the front of his head and one on the back. With two faces, the mythical Janus could look back on past events and forward to the future. At midnight on December 31, the Romans imagined Janus looking back at the old year and forward to the new. Eventually, Janus became the ancient symbol for resolutions.

All right, so we've established the brief history behind resolutions. I would venture to say that most of us have made New Year resolutions, and that many of us have broken or failed in many a resolution. Many people resolve to make a drastic change in their life and it is the drastic change that is the cause of most failed New Year resolutions. Humans generally aren't good at drastic change, especially when it comes to how one lives their life. According to many polls on the subject, the most popular resolution for the past couple of years has been to get in shape. I have to laugh every year when I hear my gym-rat buddies talk about the gym being packed full of people in the first weeks of January who don't know a dumbbell from a stupid person. But by February, the vast majority of those people are gone – failing to adhere to their resolution to get in shape. Perhaps they tried to do too much or expected that they could go from couch potato to Mr. Olympia in a matter of



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

weeks.

Now, there are many reasons why people fail, and there are probably many people that keep their resolutions and begin a lifelong positive change. I stopped playing the once-a-year resolution game a long time ago and decided that I would endeavor to constantly seek self-improvement in three key areas: my physical well-being, my spiritual well-being and my mental well-being. I figured that if I could nurture those three key areas of my life throughout the year, I would not need to make drastic resolutions once a year. It would be my lifelong endeavor to improve myself constantly – and no one need know how but me.

The obvious advantage to a lifelong endeavor vice a once-a-year resolution is that you can start any time you want and you can adjust your goals on the fly without incurring the scorn of being a New Year resolution "No-Go". While the new year does offer the opportunity to reflect on the past year and look forward to the next year, it does not have to be a time to affect drastic change to ones' lifestyle. Perhaps you can think about what you would like to change on New Year's day, and then develop a gradual plan that makes it a lifelong endeavor. --Honor Bound!■

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Cycles to enhance Army Reserve readiness, predictability

By Donna Myers

Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27, 2005 - The Army Reserve is instituting five-year readiness cycles to ensure a steady supply of deployment-ready forces while bringing more predictability to reservists, their families and their civilian employers, a top Army Reserve general said.

The Army Reserve Expeditionary Force provides a new model for how reservists will be organized, equipping, trained and mobilized in the future, said Army Brig. Gen. Richard J. Sherlock, the Army Reserve's new deputy chief, during a recent interview with the Pentagon Channel and the American Forces Press Service.

Almost all Army Reserve units will be assigned to an Army Reserve Expeditionary Force package, which follows a five-year cycle to prepare for a potential deployment, the general explained.

During the first year of the cycle, members will focus on individual training: schools, qualification courses and training programs that range from initial military training to basic and advanced officer and noncommissioned officer courses to Command and General Staff College, Sherlock said.

During the next three years, soldiers will build on their individual training by moving through a variety of individual and collective unit training events. These will culminate with certifying events that demonstrate that unit members are trained and ready to perform their mission, Sherlock said.

During the fifth year of the cycle, these fully trained troops will become part of a ready pool available for missions, whether stateside or overseas, he said.

The Army Reserve Expeditionary Force model will bring structure and continuity to reservists' training while eliminating some of the uncertainty they face about potential deployments, Sherlock said.

"We're trying to put predictability in our soldiers' lives, where they know that one year out of every five, they will be eligible for a deployment somewhere," he said. "It doesn't say that they will be (deployed). It says they would be in a pool and would be ready for that."

The new five-year model is expected to spread deployments more evenly throughout the Army Reserve force and help the Army better allocate its resources to deploying units and soldiers.

It's also expected to help bring more balance to what Sherlock describes as the "three-legged stool" that's critical to the reserve components: not only its soldiers, but also the families and civilian employers who support them. "We can't perform our mission unless we keep all three of those legs of the stool ... in balance," Sherlock said.

The new model represents another step forward in the Army Reserve's transformation to a 21st-century force able to better complement the active Army, he said.

"We've moved in many ways from being a strategic reserve, or a force that is supplementary, to an operational reserve or force that is comple-

mentary to our Army," he said.

This transformation has been under way for the past decade, with particular progress during the past five years, Sherlock said. "We've been conducting operations, operating with the Army side by side as a complementary force, in essence, for over 10 years now," he said.

The result, he said, is an Army Reserve force that's more experienced, better trained and more ready than ever before.

The challenge ahead, as these combat veterans return home to their units, will be to continue offering them rewarding military careers.

"Our challenge as we go to the future is to continue to provide meaningful training opportunities for them ... so they can keep that level of proficiency and interest in staying with ... the finest Army in the world," Sherlock said.

As the Army Reserve has transitioned from a back-up force to a full partner in U.S. national defense, its active-component counterparts have taken note, he said.

"Our soldiers are performing on the battlefield with the active and Guard counterparts every single day, and every officer, every NCO, every leader I have talked to ... has said the same thing: 'I can't tell the difference, when I talk to a group of soldiers, who is active, Reserve, National Guard,'" Sherlock said.

"And I think it shows the progress of having an 'Army of One,'" he said. We are all supporting the same Army and ... conducting the same operations and supporting the war on terror as an Army, as opposed to different components of an Army."

**Have a happy
new year JTF, but
remember, if you
are going to drink,
drink responsibly.
Don't drink and
drive!**



Money Money Money! -Finance changes for 2006

By 1st Lt. Angela King-Sweigart

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

More money will end up in all Troopers' pockets here in the new year, thanks to an across the board pay increase.

The 3.1 percent raise takes effect Jan. 1.

Troopers have received significant raises over the last several years, adding up to at least a 14.4 percent raise from 2003, and unlike many of their civilian counterparts, Troopers have not had their out of pocket health care costs increased at all. Certain targeted grades have received additional raises during those years.

In addition to base pay increases, some Troopers may see changes in their Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH). BAH covers the expense of rent, or housing for those who have not had a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) to here and maintain a residence in the States. Some BAH rates are to be raised in 2006, but not all will receive a raise, in fact, some Troopers may see a decrease in their BAH rates since the pay is based on the average housing cost for the locality. To check out your new rates go to <https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html>. ■

Making Sense of Common GTMO Military Pay Terms

Base Pay

Your salary, based on pay grade and years in service.

BAH

Basic Allowance for Housing-money, if eligible, you receive for rent or mortgage payments.

COLA

Cost of Living Allowance-additional money received if Troopers are stationed at a high-cost area. An example of a high-cost area would be San Francisco.

BAS

Basic Allowance for Subsistence-money, if eligible, you receive to offset the cost of food.

FSA

Family Separation Allowance-the money you receive (\$250 per month) if you are separated from your dependants for more than 30 days.

HDP

Hardship Duty Pay-the money you receive for being stationed in a remote location. Here the rate is \$50 per month.

LES and MyPay

By 1st Lt. Angela King-Sweigart

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Your Leave and Earning Statement (LES) is the bi-monthly pay stub every Trooper here receives. The LES includes important information about entitlements and deductions, as well as leave accrued, bank information and tax information. The LES is available

either by mail or on MyPay, the automated pay system. All Troopers should have an account with MyPay. Visit, <https://mypay.dfas.mil/> for more information.

January is a good time to review your LES and verify the information on it is correct. If you think there is a problem, ask the proper point of contact in your chain of command. ■

Tax statements are projected to be distributed by

Form/Document	Available on MyPay	Mailed
Retiree Annual Statement (RAS)	Dec. 9, 2005	Dec. 17 – 31, 2005
Retiree 1099R	Dec. 16, 2005	Dec. 17 – 31, 2005
Active Duty Air Force, Army, Navy W-2	Jan. 21, 2006	Jan. 24 – 27, 2006
Reserve Air Force, Army, Navy W-2	Dec. 31, 2005	Jan. 4 – 7, 2006
Marine Corps Active & Reserve W-2	Jan. 10, 2006	Jan. 12 – 16, 2006
Civilian employee W-2	Jan. 9, 2006	Jan. 10 – 21, 2006

MONTHLY BASIC PAY TABLE

EFFECTIVE 1 JANUARY 2006

YEARS OF SERVICE

PAY GRADE	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
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COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

O-10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13365.00	13430.40	13709.70	14196.30
O-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11689.50	11857.50	12101.10	12525.60
O-8	8271.00	8541.90	8721.60	8772.00	8996.10	9371.10	9458.10	9814.20	9916.20	10222.80	10666.20	11075.40	11348.70	11348.70	11348.70
O-7	6872.70	7191.90	7339.80	7457.10	7669.80	7879.50	8122.50	8364.90	8607.90	9371.10	10015.80	10015.80	10015.80	10015.80	10066.50
O-6	5094.00	5596.20	5963.40	5963.40	5985.90	6242.70	6276.60	6276.60	6633.30	7263.90	7634.10	8004.00	8214.60	8427.60	8841.30
O-5	4246.50	4783.50	5115.00	5177.10	5383.50	5507.40	5779.20	5978.70	6236.10	6630.60	6818.10	7003.80	7214.40	7214.40	7214.40
O-4	3663.90	4241.40	4524.30	4587.60	4850.10	5131.80	5482.20	5755.80	5945.40	6054.30	6117.60	6117.60	6117.60	6117.60	6117.60
O-3	3221.40	3651.90	3941.70	4297.50	4503.00	4728.90	4875.30	5115.90	5240.70	5240.70	5240.70	5240.70	5240.70	5240.70	5240.70
O-2	2783.10	3170.10	3651.00	3774.30	3852.00	3852.00	3852.00	3852.00	3852.00	3852.00	3852.00	3852.00	3852.00	3852.00	3852.00
O-1	2416.20	2514.60	3039.60	3039.60	3039.60	3039.60	3039.60	3039.60	3039.60	3039.60	3039.60	3039.60	3039.60	3039.60	3039.60

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WITH OVER 4 YEARS ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE AS AN ENLISTED MEMBER OR WARRANT OFFICER

O-3E	0.00	0.00	0.00	4297.50	4503.00	4728.90	4875.30	5115.90	5318.40	5434.50	5592.90	5592.90	5592.90	5592.90	5592.90
O-2E	0.00	0.00	0.00	3774.30	3852.00	3974.70	4181.40	4341.60	4460.70	4460.70	4460.70	4460.70	4460.70	4460.70	4460.70
O-1E	0.00	0.00	0.00	3039.60	3246.30	3366.00	3488.70	3609.30	3774.30	3774.30	3774.30	3774.30	3774.30	3774.30	3774.30

WARRANT OFFICERS

W-5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5720.10	5916.30	6113.10	6311.10
W-4	3328.80	3581.10	3684.00	3785.10	3959.40	4131.30	4305.90	4475.70	4651.50	4927.20	5103.60	5276.10	5454.90	5631.00	5811.00
W-3	3039.90	3166.80	3296.40	3339.30	3475.50	3631.50	3837.30	4040.40	4256.40	4418.40	4579.80	4649.10	4720.80	4876.80	5032.50
W-2	2673.90	2826.60	2960.40	3057.30	3140.70	3369.60	3544.50	3674.40	3801.30	3888.30	3961.50	4100.70	4239.00	4379.10	4379.10
W-1	2361.30	2554.50	2683.80	2767.50	2990.40	3124.80	3243.90	3376.80	3465.00	3544.80	3674.70	3773.10	3773.10	3773.10	3773.10

ENLISTED MEMBERS

E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4022.10	4113.30	4228.20	4363.50	4499.40	4717.80	4902.30	5097.00	5394.00
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3292.50	3438.30	3528.30	3636.30	3753.30	3964.50	4071.60	4253.70	4354.80	4603.50
E-7	2288.70	2498.10	2593.80	2720.70	2819.40	2989.50	3084.90	3180.30	3350.40	3435.60	3516.30	3565.80	3732.60	3840.60	4113.60
E-6	1979.70	2178.00	2274.30	2367.60	2465.10	2685.00	2770.50	2865.30	2948.70	2978.10	2998.50	2998.50	2998.50	2998.50	2998.50
E-5	1814.10	1935.30	2028.60	2124.60	2273.70	2402.10	2496.60	2526.60	2526.60	2526.60	2526.60	2526.60	2526.60	2526.60	2526.60
E-4	1662.90	1748.10	1842.60	1935.90	2018.40	2018.40	2018.40	2018.40	2018.40	2018.40	2018.40	2018.40	2018.40	2018.40	2018.40
E-3	1501.20	1595.70	1692.00	1692.00	1692.00	1692.00	1692.00	1692.00	1692.00	1692.00	1692.00	1692.00	1692.00	1692.00	1692.00
E-2	1427.40	1427.40	1427.40	1427.40	1427.40	1427.40	1427.40	1427.40	1427.40	1427.40	1427.40	1427.40	1427.40	1427.40	1427.40
E-1 >4	1273.50	1273.50	1273.50	1273.50	1273.50	1273.50	1273.50	1273.50	1273.50	1273.50	1273.50	1273.50	1273.50	1273.50	1273.50
E-1 <4	1178.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C/S		15615.90	M/S	6499.50											

NOTE--BASIC PAY FOR O7-O10 IS LIMITED TO \$12,666.60
LEVEL III OF THE EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE

NOTE--BASIC PAY FOR O6 AND BELOW IS LIMITED TO \$11,158.20
LEVEL V OF THE EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE

3.1%, 2006 Increase as established under § 1009 of US Code Title 37.

An adjustment under this section shall have the force and effect of law - Released October 11, 2005.

1.9% Increase for Level III and Level V for year 2006.

signed month day, year.

OFFICIAL



◀Comic by Mark Baker



Comic by W.C. Pope ▶

The JTF timeline

what happened this year

“From the day detainees first arrived here, the JTF has undergone a remarkable transformation,” said JTF-GTMO Commander Maj. Gen. Jay Hood.

Troopers lived in tents and detainees were occupying a former migrant operations facility. Since then, the canvas has given way to wood and has since been upgraded to housing, while the detainees have been moved to a more modern secure facility.

Jan. is the anniversary month of when the detainees arrived here in 2002.

Jan. 2005



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cavett Ishihara

March. The 525 Military Police Battalion holds activation ceremony. The 525 now holds sole responsibility for Camp 5, Camp Echo and soon, Camp 6.



July. Distinguished visitors to better understanding convey it to the public. were done by congress analysts.

May. JTF and Camp Delta linguists join forces to revamp the 28 week reading and writing course for Pashtu-speaking detainees. The graduation excise for this program is to write a letter home.



Photo by Sgt. Dave Lankford

Apr. The 1/18 Cavalry Regiment takes the reins for force security from the 2/113 Infantry Regiment. “The Cav”, as most of us know them, by has earned their place in the history books here. This the first time in 100 years that they have been on this island, and have served with distinction.



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

June. The newly formed Naval Provisional Guard Battalion takes charge of operations inside Camp Delta. This Battalion is writing history everyday since this the first time the Navy has undertaken this mission.

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Ho



Photo by Sgt. Todd Lamonica

Visitors visit the camps
to observe the JTF mission and
operations. These observations
include military leaders, journalists and



Photo by Sgt. Todd Lamonica

Sept. Changes to military commissions are announced. The new courtroom procedure is more like a judge and jury arrangement seen in the states.



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

Dec. The Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Mike Mullen, as well as other important military leaders visited JTF Troopers to recognize them for their hard work and dedication.

Dec. 2005



Photo by Jose Ruiz

Oct. JTF-GTMO Commander Army Brig. Gen. Jay Hood is promoted to Maj. Gen. by Gen. Bantz J. Laddock, SOUTHCOM Commander, and Lynne Hood, Maj. Gen. Hood's wife.

Oct. Construction of Camp 6 begins. Camp 6 is a state of the art detention facility that is expected to be completed in 2006.



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

Oct. The third anniversary of the JTF. Improvements were made to quality of life for the Troopers and the IOF was completed.

Playoff picture coming into focus

Commentary by Spc. Ian Shay

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

With week 17 in the NFL approaching fast, it's almost odd to see last year's Titans missing the playoffs.

At this time last year the Patriots, Steelers, Falcons, Colts and Eagles were the biggest names in the game. But after some injuries, coordinators taking positions elsewhere and the 2005 NFL draft, the league has shown some new colors.

This year, the Colts are the only dominant team in the bunch. Peyton Manning led the Colts offense to 13 straight victories before getting zapped by the San Diego Chargers in week 14 but they look to finally make the big game in February. You could make an argument for the Steelers, but they lost the division to the Cincinnati Bengals and haven't had a solid running game this season.

The NFC is worse off than the AFC; the Philadelphia Eagles are in their worst slump since 1999, with the season ending surgery to Donovan McNabb's sports hernia, and the Falcons just plain stink. Michael Vick is slowing down and his lack of a passing game is finally catching up to him. Besides quarterback problems, the Eagles and Falcons suffered from the fact that the NFC East and South are really tough divisions now.

It might not be like last year, but at least there's some new blood in the system. In the AFC, you have the Bengals looking like a playoff

contender thanks to Carson Palmer and Rudy and Chad Johnson. The Patriots have made the playoffs but that is only because their division is the worst in the league. Of course, the Colts are in but so are the Jacksonville Jaguars, who despite key injuries, have managed to win their tough schedule (thanks to a phenomenal defense). The Denver Broncos are in because Jake "the snake" Plummer finally made the decision to play this year.

The Kansas City Chiefs and San Diego Chargers are both 9-7 trying to fight for a wild card spot. Odds are, the Steelers and Jaguars will take them but if things go bad for the Steelers, there is a chance for the Chiefs or Chargers to capitalize. And they have tough games next week, but the Chiefs and Chargers have a good chance, if the Broncos and Bengals decide not to risk any injuries.

The NFC is a little more cut and dry. The Seattle Seahawks and the Chicago Bears have clinched their divisions and a first round bye. Seattle has also clinched home field throughout the playoffs. The New York Giants have clinched a playoff berth, so that only leaves the NFC South title and two wild card spots.

The South will most likely fall into the Tampa



Photo from ESPN.com

With the win over the Packers, the Bears clinched the NFC North

Bay Buccaneers hands, because week 17's match-up is against the dismal New Orleans Saints. The last remaining spot looks to be a battle between the Washington Redskins and the Dallas Cowboys. The Redskins have the easiest game against the Eagles, but the Eagles have been letting some of their starters and all of their rookies show off their stuff, and Andy Reid is not going to let Joe Gibbs walk into the playoffs without a fight.

It was a rough year for football with countless injuries and tons of controversy, but the playoffs are here and that is always something to smile about. ■

NFL PICKS WEEK 17

**SUNDAY NIGHT:
ST. LOUIS AT DALLAS**

**SHAY:
DALLAS 28-24
WEIR:
DALLAS 30-20**

**LAST WEEK
SHAY (9-7) WEIR (12-4)
WILSON ELIMINATED**

**SHAY SEASON RECORD
138-84**

*Picks submitted by Spc. Ian Shay, Navy Petty Officer
1st Class Staolins Mark
and Army Maj. Jeff Weir.*

Week 17

Denver at San Diego
N.Y. Giants at Oakland
Arizona at Indianapolis
Baltimore at Cleveland
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets
Carolina at Atlanta
Cincinnati at Kansas City
Detroit at Pittsburgh
Miami at New England
New Orleans at Tampa Bay
Seattle at Green Bay
Houston at San Francisco
Tennessee at Jacksonville
Chicago at Minnesota
Washington at Philadelphia



Shay
Chargers
Giants
Colts
Ravens
Bills
Panthers
Bengals
Steelers
Patriots
Bucs
Seahawks
Texans
Jaguars
Bears
Eagles



Mark
Chargers
Oakland
Colts
Ravens
Bills
Panthers
Chiefs
Steelers
Patriots
Bucs
Seahawks
49ers
Jaquars
Vikings
Redskins



Weir
Denver
Giants
Colts
Ravens
Bills
Panthers
Chiefs
Steelers
Patriots
Bucs
Seahawks
49ers
Jaquars
Vikings
Redskins

THE **DP** Movie Review

presents



The Top Ten Holiday Movies Ever

10. A Christmas Carol

Patrick Stewart, who is able to embody the role that Charles Dickens initially intended, plays Ebenezer Scrooge. This rendition actually explains what Scrooge's character is guilty of. Now, not having Christmas spirit is not a crime, but the way the character abuses his power and coins the phrase 'humbug,' he is truly a lousy person. I really enjoyed watching Scrooge come around and learn from his mistakes --Dean

9. The Grinch who stole Christmas

Ah, the classic animated tale of the ill-mannered Grinch. This old-school Dr. Seuss tale makes the top 10 by appealing to a wide range of audiences, not just children like many of the other animated and clay-mation holiday tales. Great for the whole family--Patt

8. The Ref

Dennis Leary stars in the popular tale of a thief who ends up in the wrong place at the wrong time on Christmas. Abandoned by his partner, Leary is forced to take his victims as hostages. While Leary is always a joy to watch, the verbal bickering amongst the various family members is a sure fire holiday hoot. If you're sick of the standard holiday cry-fest, give it a shot--Patt

7. The Santa Claus

While on one of many routine deliveries, Santa takes a header off the roof of Tim Allen's home, causing Allen to don the suit at the suggestion of his son. Over the next year, the former Home Im-

provement star goes from ordinary single dad to Jolly Old Saint Nick, causing everyone to think he's lost it, except his son, who thinks it's just super.--Patt

6. Gremlins

Yet another story of little green monsters that try to ruin Christmas, only these little guys don't want to ruin it, they want to kill it. This movie, unlike its sequel, had suspense, action, and comedy. Watching Stripe in the department store trying to kill Billy with a circular saw and a crossbow still puts a smile on my face, no matter what time of the year I watch it--Patt

5. Badder Santa

This is the unrated version of Bad Santa. Clearing that up, this movie really makes you feel good about yourself while you are watching it. Billy Bob Thornton is the true epitome of trash. His character plays a Santa for the holidays in order to rob the mall shortly thereafter. He is an alcoholic who hates his life and you can see why--Dean

4. National Lampoons Christmas Vacation

Clark Griswold (Chevy Chase) has the best intention - for the Griswold's to have the best Christmas, but fortunately for us, this is a great comedy flick. This film is what Christmas is all about to me. Griswold and his family are on another non-stop joy ride for the holidays. From one disaster to another, how could you not laugh?--Dean

3. Die Hard

Nobody thought that former Moonlighting star Bruce Willis would be able to make the leap into action films, but they were wrong. This was a smash hit and a damn good Christmas movie. Fighting off terrorist and saving his wife are what makes this New York cop do what's necessary--Dean

2. Scrooged

Bill Murray stars in one of my favorite movies ever, period. Yeah, it's corny and very predictable, but hilarious at the same time. Murray is a Network Exec who doesn't care about Christmas. We all know the story from here. When we get to the end, watching Murray running around ala Scrooge is fantastic. Add in classic Murray one-liners all the way through and how can you miss? --Patt

1. A Christmas Story

Ah, the traditional holiday tale about a little boy named Ralphie and his fondness for a particular firearm. Along the way on this journey, Ralphie encounters a rude mall Santa (HO HO HO!), soap in his mouth for saying "fudge", and after being told by countless people what would happen when he got his beloved rifle? He shot his eye out, sort of. And the sight of his little brother who can't get up after falling in the snow because he has 115 layers of clothing on? I laugh just thinking about it. There's just too much in this movie to talk about, so get out and see it already! --Patt

Ralphie is narrating the story of him as a child and what happens at Christmas time in his family. The antics of Ralphie and his friends are what make this the best movie for Christmas. Between Ralphie, the bully and his friend Flick, who gets his tongue stuck to the fire pole, and a Red Ryder BB gun, who knows how it will turn out, but we have all seen it.--Dean■

Resolutions for a new year

By Spc. Jeshua Nace

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The time honored tradition of New Year's resolutions can be a serious custom for some, but most people can never stick to them. Other people just take resolutions as a joke. Either way, here are some of the things Troopers and civilians here plan to resolve or do for the New Year.

"To redeploy home in 2006," Anonymous officer.

"Quit Smoking!" Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Murrury Willett.

"Being more polite with other people," Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Ricardo Guillen.

"Make Camp America a better place to live," Army 1st Sgt. Malcolm Campbell.

"Get in shape, eat better," Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Connor Dillingham.

"Meet a lot of new people," Army Sgt. Chris Coleman.

"Grow hair," Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Keith Cupples.

"Become a Top Gun actor," Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Matt Davis.

"I resolve to stay dry in 2006," Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Dean Dillingham.

"Kick Osama's butt, 2006!" Spc. Scott Willits.

"Leave GTMO by March, hopefully," Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Tunney.

"Attend college courses online," Staff Sgt. Edwin Lopez.

"Get home in one piece and get promoted to Sergeant," Spc. Christopher Zapata.

"Leave GTMO with specialist rank," Spc. Mike Young.

"I want 26 inch arms," Staff Sgt. James Dolan.

"Do not drown, I've had several boating accidents this year," Capt. Johnny Balabanick.

"Do everything possible to get back on a M1A1 Abrams," Sgt. 1st Class Ronnie Troyn.■

The rear view mirror of life

CH(Lt. Col.) Robert C. Palmer

JTF-GTMO Chaplains Office

Could you imagine driving around GTMO using mainly your rear view mirror? Down the road you drive, eyes focused on what's behind you, rarely glancing out the windshield or to the side. Day after day, guided by your rear view mirror...

You would be unaware of most of what is going on around you. You are an accident waiting for a place to happen. Not only would you probably cause an accident, you could end up harming yourself and others..

Your memory is like your rear view mirror. Its a mirror into the past. If you live your life looking back at past failures or disappointments (or even past successes), you will not be

able to function properly in the present. Living in the past hurts you and hurts others. It leaves you unable to help anyone in the present and unable to fulfill your destiny.

Just as your rear view mirror is meant to give you a glimpse of what is behind you, your memory is meant to be a glimpse of the past to learn from, to move on from, to continue going forward. As we begin a new year, don't focus on the disappoint-



Photo by Sgt. Todd Lamonica

ments and failures of the past year. Glance briefly at them and learn from them, and then move on into your future in 2006! "...but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead."- Philippians 3:13b■

Sleep

by CH(Lt. Col.) Chris Molnar

JTF-GTMO Chaplains Office

It's surrender, a laying down of our arms. Whatever plans you are making, whatever work you are up to, whatever pleasures you are enjoying, whatever sorrows or anxieties or problems you are in the middle of, you set them aside, find a place to stretch out somewhere, close your eyes, and wait for sleep.

All the things that make you the particular person that you are stop working—your thoughts and feelings, the changing expressions on your face, the constant moving around, the relentless or not so relentless purpose. But all the other things keep working on their own. You keep breathing in and out. Your heart goes on beating. If some faint thought stirs somewhere in your brain, it's converted into a dream so you can go on sleeping and not have to wake up to think it through before it's time to get up.

Whether you are just or unjust, you have the innocence of a cat dozing by the fire. Whether you are old or young, homely or good looking, you sleep with the peace of a marble statue. You have given up being in charge of your life. You have put yourself into the hands of the night.

It is a rehearsal for the final laying down of arms, of course, when you trust yourself to the same unseen goodness that sees you through the darkness and wakes you when the time comes—with renewed strength and hope—into the return again of the light.

There is a beautiful 450 year-old hymn commonly referred to as the Tallis Canon that speaks to me of the God-given peace in sleep and our eternal rest. Some of the words are:

Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son, The ill that I this day have done;

That with the world, myself, and thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

Teach me to live, that I may dread The grave as little as my bed.

I wish you all a productive, peaceful and happy New Year.■

CAMP AMERICA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

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

15 Minutes of Fame

with Army Sgt. Catalina Rodriguez and Spc. Cristina Magallanes

Written by Spc. Ian Shay

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

"A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out," Walter Winchell.

The quote above can ring true for Troopers deployed far away from friends and families. Especially for Army Sgt. Catalina Rodriguez and Spc. Cristina Magallanes, who met at Camp Roberts during Soldier Readiness Program (SRP) in Dec. 2004.

When Rodriguez and Magallanes met, they were both being mobilized to GTMO. They were also new to an unfamiliar unit with unfamiliar faces, without the comfort of a close friend. They were both from different units, who were attached to the DIVARTY. "Everyone was standing in formation and everybody knew each other except me and her," said Rodriguez.

Deployments can be lonely and having a trusted friend nearby can make things a whole lot easier. "I can only trust her and she can only trust me and people always tell us we look like sisters, so we tell people we're sisters," said Rodriguez.

It was Rodriguez's first deployment, but during her active duty time she spent two years in Germany as a training NCO. Magallanes, who volunteered for GTMO, had recently returned from 15 months in Iraq, where she was involved in convoy operations, performed tower guard duty and participated in multiple raids. In 2001, Magallanes spent a year as airport security in San Francisco.

Previously, Rodriguez worked as a field artillery surveyor and has been in the Army for seven years, both active duty and with the California National Guard. Rodriguez serves as an administrative clerk and the JTF Awards NCOIC. She also received an award of her own when she was named JTF's Top Performer during the beginning stages of the deployment.

Magallanes has served her country for



Photo by Spc. Ian Shay

almost six years and produces dispatches at the motor pool here.

Rodriguez is a single mother with two children, a 5-year-old daughter and a 3-year-old son. It is always tough for a mother to be away from her children but her friendship with Magallanes helps ease the time away.

"It's very hard; I call them every other day or whenever I can. She met my children before; when we were mobilized, we spent approximately three days in [Calif.] at DIVARTY, so I took her to my house. She fell in love with my kids," said Rodriguez.

GTMO may not be a Trooper's first choice in deployment destinations, but it can be good in many ways. "It has already helped me a lot. It's made me a stronger person and helped me realize things in life, especially with my kids," said Rodriguez.

Both women use downtime to take classes and are both currently seeking degrees. Rodriguez hopes to finish a degree in nursing and Magallanes is seeking her de-

gree in criminal justice, which she says, are a lot more exciting than their retention and finance jobs back home.

Magallanes and Rodriguez use the rest of their spare time dancing, and dancing was one of the things that brought them together. "I needed someone to go out with. So I asked her if she wanted to go out dancing and she said yes, so I took her," said Magallanes. Rodriguez used her salsa skills to win her a 1st place finish in salsa competition here.

Both plan to retire from the military one day and two things are for certain. They will have a lot of fun together and remain close friends throughout. ■

15 Minutes of Fame

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



Photo by Army Sgt. Tara Bowman

Sgt. Tara Bowman, J8, won first place in the Camp America door-decorating contest. Troopers in Camp America had the opportunity to dress their doors up for the holidays and enter in the decorating contest held by Combat Stress.



Photo by 1st Lt. Angela King-Sweigart

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Robert Palmer packs cookies for servicemembers on duty Christmas Day during the post cookie drive.



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

Spc. Leonard and Spc. Parker, from the Vet clinic, swear in during their reenlistment ceremony Dec. 23. Maj. Gen. Jay Hood administered the oath.



Photo by Spc. Seth Myers

Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Ball, Joint Visitors Bureau, receives an award prior to his departure from JTF-GTMO Commander Maj. Gen. Jay Hood and from Admiral Mike Mullen, Chief of Naval Operations.

AROUND THE JTF