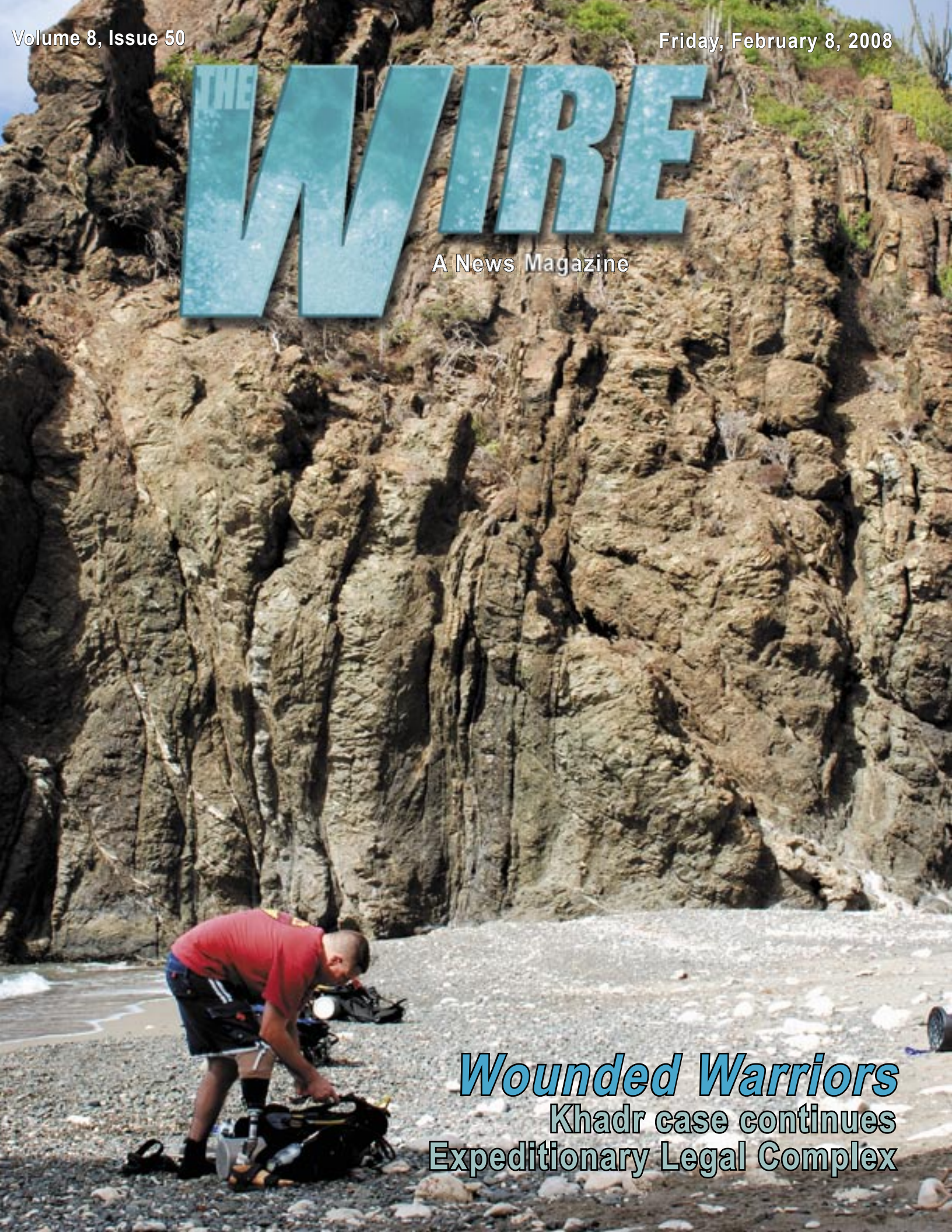


# THE WIRE

A News Magazine



*Wounded Warriors*  
Khadr case continues  
Expeditionary Legal Complex



# Mission Accomplished

**By Army 1st Sgt. Jose DeJesus**

JTF HHC First Sergeant

For a significant number of us the assignment with Joint Task Force Guantanamo is about to end. The Headquarters and Headquarters Company 92nd Separate Infantry Brigade from the Puerto Rico Army National Guard did the “battle hand off” (transfer of authority) Monday with HHC 111th Combat Support Brigade from the New Mexico Army National Guard. As we leave some will move on to new duty stations, while many of us will return to our civilian jobs and lives. I am sure that many of you are trying to get in the last few dives, a little more fishing, or finish a course for college credit.

All of a sudden, it seems like there just isn't enough time to get everything done. But we must not allow the excitement of our time here coming to an end to let us lose sight of our mission. You have contributed much, but we still need you.

At this point right now we are to deal with one very important aspect of our mission, and that is preparing our replacements to take over. It is our responsibility to ensure that this mission continues to be performed to the high standards that our predecessors and all of us have set. The eyes of the world are on us, so we need to make sure our relief is 100 percent prepared to assume this mission.

Think back. Remember your first few days and weeks here on the island? I suspect you might remember being confused and perhaps a little bit scared you were going to make a mistake. Remember the questions you had and the things that you wish the guy you replaced had told you? Take the time to make a few notes to help make your replacement's



transition a little easier. Don't just take notes on operational elements, but also on the “nice to know” type of information that made your life a little easier.

People often talk about “common knowledge.” Well, your replacement doesn't know a thing about the JTF – and much of what they may have heard is false – so don't assume that anything is “common knowledge.” Give them the detailed information they need to be successful. Much of the measure of our success is how smoothly our replacements carry on with the mission. After a year here, you are probably now doing things a specific way because it just seems to be “common sense.” That is not “common sense.” It's your experience that caused you to start doing things that way.

Show your replacement how to do the job, but make sure you also tell them why. They will appreciate learning from your hard earned experience and sacrifices.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to tell all of the JTF Troopers how much I have enjoyed serving with you here. I am proud of each and every one of you and the professional job you do every day.

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## COVER:

**Wounded Warrior Aaron Schoenfeld preps his gear before diving at Blind Beach. Schoenfeld, along with five others, visited Guantanamo Bay last weekend to complete their dive certification through the Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba program. (Photo by Army Capt. Kevin Cowan)**



The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regards to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by the Document Automation & Production Service with a circulation of 1000.

# Puerto Rico Relinquishes Authority of the Headquarters Company to New Mexico



**Joint Task Force Guantanamo Joint Detention Group Sgt. Maj. Jaime Perez rolls up the flag of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard as a symbol of relinquishing authority to the New Mexico Army National Guard.**

***Story and photos by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard***

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The New Mexico Army National Guard's 111th Combat Support Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company replaced the Puerto Rico Army National Guard's 92nd Separate Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company here Monday in a transfer of authority ceremony.

For the last year, the Puerto Rico unit supported operations at Joint Task Force Guantanamo where some 275 detainees are still held.

After a long year of hard work and numerous accomplishments the Puerto Rico Army National Guard finds their time in Guantanamo coming to an end. The ceremony was the official close.

The ceremony included JTF Commander Rear Adm. Mark Buzby as a guest speaker, who spoke highly of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard. He commented that they would be the benchmark for how the job was to be done.

The arrival of the New Mexico Army National Guard was a welcome sight to the Puerto Ricans who are anxious to get back home to family, friends, and civilian employers.

For the New Mexico National Guard, it is their second deployment to Cuba. Their first deployment

was in 1898, with Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders and the charge of San Juan Hill.

Over a century later, history repeats itself and finds them back in Cuba albeit for a completely different reason.

According to 1st Sgt. Alfred Gomez, a 28-year veteran from Tucson, Ariz., their objective is to "support all detainee operations and make operations successful."

The 111th is excited about their time here, and anxious to tackle the challenges that await them. Gomez was enthusiastic when speaking about the future of his unit and looking forward to a "good, productive and safe year." We want to "look back on this year as a memorable and successful part of our careers."

In summing up their time here, Operations Sgt. Maj. Jaime Perez, from Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico, said it has been a "great experience. We had no clue what a joint task force was when we arrived, but were able to adapt and accomplish our mission. According to Rear Adm. Buzby we did a great job."

As the members of the New Mexico Army National Guard are just beginning to become familiar with their mission and the responsibility it entails, Sgt. Maj. Perez had a few words of advice to all them: "Stay focused on the mission. To the leaders: take care of your troopers, and to the officers: take care of your enlisted personnel."



# 474th celebrates six months of hard work



Members of the 474th Civil Engineering Squadron receive certificates of appreciation from Army Col. Wendy Kelly and Army Sgt. 1st Class Domini McDonald for their hard work while constructing the Expeditionary Legal Complex.

**Story and photo by  
Army Spc. Shanita Simmons**  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The 474th Civil Engineering Squadron celebrated their contribution to a \$12 million state-of-the-art Expeditionary Legal Complex to Joint Task Force Guantanamo during a ceremony Saturday. The ELC will augment the military commission process by providing a second courtroom that will have the technology and security measures required to adequately facilitate military commissions involving high value detainees.

During the ceremony, Air Force Lt. Col. James Starnes, commander of the 474th, thanked his Airmen who worked tirelessly over the past six months to complete construction of the facility.

“This has been a once in a lifetime historical event for these Air Guard engineers to construct such a facility,” said Starnes, who mentioned this court is the first military tribunal constructed since World War II. “This mission has great magnitude in what we are doing to aid the global war on terror.”

The ELC, which is designed to facilitate military commissions where multiple defendants are tried together, is scheduled to

be ready for use by early March. Army Col. Wendy Kelly, director of operations for the Office of Military Commissions, mentioned that the complex will include one of the first military courtrooms designed to protect highly-classified information and provide the state of the art technology usually found in federal courts.

“There are Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities that allow the prosecution, defense, judge and clerk of court to read classified evidence,” said Kelly. “The complex also includes holding cells intended for detainees, along with witness waiting areas and separate rooms where jury panels can deliberate.”

The new legal complex became a necessity, said Kelly, once the OMC decided it was “judicially economical” to have joint trials in cases for detainees who are believed to be involved in the same conspiracy. Plans to construct a new courtroom to hold military war crimes was first initiated in late 2006 soon after Congress promulgated the Military Commissions Act. With a operational date set by the Pentagon, Kelly mentioned that the Red Horse civil engineering unit located in Florida was tasked to design the complex based on requirements set by the OMC. Soon after

the architectural plans were drawn up in May 2007, the 474th was mobilized and arrived in Guantanamo Bay in July 2007 to construct the ELC. The 474th was also tasked to set up a “tent city” that the unit later named “Camp Justice”.

“The building was transported in pieces and was unloaded from the barge during the end of September,” said Kelly. “It took all the services and the dedication of the 474th to successfully convert this warehouse into a state of the art facility capable of sustaining major criminal trials.”

Starnes, whose squadron consists of Air Guard units from six different states, mentioned that Air Guardsmen with various skills and talents worked vigorously to the facility meet standards set by the Department of Defense.

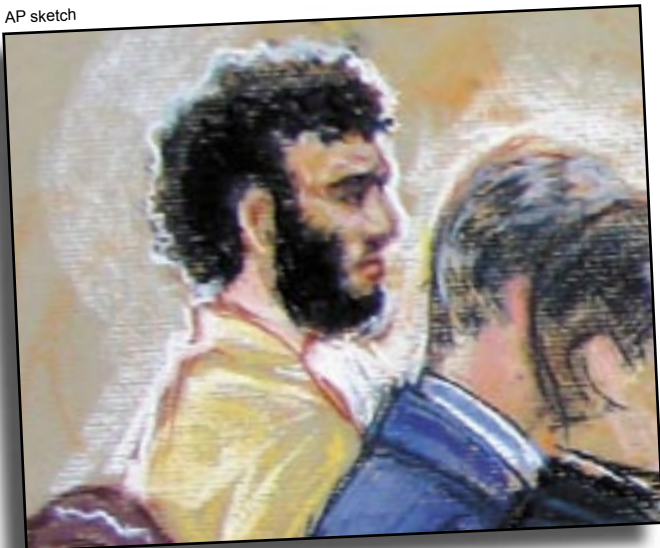
“Approximately 120 civil engineers where on ground to conduct various tasks from putting together raw materials to laying carpet and painting walls,” said Starnes, whose Airmen also assisting with construction projects on the naval station here. “This was an inexpensive way to give the judge and attorneys the facilities they needed to perform their job during the proceedings.”

There are many design features within the facility that set it a part from other military courtrooms. Unlike a traditional court that usually seats 12 jurors, the ELC courtroom will include seating to sustain 20 jury panel members. With three tables set up for prosecutors and seven tables available to seat multiple defendants who are tried during the same proceeding, Kelly added that the courtroom is unique compared to those usually found on military facilities. As a precautionary measure, a glassed in spectator box is also included to prevent those attending the proceeding from coming into direct contact with a detainee. The grounds of the ELC will also include five holding cells where detainees can be held during their trials. Kelly mentioned that the holding cells are located in a gated area providing a walkway that leads directly into the courtroom, which helps minimize

**See ELC on page 13**

# Khadr case continues amid “child soldier” debate

AP sketch



**By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

A U.S. military tribunal in Guantanamo Bay heard arguments Monday on whether Omar Khadr is properly charged under the Military Commissions Act for crimes he allegedly committed while fighting against American forces in Afghanistan in 2002.

Khadr's case has drawn considerable attention as a child soldier since he was captured at age 15 and then detained within the facilities here. The only Canadian being held in Guantanamo Bay, Khadr is accused of murder, attempted murder, conspiracy, spying and providing material support for terrorism.

Prosecution and defense counsel filed 16 motions with the military commission and orally argued six during the proceedings. Khadr, a slim young man who adorned a neatly-trimmed, short, black beard during the proceeding, wore a white shirt and pants as he sat beside his defense counsels.

Defense Attorney Rebecca Snyder urged Judge Army Col. Peter Brownback to dismiss the charges brought by the government against Khadr since he was charged in violation of the Ex Post Facto clause of

the U.S. Constitution. Since the acts resulting in the charges were committed before the Military Commissions Act was promulgated, the defense argued that Congress could not retroactively pass “penal legislation” that was created after the period when Khadr committed the alleged criminal acts. However, Prosecuting Attorney

Andy Goldstein explained that the MCA was created to prosecute unlawful enemy combatants captured after Sept. 11 whose acts led up to the attacks. Thus, the prosecution concluded that there was clear intent by Congress to apply the legislation retroactively.

Goldstein also disputed the defense claim that Khadr is afforded Ex Post Facto protections under the Constitution. He cited a District of Columbia Circuit Court case that denies detainees certain constitutional rights.

During the proceedings, Snyder also claimed the military commissions lacked subject matter jurisdiction over Khadr because the charges of conspiracy and providing material support for terrorism are not laws of war violations. Rather than facing a commission, Snyder argued that Khadr should be subject to a domestic court. However, Goldstein explained that the criminal acts of conspiracy and providing material support for terrorism are violations of the laws of war that had been codified into the MCA.

Marine Maj. Jeffery Groharing, an attorney for the prosecution, defended the government's charges of murder and attempted murder against Khadr by disputing the defense's claim that

terrorism by definition is not a war crime. Groharing stated the evidence presented at trial will show that Khadr was captured in Afghanistan while wearing civilian attire, and he received al Qaida training in which he learned how to use firearms and make explosives. Groharing said that comparing Khadr's acts as an alleged member of a terrorist organization to those committed by an American soldier “is an insult to all those who wear the uniform.” Groharing added that Khadr could be brought up for charges under the MCA as an alien unlawful enemy combatant.

During the proceeding, Defense Attorney Navy Lt. Cmdr. Willam Kuebler questioned whether a child soldier could be held criminally liable under the MCA. Kuebler added that the court could not believe that Congress intended a “one size fits all” justice system” without expressly saying so.

During the proceeding, the prosecution asserted that Congress' definition of “persons” in the MCA as “any infant members of an organization” supports the intent to include children when charging individuals under the act. During the proceeding, Kuebler called Khadr a “victim” and said he should be recognized as a child soldier who was involuntarily placed on the battlefield by a non state actor. In support of this argument, Kuebler cited the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts (“Protocol”), which prohibits the employment of children under age 17 in the Armed Forces. He explained that since Congress recognized a juvenile's inability to meet a “soldier status,” there is an assumption that child soldiers should not be prosecuted like adult soldiers. The prosecution claimed that Kuebler's arguments were based

**See Khadr on page 13**



# Giants defeat Pats, Fans Celebrate

By Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Finally a Super Bowl lived up to its name and was just that, *super*. In what was arguably the best football game ever played, the New York Giants upset the 18-0 New England Patriots. The game had everything: drama, intensity, great plays, memorable moments and several real life heroes. The contest was truly an instant classic so let's relive some of the highlights as I try to do this game justice.

In what was a sign of things to come New York won the coin toss and elected to receive the ball. The Giants took the opening kickoff and marched down the field on a 16-play, 63-yard drive that took almost 10 minutes off of the clock. The drive stalled at the Patriots 15-yard line where the Giants had to settle for a Lawrence Tynes 32-yard field goal making the score 3-0. I remember watching the game and thinking, "Man that's not good for the Giants; they're not going to beat the Patriots with just field goals." That thought looked to be true as the Patriots got the ball on the very next possession and drove it right down the Giants' throat for a touchdown and a 7-3 lead. The drive took 12 plays over 56 yards, chewing 5:04 off of the clock.

On the following possession by the Giants wide receiver Steve Smith mishandled a pass thrown by Eli Manning and it ended up in the hands of Patriots defensive back Ellis Hobbs. It was then that I thought, "Well, it was a good first quarter, but here comes the Patriots onslaught."

I was wrong. The Giants defense came up huge and forced the first punt of the game. It was on this drive when the Giants' defense set the tone for the rest of the game as they constantly put pressure on Tom Brady. The two teams would account for only 10 points in the first half and went into the locker rooms with the Patriots leading 7-3.

In the second half, the New England Patriots got the ball first and were not able to do anything with it as the Giants' defensive line was just all over Brady. The third quarter turned out to be an amazing defensive struggle between both teams as there was no scoring.

The fourth quarter, however, was a horse of another color. With 11:54 left, Manning found David Tyree in the end zone for a 5-yard touchdown to make the score 10-7. After the teams traded possessions that did not account for any points the Patriots took over with about eight minutes left in the game. On this drive Brady was able to find time and hit his receivers as he drove the team into the end zone with a 6-yard pass to Randy Moss who was wide open in the end zone, putting the score at 14-10.

I again remember saying to myself, "Man, Brady did it again!" For the second time that night I was proven wrong. With just 2:42 remaining, the Giants would begin their legendary drive down the field. Early on, they were forced to go for it on fourth and 1 from their own 37 yard line. Brandon Jacobs picked up



**New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning celebrates with the trophy alongside Terry Bradshaw of Fox Sports and New York Giants head coach Tom Coughlin, right, after the Giants defeated the Patriots 17-14 in the Super Bowl XLII Sunday. (AP Photo)**

two tough yards to the 39 and kept the drive alive. After a 5-yard pass and an incompleting, the Giants were facing a third and 5 from the 44 yard line. Manning completed a stunning 32-yard pass to Tyree who somehow managed to control the ball pressed against his helmet while falling backwards in the arms of a defender in what will go down as one of the game's all-time greatest catches. This set the Giants up at the Patriots' 24 yard line. After a sack and an incomplete pass, the Giants were looking at a third and 11. Manning hit Smith for 12 yards where he was pushed out of bounds at the Pats' 13 yard line. On the very next play Manning found Plaxico Burress in the end zone for the game winning touchdown.

Eli Manning was voted the game's MVP and deservedly so. However, this was truly a great team effort, every player to a man stepped up and did the job. The Giants played a great game on the game's grandest stage. My hats off to you New York Giants – winners of the greatest Super Bowl ever played.

# Move over football, here comes boxing!



**Kendy Peguero hones his heavy bag skills during circuit training in Saturday's boxing class at Marine Fitness Center.**

**Story and photos by Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

*"Floats like a butterfly, stings like a bee."*

Everyone knows the catch phrase of the three-time heavyweight champion boxer. You know Muhammad Ali as the man who beat Joe Frazier, who told us which round he'd knock his opponents down in, and the boxing great who lit the torch at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

So what does Ali have to do with Guantanamo? Not much, except the fact that boxing has made its debut in Guantanamo. That's right, "boxing!" Now that football has had the Super Bowl and is officially over, what better thing to do than get in shape by boxing and staying away from the television.

Ephraim Post has been a competitor and instructor of boxing for over three decades and wanted to pass on some of his boxing expertise to the Troopers of Guantanamo.

"I've been in boxing for over 33 years and I wanted to get re-engaged in my favorite sport and start teaching again," said Post. "I really want to give

the Troopers a taste of what boxing is about and maybe they'll get interested in it and continue with it after their tour at Guantanamo."

Morale, Welfare, & Recreation offers over 25 different types of exercise programs each week such as cardio kickboxing, yoga, pilates, and spinning. However, none match the intensity to that of the boxing class. It is one of the best avenues for physical fitness and is a classic way to get into and stay in shape.

"The boxing class is not only a morale booster but it's where Troopers are learning new and challenging ways to get and stay in shape while on deployment," said Post. "Challenges are always important when you are on deployment because it helps pass the time and gives you something to look forward to since you know that the next training session is approaching."

It takes years of training for someone to become competitive, but the classes gives Troopers the basics of what they need to know before they can enter the ring.

"A boxer trains by going from one station to another where certain techniques can be developed," said Post. "This is what

we call circuit training. There are usually 14 stations that include jumping rope, sit-ups, shadow boxing, and the speed bag and heavy bag are just a few of the drills we do. Since everyone in the class is an amateur, we only do each circuit drill for two minutes each," Post added.

The circuit drills two rounds per station for a total of 28 rounds and Post will give about 30 minutes of instruction per class.

"There are currently almost twenty people in the class and we don't have a lot of room, but I am working on trying to get a bigger classroom and more equipment to expand the program," said Post. "I'm also working on trying to set up a smoker competition on base. A smoker is an old Navy tradition much like a fight night that is open to all military personnel.

"Adm. Buzby has expressed his interest in hosting a smoker on Guantanamo prior to his departure from JTF," said Post.

The boxing classes are held on Tuesdays from 8-10 p.m. and Saturdays from 2-5 p.m. at the Marine Hill Fitness Center. Classes are open to male and female active duty military personnel only.

"If anyone wants to come join the class it is not to late," Post said. "Every Trooper is welcome."



**"Give me three months and I can help you lose 25-30 pounds," says Ephraim Post who started a boxing class here at Guantanamo.**

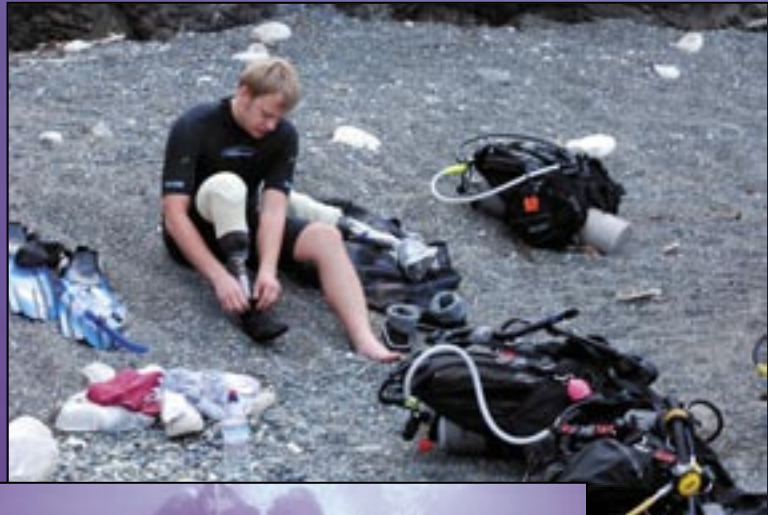


# Wounded Warriors go for a Dive

**Photos by Army Capt. Kevin Cowan**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Wounded Warriors visited Guantanamo Bay last weekend to complete their dive certification. Through Wounded Warriors and SUDS (Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba), they completed the prerequisite training at Walter Reed Medical Center and after completion of the dives here are now qualified. This is the first group of divers SUDS has helped certify. SUDS is planning trips to other locations for future groups.





# SUDS improves the lives of disabled veterans



**Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba (SUDS) brought six Wounded Warriors to Guantanamo Bay to become dive certified. While here, they received a “windshield tour” of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Pictured from left are Igor Macarov, Jordon Reese, Aaron Schoenfeld, Shane Heath, Nick Paupore and Josh Bleill.**

**Story and photos by  
Army Capt. Kevin Cowan**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Gitmo hosted six heroes last weekend, helping them complete their dive certification as part of the Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba program.

SUDS, in coordination with the Wounded Warriors program, Ocean Enterprises, the Reef Raiders Dive Club and Joint Task Force Guantanamo, coordinated the efforts to bring the divers to Cuba.

The divers, two Marines and four Soldiers, are all amputees and got involved in the SUDS program at the Walter Reed Medical Center.

According to SUDS founder John Thompson “SUDS is designed to help improve the lives of injured soldiers. By training the soldiers in a challenging and rewarding activity it can help facilitate the rehabilitation process and promote mobility.”

Although these divers have some physical limitations, they had the same issues that most beginning divers have. But they all seemed to have that initial interest in diving.

Nick Paupore, a Soldier injured while serving in Kirkuk, was always interested in diving. Now, because of his injury and these programs, he is now able to enjoy it.

“I had problems with clearing and removing my mask and clearing my ears,” said Paupore. “But SUDS understands disabilities and has patience. They work with you until you get it [right].”

The divers completed the first part of their certification at Walter Reed and needed to complete the required open-water dives before they could be certified. What better place to do it than in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba?

“It’s been awesome seeing all of the sea life and beautiful beaches,” says Josh Bleill, a double-leg amputee Marine injured while serving in Fallujah. “I plan on coming back.” While he was here he says he enjoyed the diving immensely and it was an incredible experience.

Describing that first open-water dive, “It hit every nerve in my body when I entered the water. It was a feeling I’ve never had before,” he said.

And that is what SUDS is trying to achieve.

“It’s the most rewarding project I have ever been involved in,” Thompson said, calling water the great equalizer.

“Many things are just easier to do in the water with these types of injuries,” he added. “It’s part rehabilitation, part confidence building, part adventure for these wounded warriors.”

That adventure, as far as Cuba goes, could not have been realized without the coordination between all the organizations involved.

“When the JTF got involved, things took off,” said Thompson. “They took the bull by the horns and made it happen.”

While coordination from the JTF and other organizations was vital to the trip, it was donations through Wounded Warriors, Disabled Sports USA and SUDS that helped pay for expenses like airfare and lodging.

Thanks to donations, charitable organizations and volunteers this trip turned out to be a memorable experience. Although this was only the first group of divers to travel to get their certification, everyone hopes this will be continued so we can try to give back to those who have sacrificed so much.



# PSU 313 cleans up Windmill Beach



**Port Security Unit 313 volunteered to clean up Windmill Beach Saturday. The popular site was left in a state of disarray after the hurricanes and tropical storms of 2007.**

***Story and photos by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard***

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Windmill beach -the popular Guantanamo Bay place to be- was the site of Port Security Unit 313's work efforts on Saturday. Windmill beach had been left in a state of disarray after the hurricanes last fall. With a sense of obligation and a willingness to leave things better than they were when they arrived, PSU 313 decided to put together a working party to clean up the beach. They joked about the day being the 3-B's 'beach, bar-be-que and

brooms.' They made it a reality.

Twenty members of the unit made up the all-volunteer work party that came out early on Saturday morning to clear away sand, rocks, and debris from the basketball court that later the same day would be used by the visiting Wounded Warriors. The Seabee's of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay donated the implements used by PSU 313 to clean the beach. After about three hours the improvement to the beach was undeniable. The unit collected over several bags of trash, cleaned each cabana, and cleared the once

undistinguishable basketball court.

The Tacoma, Wash., based unit participates in community building events in their home area. "We like to give back to the community" remarked PSU 313 commanding officer Cmdr. Jim Howatson. PSU 313 arrived in December and have been an active part of the community since then. The unit's response to Guantanamo and their acts of both personal and unit responsibility are commendable. Howatson continued "if somebody thought it was a good enough idea to build it (the basketball court), then we can clean it." Howatson arrived early leading his unit by example in the clean up effort.

When asked why they wanted to get up early on a Saturday morning and volunteer to clean the beach Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan Sewart, responded honestly "I just wanted to hang out with the guys and do something meaningful... It is a great chance to get to know each other." The members of PSU 313 work varying hours and many members are just getting to know one another. Events like the beach clean up give the unit a great chance to build camaraderie while helping the community.

Chief Tom Schnieder, a 23-year veteran of the Coast Guard, came out to set an example for younger members of the unit. He remarked "The beach clean up was a need. We want to make it better than it was when we found it."







# Blair Witch meets Godzilla, but no Godzuki?

By Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

I'm surprisingly torn by "Cloverfield," which is ostensibly a two-note gimmick. Gimmick one: Giant monster attacks Manhattan, blowing up the Statue of Liberty. Cue echoes of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Gimmick two: shoot the film entirely on a handheld camera (there it is again!) and pass it off as documentary footage.

But I'm on to you, Mr. J.J. Abrams, producer of TV hits such as "Alias" and "Lost" and director of "Mission Impossible: III" starring that wonderful thetan that jumps around on Oprah's couch. New York wasn't really lain waste by a 500-foot lizard that would whup Godzilla silly on his best day. Central Park is still there and the Statue of Liberty is, too! Heck, so is humanity!

Actually, I think if Godzilla brought Mothra, Mecha-Gidra and his own cuddly son, Godzuki (Google it!), they would probably tear Cloverfield up. What kind of name is that for a monster, anyway? Cloverfield! It has the terrifying powers of a field of clover!

All uber-lizard wrangling aside, the film is pretty gripping. The opening sequence is an intentionally dull portrayal of a New York party filled with vapid, blandly-pretty 20-something yuppies with a verbal dynamism that rarely extends past "Dude," "Duuuude," or

Rated: PG13

Running Time: 84 minutes, but that's mostly the credits

even the exclamatory "DUDE!" By the 20th minute of that banality I was begging for the reptile's attack.

*Brief interlude:* Normally, I savor the small, character-developing moments of blockbuster flicks because they are so few and far between. Take "Commando" for instance. When Schwarzenegger says to Tully, "I lied," then drops him off the building? That's character, baby. He lied, and it's true! He lied! Or how about in "Cobra," when Stallone tells the guy with the bomb to blow the place up because "I don't shop here." He's not screwin' around. He really doesn't shop there! Character!

That doesn't work in Cloverfield. Twenty terrible minutes of New York tools going for elusive back story and subtle character development through moments of tension made me want to gouge my eyes out with a dull spoon.

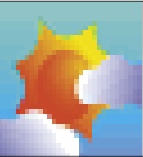
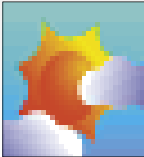
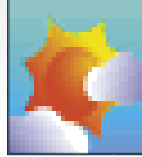
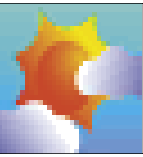
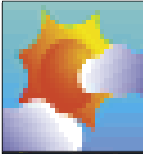

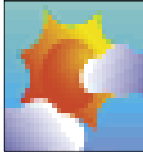
*End interlude.*

And then the big monster came along and KILLED EVERYTHING IT SAW. I was so happy. There are even little Clovers that chew on people and make them blow up like a garbage bag full of blood when it's smacked with a whiffle ball bat. People blowing up! It's just like my childhood in Denver! Epic win, baby!

Then there was another character moment, so I went and got more popcorn. When I got back, BLAMMO! Giant friggin' monster eating yuppies like he's poppin' skittles! Rock!

You get four stars out of me, you **Rating: ★★★★★** ugly beast.

\*Editor's note: No boring yuppies were actually harmed in the writing of this article ...which kind of sucks.

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">Weather forecast provided by <a href="http://www.weather.com">www.weather.com</a></span>			
<p><b>Saturday, Feb. 9</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the mid - 60's.</p>  <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b> Sunrise: 6:33 a.m. Sunset: 5:57 p.m. Chance of rain: 20%</p>	<p><b>Sunday, Feb. 10</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the mid - 60's.</p>  <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b> Sunrise: 6:33 a.m. Sunset: 5:58 p.m. Chance of rain: 20%</p>	<p><b>Monday, Feb. 11</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high - 60's.</p>  <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b> Sunrise: 6:32 a.m. Sunset: 5:58 p.m. Chance of rain: 20%</p>	
<p><b>Tuesday, Feb. 12</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high - 60's.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:32 a.m. Sunset: 5:59 p.m. Chance of Rain: 20%</p> <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b></p>	<p><b>Wednesday, Feb. 13</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high - 60's.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:31 a.m. Sunset: 5:59 p.m. Chance of Rain: 20%</p> <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday, Feb. 14</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high - 60's.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:31 a.m. Sunset: 6:00 p.m. Chance of Rain: 10%</p> <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b></p>	<p><b>Friday, Feb. 15</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high - 60's.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:30 a.m. Sunset: 6:00 p.m. Chance of Rain: 60%</p> <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b></p>



## ELC from page 4

detainee movement during a proceeding. The cells, which include a bed, toilet and sink, also have a sitting area where counsel can privately meet with detainees.

“An attorney can bring a folding chair into the sitting area, where they have the option of meeting with a detainee while they are in their cell or the detainee can sit unrestrained in the sitting area with their counsel,” said Kelly. “These holding cells help facilitate a joint trial since detainees can be easily transported to and from the courtroom.”

In addition to detainee holding cells, the complex includes a variety of buildings that could be used as witness waiting areas and deliberation rooms. To ensure that the military commissions courtroom as comparable to those in federal courts, the state of the art “Courtroom 21” system will be available for attorneys to upload documents, photographs and graphics to a laptop computer and electronically submit them during a proceeding.

This paperless evidence presentation system gives witnesses access to a monitor where they can make markings on evidence using a specially-designed laser pen. These markings can be captured by the court reporter and then submitted in the court’s record. Attorneys will also have the option

of submitting evidence exclusively to the judge or they can display it on monitors located in the courtroom for spectators to view.

During the proceedings, interpreters will be housed in a separate facility where they would be able to translate for defendants who speak multiple languages during a joint trial. Kelly added the interpreters will be able to see the detainees on monitors as they listen to the audio feed so they can watch their body movements while they interpret their language.

In addition to the courtroom facilities, a media center will be located within the complex to provide visiting journalists with internet hook ups and close circuit television of the hearings. Modular barracks will be on-site to house counsel actively participating in a proceeding to help protect their privacy.

Kelly mentioned that providing on site living and working facilities will help alleviate the strain on the naval station and improve the overall trial process.

“Everybody involved in the process of creating the ELC should be proud of this world-class facility,” said Kelly. “It would not have come in on time or on budget if it was not for all the services playing a part in constructing this complex.”

## Khadr from page 5

on a legal fallacy since there are historical accounts of tribunals that have exercised jurisdiction over war criminals under the age of 18. The prosecution supported its argument by mentioning the British Military Court, which tried a 15-year-old for war crimes, and the Permanent Military Tribunal at Metz, which exercised jurisdiction over three 16-year-old German girls. The prosecution stated that Kuebler’s use of the Protocol to support Congressional intent was baseless since this treaty applies to soldiers enlisted in an army and not to alien unlawful enemy combatants.

During the hearing, defense and prosecution attorneys argued other issues such as whether the prosecution could engage in ex parte communications with the judge to discuss classified evidence and whether spying is a chargeable offense under the MCA.

Khadr’s case was reopened on Sept. 9, 2007. The Court of Military Commissions review overturned a dismissal of all charges against him.

## Boots on the Ground

*What was your favorite superbowl commerical?*

*By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard and Army Sgt. Jody Metzger*

Army Sgt.  
Derron Gadison



*“My favorite commercial was the one with the models and the lizards dancing to the Michael Jackson song”*

Navy Petty Officer  
3rd Class  
Michael Schmedium



*“I loved the Ameritrade stocks commercial where the baby is trading stocks then throws up on himself”*

Marine Sgt.  
Joe Dwyer



*“I like the dalmation pulling the Budweiser horses.”*

Army Spc.  
Thomas Jones



*“I liked the one with the lizards and the models dancing to Thriller.”*



# “Lent” – 40 days’ Spiritual Journey

By Army Capt. Y.J. Kim

525th Military Battalion Chaplain

Wednesday began a special season the Christian community commemorates called “Lent.” This 40-day season started on Ash Wednesday and continues through Good Friday. During the first three centuries, most Christians prepared for Easter by fasting for two or three days. In some places, the fast was extended to the entire week before Easter (now known as Holy Week). In Rome the fast may have even lasted three weeks. By the fourth century, however, this pre-Easter fast developed into our now-established Lent of 40 days.

Historically, the development of Lent was influenced by a different 40-day fasting tradition – an abstinent one, based on the imitation of the life of Jesus, particularly his 40 days in the desert. Traditionally, the Christian Church utilized this period for the preparation for baptism and Easter, including the teaching of Catechism for the new believers.

The word Lent – its literal meaning is “Spring Time” from old English – might bear different meanings to different people. Nonetheless, all agree this season is a time for preparation, planting and growth. Christian communities agree that this 40-day journey is the time that Christians are reaching and searching for our common roots and our honest confessions. What are the common roots? At the Ash Wednesday service, Christians are reminded of their common roots with the words “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” This reminds us of our frailty and mortality. We recognize the certainty of death so that we might truly have life.

This Lenten season is the time of the disciplines of confession, prayer, repentance and turning from our selfishness. We turn toward the One who gives life.

We continue to search the depths of our existence, for that which keeps us from loving God and neighbor. We continue to confess and turn toward God for true life as we journey together towards Good Friday and Easter.

We check our motivations. We heard frequently in the Gospel of Jesus speaking to the disciples about hypocrisy. Jesus was not discouraging those who pray, fast, give offerings, and do something for their neighbors. At the same time he was addressing their motivations. What are our motivations? What are our motivations when we “give up” something? What are our motivations when we pray, worship, fast or give money? Do we do all these things to avoid shame or to impress others? Or do we do such things freely and voluntarily to show devotion to God? Such a bondage to sin and self is a daily struggle. We must repent and turn away from our selfish motivations. Jesus spoke frequently about our purpose and goals, how we store so much of our faith in earthly treasures. Sometimes these earthly treasures keep us



[www.cathedralstewardship.com](http://www.cathedralstewardship.com)

from having faith in God. With such concentration on sin, confession, motivations, and goals, we see new planting in this season.

Christians are called during this time to dig deep within ourselves and to find our basis in trusting God. By searching the depths of our dependence on God, abundant new life is possible.

As we take this journey inward and look at the overwhelming presence of sin and evil within us, around us and in the world, we are tempted to decay in its enslaving power of hate, fear, hopelessness, apathy and despair. However, in searching these depths and the root of sin, we are faithfully met by God’s healing and transforming presence.

Lent is a season for becoming more deeply incorporated into the community of faith, for taking greater responsibility for the spiritual journeys of those preparing for entrance into the church and for recommitting oneself to the abiding mission of the church, which includes outreach to the poor, the marginalized, the oppressed, the neglected, the bereaved, the lonely, the sick, the disabled -- indeed to all those in need of the compassion and the mercy of Christ.



# NCO Trooper of Quarter honored by challenge

*Story by Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing*

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Eight noncommissioned officers used their time wisely to review their military knowledge with the help of study guides given to them by their command and were given last minute instructions before their board appearances: “Relax and don’t stutter.”

This was the scene Jan. 28, as eight Troopers prepared for the Joint Task Force NCO Trooper of the Quarter boards. At the close of the day, only one NCO would be named the winner. Sgt. Daniel Carver, a corrections NCO for the 189th Military Police Battalion, was the last standing and was named the JTF NCO Trooper of the Quarter.

“I am very honored and excited to win this challenge,” Carver said. “I couldn’t believe it. At first, I thought it was something that I would never be able to finish, but at the end... I got there. I still can’t believe it.”

Carver, a native of Eugene, Ore., has been in the Army for a little less than four years. He ended up in Guantanamo Bay in 2007 as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“I never thought that I would end up here in Guantanamo,” Carver said. “I joined the Army after high school to see the world and get a little job experience out of it. Never did I think I would end up here. It is a one of a kind place.”

Carver said that the most nerve-racking part of the competition was not knowing how he was doing compared to the other soldiers. The competitors were not given their scores after the board, but everyone had a pretty good idea of how they did from their performance.

“The board members were senior NCOs from the JTF who asked a variety of military questions on such things as Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), land navigation, and current events,” said Carver. “The challenge wasn’t the questions asked, but it was trying to answer the senior NCOs without being nervous and stuttering.”



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert

The Trooper of the Quarter board was not the only board Carver had this week. He went before the promotions board on Friday, and did well enough to be recommended for promotion to staff sergeant.

“It has been one of the busiest weeks in my military career,” said Carver. “I had the Trooper of the Quarter on Monday and then I had my promotions board on Friday. It was the most studying I’ve done since I left high school.

“It seems like everything happened all

at once. With the two boards this week, and then add in the fact that I start clearing to leave Gitmo in a week to head back to my duty station in Ft. Leavenworth, Kan.,” said Carver. “It has been overwhelming, but it has made my last few weeks here at Gitmo fly by. I can’t believe that my year here is already over.”

His advice to troopers considering going for the boards is “have a positive attitude, relax, have fun doing it, and study the guide given to you by your command.”



# AROUND THE JTF



◀ Army 1st Sgt. Alfred Gomez, Army Master Sgt. Oscar Fraire, Army Spc. Brittany Valerio, Army 1st Lieutenant Berta Morales and Army Sgt. Maj. Matt Aragon of the New Mexico National Guard show off their recently added unit shingles on the Camp America sign Monday. The shingle replaced that of the Puerto Rico National Guard sign as they are taking over where Puerto Rico left off. (JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)

▶ Army Lt. Col. William Griffin pins the sergeant chevrons on Marine Matthew Erbele at his promotion Friday. Erbele, who served as the Joint Task Force's radio operator and landline telephone manager, is returning to his home base of Camp Lejeune, N.C. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)



◀ Navy Rear Admiral Mark Buzby, Joint Task Force Commander, awards Army Sgt. Wilbert Rosario with the Joint Service Commendation Medal Wednesday. Rosario earned this award for his outstanding efforts in accomplishing the JTF mission. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)