

Motivated Troopers Train in the Rare GTMO Rain

By Senior Airman Neo Martin

As the rain pours at the Grenadillo firing range, Troopers line up, each with a handful of stored explosive energy.

One at a time, they pop off the thumb clips, pull the pins and yell, "Grenade!"

KABOOM!

Thus begins the first practical application step during common task training (CTT) weapons familiarization.

"Weapons familiarization training is important to anyone in the military," said Army Sgt. Louis Devitis, a weapons instructor. "This type of CTT is standard for Army infantry and is taught to other military members in case they are ever in a situation where they will be tasked to use the available weapons systems."

Aside from the hand grenade, Troopers were also given instruction on the loading, firing and maintenance of the squad automatic weapon (SAW).

Once again Troopers lined up to get up close and personal with the weapon. Soon, Troopers were punching holes in targets approximately 250 yards away with the belt-fed machine gun.

After firing, Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres said, "I would have never had an opportunity to become familiar with a weapon like this unless I had to use it on the battlefield. I'm glad the JTF offered us the chance to train and learn the ins and outs of these weapons."

Army Sgt. Mirelys Carvajal agreed with



Photo by Senior Airman Neo Martin

Army Sgt. Louis Devitis, range safety officer, demonstrates the proper hand-grenade deployment procedure to Troopers during weapon familiarization training. The instruction is an important part of common task training and was offered to Joint Task Force members.

See JTF Troopers, Page 4

Trooper To Trooper



Photo by Spc. Chris Gardner

By Col. Brice A. Gyurisko, Sr.

The importance of discipline cannot be overstated as a personal responsibility for successful execution of our mission.

Disciplined Troopers take the right action, even if they do not feel like it.

Field Manual 22-100, Army Leadership, says, "True discipline demands habitual and reasoned obedience, an obedience that preserves initiative and works, even when the leader isn't around."

Too often, we walk by a mistake. When you walk by a mistake, you just allowed a standard to be lowered and may have even reinforced bad behavior. This can be as simple as walking by a piece of trash, thinking someone else is going to pick it up.

One of the best "butt-chewings" I have heard relative to not walking by a mistake was when a military wife corrected another military wife who had just flicked her cigarette butt on the sidewalk on an Army post. The woman mentioned to the offender that a Soldier was going to have to pick up that cigarette butt, and that Soldier might have even been her husband or son. Needless to say, the woman became red-faced and retrieved the cigarette butt.

How often in our daily tasks do we come upon someone or something conducting an unsafe act or not meeting the standards? This can be as simple as not wearing a seatbelt.

Following the rules and enforcing those rules is our responsibility. Each of us wearing the uniform of our armed services, along with our DoD civilians and contractors, has the responsibility

to follow the rules.

Self-discipline is an individual responsibility. "Take responsibility for your actions," is a saying all of us have heard at one time or another. Self-discipline may be pushing away from a second helping of food, completing a tough physical fitness session or maintaining composure and professionalism when someone makes you angry.

Each of us in the Joint Task Force (JTF) has a personal responsibility to maintain self-discipline. Sometimes it is easier to take a shortcut, the easier wrong than the harder right.

Discipline and character go hand in hand. Character gives you the courage to do what is right regardless of the circumstances or the consequences."

To illustrate the point about discipline and character, allow me to cite the following vignette, which occurred in February 1991 during Operation Desert Storm. U.S. forces were about to engage an enemy tank crew who appeared to be trying to exit the tank. As the TOW (Tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-guided) gunner was tracking the tank, one of the U.S. Soldiers called out saying, "Don't shoot, don't shoot, I think they're getting off of the tank."

Three enemy troops jumped off of the tank and ran around a sand dune.

"I'll cover the tank, you go on down and check the back side, and we'll see what is down there."

The Soldier went down and found about 150 enemy combatants. The follow-on orders were for the Soldiers to blow the tank up. When the tank blew up, the prisoners started yelling and screaming at the Soldiers, "Don't shoot us, don't shoot us," and one of the Soldiers says, "Hey, we're from America; we don't shoot our prisoners."

That statement kind of stuck with me.

The Soldier's comment at the end of this story captures the essence of character and discipline. His definition was a simple expression of the connection between who you are (your character) and what you do (discipline).

Others view what you do every day and the manner in which you do it. Your actions not only speak for yourself, but also reflect on the JTF and our very nation.

Trained, disciplined leaders with strong values produce disciplined Troopers with strong values. Together they become disciplined, cohesive units that do their mission and do it honorably.

Honor Bound!

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Infantry MOUT Training for Urban Terrain

By Spc. Jody Metzger

Rushing in teams of four or nine, Troopers relied on their training and teamwork to accomplish the mission of clearing a building. Flanking down the hallways, team members worked together, covering one another. As they entered the rooms, chaos erupted as enemy combatants fired into them.

Thursday afternoon, Troopers from Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 113th Regiment stormed the close-quarters combat training building on Marine Hill for MOUT (movement on urban terrain) training.

Troopers started by donning protective gear and chambering blanks into their weapons. Protec-

tive gear included kevlar helmets, flak vests and knee and elbow pads.

"This is great because we don't get a chance to all work together as a team, and in these types of environments you need to be able to trust your buddy and trust the guys on your team," said Army 1st Lt. Eric Frenzke, Bravo Company commander. "It is definitely a great team cohesion-building event."

Troopers were given a real-life scenario where they performed medical evacuations, treated casualties, took prisoners, searched wounded enemy soldiers and cleared the building room by room. "We all have different jobs to perform but we go in there as a

team, as one force and we try to stay together," said Army Staff Sgt. Michael Aguiar, squad leader.

While providing unity within squads and teams, MOUT training is vital to the lives of Troopers. Learning how to lead a squad and team is pertinent to the mission of infantrymen and, as dangerous situations arise, it is important to build trust and confidence in each other. "Clearing these buildings is really at the squad and team level," Frenzke said.

"For the mission we are doing down here in GTMO (Guantanamo Bay), team leaders don't have that. They have the opportunity to lead, and they are actually going to be giving verbal commands. Their decisions in real-world situations are going to affect the outcome of whether we live or die."

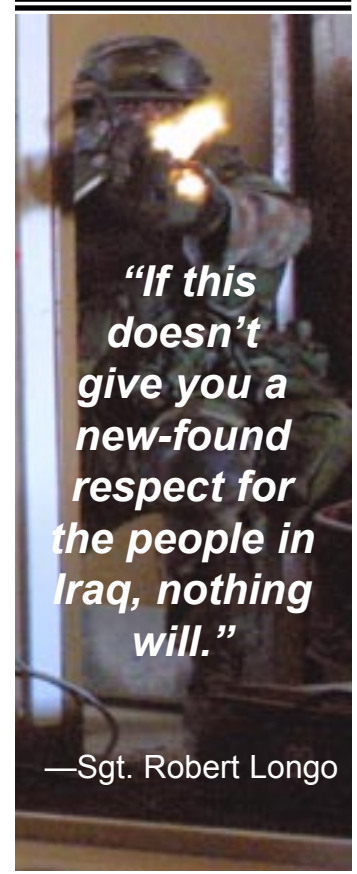
The infantry motto, "Train as you fight" is no loose term. On a day-to-day basis, their objective to build knowledge allows them a better chance to adapt to different situations.

"You get more unity and trust within the squad and each other," said Army Cpl. Homer Almanzar. "Every time we have some free time, if we aren't actually in the building like we are today we talk about it and go over different scenarios."

Although routine training of squad tactics is important, discussing them and doing them are two different things. Training like MOUT is good for the Troopers to get a hands-on tactical feel for real-life situations. "It puts the pressure on the team leader and squad leader because they have on-the-spot decisions to make," said Spc. Paulo Drebeque. "Everything you do here takes a decision."

Sometimes the infantry mission includes long hours of patrols and guard duty. For many infantry Troopers, MOUT training boosts morale.

"It boosts morale because this



"If this doesn't give you a new-found respect for the people in Iraq, nothing will."

—Sgt. Robert Longo

Photo by Spc. Jody Metzger



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Henry Chade

Spc. Willie Massenborg of the 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry Regiment, creeps the corner to clear a room.

is fun," Almanzar said. "We are infantry. If we are not moving, if we aren't doing something like this, we are bored. It's like we are playing a game right now."

Even though it was simulated, the MOUT training gave the Troopers an idea of what it is like to be under heavy fire in an urban environment. To some it represented what Troopers over in the Middle East are going through. "If this doesn't give you a new-found respect for the people in Iraq, nothing will," said Army Sgt. Robert Longo.

Whether it is training or patrolling, the infantry of Guantanamo Bay has a real mission to perform.

"We are all doing our part," Aguiar said. "It may be a small part here in Cuba, but it's part of the bigger picture. Everything we do is important for the security of our country, whether here or in Iraq."

JTF Troopers Light Up Firing Range Monday



Photo by Senior Airman Neo Martin

Army Sgt. Louis Devisis shows Troopers the clearing procedure for the squad automatic weapon. Weapon familiarization training is an important part of common task training.

Continued from Page 1

Ortiz-Torres about the importance of the training. "This was a great opportunity to gain hands-on training in a controlled environment. I'm proud to know whatever situation arises, I'm prepared to defend myself, the United States of America and my family back home," she said.

The final weapon Troopers would be trained to operate and fire was the M-203 grenade launcher.

Devisis said, "The M-203 is loaded a lot like a shotgun," as he cocks the weapon into its firing position and demonstrates the proper aiming and firing techniques.

As Troopers fired training rounds down range, red paint burst into the air upon impact simulating an explosion.

"Getting to shoot the M-203 was probably the last thing I ever thought I'd be doing when

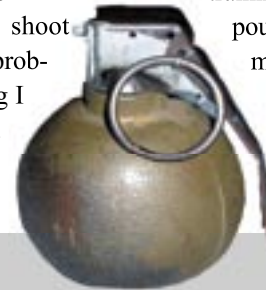
I stepped into the recruiter's office three years ago," Ortiz-Torres said.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company first sergeant was on hand during the training and participated with the Troopers.

"These weapons are basic knowledge for infantry," said 1st Sgt. Christopher Sheridan. "Here in Guantanamo Bay we have the ability to teach these combat skills to Troopers from all (military occupational specialties) and branches of service."

Sheridan continued, "In the military you never know when you may be in a situation where the skills you learned here can save your life or the lives of your teammates.

"This was a great day of training. Even when the rain poured down on us and the mud got deep, Troopers here were still motivated and accomplished the mission."



Greatest Grenade Battle of World War I

The greatest grenade battle of World War I occurred on the Pozieres Heights, France, on the night of July 27, 1916.

Lasting for 12½-hours without a break, Australians, with British support, exchanged grenades with their German foes (who threw multiple types of grenades: Sticks, cricket balls, egg bombs and rifle grenades). The allied contingent alone threw some 15,000 Mills bombs during the night.

Many grenadiers were killed, while many others simply collapsed due to complete exhaustion.

For more information regarding the history of hand and rifle grenades visit <http://www.firstworldwar.com/weaponry/grenades.htm>.

Machine Guns

A machine gun is a fully automatic firearm capable of firing bullets in rapid succession.

The machine gun's primary role in ground-combat is to provide suppressing fire on an opposing force's position. This forces the enemy to take cover. This either halts an opposing offensive or allows friendly forces to move onto the field with less danger.

For more information about the history and operation of machine guns visit http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Machine_gun.



Photo by Spc. Chris Gardner

Team Building Fridays

Left: Army Sgt. Terry Butts, transport coordinator, 783rd Military Police Battalion, skies high during a team-building exercise Dec. 3. Butts grew up on dirt-floor basketball in Mississippi, where spokeless bicycle-tire rims nailed to plywood on trees served as hoops. Having served in countries such as Egypt and Bosnia, Butts is now fulfilling his fifth deployment. Below: Among team-building activities for Troopers in Headquarters and Headquarters Company each Friday are soccer, volleyball, basketball and ultimate frisbee.

—Spc. Chris Gardner



Photo by Spc. Chris Gardner

Coast Guard Lt. Rob Riner, commander of the Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSST) of New Orleans, assumes command of Port Security Unit (PSU) duties from Coast Guard Commander John Laufer, Pacific Area PSU Detachment commander. The MSST will patrol the waterways in and around Guantanamo Bay. MSSTs are part of the Department of Homeland Security's defense of the USA's seaports and waterways. They offer waterborne and shore-side antiterrorism force protection. MSSTs are a rapid-reaction force capable of fast deployment by air, ground or sea.



Photo by Senior Airman Neo Martin

Santa Kayaks to GTMO with Troopers



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gordon Hyde

By Senior Airman Neo Martin

What do stress balls, barbecues, basketballs, balloon wars, bonfires and Santa have in common?

They were all present at the Joint Task Force's (JTF) Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) fun-in-the-sun holiday beach party.

The party, designed to help create a holiday atmosphere, was an all-day affair that kicked off with a welcoming formation and ended with a beach bonfire under the stars.

"No. 1, the holidays here aren't like we'd expect back home," said HHC 1st Sgt. Christopher Sheridan. "No snow, etc. Unfortunately, many of us will not get to see our families over the holidays. Here at the JTF

we are family."

During the day, Troopers were also treated to a cookout and free beverages supplied by the JTF Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Volunteers cooked and cleaned up, allowing the Troopers to fully enjoy their day of relaxation.

"Mandatory fun was to get everyone from HHC together in a festive atmosphere," Sheridan said. "Many people that normally wouldn't participate in an activity came out and had fun."

Almost every HHC Trooper partook in the events Saturday and was present during an unusual visit from a special guest at Windmill Beach.

At 2:30 p.m., eight volunteer reindeer equipped with snorkels, masks and flippers charged into the ocean with an empty kayak in tow.

When a Navy Port Security Unit delivered Santa Claus to the meeting spot, jolly old St. Nick hopped into his "water sleigh" and was briskly pulled ashore by his aquatic



Photo by Senior Airman Neo Martin

A record number of Troopers filled Windmill Beach on Dec. 11. The mandatory fun events included a visit from Santa who kayaked in. Waterballoon wars and barbecued chow along with basketball games and snorkeling kept Troopers occupied until dusk.

s for Reindeer

sled team.

Once ashore Kris Kringle, portrayed by Army Sgt. Patrick Higgins, opened his sack of goodies and began tossing stress balls to beachgoers and posing for photos under the hot sun.

“It was cool having my picture taken with Santa on the beach,” Army Sgt. Mirelys Carvajal said. “It was so cute the way he came in to shore. I’m glad they did that,”

Said Army 1st. Sgt. Richard Munoz, “This event was to help unit cohesion. In the JTF, each unit--especially the smaller ones--has good cohesion. But opportunities like this help us band together.”

From a Combat Stress Control standpoint, celebrations like this can be very helpful in reducing stress levels. “When



Photo by Senior Airman Neo Martin

people hear terms like ‘mandatory fun’ they generally have an apprehension,” said Army Sgt. Michelle Olson. “But when they get to the event and there is good music, games and free food and drink, it really turns out to offer a fun atmosphere that everyone can enjoy.”

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Rocco Dizinno said, “It was a lot of fun and a great opportunity to get out of the Camp America

setting and see everyone in a casual environment. When the ‘reindeer’ went out to get Santa it was funny as heck!”

And Sheridan added, “The entire event was outstanding. We couldn’t have done it without the help of all the volunteers.”

As the events Saturday came to an end, the bonfire died down and the stars twinkled bright, JTF’s mandatory fun was to all a good night.

“It was cool having my picture taken with Santa on the beach.”

—Army Sgt. Mirelys Carvajal

Photo by Senior Airman Neo Martin



World War II Veteran, Journalist Tours GTMO

By Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres

When Nadim Makdisi left the Army in 1946, it would be nearly 60 years before he set foot on an American military base again.

That day came last week when Makdisi and five other Arab journalists visited Guantanamo Bay during a media tour here.

“It was exciting to be back in a base and being around [Troopers],” said Makdisi in his soft-spoken, foreign accent. “I wondered if I could be drafted again.”

During the tour, the 83-year-old veteran visited the Joint Task Force Public Affairs Office, and he didn’t hesitate to sit down with fellow military journalists and talk about how he became an Army journalist during World War II.

The war involved more than 40 million troops from more than 30 countries. Memories of World War II are fading as time claims the lives of more veterans.

During that time, the war effort drafted young American men across the globe and the then 21-year-old Makdisi, a journalism student and United States citizen living in Beirut, Lebanon, was no exception.

Makdisi was born in the United States but only lived there five months before his family moved back to Lebanon, where he grew up. His father taught at the American University of Beirut.

In 1944, the war was at full swing, and Makdisi, a junior in college, received the call to join.

“I went to basic training in a camp in North Africa,” he said. “After another week in casual status, the Army assigned me to a unit close by where I worked as a cook and server in the officer’s kitchen mess.”

Makdisi worked with the 3135th Signal Service Platoon in Camp Russell B. Huckstep outside Cairo, Egypt.

One day while serving food to a female officer (at the time called Women’s Army Corps), he spilled soup on her by accident.

“At first, she shouted at me, but then we had a fairly good conversation,” he said. “The captain said to me, ‘You have an accent’ and I said, ‘I’ve lived in Lebanon most of my life.’ Then she asked me, ‘Do you speak Egyptian?’

“Yes ma’am, of course I do,” he said chuckling to himself, since he speaks Arabic, the language of Egypt and dozens of other countries in that region.



Photo by Senior Airman Neo Martin

Journalist Nadim Makdisi discusses his experiences as a U.S. Army Soldier during World War II. Makdisi works out of Washington, D.C., as part of the Arabic Press Service there.

When the captain learned he was a journalist, she quickly offered him a job with the camp’s weekly publication, the *Sand Script*. She was in charge of special services, which included the publication.

“She said to me, ‘The *Sand Script* needs a reporter,’” said Makdisi, who transferred soon after.

Military publications in peacetime and in war have served as a communication tool for Troopers and civilians connected to an installation. Troopers assigned to Camp Russell B. Huckstep at the time were treated to an exclusive inside look into Cairo.

Makdisi’s job as a reporter and an Army sergeant was to go to Cairo and write about the city and all the interesting places Soldiers might want to visit.

“I loved my job,” he said. “I had my own jeep with a sign that read *Sand Script* and, unlike many Soldiers then, I could go to town as I pleased without having to get a permit.”

Although he enjoyed serving in the Army, he did have some discontent with some aspects of the military in those times. He thought the Army was not as sophisticated as it is today. Makdisi recalled one of those days where he felt that frustration.

While heading to town one night, an Army major jumped in his jeep to catch a ride. Halfway through the trip, a horde of sheep and

their shepherd obstructed their path.

“The major stood up in the jeep and shouted in broken Arabic, ‘Hurry up . . . hurry up!’” said Makdisi. “I asked the major if he spoke Egyptian.”

The major told me that when he enlisted, he wrote that he could speak seven different languages,” he said. “He spoke Syrian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc . . . all one language, Arabic; so they sent him to officer training school for that. That goes to show you how ignorant some things can get; he couldn’t even speak Arabic,” Makdisi said.

For Makdisi and other members of the press, touring the detainee facilities here gives them a better understanding of the work being done.

“Some leaders in the Arab world have a big criticism on the treatment of detainees here,” said Makdisi, who is also editor in chief of an Arabic monthly magazine. “I’m glad we got to see and tour the facilities. I was very much impressed.”

Makdisi has also worked as a correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corporation and the *Washington Evening Star*. Several years after his honorable discharge, he moved back to the United States, where he used the Montgomery G.I. Bill to finish school and later received his doctorate.

He now works out of Washington D.C.

Troopers Tackle 32-Mile Extreme Race



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gordon Hyde

Left: Hills during the 15-mile bike stretch stifle pedaling attempts.

By Spc. Chris Gardner

Thirty-two miles of strokes, pedals and strides took Troopers from the Sailing Center and back in the recent Extreme Race.

In the kayaking, biking and running triathlon, the Joint Task Force (JTF) owned both the men's and three-man team categories. The Navy dominated the women's events (see chart for finish times).

Some participants in the Nov. 27 event found kayaking difficult here at Guantanamo Bay. "It's the first time I've kayaked," said Army Capt. Brad Hofmann, a JTF operations officer, as he changed his socks for the 15-mile bike ride ahead.

Army Capt. Dave Melendez, plans and

training officer in charge, 2nd Battalion, 102nd Armor Regiment, was optimistic after eight miles of kayaking. "I can feel my arms still," Melendez said, fastening his helmet.

With bikes on backs, Troopers hiked steep hills, where a downward-slope reward demanded a skidding halt before eight more miles—running.

Just finishing was a success, "and I'm happy with that," said first-place winner, Army Capt. Eric Towns. "I knew there were some pretty competitive guys on the run, so ... I had to get out in front."

Going out first in kayaking and muscling through on the bike would provide a huge advantage, he

said. "But it was a hot day out there, so I knew they were beat up just as much as me."

First in women's, Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Lisa Czubernat, a hospital corpsman at the Navy Hospital operating room, came prepared. "I actually have a kayak," Czubernat admitted. And, "I ride my bike every day to work and home.

"The day I got to GTMO five years ago, I started preparing," she said. "It's not something you could just wake up one day and say. 'I'm ... going to do that next weekend.'"

Czubernat's words of advice: "Drink water the whole race. Stay focused. Don't give up." When your energy goes down, eat a power bar, for example, and you'll pick up again, she said.

Czubernat recalled dropouts from dehydration in two previous triathlons here. "It takes a good couple of months to get used to the heat even if you're from somewhere that's hot," she said.

"I was proud to come out and represent the Marine Corps," said Lance Cpl. Craig Grossi, 2nd Military Police Company. Coming out not to win but to finish as best he could, Grossi said, "I always like to do things like this any chance I get—just to push my body and see what I can do."



"Drink water the whole race. Stay focused. Don't give up."

—Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Lisa Czubernat Women's first place

Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Cavett Ishihara

While proud of his Marine Corps land-navigation skills, Grossi admitted, after arriving in first place, he'd taken a wrong turn and gotten lost. "I'm sure I'll hear from [my fellow Marines] on that," Grossi said. Having led most of the way, "I should have looked at my map a little more," he said.

Army Sgt. Jeremy Ogle, 491st Military Police Company ran in similar shoes. "We should have referred to our map a couple more times rather than go by dead reckoning," Ogle said.

"We pretty much did the exact opposite of the route, ... but we still had a great time."



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Cavett Ishihara

Army Maj. Thomas Brouns, Army Lt. Col. Bryan Jahnke and Spc. Katie Kuiper (not seen) finished first in groups.

Men		
1st: Army Capt. Eric Towns		3:48:00
2nd: John Euberg		3:49:00
3rd: Army Capt. Dave Melendez		3:49:01
Women		
1st: Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Lisa Czubernat		4:08:00
2nd: Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Kristen Loeding		4:16:36
3rd: Army Staff Sgt. Meshia Cichon		4:27:18
Group		
1st: <i>Predators</i> : Army Lt. Col. Bryan Jahnke, Army Maj. Thomas Brouns, Spc. Katie Kuiper		4:09:57

! WORLD WIRE

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Dec. 11: Teen sex decreasing, government study finds. ... Michael Jackson's fingerprints, those of accuser on porn mag seized from Neverland. ...

Dec. 12: Joseph "Jumpin' Joe" Beyrle, only World War II Soldier to fight for both U.S. and former Soviet Union dies; hero to both nations. ...

Dec. 13: Scott Peterson jury recommends death. ... Flu shot supply improving. ...

U2 to be inducted in Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. ... Violent crime decreases 6 percent, FBI reports. ...

Dec. 14: University of Oklahoma bans alcohol; drinking death was motivator. ...

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Army Cpl. Jim Greenhill compiles WorldWire from a variety of news services.

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The Candy Cane

One of the most common symbols of Christmas is the candy cane.

Some say it was originally made in the shape of the letter "J" for Jesus. The white symbolized the purity of Jesus. The red symbolized his blood shed for the forgiveness of sins.

The following anonymous poem helps the common candy canes of the season become reminders to us of the true meaning of Christmas—the celebration of the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

*One of the symbols of
Christmas
Is the simple Candy Cane.
Its shape is the crook of a shepherd,
The Good Shepherd, Jesus was
his name.*

*The lively peppermint flavor
Is the regal gift of spice.
The white is Jesus' purity,
The red, His sacrifice.*

*The narrow stripes are friendship
And the nearness of his love.
External, sweet compassion,
A gift from God above.*

*The Candy Cane reminds us
all
Of just how much God cared,
And like His Christmas gift to us,
It's meant to be broken and
shared.*

—Chaplain (Army Maj.)
Steven Herman

Padre's Corner

This is the Third Sunday of Advent and we rejoice because the Lord is near. Joy is not necessarily happiness in the popular sense of the word. Joy is deeper in that the source of our joy is God, and God alone.

In that deep, abiding faith and hope in the promises of the Lord Jesus, we are able to maintain our inner peace, even in the midst of painful life circumstances.

In this Advent and Christmas season, why not come to Trooper's Chapel and feed your joy?

—Chaplain (Navy Lt. Cmdr.)
James Dowds

15 Minutes of Fame ... with Spc. Tyrone Harris, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry ...

Infantry Trooper Lives the Army Values



Photo by Spc. Chris Gardner

By Spc. Chris Gardner

Proud of the hometown where he was born and raised, Spc. Tyrone Harris is now a member of 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry Regiment, Bravo Company.

The Wire: Why did you join the Army National Guard?

Spc. Tyrone Harris: I joined to make a difference in my country. I had wanted to be a part of the Army National Guard for over 10 years, and when I came of age, 18, I joined.

What attracted you to the Army?

Believe me, it was the uniform. I saw a next-door neighbor constantly going to drill. Now, being in the uniform makes me feel good. The respect you get from civilians and family makes me feel proud to be a member of the Army National Guard.

How long have you been in?

I'm glad I stuck it out for 22 long years.

How has your character changed since you've been in?

I'm more disciplined, patient, approachable and easier to get along with.

What do you do in the civilian world?

I have worked for a chemical company as an operator for the last nine years, making hot asphalt.

What has been the most difficult part of the deployment?

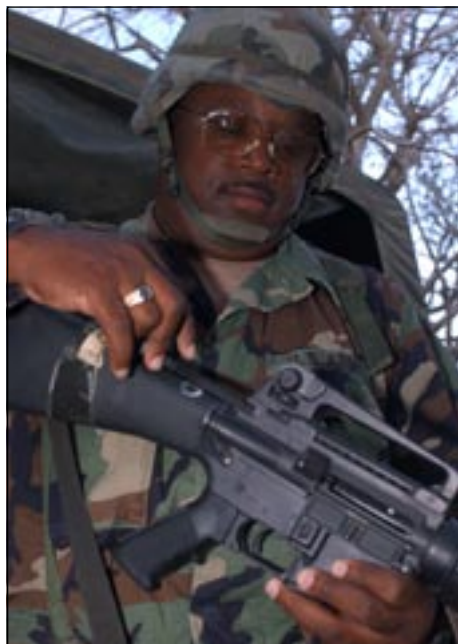


Photo by Spc. Chris Gardner

Spc. Tyrone Harris observes the chamber (below), clearing his weapon (left) before heading to a checkpoint to start his shift.

Being separated from my family. I have six kids, a wife and no dog.

How do you cope with the separation?

I talk on the phone with them two to three times a week and pray every day.

What kinds of hobbies do you have?

Back home, I taught my kids to ride a bike, and we used to do a lot of bike riding in the city and park.

What would you say to enlisting Troopers?

Know what you want, and aim high for it. Work hard, and you will achieve it. You have to find something you're happy with. You can't just drift through. If you like what you're doing, time will go easy.

What do you like about the infantry?

I like the night shift. It's much easier, more relaxing and gives you a chance to collect your thoughts and be at peace.

What are your goals in life?

To continue raising my family, teach them values and morals and guide them in life. I would also like to further my education by studying the Bible more often and one day become a pastor. I want to get closer to God. Having a worldly education is one thing, but having an education about Christ is more.

What kind of benefits have you enjoyed from the Army National Guard?

After about 10 years of serving, I got a VA loan for housing, which helps me with interest, so I can own my own home.

How do you live the Army values?

Integrity: I have found about four wallets on separate occasions, and not knowing which individuals they belonged to, I turned them over to my first sergeant and let him handle it since I know they're not mine. Loyalty: I counsel with Troopers in relation to family and personal problems. I pray with them and encourage them to keep going.

GTMO Glistens

Boats of all sizes and shapes decked their decks, masts and flying bridges with lights and holiday ornaments and floated past the oohs and aahs of the crowds Saturday night at Guantanamo Bay's Holiday Boat Parade.

Many of the boats used thousands of dazzling lights, and most kept with a tropical Christmas theme.

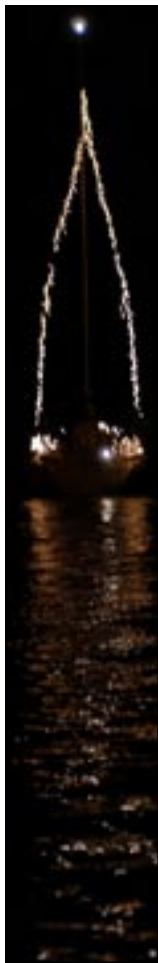
Santa Claus in one boat was even wagging his tail; since Santa was actually a dog named Angel all dressed up for the part.

Other boats had giant inflatable snowmen, Christmas trees, reindeers, dolphins and holiday tunes playing through loudspeakers.

One boat made up of Joint Task Force Troopers decided to go with the Hispanic Christmas tradition and mounted a pontoon boat with a live Latin percussion band made up of conga players, bongos, cowbells and a whole lot of dancing and singing.

After the boats circled the bay for a couple of hours, they received trophies and prizes. Morale, Welfare and Recreation sponsored the event.

—Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres



Photos by Senior Airman Jon Ortiz-Torres



Safety Message

“Safety gear–2 minutes ... Risk assessment–5 minutes ... A mishap that takes a life–forever.”

–<http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/articles/quotes.htm>

Cuban-American Friendship Day

Jan. 28 is Cuban-American Friendship Day, celebrating 36 years of friendship with the motto “Heart to Heart, Hand in Hand, Past, Present and Future!” Some key events to plan for:

- Cuban-American Friendship Poster and Essay Contest, Grades K – 12: Final submissions are due Jan. 21. Judging is Jan. 22 and 23. For more information, e-mail Zaida Brewer at zaida_brewer@am.dodea.edu.

- Cuban-American Friendship Challenge: Scheduled for Jan. 23 at 6:30 a.m. Register with Melissa Belleman at 5815.

- Cuban-American Friendship Relay Run, Jan. 28 at 8 a.m. The route is from the Northeast Gate to the Ferry Landing to the Windjammer. Register with Melissa Belleman at 5815.

BUSES

Chart shows bus stops and minutes after the hour when buses are scheduled. For example, the Sherman Avenue bus stops at East Caravella 03 and 33 minutes after the hour.

Sherman Avenue			Camp America/NEX			
First Street	00	30	Camp Alpha	00	20	40
East Caravella	03	33	NEX trailer	02	22	42
Marine Hill	05	35	Camp Delta 2	06	26	46
Post Office	10	40	TK 4	12	32	52
Windjammer	11	41	TK 1	16	36	56
NEX	14	44	Windjammer	23	43	03
Bulkeley Landing	17	47	NEX	30	50	10
Ferry Landing	21	51	Windjammer	35	55	15
Commissions Bldg.	23	53	TK 1	40	00	20
Ordnance	26	56	TK 4	46	06	26
Bulkeley Landing	28	58	Camp Delta 1	52	12	32
NEX	32	02	Camp Alpha	00	20	40
Windjammer	36	06				
Post Office	37	07				
Marine Hill	41	11				
Hospital	48	18				
Windward Loop 1	52	22				

CINEMA

DOWNTOWN LYCEUM

FRIDAY

7 p.m. *The Grudge*
PG13 91 min

9 p.m. *Team America: World Police*
R 98 min

SATURDAY

7 p.m. *Friday Night Lights*
PG13 118 min

9 p.m. *Alfie*
R 106 min

SUNDAY

7 p.m. *Taxi*
PG13 97 min

MONDAY

7 p.m. *The Grudge*
PG13 91 min

TUESDAY
7 p.m. *Alfie*
R 106 min

WEDNESDAY

7 p.m. *Team America: World Police*
R 98 min

THURSDAY

7 p.m. *SpongeBob*
PG 82 min

9 p.m. *Taxi*
PG13 97 min

CAMP BULKELEY

FRIDAY

8 p.m. *SpongeBob*
PG 82 min

10 p.m. *Surviving Christmas*
PG13 92 min

SATURDAY

8 p.m. *The Grudge*
PG13 91 min

10 p.m. *Team America: World Police*
R 98 min

SUNDAY

8 p.m. *Alfie*
R 106 min

MONDAY

8 p.m. *Taxi*
PG13 97 min

TUESDAY

8 p.m. *The Grudge*
PG13 91 min

WEDNESDAY

8 p.m. *Taxi*
PG13 97 min

THURSDAY

8 p.m. *Friday Night Lights*
PG13 137 min

10 p.m. *Alfie*
R 106 min

FOR THE RECORD

The Wire strives for accuracy. When we fail, we accept responsibility for our errors and correct them. If you see an error in The Wire, call

Army Cpl. Jim Greenhill at 3593.



New Hours for Camp America JAS

Camp America Joint Aid Station's (JAS) hours of operations have changed. For morning sick call on Monday through Friday, the JAS will operate from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. For afternoon sick call, it will be open 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. On Wednesday afternoons, the JAS is closed for training. It is also closed on Saturdays and Sundays. For more information, call 3557 or 8006.

Mandatory Flu Shots

All Joint Task Force Troopers are to receive mandatory flu vaccination shots, according to Command Sgt. Major Angel Febles. The shots are required for every Trooper. The Dec. 10 issue of *The Wire* included a photograph of Brig. Gen. Jay W. Hood receiving his flu shot, and Troopers from the commanding general on down receive the shots when visiting the Joint Aid Stations or through individual unit arrangements.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. in Room 4A at Chapel Hill.

Gingerbread Cake

The temperature is in the 80s, the sky is a spotless blue and the forecast for the rest of the season is sunny, but the holidays are still sneaking up on Guantanamo Bay.

For those Troopers who are struggling to get into the spirit, or those who feel no amount of holiday spirit is too much, here is a recipe for a gingerbread cake, just the treat to bring the warm feelings of an old-fashioned holiday season to this not-so-wintery wonderland.

Ingredients

1/2 cup white sugar; 1/2 cup butter; one egg; one cup molasses; 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour; 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda; one teaspoon ground cinnamon; one teaspoon ground ginger; 1/2 teaspoon ground

cloves; 1/2 teaspoon salt; one cup hot water.

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour a 9-inch square pan.

2. In a large bowl, cream together the sugar and butter. Beat in the egg, and mix in the molasses. In another bowl, sift together the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, ginger, and cloves. Blend into the creamed mixture. Stir in the hot water. Pour into the prepared pan.

3. Bake one hour in the preheated oven, until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Allow to cool in pan before serving.

—Army Pfc. Jesse Stone

WORSHIP

CAMP AMERICA

Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant Service	Troopers' Chapel
	6:45 p.m.	Catholic Mass	Troopers' Chapel
	7:30 p.m.	Protestant Service	Bldg. 3203
Tuesday	7 p.m.	Alpha	Resumes in January
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Soul Survivor	Club Survivor
Thursday	7 p.m.	Thursday Night Ticket	Resumes in January
Saturday	3 p.m.	Saturday Vigil Mass	Troopers' Chapel

NAVSTA CHAPEL

Sunday	8 a.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Sanctuary C
	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	
	11 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel
	1 p.m.	New Life Fellowship	Main Chapel
	5 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Sanctuary C
Monday	7 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	7 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
Wednesday	7 p.m.	Men's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
Friday	1 p.m.	Islamic Prayer	Room 12
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Vigil Mass	Main Chapel

For information on Jewish services call 2323

DINING

Today	Lunch	Mambo Roast Pork
	Dinner	Fried Shrimp
Saturday	Lunch	Cornish Hens
	Dinner	Chicken Parmesan
Sunday	Lunch	Cranberry Glazed Chicken
	Dinner	Dijon Baked Pork Chops
Monday	Lunch	Teriyaki Beef Strips
	Dinner	Country Fried Steak
Tuesday	Lunch	Ginger Pot Roast
	Dinner	Roast Turkey
Wednesday	Lunch	Cajun Meat Loaf
	Dinner	Chinese Five-Spice Chicken
Thursday	Lunch	Turkey Ala King
	Dinner	Chicken Florentine
Friday	Lunch	Baked Fish Scandia
	Dinner	Prime Rib