Army Unveils New ‘Army Combat Uniform’

By Spc. Jim Greenhill

Moisture-wicking T-shirts. Universal camouflage that ends the need for different uniforms for different missions. Tilted pockets. Velcro cuffs. A zipped front.

These are some features of the new Army Combat Uniform (ACU) announced at the Pentagon on June 14 during the Army’s 229th birthday celebrations. The ACU replaces the hot and cold weather Battle Dress Uniforms (BDU) and the desert camouflage uniform.

“We have not made a major change to our uniforms since the BDUs were introduced in the early 1980s,” Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston told the Army News Service.

“This new uniform performs well in multiple environments,” Preston said. “Its new pockets and color designs are a result of feedback from Soldiers in combat. Every modification made on the uniform was designed with a specific purpose and not just for the sake of change.”

Options that do not come with the new uniform include dry cleaning bills (the ACU is wrinkle-free), sewing bills (all devices use Velcro or are pin-on) and boot polishing (suede tan boots replace the black ones).

Also gone are the days of lying in the prone position with uniform buttons pressing into the flesh. The ACU has none.

Units deploying to Iraq or Afghanistan get the ACU beginning in April. Basic trainees are scheduled to get the ACU in October 2005. The ACU is scheduled to be in military clothing stores in the spring of 2006. And all Soldiers are scheduled to have the ACU by December 2007.

Other than looking at pictures, the best way to get a sense of the new ACU is to look at a Marine. The ACU’s digital universal camouflage is an adaptation of the Marine uniform.

Created in 2002 and based at Fort...
Trooper To Trooper

By Brig. Gen. Jay Hood

Several years ago, a well-known series of movies featuring a boxer named Rocky Balboa inspired many. Rocky was a small-time prizefighter who was given the chance to fight Apollo Creed, the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world. In preparation for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, Rocky worked and trained long hours every day, and he fought to overcome physical obstacles, as well as his doubts about his own ability.

On the night of the big fight, Rocky went the distance with Apollo Creed. After the final bell, Creed was declared the winner in a split decision. Rocky knew he had done well in the fight, but he couldn't feel good about his performance until he knew about Creed's effort. He approached the champ after the fight and asked him one simple question: “Did you give me your best?” Creed replied, “Yeah, I gave you my best.” And Rocky walked away satisfied.

Rocky brought what I call his ‘A’ game to the fight. He was well trained and hungry for victory. He prepared himself well, and he gave it everything he had. Like Rocky, the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo also have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We have a unique mission to perform in a demanding, constantly changing environment. We encounter many challenges to include improving our physical fitness, maintaining a high level of tactical proficiency and overcoming self-doubt.

I watched each of you as you completed the Army Birthday Run a few weeks ago. It was an honor for me to run with you; not only because we represent the greatest military in the world, but also because everyone worked together and finished the course with their heads held high. Remember that regardless of your ability, if you give it your best, you can be a success. The race goes not to the swift nor to the strong, but to those who keep on running.

I challenge you to look for glory not only in the victory, but also in the daily struggle to better yourself and to help your fellow Troopers do the same. You have my commitment that I will bring my ‘A’ game to the fight every single day. And when I shake your hand at the end of your GTMO tour, be prepared for me to look you in the eye and ask, “Did you give me your best?” When that day comes, I know that both of us can walk away satisfied with your answer.

By Brig. Gen. Jay Hood
Regatta Draws Record Number of Mariners

By Pfc. Chris Gardner

With the best turnout ever, the annual Cardboard Boat Regatta took place at the Marina on Saturday.

The 15 boat entries this year were three times the number last year.

The three-year victory of the "MPP Kayak" came to an end as the "Momma and Daddy Ferry," manned by "Capt. Chaos" (Petty Officer 2nd Class Kevin Mackeben) and "Bank Frank" (Petty Officer 1st Class Ed P. Benzing), finished in first place by a long shot.

The Cardboard Boat Regatta is a newly born JTF tradition, this being the fourth year. Milk carton racing in Seattle in the '70s gave birth to the idea of cardboard boat racing, said Craig Basel, MWR director.

"We do it because it's fun, and we enjoy hosting events that involve the entire community," Basel said. "It is great to see the camaraderie, the competition and everybody having a great time."

Activities like this are great for the JTF society, and we need to do more of them, said Col. Timothy D. Lynch, Chief of Staff. "I got big smack, lots of karma," he said as he prepared for the race.

Glue, duct tape and the crews' creativity were all the mariners got to use in creating their cardboard ships for the 150-yard race.

"I think it elevates the morale of the entire community," Basel said. "It gives them a sense of accomplishment, and it's just plain fun."

Navy Capt. Les J. McCoy applauded the boaters' creativity, and awards were given, including trophies and gift certificates for "Best Titanic Sinking," "Best Name," "Best Theme" and "Best Looking."
‘ACU’ Uniform To Improve Field Versatility

Continued from Page 1

Belvoir, Va., Program Executive Office Soldier (PEO Soldier) oversees everything Soldiers wear, carry or operate. PEO Soldier cites these key features of the new ACU:

- A Mandarin collar that shields the neck from the Interceptor Body Armor Outer Tactical Vest (OTV) collar and keeps out debris.
- Elbow and knee pad pouches.
- A Velcro-reinforced zippered front (similar to the Gore-Tex jacket front).
- Leg cuffs with a tie for increased comfort inside boots.
- Velcro fasteners for rank insignia.
- Tilted chest and cargo pants pockets.
- A three-slot pen pocket on the left sleeve.
- Velcro sleeve cuffs.
- ACU designed to be worn with the OTV, meaning all pockets remain accessible even with the OTV on.
- Bellowed calf storage pockets on both legs.
- Infrared feedback in the American flag device that allows day and night friend or foe identification. Permanent infrared feedback squares on each shoulder.

"This isn't about a cosmetic redesign," Col. John Norwood, project manager for Clothing and Individual Equipment (CIE), said in a press release. "It's a functionality change of the uniform that will improve the ability of Soldiers to execute their combat mission.

Gone is the black in the BDU woodland camouflage. The new camouflage colors are light green, tan and gray. Brig. Gen. James R. Moran told CNN.com the new colors allow Soldiers to blend into urban areas, desert and forest.

Black is no longer useful on the uniform because it is not commonly found in nature, Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Myhre, CIE non-commissioned officer in charge, told the Army News Service. Black catches the eye immediately when a Soldier moves.

"The color scheme in the ACU capitalizes on the environments we operate in," Myhre said.

The ACU’s green reflects the Soldier's forest environment, tan the desert and gray urban areas. Other features of the roomier new uniform include a pocket in the patrol cap, shoulder pockets replacing the bottom front pockets on the blouse and bellows on the blouse to improve mobility.

Stryker Brigade Soldiers tested the ACU at training centers and in Iraq. "We would talk to Soldiers right after they had completed a mission while the benefits were still fresh in their minds," Myhre said. "We wanted to know how did the uniform help the mission."

Although PEO Soldier does not consider the changes directly attributed to the introduction of the ACU, Soldiers now also get 2-inch black nylon web belts and moisture-wicking socks.

The ACU costs $88, an increase of $32 from the BDU. Eliminated dry cleaning and sewing bills are expected to offset the increased cost, and manufacturing costs are expected to decrease over time. The Army is also proposing an increase in enlisted Soldiers’ monthly clothing replacement allowance.

The increased ACU cost is attributed to wrinkle-free treatment and the more complex nature of the ACU, which makes manufacturing more expensive.

The BDU was adopted in 1980 and the desert version came after the 1991 Persian Gulf War. The ACU will be manufactured in the United States.

The ACU is worn with the black beret, though a matching patrol cap can be worn at the commander’s discretion. No decision has been made on whether Airborne and Special Operations Forces Soldiers will continue to wear black boots.

In postings on the commercial Internet site Military.com, some people have suggested the Velcro and zipper on the ACU will break noise discipline, unlike buttons, and that Velcro gets dirty and loses effectiveness.

PEO Soldier stated that Soldier comments indicating deficiencies or discrepancies during evaluations were noted and these issues were corrected as the design of the new ACU evolved.

PEO Soldier, the Department of the Army Public Affairs Office, the Army News Service, an Army Information Paper and CNN.com contributed to this report.
The 273rd Military Police Company has served with honor and distinction for 57 years. Since being constituted as the 163rd Military Police Battalion (MP) on May 21, 1947 in Washington D.C, the unit has changed shape.

In 1972 it was reorganized as the 273rd Military Police Company. This downsizing did not affect training or unit readiness. After the invasion of Kuwait in 1990, the 273rd MP Company was mobilized and joined coalition forces in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The unit deployed to Germany in 1996 in support of Operation Joint Endeavor.

After the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the unit was mobilized to protect the nation's capital. During this mission they served with honor and distinction, augmenting the Capitol Hill Police and providing security for the United States Congress and Senate in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

In September 2002, the 273rd was called upon again to fight the Global War on Terror by providing security at the Pentagon, also in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

The Soldiers of the 273rd have served with honor and distinction, rising to and going beyond the call of duty. They have been asked to leave loved ones behind and take up arms to defend this nation from terrorist attack.

The Soldiers in the 273rd have received awards and medals such as the Joint Meritorious Service Award, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

These awards demonstrate the dedication and pride found in the 273rd. Their willingness to accept any challenge and any mission reflect on the quality and character of the Soldiers in the unit.

Their training and operational experience have earned them the title of “Law Dogs,” and they are a welcome addition to the Joint Operations Detention Group, Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

1st. Sgt. Sandra Adams-Jones contributed to this report.
273rd Military Police Company
LAW DOGS!

“There is nothing we can’t handle!”
1st Sgt. Sandra Adams-Jones
To the members of the 463rd Military Police Company:
The first order of business is to thank each and every member of the 273rd Military Police Company for a job well done at the Joint Task Force, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. I could not be more proud! I also want to recognize the outstanding job and continued efforts of the 119th Field Artillery. As your commander, I can honestly say the past 10 months has been the most challenging yet the most rewarding period in my 18-plus years of military service.

But this is not about me. This is about you! I encourage everyone to take the time to reflect on the last 10 months and appreciate, truly understand, recognize and most of all give yourselves credit for your accomplishments – because there have been many, and they are noteworthy and remarkable. Just think about it for a moment. If you are done, you shouldn't be. In the words of the JDOG Commander, Col. Cannon, "Let me help you."

The 273rd Military Police Company has been continuously deployed for 22 months! Now that’s a long time! I cannot think of a D.C. National Guard unit that has ever been out the door that long!
The 273rd Military Police Company successfully mobilized and participated in Operation Noble Eagle for the purposes of providing security at The Pentagon Reservation and its perimeter. So the next time you pass by The Pentagon, or when you are watching the news and stories featuring the mission and continued success of the Joint Task Force, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, simply say to yourself and others, "I was there, I made a difference, and I did it well."

But remember that’s all you need to say about the mission. The bottom line: Be proud of your accomplishments and never forget the part you played in the Global War on Terrorism. Take the credit because you deserve it. However, don’t be too quick to take all the credit. Make sure you acknowledge and thank your family for the tremendous sacrifice they made supporting you while deployed. The families are what enabled us to be as successful as we were. Twenty-two months of active service has served the 273rd Military Police Company well. Make no mistake, the 273rd Military Police Company developed and enhanced skill sets and competencies that will pay huge dividends for a very long time, and I am confident members of the 273rd Military Police company will continue to apply themselves, seek additional duties and responsibility, and continue to make a difference.

To the members of the 273rd Military Police Company:
Well, it had to happen. Our time here has come to an end. People will know the 273rd Military Police Company gave its best in the time we spent here.

We encountered some minor issues once we hit ground, but we overcame them.

We know what right looks like and will continue to stress what right looks like when we return to our home station.

We set goals before we arrived here. Most of us accomplished them. The soldiers went out and took advantage of what GTMO had to offer. Some even picked up hobbies they want to continue at home.

The mission was challenging, and Maj. Gen. Miller kept his word after he said: "I will work you hard and not apologize for it." But the soldiers adjusted and never gave up as they completed the mission.

We have had an opportunity to work with some great people, and we had the chance to play a part in some interesting experiences here. We really worked hard to make a contribution, and our efforts have made a difference.

The 1/65 Infantry Company from Puerto Rico and the 119th Field Artillery Company that we worked with became a part of our lives and are no longer acquaintances but friends. But it is not goodbye – more of a farewell. Everyone has been an inspiration, in good times and bad. So I want to say “thank you” from the 273rd Military Police Company.

Our motto defines our capabilities: "There is nothing we can’t handle!"
Volunteer MPs Mission Ready for JTF-GTMO

By Pfc. Chris Gardner

The 1186th Military Police Company from the Army National Guard, Salem, Ore., arrived in Guantanamo on Tuesday.

Ninety percent of the Soldiers from the 1186th volunteered for this mission, said Army Capt. Trent Klug, commander.

"I volunteered because I had soldiers who were working under me who volunteered," said Sgt. Matt Moore. "I can't send soldiers someplace that I'm not willing to go."

Used to "teepees in the mud" during his last deployment to Bosnia and Croatia, Moore said he'll have it pretty good here in the six-man rooms of Camp America.

The volunteers are excited to be here, to do their job and to have fun. "I think it's great," said Spc. Emanuel Garcia from Milton-Freewater, Ore. "It's something new and exciting."


But Bond knows how serious his mission is. And he knows how his Army service could boost his personal 'A' game, furthering his opportunities. "I've always wanted to be in law enforcement," he said.

Anticipated off-duty activities range from SCUBA diving and wake boarding to studying and college courses. As for the regular duty day, "I have a lot of high hopes and faith in this group," said Sgt. Anna Nam. "I'm open to anything that gets thrown our way."

With experienced MPs like Sgt. Richard Hedges, who has 10 years in the Army as an MP and seven years as a civilian correctional officer, the management of those new things will be in good hands.

Pfc. Bond ... James Bond checks for possible tails as he arrives for his mission in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
Multi-Force Unit Ready To Enter Wire

By Pfc. Jessica Stone


The Troopers hail from all over the country, from Massachusetts to California, and most volunteered for the mission.

In his address to the Troopers, Brig. Gen. Martin J. Lucenti said the fourth rotation set a high standard for these Troopers to meet, but he was confident they would meet and exceed it. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Daniel R. Ernest of Springfield, Mass., agreed.

“We are setting the standard for everyone else,” Ernest said. The Air Force Troopers he came with are the first security forces unit to be a part of the JTF. All volunteered, though Ernest said they had not yet been told exactly what the mission would be, only that they would be working behind the wire.

“I think we’ll raise it up to the next level,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Stacy A. Russell of Charleston, S.C. He volunteered for the mission so he could be a part of Operation Enduring Freedom, and he said he was looking forward to working with the different branches of the military.

After about three weeks mobilizing at Fort Dix, N.J., the Troopers were eager to begin setting that new standard. Marine Lance Cpl. Thomas J. Albano of Dalton, Mass., said that after all the training they had completed he was excited to get started with his job.

Most of the Troopers have previous law enforcement or corrections experience, said Navy Lt. Ervin K. Williams of Chesapeake, Va. He said the best thing about training in Fort Dix was learning how to do things the GTMO way, but that now he was ready to get started with his real work.

Petty Officer 1st Class Isaac Bryan Waits of Charleston, S.C., said the best part of the training for him was seeing how everyone from the different services came together as one unit. “We all came from different backgrounds, different stations, but we are all doing the same job,” he said.

After spending eight months in

Kuwait, Petty Officer 1st Class Peter E. Chandler of Long Beach, Calif., volunteered for this mission to get away from the ordinary. “I am glad to be here, finally!” he said. He was excited to start his job and to take advantage of all the recreational activities available here, particularly fishing.

Petty Officer 1st Class Manuela McCune of Colorado Springs, Colo., said she too wanted to get started. She has corrections experience, and she was eager to get through Fort Dix and begin her mission.

“We’re here to do our job the best we can,” Marine Cpl. Michael R. Beaton of Hamden, Conn., said.
New JTF Chaplain Arrives

By Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

After serving as a Navy helicopter pilot for 12 years, new JTF Chaplain Graham Harbman understands the importance of a chaplain in a deployed setting.

"Faith is important in any environment," said Harbman, now a major in the Army. "When we deploy, the normal support structure you usually enjoy is taken away. We are more aware of the spiritual aspect of life."

Harbman knows the JTF troops at GTMO are also more aware of the chaplain’s presence at Camp America. And he and his chaplain assistant, Spc. Neno Morris, have several ways of making their presence known during their stay.

First they plan to preach the gospel. Harbman, who became ordained as a chaplain last January, is also a pastor at the Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Easton, Pa.

Then, they plan to spend time with the troops. While they primarily serve the 2-113th Infantry Battalion, their services are available to all JTF members. Harbman and Morris make daily visits with infantry troops, riding with them during patrols and visiting them at their duty stations.

"We want to let them know we’re out there with them," said Morris, a native of Hackensack, N.J.

They also provide something which can be crucial to a JTF member’s morale. They will also serve as ears to members’ problems. Morris said he evaluates each problem to determine if the member should seek the chaplain’s counsel or provide direction.

While Harbman is a Protestant chaplain, he will also provide JTF members with the materials and services that are available to practice their religions.

"This is a wonderful venue to get to know people," Harbman said. "The military gives me a chance to get to know people I would never have known otherwise."

I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert" - The Prophet Isaiah.

GTMO may have a desert climate, but it doesn’t need to be a desert experience! Through the prophet Isaiah, God told His people He would turn their desert into a river, their wilderness experience of exile into a formative time.

What will you make of your experience here at GTMO? Will it be a time of misery to be endured or a formative time? God offers to make a river in our desert, but we must cooperate.

I would encourage you to set goals for yourself here at GTMO. These goals may be career (seek promotion), physical (pass a PT test), mental (take a college course), relational (meet people with shared interest) and spiritual (attend worship, join a Bible study).

Personally, my goal is to leave this island a better person than I came and to help as many others as possible do the same. If you feel a little like you are suffering in a wilderness here at GTMO, allow God to make a way for you through that wilderness, look for the rivers in the desert!
With Staff Sgt. Bennie Womack, 273rd MP Co.

By Spc. Jim Greenhill

He was 17. He wasn’t doing well in college. His father gave him a choice: Improve your grades or enlist. More than 20 years later, Staff Sgt. Bennie Womack, 39, says the Army gave him his ‘A’ game.

Q: What inspired you to enlist?
A: I started college, and I wasn’t doing too well. My parents were paying for it, and my father gave me the option: Either do better in school or join the military. So I joined the military.

Q: How many years have you served?

Q: How has the Army changed you?
A: The enlistment helped me mature. If I’d been more mature in [college], I probably would have finished my education. You meet senior NCOs, and they’re kind of like surrogate fathers.

Q: Where have you deployed?
A: Germany, Korea and Japan in the regular Army. Fort Leavenworth, Kan., The Pentagon and GTMO in the Guard.

Q: The 273rd has been deployed - with short breaks - for most of the last three years: What’s that like?
A: It’s been an experience. I raised my right hand. I was sworn in. It’s my duty. My responsibility. I have no complaints. I’ll do my duty, and when they feel like sending me home, they’ll send me home.

Q: How has it been for your two pre-teen daughters?
A: They’re ready for me to come home. I missed out on a lot of opportunities to see them do things in school. They’re glad that my time is getting short and I’m coming home.

Q: What personal strengths benefited you the most in this mission?
A: I have great leadership qualifications. I can get a soldier to believe in himself, where he can accomplish any mission.

Q: What was most rewarding about this mission?
A: It’s knowing that we’re doing an important job for the country. It’s vital that we succeed here to keep the rest of the country safe. At times, the job might seem minute, but once you look at the overall picture, you realize that it’s an important job. We’re going to take our entire unit back. No deaths. No trouble. There’s no one staying back for UCMJ action. We’re all leaving at the same time. We accomplished the mission.

Q: What do you do to relax when you deploy?
A: I go to the gym. I swim. I hang out with some of my buddies. Meet people from other units. We play dominos, cards.

Q: What inspired you most in life and why?
A: My oldest brother. He’s been in the military 28 years. He had retired. The military called him back for another year, and he’s still over in Iraq now. Through his strength and dedication, I realize that it’s possible for me to succeed.

Q: What was your best military experience?
A: The variety of personnel I met along the way, and the variety of experience I gained. You can’t trade experience for anything.

Q: Looking back on your military career, what makes you most proud to serve?
A: The variety of personnel I met along the way, and the variety of experience I gained. You can’t trade experience for anything.

Q: What goals did you set for yourself while in GTMO?
A: I came here with the intention of completing my degree, which I did, on-line. I have a Bachelor’s of Science in Sociology from the University of Phoenix. ... You have more time [here] than most people take advantage of. ... There are other things besides sitting in your house. When you leave work, you have to leave work at Camp Delta. You can’t take it with you. And alcohol is not the key.

Q: What was your best military experience?
A: The variety of personnel I met along the way, and the variety of experience I gained. You can’t trade experience for anything.

Q: What are your goals now?
A: I have every intention of just sitting down. Resting. Relaxing. Taking time out to talk to my kids and my wife. I expect her to put me to work. I expect to take between 30 and 60 days off before I return back to my civilian job. I’m a police officer ... As far as the military, I expect to become a sergeant major. That is my lifetime goal.
The GTMO Guide: Answers to Your Questions

What can help me? What's for lunch? What movie's playing? Where can I find that? How does this work?

Joe Friday and the IG

What do Joe Friday and the Inspector General Have in Common?

The main way that the Inspector General team provides service to Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay personnel is in the IG category called “assistance.”

A trooper who is not able to solve a problem using their chain of command often comes to the Inspector General for help.

A trooper who contacts the IG office can expect an IG team member to listen carefully to their concern. The trooper's responsibility is to be accurate and truthful when they present their problem.

Fact-finding requires the IG to gather pertinent documents, research regulations, and/or conduct interviews.

The fact-finding process is time-consuming and the trooper should not expect a quick answer. The main concern of the IG is learning as much as possible about the problem.

The IG is not an advocate for any of the persons connected to the problem. This means that the IG must be neutral and unbiased while gathering and analyzing the facts. We do not take sides.

When the IG completes the fact-finding process the trooper will receive a final answer about their concern.

The Joe Friday and IG connection goes like this, "The facts ma'am, just the facts." We look for facts.

The IG phone number is 5399. You may visit the IG office in Room 204 of the Commissions building, Monday through Saturday. The Camp America IG office is in Building 7200 and is staffed Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and Friday from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. IG assistance is available anytime by appointment.

Buses

Camp America/NEX
Camp Alpha – 00: 20: 40
NEX trailer – 02: 22: 42
Camp Delta 2 – 06: 26: 46
TK 4 – 12: 32: 52
TK 1 – 16: 36: 56
Windjammer/Gym – 23: 43: 03
NEX – 30: 50: 10
Windjammer Gym – 35: 55: 15
TK 1 – 40: 00: 20
TK 4 – 46: 06: 26
Camp Delta 1 – 52: 12: 32
Camp Alpha – 00: 20: 40

Effective Tuesday, July 6, the Kittery Beach Bus Route will stop driving through the TK Housing area for pick-ups and drop-offs. The new TK Housing stops will be located off of Kittery Beach Road: North side: Next to the TK Joint Aid Station (JAS) South side: On the South side of Kittery Beach Road in front of TK Housing
GTMO Celebrates Independence Day

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed, and today it is traditional to celebrate that glorious day in history with exciting parades, festive barbecues and eye-popping fireworks displays. But how did those traditions develop?

After signing the Declaration of Independence, John Adams, who later became the second president of the United States, described how he thought the day should be remembered in a letter to his wife. “It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forever more,” he said.

The first public readings of the Declaration lived up to Adams’ hopes. Readings were accompanied by loud shouts, military parades, firing of muskets and the tearing down of British emblems. In Philadelphia, the first anniversary of the signing was celebrated with a grand dinner and a massive fireworks display, beginning and ending with 13 rockets to symbolize the 13 states. The traditions of patriotic 4th of July celebrations have continued to this day. This Independence Day, the celebrations at GTMO will be no exception.

The Fourth of July celebrations will kick off with the 5K Freedom Fun Run. It begins at 7 a.m. at the base gym. Awards will be given for the best costume. After that is the six-on-six dodgeball tournament at 1 p.m. at the base gym. For more information on these events, call 2193.

In the evening there will be an Independence Day celebration at the Sailing Center beginning at 5 p.m. There will be carnival booths, a barbecue, games and a fireworks display to cap off the night. Also beginning at 5 p.m. is the Independence Day celebration at the Tiki Bar. There will be a barbecue and performances by the Dina Preston Country Band at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. on the Bayview patio.

-Pfc. Jessi Stone