Tropical Storm Noel makes waves in Gitmo

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Change your inner dialogue and focus on success

By Navy Command Master Chief
Bradley LeVault

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Command Master Chief

When people want to improve themselves the majority think in terms of getting physically stronger, losing weight, completing a degree or better managing their time. They have a specific goal in mind and work to accomplish that goal until it is complete. Often many are unable to maintain their accomplishments or even finish what they have started.

What they lack is a proper mental process to sustain their success. Achieving and maintaining goals stems from an attitude shaped to adapt to the changes you’ve made. Say, to lose weight, you’ve stopped eating triple cheeseburgers and fries but you tell yourself they are delicious and you miss eating them. That is deprivation. With that thinking there is an excellent chance you will go back to eating improperly and regain the weight you lost.

If you change your inner dialogue, telling yourself you prefer healthy foods instead of that cheeseburger and research healthy eating you are far more likely to maintain your success. That is a lifestyle change.

You must first change your mind to change your life. To be, stay and continue to succeed in life it is imperative to train yourself for a lifestyle style organized for the future. Look ahead of your goals and decide to be a life-long learner. Resolve to never stop at the end. As you train to reach a goal you should not only work to accomplish the goal at hand but prepare for future goals. Literally, what you are doing right now is training you for what you will do in the future and how well you will do it. That is to say, how you act and your current habits are the same actions and habits you will have tomorrow, only tomorrow you will be better at them.

So, how do you change your habits and therefore your life style? Start by allowing yourself to fail, but resolve to learn from your failure. Assess it and take responsibility for it. Look at what you did and change part or all of those actions and habits. If you believe your failure was someone else’s fault, assess how you put yourself in that situation. For successes, look at how to improve on the process. On top of it all, be very patient with yourself. One of the hardest things to do is to forgive yourself – do it and get on with your improvement process.
Television shows such as “Law and Order” are instrumental in educating the public on modern-day courtroom techniques. However, the conventional courtroom procedures they portray are becoming less apparent in modern federal courtrooms as computer automation systems become more prevalent.

The Office of Military Commissions has brought state-of-the-art computer automation to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to ensure the courtroom functions more efficiently. Army Col. Wendy A. Kelly, executive officer for the convening authority of OMC, said her office hired the Center of Legal and Court Technology located at William and Mary Law School in Virginia to create a courtroom design that will enhance the overall commissions process.

This new design, known as the Courtroom 21 Project, includes a computerized touch screen system that eliminates the need for contractors to operate separate audio and video boards.

“Each system was outputting separately and did not interact very well together,” said Kelly. “We had a translation system that was separate from the court reporting system and cameras that were operated by one technician while another operated the sound system.”

She added that one of OMC’s major concerns was the inability to accommodate witnesses in need of translators during a trial. Translation of multiple languages is normally not an issue in federal and state courts, but it becomes a problem when both the accused and some witnesses speak different languages.

“The old translation system used a soundproof booth which was only large enough to translate to and from a single language. In addition, the soundproof booth was located near the judge’s bench, so switching out interpreters during a trial was disruptive,” Kelly said.

The new technology provides an audio and television monitoring system that eliminates the need for translators to be physically present in the courtroom. Translators using the new technology can be seated elsewhere in the commissions building and still have video and audio feeds that allow them to see and hear the person they are translating for.

This new technology is the brainchild of Frederic I. Lederer, director of the Center for Legal and Court Technology, who said his main objective was to design a system where the judge, jury and parties involved receive an enhanced visual perspective of evidence being presented.

In the same way that bank customers can access their accounts by pointing at icons on a screen, attorneys can use the point and press features of the new system to select evidence to be admitted during trial. This evidence can be presented to everyone in the courtroom or restricted to certain individuals, such as the presiding judge. The touch screen

Story and Photos by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons
Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Court 21 promises state-of-the-art judicial proceedings

Joelle Laszlo, an assistant with the Center for Legal and Court Technology of William and Mary Law School in Va., demonstrates the on-screen marking capabilities of new audio & video technology recently installed in the JTF commissions courtroom. This new technology enables the commissions courtroom to function on par with modern federal courtrooms in the U.S.
JTF head attorney sets the record straight on detainee abuse allegations

Story and photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

In a telephone conversation Oct. 30 with Dave Davies of National Public Radio’s “Fresh Air,” head attorney for Joint Task Force Guantanamo’s Staff Judge Advocate’s office, Navy Capt. Patrick M. McCarthy, addressed allegations of detainee mistreatment and legal injustice at Guantanamo’s detention facilities.

McCarthy said one of the only glimpses the world gets into the activities of the SJA is seen through the eyes of habeas attorneys who visit Guantanamo Bay to represent detainees. Since many of these attorneys hold biases against the detention of detainees here, McCarthy said the information they share with the world regarding the Joint Task Force mission often includes opinions based on preconceived notions.

“Guantanamo has been [incorrectly] painted as a place where detainees are sent and are held incognito, [a place] where they lack access to courts, their family members and the media,” said McCarthy, whose primary task is to provide legal advice to the JTF commander.

“We are holding those individuals here who should be held based on the fact that they are enemy combatants, and they continue to pose a threat to the United States,” McCarthy said.

During the “Fresh Air” interview, McCarthy explained that the JTF mission is to detain alleged enemy combatants, including war criminals in accordance with applicable international and U.S. laws, as well as U.S. Department of Defense rules and regulations. This year alone, JTF attorneys coordinated approximately 1,100 lawyer visits where they provided the transportation and logistical support necessary to assist the habeas attorneys. In addition, the SJA office is responsible for providing habeas attorneys access to detainees they represent and for providing support to OARDEC.

The lead attorney for JTF Guantanamo’s Staff Judge Advocate’s office, Navy Capt. Patrick M. McCarthy, briefs a member of his staff. The SJA office is responsible for providing habeas attorneys access to detainees they represent and for providing support to OARDEC.

“W e do not have a separate class of Americans that come down here working on behalf of our country. These Americans are coming from the same high schools, neighborhoods, and colleges that other Americans attend. These depictions of ham-fisted attempts to get detainees to speak are simply not a part of any type of contemporary reality.”

On a daily basis, the SJA staff communicates with habeas attorneys to ensure they understand the applicable legal processes and to help provide sufficient opportunities for them to communicate with the detainees they represent. McCarthy noted that his office is also in constant communication with Office of Administrative Review of the Detention of the Enemy Combatants personnel to make sure they have all the support necessary to conduct their mission of overseeing the combatant status review tribunals and the administrative review boards that are conducted on a periodic basis.

“We have 300 or so detainees represented by counsel and all of the detainees have been advised of their right to representation by counsel upon request. Per the Detainee Treatment Act, detainees have also been advised that they can challenge their combatant status during a review tribunal,” said McCarthy.

Despite the SJA’s best efforts, McCarthy said that critics such as Clive Stafford Smith, a prominent habeas attorney and author of a recently published book, continue to allege that attorneys here fail to protect detainees from abuse by interrogators and fail to provide detainees adequate assurances of safety once they are released.

“When we do find that a person is no longer an enemy combatant, we must first seek some assurances that they will not be mistreated before releasing them to their native country. If we are unable to get those assurances, then the detainee must be relocated to another country,” said McCarthy. “We have relations with certain countries that will receive their nationals from Guantanamo Bay and assist them with re-assimilation into society in positive ways. Although we say that some people will be detained until the end of hostilities, it is our hope that the number of people held for a long period of detention is reduced to the absolute minimum possible.”

In response to allegations of abuse occurring during interrogations, McCarthy defended the Troopers and civilians who work diligently to maintain a humane and safe environment for their staff and the detainees held here.

“We do not have a separate class of Americans that come down here working on behalf of our country. These Americans are coming from the same high schools, neighborhoods, and colleges that other Americans attend. These depictions of ham-fisted attempts to get detainees to speak are simply not a part of any type of contemporary reality.”
A century ago, Henry Ford ran his first car on ethyl alcohol and Rudolf Diesel fired his single piston engine on peanut oil. Both manufacturers realized quickly that the vegetable oil they were powering their motors with held far less bang for the buck than ‘rock oil,’ which required minimal refining and was comparatively inexpensive.

Fossil fuels soon left fodder fuel in the dust. In the last several years of high oil anxiety the U.S. has looked again at the potential of homegrown gasoline.

It wasn’t until the first years of this century that the old bootlegger’s friends – corn and still – staged a major comeback, providing additives to gasoline blends which promised to make motor-vehicle emissions less polluting. The federal government is now providing subsidies to industries seeking to develop and market these cleaner burning fuels.

Many lawmakers are concerned that the domestic oil supply is in jeopardy. They passed legislation requiring that 7.5 billion gallons of fuel consumed by U.S. citizens come from ethanol or biodiesel fuel by 2012.

Guantanamo Bay's Environmental Department is not waiting around for federal requirements to catch up with them. The naval station recently purchased a biodiesel processor that converts cooking oil and grease into a fuel source. Fred Burns, formerly the hazardous waste program manager, said his former department is collecting approximately 1,500 gallons of used grease and cooking oil per month from restaurants, galleys and barracks buildings to create a clean-burning fuel source that can eventually make the base’s diesel-burning vehicles carbon neutral.

The carbons in biofuel are captured from the atmosphere by plants during the growing season and when burned leave fewer unburned hydrocarbons. On the other hand, the carbons found in fossil fuels which were trapped eons ago, leave more unburned hydrocarbons and consequently drive up the global thermostat when burned. Stringent tests required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for certification of fuels, demonstrate effectively that biodiesel-burning engines leave fewer unburned hydrocarbons, and hence cause less air pollution.

A 1998 biodiesel life cycle study sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Agriculture concluded that because of biofuel’s closed carbon cycle, carbon dioxide emissions could be reduced by as much as 78 percent compared with petroleum-based products. Vegetable fuels also decrease levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and nitrided PAH compounds, both known carcinogens.

Biodiesel is the only alternative fuel to have fully completed the health effects testing requirements of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments and results in a noticeably less offensive exhaust odor – often compared to the smell of french fries.

Methanol and sodium hydroxide are added to the biodiesel conversion process. They act as catalysts to separate waste material, such as food particles, from the biodiesel. These chemicals are expensive, but sodium hydroxide discarded from Gitmo’s desalinization plant, already in use for making pH adjustments to drinking water, is in large enough supply to power the operation for the next several years.

Typically, with a blend of fossil fuel and five to 20 percent cooking oil, commercial retailers can produce biodiesel fuel at approximately 60 cents per gallon. The Environmental Department here is looking to mirror this model by mixing the biofuel they create with regular diesel in similar proportions, Burns said.

Prior to this project, all cooking oil was typically discarded in the naval station’s landfill. However, beginning Nov. 1, residents can save their used cooking oil in clean containers, like the oil’s original bottles, and deposit them in recycle bins for collection.
The Boston Red Sox won their second World Championship in four years after not having won a World Series since 1918. They swept the Colorado Rockies in four games and have some so-called experts talking dynasty. Down three games to one against the Cleveland Indians in the American League Championship Series (ALCS) the Red Sox reeled off seven straight victories to close out an incredible season.

Boston dominated the World Series from start to finish with great starting pitching and timely hitting. Game one was a 13-1 route with Josh Beckett shutting down the Rockies’ bats and Sox exploding on offense for eight doubles and 13 runs. The Sox set a game one record for runs and margin of victory.

Game two was a pitchers’ duel. Starters Curt Schilling (Boston) and Ubaldo Jimenez (Colorado) both had solid outings; however, Schilling left with the 2-1 lead after Jimenez gave up a two-out walk to David Ortiz that was followed with back-to-back hits by Manny Ramirez and Mike Lowell. That would be all the offense that Boston would need as the Red Sox bullpen shut the Rockies down and preserved the win.

In game three the Sox jumped out to a 6-0 lead but the Rockies fought back to make it 6-5 on Matt Holliday’s three run home run in the seventh inning. The Red Sox would not be denied as Boston’s young guns Jacoby Ellsbury and Dustin Pedroia both came through with RBI hits in the eighth inning which put the Sox up 9-5. Boston would add one more run in the ninth to make the final 10-5.

In the fourth and deciding game, Boston jumped to an early 1-0 lead on an Ortiz single that scored Ellsbury in the first inning. The score would stay that way until Jason Varitek singled to score Lowell in the fifth. Lowell hit a home run in the seventh inning to make the score 3-0. Brad Hawpe got the Rockies on the board with a homer of his own in the bottom of the 7th. Bobby Kielty’s home run in the eighth made it 4-1 Boston, but those pesky Rockies would not go away quietly as Garret Atkins hit a 2 run home run in the eighth inning to make it 4-3. Boston brought in their shut-down closer, Jonathan Papelbon, who retired the last five Rockies batters to seal the game and the World Series for the Red Sox.

I think it is safe to say that the Red Sox have lifted the curse of the Bambino and have become baseball’s premier ball club. With a good mixture of young talent, experienced all-stars, great starting pitchers and a solid bull pen the Red Sox will surely be favorites to repeat next year. It may be a little premature to use the word dynasty, but the Sox have all the parts in place to be a dominating force in the years to come.
Hydroids take 10-run lead to win ‘Demo’ tourney

Story and photos by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard
Joint Task Force Guantanamo Public Affairs Office

The crack of bats and rowdy dugout chatter once again filled the air around the Cooper Field Athletic Complex last weekend. Five teams took to the fields – playing as many as four slow-pitch softball games in one day in stifling Guantanamo Bay heat – in the ‘Demo’ Softball Field Tournament Oct. 27-28.

In eight seven-inning games, these co-ed teams battled for first, with bats and gloves for weapons, to claim the highly-coveted championship trophy. Two days of hard-slides, pop-flies and pickles-in-the-middle saw one team’s triumphant victory over the other bush-leaguers as they skated to the cat-bird seat going undefeated for the big show.

Sunday’s championship game boasted quick innings and play, as the Hydroids, who also won the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) co-ed league championship in early August, left the second place team, Main Attraction, running into a buzz saw with hands still burning from the horsehide. Invoking the 10-run rule, this championship game was called in six stanzas, with the Hydroids still shelling the Main Attraction’s pitcher, with 13-3 on the keeper’s score books.

Not the only ones to flash some leather, the championship gamers were joined on the field by “Rocky Horror’s” Frankenfurter, who had been the ‘main attraction’ at MWR’s “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” double feature the night before. Calling the tournament’s nightcap in full costume, Frank attracted more outfield chatter then any one of the players at bat.

MWR provided traditional baseball-park fare to the ballers, but enticed participation with a full-fledged pig roast, Hawaiian luau style – featuring that “little piggy” chowing down on a softball, instead of the traditional apple.

Justin Jones, Main Attraction, swings for a base hit in the third inning of the ‘demo’ tourney’s championship game Sunday, Oct. 28. ◀Ken Buonviri rolls in a pitch for the Hydroids. ◀Buonviri accepts the trophy on behalf of the Hydroids, who went undefeated in the tournament. ◀The Hydroids took first place in this weekend’s tournament, going undefeated over both days.
“Just seven days and I can make you a man!” says Frank-n-Furter, the irrepressible drag queen of the infamous movie musical “The Rocky Horror Picture Show.”

Saturday night, Oct. 27, saw a bizarre cast of characters in appalling and disturbing regalia making the most of the Bayview’s second annual showing of the cult classic.

The costumed crowd clearly delighted in this opportunity to act out along with the whacked-out movie roles. Fans threw rice and confetti, rang bells and squirted water guns at well-rehearsed key points in the film. Most sang every lyric and many broke loose and danced in time with the bizarre performers on the screen.

In addition to many of their favorite “Rocky Horror” characters, Guantanamo fans dressed as Mr. Rogers, Rainbow Bright, Captain Jack Sparrow, Corps Bride, Viking warriors and other unidentified characters of dubious gender. All together the night was full of crazy characters and antics in keeping with a proper Halloween weekend.
November is Lung Cancer Awareness month and a time for reflection on the 160,000 American lives taken annually by the disease.

To most it comes as no surprise to hear the leading cause of lung cancer is smoking. 85 percent of all lung cancer can be attributed to smoking while the remaining 15 percent is usually ascribed to environmental and working hazards. Some kinds of factory work exposes employees to harmful chemicals and gasses. Mining work and contact with radon gas has also been associated with environmental carcinogens. All these hazards seem minimal when compared with the danger smoking creates.

“Lung cancer accounts for 30 percent of all cancer deaths and the leading cause is smoking,” said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Paul Hurlburt, the tobacco cessation coordinator here.

It’s not difficult to trace how this epidemic started. “Early on, smoking was promoted as healthy, though in the late sixties and early seventies, people began to notice that smoking was causing cancer,” said Hurlburt. He elaborated, “In the seventies, the government started to do accurate and unbiased testing, and related smoking to cancer.” This research led to the Public Health Cigarette Smoking Act of 1970, which banned the advertisement of cigarettes on radio and television. Since then, medical experts have tried to deter people from smoking through education.

“One out of every 10 men and one out of every five women who smoke get lung cancer,” said Hurlburt. Smoking not only leads to lung cancer, it also brings on a host of other illnesses such as emphysema, angina, heart attack and stroke. These infirmities lead to the deaths of 500,000 Americans annually. Among those are the 3,000 deaths resulting from exposure to secondhand smoke.

Cancer breaks down the cells and tissues in the lungs,” said Hurlburt. He added that the lungs spread cancer cells to the brain and throughout the body, a process known as metastasizing.

Cancer is often detected by doctors when patients are in their fifties. People should watch out for early warning signs that include family history, environmental exposure – what kind of chemicals people have been exposed to – chronic coughing, coughing up blood, isolated chest pain and shortness of breath. If experiencing any of these symptoms or notice a pattern, one should contact a physician for a check-up.

A diagnosis can be obtained through physical exams, X-rays, CT scans and MRI. Biopsies can be done to confirm the diagnosis. Survival rates are dependent upon the stage of cancer when caught. Early detection can saves lives.

If cancer is detected early enough for treatment, patients can expect surgery to remove the cancerous part of the lung or a lung entirely, radiation therapy and chemotherapy. Radiation and chemotherapy attack cancer cells specifically. The goal of these treatments is to pinpoint the cells and kill them over an extended period of time.

To minimize the chances of ever developing lung cancer, smokers should consider the help provided by the tobacco cessation program. Education has helped many smokers quit this terrible and destructive habit and led to diminish in the amount of lung cancer cases in America. Those who are interested in the tobacco cessation program can contact Hurlburt at 72261 or the primary care clinic at 72944. Remember, the longer you put off quitting, the more susceptible you are to lung cancer.
The Creation of American Indian Heritage Month

What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

Early Proponents

One of the very proponents of an American Indian Day was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y. He persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the “First Americans” and for three years they adopted such a day. In 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kans., formally approved a plan concerning American Indian Day. It directed its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to observe such a day. Coolidge issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

The year before this proclamation was issued, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state to state seeking approval for a day to honor Indians. On December 14, 1915, he presented the endorsements of 24 state governments at the White House. There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

State Celebrations

The first American Indian Day in a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916 by the governor of N.Y. Several states celebrate the fourth Friday in September. In Illinois, for example, legislators enacted such a day in 1919. Presently, several states have designated Columbus Day as Native American Day, but it continues to be a day we observe without any recognition as a national legal holiday.

Heritage Months

In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Similar proclamations have been issued each year since 1994.
Batman vs. Gladiator in the Old West

By Army Sgt. Scott Griffin
Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

America’s classic genre, the Western, makes a glorious silver screen return with director James Mangold’s (“Walk the Line”) take on “3:10 to Yuma.” Based on a short story by Elmore Leonard (which is surprisingly available at the NEX), the film stars Christian Bale (“Batman Begins”) and Russell Crowe (“Gladiator”) in a story that is one part “Unforgiven” and one part Sergio Leone shooter.

Bale portrays Dan Evans, a down-on-his-luck Civil War veteran who can’t get a break. His wife harangues him, his eldest son demeans him, his youngest has tuberculosis, and his landlord is cutting off his water to force him to sell off his land. Turns out a railroad is being planned to pass through Evans’ backyard and the landlord wants to sell it off at a high price. Meanwhile, Evans’ cattle suffer.

Cut to Ben Wade and his gang preparing to knock over a stage coach – a good Western always has a stage coach – dispatching everyone aboard except for Peter Fonda. Shooting Fonda may be mean, but leaving him gut shot and alive is worse. Crowe’s depiction of Wade is one of a calculating criminal with no moral center, a man capable of absolute ruthlessness and amazing charisma in the same breadth.

Wade is finally arrested but the local sheriff is too scared to transport him to a judge. A wholly justified terror of Wade’s remaining crew causes the locals to balk, but Bale volunteers to do it for 200 bucks. From there, the chase is on.

Bale and his posse have to pass through a series of hostile areas all the while keeping an eye on the brilliant and murderous Crowe. Whether he saves their lives in Apache territory or murders one of their posse in his sleep – with a fork, no less – Crowe keeps the audience completely enthralled. He’s the charming villain, the rogue that one can’t help like no matter how dangerous he truly is.

Bale’s gaunt war vet, who continues to limp along through life on a peg leg, is that peak of morality that only Westerns can portray. He knows what he’s doing is dangerous, he knows he’ll have to do it alone, he hopes what he’s doing will redeem him, and nothing is going to stop him.

The film itself achieves that amazing mythic morality that is – once again – something only the best of Westerns achieve. Bale and Crowe become more mesmerizing as the film progresses and their relationship evolves. The men begin as enemies and develop into equals as they learn how much they actually have in common … which I won’t spoil for you here.

I will tell you that Wade’s gun is named ‘The Hand of God’ and he believes it to be cursed. Between the harsh Sonoran desert vistas and the moral questions raised, “3:10 to Yuma” warrants a second viewing.
computer is mounted within a podium located in the middle of
the courtroom so that attorneys can easily access the system.

“All the evidence will be submitted by the prosecution
and defense electronically. Whether it’s a scanned document,
a DVD or a computer re-creation, each party can load all
its evidence onto a laptop,” said Kelly. “When it’s time to
present their case, monitors set up throughout the courtroom
will allow everyone to see the evidence once it is admitted by
the Judge.”

Attorneys and witnesses will be able to annotate and
display notes and diagrams in real time that are viewed
on large monitors located behind the witness stand. This
eliminates the need for multiple copies of documents since all
annotations are visually available. This technology will allow
court spectators to view the evidence being displayed on the
monitor while a witness is testifying. According to Lederer,
onece the evidence is admitted by the judge, the annotations are
captured electronically and placed in the court record.

“We can capture electronically what they (the testifying
witnesses) mark on the monitor and then clear all those
markings off. So when the opposing party has an expert that
disputes what the testifying witnesses say, they can mark it
up separately,” said Lederer. “The touch screen can also be
used to highlight, enlarge and overlay documents. Thus, a
defendant’s signature can be compared using two different
documents to determine its authenticity.”

In addition, the new technology allows opening and
closing arguments that are traditionally presented orally
to now be illustrated with imagery. Lederer said that the
automated system will also increase the feasibility of having
remote witnesses testify, and will help guarantee the accuracy
of court records upon appellate review.

Attorneys, judges, paralegals and staff members are
already undergoing training, and the OMC is looking forward
to using the new technology during upcoming commissions
in November, according to Kelly. Although the Courtroom
21 technology is new and nonexistent on most other military
installations, federal courts have utilized this automated
technology to reduce trial time by 50 percent in cases
involving large amounts of evidence, said Kelly.

Eventually this new system will be employed at the new
Expeditionary Legal Complex once it becomes operational.
Kelly foresees that all commissions proceedings will then be
conducted using electronic displays of evidence, consistent
with federal trials currently held in the U.S.

**Courtroom from page 3**

**Boots on the Water**

“**What do you enjoy most about being in the Coast Guard?**”

Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Pete Harwell

Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Joshua Smith

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeff Huggins

Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Scott Ownby

I like the friends and camaraderie of being in the Coast Guard.

I enjoy the boat tactics, the weapons and search and rescue missions.

I enjoy being on the water. It’s better than being behind a desk.

At the end of the day, I feel like I have accomplished something.
By Navy Rear Adm. Robert F. Burt
Chief of Navy Chaplains

As chaplain of the Marine Corps, I visited Guantanamo Bay, Cuba about three years ago and saw the wonderful work our Troopers do down here. In my current position as chief of Navy chaplains, I knew it was time to return to Guantanamo Bay to see the different jobs that people are doing and the incredible mission that goes on down here. For the past five days, I have been able to see, first hand, the commitment and dedication that our Troopers have to their jobs.

I have attended 11 services with the different faith groups here to provide them with the encouragement needed to carry out their missions. I have also met with many very special people, who have chosen to grow in their faith while they are here. For those Troopers who have faith in God, I want to encourage you to continue to grow in your spiritual maturity. This is a wonderful time, especially if you are separated from your family, to devote to reading spiritual materials and to focus on your personal growth. As an enlisted Sailor, I spent a lot of time out to sea and separated from my family. These separations offered a wonderful opportunity to focus in on my relationship with God and to grow in that relationship.

I also wanted to come down and greet the chaplains and their assistants. I know the chaplaincy plays a great part in encouraging the Troopers here, and I came here to make sure the chaplains are properly cared for. There are great chaplains serving here, both in the Joint Task Force and on the naval station. I came down to encourage and inspire them, and I will now leave encouraged and inspired. During this visit, I have met some very wonderful, wonderful people who are serving our nation.

After 9/11, I questioned our young Servicemembers’ fortitude, perseverance and ability to protect our country. Although I love America and our young people, I thought like many from my generation that our young people sometimes fail to see the same commitment that we shared to secure our freedoms. However, I have visited young Servicemembers in Iraq, Afghanistan, Djibouti and now Gitmo, and I have seen wonderful, amazing, dedicated and committed young men and women in uniform that are every bit as good as I was at that age. I still see a sparkle in their eyes, and I believe they realize that this is the greatest national on the face of the earth.

What impresses me the most about many of our young Troopers today, is they did not have to enlist in the military. However, they raised their right hand, put on their uniform, and were willing to face constant danger and possible threats against their life. They did this with the willingness to invest their lives protecting our freedoms. Whether they enlisted for four, 10, 20 or 30 years, they will never regret the time they spent wearing the uniform. When they see a picture of themselves wearing the uniform, it will be a proud moment. I really appreciate all that they do.

Young Servicemembers have maintained that desire to protect our freedoms and liberties, so their grandchildren can enjoy the same opportunities that they had growing up in our great nation.

Spiritual Growth Through Faith in God

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MP moves from Gitmo and on to further service

Story and photo by Army Spc.
Shanita Simmons
Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay
Public Affairs Office

Every Sunday morning one Military Policeman (MP) stationed in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba removes his uniform and takes on another role. Although his primary mission is to provide a safe and secure environment for Troopers and detainees here, he works just as diligently to uplift the hearts and minds of Troopers as the choir director for two Protestant services.

A typical Sunday morning for Army Sgt. 1st Class Dennis W. Truman, a military policeman with the 525th Military Police Battalion here, continues well after his work shift ends early in the morning. As the Praise and Worship Team leader and assistant choir director for Protestant services held at the Trooper’s and Main Chapels, Truman has become more than just another Trooper stationed here. He has also become a teacher, a mentor and an overall inspiration to those who follow his lead.

“The military environment can be very challenging. This year, my relationship with Christ has grown by leaps and bounds while working with the youth leadership as well as the music ministry,” said Truman. “As a couple of weeks passed on, and I could not eat right or sleep, something kept talking to me, but I would not listen. I discussed it with a chaplain friend and after studying God’s word and praying about it, God revealed that he wanted me to join the ministry.”

Truman said he plans to pursue this calling once he retires from the Army. Once retired, he plans to have a master’s in education in hand and will then pursue a master’s in divinity. Since Truman has a heart for youth, he plans to work as a history teacher within the military school system overseas. In addition to inspiring minds, he also hopes to strengthen the spirits of his students by volunteering as a youth pastor at a local chapel wherever he teaches.

Since age 18, the military is the only career Truman has known. Although he is a little apprehensive about opening a new chapter in his life, Truman said he is thankful to have the support of his wife of 21 years and their six children.

“My wife has been the rock in our family. While I have ran all over the world and done a lot of exciting things for our country, she has maintained the household and has taken care of our kids,” said Truman. “I know I could not do this without her.”

Looking back over the past 21 years, Truman believes he has accomplished a lot in his career and personal life. He has maintained a strong marriage with his college sweetheart and raised six children, of which three are currently on college scholarships. However, Truman said his greatest achievement in the Army will be the legacy he leaves to his Soldiers. When he arrives at his next, and possibly last, duty station next month, Truman looks forward to shaping the lives of young Soldiers there as a platoon sergeant.

“I have always looked at my Soldiers as my own kids. I take care of them, I train them, and I pat them on the back when they deserve it,” said Truman. “The United States has the most powerful military in the world, and as Americans it’s our responsibility to set the moral standards for the rest of the world to follow. As long as my country needs me and is willing to let me stay and serve, then I’m willing to continue training those who will protect our future.”
Pfc. Daniel Andrews makes a special presentation to Rear Adm. Patrick Burt, the Navy’s Chief of Chaplains, in appreciation from naval station and Joint Task Force chaplains during a prayer breakfast held Monday, Oct. 29. (Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons)

The Lillian Curry Band brought the sweet sound of music to Guantanamo Bay as the string quartet played various melodies during a concert held on the Bayview Patio Thursday, Oct. 25. From left to right are Lillian Curry, Cynthia Bryant, Susan Whitelock and Charlotte Carr. (Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons)

Waves crash upon the Guantanamo Bay coastline as Tropical Storm Noel runs through the Caribbean Wednesday, Oct. 31. Noel produced heavy rain and hustling winds in the first heavy storm to hit Guantanamo since Hurricane Dean in early August. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)