

Corpsmen: first line of care

By Spc. Timothy Book

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Corpsmen of the Detention Hospital help provide quality health care in a challenging environment.

Navy Chief Petty Officer Pamela Branum, Detention Hospital senior enlisted leader, said working at the facility is a completely new experience for her and most of the corpsmen. The patient care we have delivered in previous assignments has been with a compliant population. This isn't always the case here, she said.

The corpsmen spend their days either working "the blocks," or working in the clinic. Working the blocks entails approaching each detainee and asking if he has any medical issues. "We'll take their medical concerns and bring them back to the doctor to formulate a treatment care plan," said Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Samuel Warner, hospital corpsman.

Working the block also includes passing out prescribed medication.

When a detainee is brought to the clinic or sick call, there is everything any Trooper or civilian could expect if they were going to sick call. "We provide the same level of care anyone could hope to receive back in the states," said Branum. "We have many doctors and nurses that specialize in certain areas that are here to help. And if there is a need for a specialist in an area that we don't have, we'll bring them in."

The clinic is equipped to handle almost any health care issue that may arise. There is a physical therapy area, pharmacy, radiology and even an operating room. "It's been my experience that not only do we have enough assets to get the job done, but if we found that we needed something else, it wouldn't take much to get it," said Warner.

The mission for the corpsmen is challenging, but the working conditions are better than Warner expected. "I heard rumors, but the working conditions are much better than I anticipated," Warner said.

The leadership has strived to make certain that the corpsmen have everything they need, as well as providing a positive environment. "My job is to make sure everyone does their job," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Ernest Strohl, detachment leading petty officer. "To do that, I have to make sure that everyone is taken care of emotionally and physically."

He also said that one of the biggest challenges with this mission has been dealing with change. "You have to move with the flow. This is very fast-paced and things change all of the time. You have to be flexible."

The corpsmen and their leadership work hard to provide the same level of

Welcome 29th ID!



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book

JTF-GTMO Deputy Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Edward Leacock, greets members of the 629th Military Intelligence Battalion, 29th Infantry Division, arrived Mar. 10 to replace outgoing troops.

care and respect that Troopers receive. They do that in a challenging and difficult environment with a positive, professional attitude. "I have the best job on the island," said Branum. "I get to serve as the chief of some of the Navy's finest Sailors." ■

Guantanamo Troopers: joint service with honor

By Army Lt. Col. Jeremy Martin

JTF Director of Public Affairs

Troopers at Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay are all serving with honor. You are deployed on behalf of the American people and are accomplishing with great skill the mission given to you by the Commander in Chief of our nation's armed forces. You're ensuring the safe, secure, and humane, care and custody of the detainees in your charge, and you're doing so in a manner that reflects American and service values.

So why do we continue to read in the press and sometimes see on television news accounts alleging detainee mistreatment here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo? Perhaps you're a guard who has been deployed here for several months. You and those working with you understand your mission, you're well trained, well led, and you take great care to follow every policy and procedure that's been outlined by your superiors. You also have senior enlisted personnel and officers who check every detail to ensure that the JTF is the most professionally run detention operation in the world. Still, you read reports alleging ongoing detainee mistreatment.

Maybe you're a medical corpsman who is instrumental in providing the outstanding medical care that all detainees at the JTF receive. You conduct sick call each day for detainees and you observe everyday the compassionate and professional medical care administered to detainees by medical doctors and registered nurses. You know first-hand that the medical care provided to detainees is just as good as the fine medical care provided to your fellow Troopers.

Stay focused Troopers, and don't be dismayed by blatantly false allegations of detainee mistreatment often attributed to –some– of the enemy combatants in our charge (certainly not all of them). There is a document that clearly reveals that claims of torture, and hunger strikes, are an al-Qaida tactic. The Manchester Document, a training manual recovered in a raid of an al-Qaida cell in Manchester, England taught al-Qaida members to use false claims of torture and medical abuse to elicit media attention and to bring pressure on their captor's government for their release.

There's another factor at play in the reporting on our detention operations that should not be overlooked. I've spoken with over one-hundred members of the media who've traveled to the island to report on detainee operations here at the JTF. I always inquire of the media if they've visited a maximum-security prison in the United States, and the majority of them have not. I inquire of our international visitors if they've visited maximum-security prisons in their homeland and the majority of the international media that I've spoken with have not. So when we take them through the unoccupied blocks in Camp Delta, show them the state-of-the-art facilities in Camp 5, detainee food preparation, the outstanding facilities in our detention hospital, in-depth conversations with our professional guard and medical personnel – they have no basis for comparison. Many of our processes and procedures are based on Federal Corrections standards, and yet they've never visited a Federal Corrections facility and do not know what happens there.

Take pride in the fact that you have the overwhelming support of the American people for the great job that you're performing everyday on their behalf. Your parents and family back home, teachers, clergy, and friends in the community in which you were raised know the kind of person that you are and the values that were instilled in you. The latest Harris poll re-confirmed that the United States Armed Forces is the most respected profession in the country. Many of your fathers and mothers, your grandparents, uncles and aunts, have all worn with pride the uniform of the United States of America. You are a part of another great generation of Americans who've stepped up to serve their country in a time of war. Some of you might have volunteered for service after the devastating September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks against our nation, where nearly three thousand of our fellow citizens were brutally murdered at the hand of terrorists.

We all have our personal reasons, but know that you are respected and admired by most Americans. Know, too, that you are serving in one of the most unique "JOINT" assignments in our nation's history, at a time when our nation is engaged in a struggle against a very cunning and elusive enemy in an ongoing war. Like other great generations of Americans, you've answered your nation's call. In conducting your mission here at the JTF, you're keeping the American people safe from enemy combatants who would rejoin the fight and kill again, as some already have. One can't adequately describe in mere words how important our mission is here at the JTF in support of the Global War on Terrorism. However important you might think this mission is, it's more important than that.

The claims of mistreatment may continue to be made by a few. The debate concerning detention policies at Guantanamo will likely continue as well, at the national and international level. But as for the way that you're conducting your mission of ensuring the safe, humane, care and custody of the detainees in our charge here at the JTF, there is no debate and no compromise of the standard. Detainees at JTF GTMO are all treated humanely. Troopers who conduct this vital mission serve with honor and are of the noblest character.

Honor Bound! ■



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

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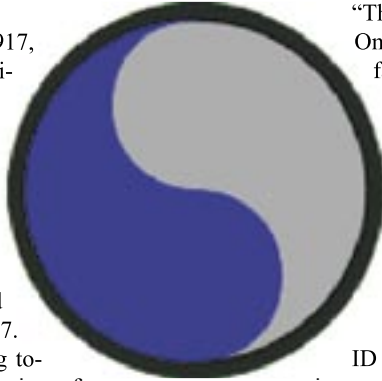
29th writing another chapter in history

By Army Sgt. Seth Myers

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

With the new rotation arriving, the faces behind the JTF are changing. These faces are those of the 29th Infantry Division. They replaced the previous HHC element and will soon take over the Cavalry's mission. With a proud lineage, the 29th is sure to continue the success of the JTF.

Formed in August, 1917, as a National Guard Division from the District of Columbia, Virginia, New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania, the unit is represented by a half-blue/half-gray Yin-Yang symbol, which was adapted by Maj. James Ulio and approved December, 1917. The blue and gray merging together symbolized the merging of regiments from Virginia and Maryland, which had fought on opposing sides during the American Civil War. Considering the significance of these colors in the unit's history, it is



not surprising that their nickname was "Blue and Gray."

The unit was deployed during both World War I and World War II. In fact, the 29th ID was amongst the first assault wave to hit the beaches on D-day, Jun. 6, 1944 at Normandy. Prior to this invasion, Gen. Eisenhower gave an inspiring speech, from which came the 29th ID's slogan, "29 let's go."

"The division itself landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day in the face of intense enemy fire but soon secured the bluff tops and went on to occupy Isigny on Jun. 9. The division cut across the Elle River and advanced slowly toward St. Lo, fighting bitterly in the Normandy bocage (hedge rows)," according to wikipedia.org.

During World War II, the 29th ID spent 242 days in combat during campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe. The unit earned four Distinguished Unit Citations during these campaigns.

The Army retired the 29th ID flag in 1968

due to the re-organization of the National Guard divisions. The regiments in the 29th were either separated into different infantry brigades or became parts of other divisions. However, on D-day's 40th anniversary, Jun. 6, 1984, the 29th ID was reactivated as a National Guard light infantry division.

"At that time it was composed (primarily) of the 116th Infantry Regiment from Virginia, 111th Field Artillery from Virginia, the 115th Infantry Regiment and 175th Infantry Regiment from Maryland, and the 110th Field Artillery from Maryland. In 1995 the 26th Infantry Division from New England was also incorporated into the 29th Division."

Since the World Wars, and its reorganization, the 29th ID headquarters has provided leadership for the mission in Bosnia, and has supported the Global War on Terror, participating in Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Additionally, the 181st Infantry Regiment from Massachusetts proudly wore the 29th patch during an earlier GTMO rotation in 2004.

As the 29th ID arrives here, they are making another contribution to the Global War on Terror and writing another chapter to their history. ■

Bell bottoms to BDUs

By Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Navy has seen its fair share of uniform changes over the years. Sailors will once again have to adjust to another change to the uniform they wear. The current utility uniform went into effect in 1998. It replaced the old bell-bottom utilities that were worn for the past 60 years.

Of all branches of the military, the Navy has the highest number of uniforms. Sailors are required to maintain six different types of uniforms based on what season it is and the type of commands.

"Former Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Vern Clark was instrumental in pushing forward this change to new uniforms. He had many ideas and goals to accomplish in this program," said Naval Station Command Master Chief Petty Officer Larry Cairo.

In 2005, the Navy began to survey Sailors onshore and out in the fleet to see what mattered most to them regarding uniforms. During this time, the Navy was the only service not wearing some type of Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) uniform. This information was brought to the Navy's Task Force Uniform (TFU), a group that was formed in 2003 after Sailors complained in a Navy-wide survey about their uniforms. The TFU put all the 2005 survey results together and began to work on some new designs.

The Navy's goal was to reduce the number of uniforms in the Sailor's sea bag, make the uniform more durable and cut costs to the individual. Two different types of uniforms would be tested, one utility style BDU and a working dress uniform.

Many different color camouflage patterns were used based on the type of climate and terrain. The Navy's research facility is capable of putting the uniforms through a number of tests to determine their durability and fit. Upon completion of these tests, the uniforms were made available to the fleet.

Commands in specific parts of the world were chosen to participate in the wear test phase. The uniforms were a welcomed sight for many who felt that the current uniform was not working. "Some Sailors felt the working dress uniform looked too similar to the Marine Corps uniform and Chief Petty Officer khakis. Regardless, these uniforms work and that's what's important," said Cairo.

The Navy asked Sailors to vote on what they liked. The BDU style uniform chosen was a blue, gray and black digital pattern camouflage, with a black suede style boot. If the uniform was approved, the Navy would release various styles of the uniform based on the areas of operations the Sailor would operate in.

After a year of testing and surveys, the Navy and its designers came to an agreement on the new uniforms. The change was announced this month by Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Mike Mullen, "These are good uniforms, designed to support the modern Sailor." The BDU style uniform would be available for wear for all ranks. The new service type uniform can be worn by E-6 and below. Both uniforms will be available in the system by fall of 2007. These uniforms will start a new chapter in the history of the world's finest Navy. ■



A glimpse at X-ray's history

Photos by Spc. Timothy Book

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Old photographs of Camp X-Ray often accompany media stories about the detention facilities here. The camp was a temporary facility that was never intended to be permanent.

►The camp was first occupied by detainees Jan. 11, 2002. Ground broke for Camp Delta immediately and by Apr. 29, 2002, the camp closed after the transfer of the detainees was completed.



▲►Today, Camp X-Ray is occupied by banana rats and is overgrowing with vegetation. During commissions in January, members of the media (shown above) toured Camp X-Ray.



▲Fleet Hospital 20 from Camp Lejune performed its first medical procedure Jan. 31, 2002, at the former detainee medical facility in Camp X-Ray.

SETH & JESH'S... GAMERS ARCADE

A year's worth of gaming

SETH

After a year here, my time is coming to a close: a year of hard work, duty, responsibility and, of course, gaming. Some people don't realize GTMO has quite the gaming scene. Although there isn't a multitude of official gaming events here, the Troopers find ways of gathering and holding gaming events of their own.

Some gamers are used to playing multiplayer games online, but that isn't so easy down here. Many of us live in Camp America where there is no connection that can be used for online gaming. For that multiplayer competition, we had to find each other, and we did. Whether it is simply getting together in one of the rooms or a big, hosted event in the TV room in Camp America, we find a way to get our fill of multiplayer gaming.

Yes, there are games available for rental and play at MWR, but there is not a wide variety or up-to-date selection. Plus, the NEX seems to have a fixation with stocking tons of cheesy kids games or the latest bomb on the gaming market. So what is a hardcore gamer to do? All I have to

say is, thank god for the Internet, the post office and companies that ship to APO addresses.

Halo 2, Medal of Honor, WarCraft, Madden... these are just a few of the games that are popular down here and they have kept us sane during a long year.

Gaming has kept me going while I have been away from my friends and family and I'm sure it is the same for others here. So, on my last Gamers' Arcade, I'd like to say thanks, farewell and give a little advice to the new gamers coming in. There are gaming opportunities out there, if you make them. Find the gamers around you and continue to enjoy your hobby. Not only will it be fun, your time here will pass that much quicker.

JESH

Being a gamer in Guantanamo is much like being a baseball fan at a New York Yankees game. You're definitely not an outcast. Growing up, I always thought that because I really enjoyed playing video games, that made me a big nerd (well, I might be one for other reasons). However, after being deployed here and seeing

people of different ages, ethnicity and from other parts of the United States, I've come to the conclusion that a lot of people are gamers, or enjoy playing a game from time to time.

In many ways, video games are a way of holding onto our childhood. When we were kids (hopefully) we all ran around and played "pretend," whether we were a noble knight fighting dragons, a police officer catching robbers or an Army Ranger stopping the spread of the Nazi regime (I had a very refined imagination).

Here, we are limited in our Internet access, gamers have to come together (LAN party style). There is no way to sit in your room and search for games or enjoy a massive multiplayer game that is plagued with plenty of opponents. I have seen cavalry Soldiers playing Medal of Honor in the pavilion area in Camp America many times. Many multiplayer games are fun, but they also teach us to work together. Maybe the next time the cavalry has drill weekend, they should get in a good game of counter-strike.

If you think I'm being sarcastic, in the mid '90s the United States Marine Corps adapted a version of Doom II for their own use of teaching Marines teamwork. The game was called Marine Doom. Also, ever hear of a game called Full Spectrum Warrior? It all started with the Army, they wanted a serious game that would teach Soldiers about proper cover and urban warfare. There is another "simulator" designed for high-ranking officers called Full Spectrum Command, which wasn't released to the public.

Game on! ■

Saint Patrick's Day history

Compiled by Army Sgt. Jessica Wilson

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office



Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17 by many Irish and, increasingly, by many people of non-Irish decent.

This holiday is the Irish feast day that celebrates Saint Patrick. Typically, a major parade takes place in Dublin and most other Irish towns and villages. The five largest parades of recent years have been held in Dublin, New York City, Manchester, Montreal and Boston.

Besides being a celebration of Irish culture, Saint Patrick's Day is also a Christian festival celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Ireland and some other denominations.

Saint Patrick's Day parades in Ireland date from the late 19th century. Later, the first Saint Patrick's Day festival was held in 1996 and was celebrated for only one day. Since 2000, the celebration became a four-day event. The displays often include fireworks, music,

street theatre and the traditional parade.

The biggest celebration in Ireland outside Dublin is in Downpatrick, where Saint

Patrick was buried following

his death on March 17, 461. Some people believe Saint Patrick's Day is a bigger holiday in the U.S. than it is in Ireland. Many Americans travel to Ireland for the festivities. Also, many people in the U.S. celebrate the holiday by wearing green clothing. Traditionally, those who are caught not wearing green are pinched, leading to several Saint Patrick's Day items hosting phrases such as "Can't pinch me!"

Saint Patrick's Day is a holiday that people all over the world celebrate. Festivities and parades make this holiday fun for people of all ages.

Additional information found on Wikipedia.com. ■



GTMO EXTREME



▲The second place team of Navy Chief Petty Officer Everett Hairston, Army Capt. Tammy Watts, Thomas Wolfe and Jon Mussett join hands as they complete the race as a team.

Photos and story by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Last week, five teams competed in an adventure race here. The race, referred to as the “GTMO Extreme,” is a battle of endurance and strategy. This was the third time this MWR-sponsored event was held in the last few years.

Teams competed in three categories, an 8-mile kayak through the bay, 8-mile biking course over trails such as the ridgeline and the Hutia Highway and an 8-mile run through some of GTMO’s roughest terrain. The race started and ended at the sailing center.

“What makes the race so challenging is you can’t finish without the rest of your teammates,” said Karissa Sandstrom, MWR fitness instructor. The participants carried their own food and water to replenish themselves throughout the course. Heat, humidity and currents in the bay added additional challenges to the athletes.

“There are plans to make the race bigger next year by adding teams from all 22 bases in the southeast region,” said Sandstrom. ■



▲John Youberg pedals to reach the end of the trail to get a jump on other competitors.
▶Wolfe, Hairston and Watts run towards their bikes to begin the next phase of the race.



▲They’re off; GTMO Extreme

GTMO Extreme Results

1st Place

John Youberg
Mellisa Bellman
George Nunez
John Hewitt

2nd Place

Thomas Wolfe
Tammy Watts
Everett Hairston
Joe Mussett

3rd Place

Shawn Goodwin
Tiffany Dodson
Bret Cook
Brian Geiger



▲ Air Force 2nd Lt. Tina Williams paddles her way toward being the first participant to complete the kayak relay.

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▲ Melissa Bellman and John Hewitt, from the winning team, pace each other during the run portion of the race.



Contestants begin the first leg of the grueling race.

Keeping our troops entertained

By Army Sgt. Jeshua Nace

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) is important for Troopers, especially those who are deployed or overseas. That's why there are so many options available on base here.

A bowling alley and a gymnasium are common on any military facility. Guantanamo has much more than just a bowling alley and a gym. Just in the athletic and recreation area of MWR, they provide several sports fields, a golf course, a paintball field and a rock-climbing wall.

"My favorite MWR events are the outdoor events and our live entertainment. Why? Because the weather is always terrific and live entertainment is just terrific," said Craig Basel, MWR director.

"The Troops tend to be attracted by live celebrity entertainment, bands, fishing and diving. However, I think that people tend to overlook the paintball field, biking trails, marina activities and community-wide events, which are open to all," said Basel.

There are also several restaurants run by MWR. The Windjammer, Tiki Bar, Bayview Club Dining Room and the Jerk House are all MWR dining facilities.

MWR plans to implement several other facilities on the base, "in-line hockey rink, go-karts, mini-golf with a new look and a new surround sound system and seating at the Downtown Lyceum. There will also be renovations at the Windjammer's cafe and ballroom, with new menu selections at Bayview and Windjammer and an increased menu selection at KFC and A&W," said Basel.

If you want to get into scuba diving, then getting your certification while you're here is a great opportunity. Scuba certification costs much less here than in the United States, and the dive shop is flexible. The merchandise at the dive shop is usually lower than it is in the states as well.

MWR has a lot of equipment for free rentals, such as video games, bikes and gaming consoles.

Whatever you're into, the MWR has something for you. Keep your stay at Guantanamo enjoyable. ■



Photo by Army Sgt. Jeshua Nace

Construction workers lay down the foundation for the new go-kart track next to the Dennich Gymnasium.

MWR contacts and locations

Gymnasium –Mon. - Fri. 5-11 p.m. ext. 2193

Fitness Center –Mon. - Fri. 5-10 p.m. ext. 2193

Bowling Center –Mon. - Fri. 3-12 a.m. ext. 2118

Golf Course –Mon. to Sun. dawn-dusk ext. 2193

Bike Shack –Mon. to Fri. 8-7 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 6-6 p.m. ext. 2345

Climbing Wall – appointment only ext. 2345

Ground Zero Paintball –Mon. to Sat. appointment only, Sun 1-5 a.m. ext. 2345

Marina & Sailing Center – Mon. - Thu. 8-7 p.m. Fri 8-9 p.m. Sat- Sun 6-9 p.m. ext. 2345

Downtown & Camp Bulkeley Lyceum – Mon. to Sun. 8-10 p.m. ext. 5225

Windjammer Pool –Mon. to Fri. 6-6 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 10-6 p.m. ext. 2205

Deer Point Pool –Sat. & Sun. 3-9 p.m. ext. 2001

Marine Hill Fitness Pool –Mon. to Fri. 6-9 a.m. Mon to Fri 11-1 p.m. ext. 7919

Windjammer Club –Sun. & Sat. 5-12 a.m. ext. 5604

Windjammer Café and Pizza Hut –Mon. to Sat. 11-1 p.m. Mon. to Sat. 5-9 p.m. ext. 5604

Goat Locker (CPO Club) –Mon. to Sun. 4-12 a.m. ext. 2079

Tiki Bar –Tue. to Sat. 4 p.m. -12 a.m. ext. 5604

Rick's Lounge (Officers Club) –Tue to Sat. 4-12 a.m. ext. 213

Bayview Club Dining Room –Tue. to Sat. 5-10 p.m. Sun 9-2 p.m. ext. 5604

Jerk House –Mon to Sun 5-10 p.m. ext. 2535

Starbucks Coffee Shops –Mon. to Sat. 6-1 p.m. ext. 90119

Understanding need to know

Many of the most damaging espionage cases were carried out by "insiders", i.e., fully-cleared individuals with access to classified information. In almost every case, these "insiders" gained access to additional information by circumventing the need-to-know principle. They did so by taking advantage of their co-workers' failure to properly control access to the classified information for which they were responsible.

Need-to-know is the determination by an authorized holder of classified information that access to the information is required by another appropriately cleared individual in order to perform official duties. Determination of need-to-know is the personal responsibility of everyone who has authorized access to classified information. If there is any doubt in your mind as to an individual's need-to-know, check with your supervisor, the Command Security Manager or the SSO before releasing the information.

For more information please contact the JTF Command Security Manager, Mr. Parker, at ext. 9757 or Mr. Perkins at ext. 9824.

Saint Patrick's Day

By Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Chris Molnar

JTF-GTMO Command Chaplain

Friday, Mar. 17 is Saint Patrick's Day. My earliest memories of St. Patrick's Day have to do with wearing something green so I wouldn't get pinched. Later memories are of fellow students lining up early in the morning to get into the bars and begin drinking discounted green beer. Certainly, St. Patrick is turning over in his grave at such shenanigans. Oh, yes, we must not forget the ubiquitous leprechauns and shamrocks.

The legend of St. Patrick, the person, tends to highlight chasing all the snakes out of Ireland and using the shamrock to illustrate the Christian teaching of the Trinity. No one is quite sure that these things actually happened. However, what is known about St. Patrick is very interesting and important.

Some 1,500 years ago a teenage boy from what is now Great Britain was kidnapped and enslaved by marauders from Ireland. [He was born in what is now Scotland about 390 and died in County Down, Ireland about 460]. The teenager they captured eventually escaped, but returned voluntarily some years later. In the meantime, while studying for the priesthood he had become convinced that he was handpicked by God to convert the entire country of Ireland to Christianity. During his years of captivity he learned to speak the Celtic language fluently.

In the process of converting the people of Ireland, however, the former slave experienced a conversion, too. In the years that followed, he not only shared the Christian faith with the people of Ireland, but also grew in his understanding of God through them.

And so it was that a young Briton from a prominent Roman family named Patricius died an Irishman named Patrick. And neither Ireland nor Christianity was ever quite the same.

I believe what is significant about Saint Patrick is, first of all, that he was the first to spread the Christian faith beyond the bound-

aries of the existing Roman Empire. In teaching Christianity to the Irish he kept many of their worthwhile Celtic customs creating a unique new form of Christianity. Also very significant were the many monasteries that Patrick planted throughout Ireland. Later, as the Roman Empire and its culture crumbled in Britain and throughout the Mediterranean world, those monasteries managed to keep alive the knowledge of Classical Greco-Roman culture, as well as the Catholic Christian faith.

In Ireland on Saint Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian Church's Season of Lent, Irish families would attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the eating of meat and drinking were waived and the people would dance and feast—usually on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

The first Saint Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland, but on American soil. Irish soldiers serving in the British Army marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. The parade helped the soldiers to reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen living in New York.

So, Irish JTF Troopers, Friday Mar. 17 may be a good day for you to reconnect with your Irish roots. For the rest of us it is a good time to acknowledge the debt we all owe to the Irish for their role in preserving Western Civilization and the Christian faith. Now that I think of it, maybe a few beers, green or otherwise, would help the celebration. Don't forget the Irish bacon and cabbage. ■



CAMP AMERICA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Troopers' Chapel
	6:00 p.m.	Confessions	Troopers' Chapel
	6:30 p.m.	Catholic Mass	Troopers' Chapel
	7:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Troopers' Chapel
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Soul Survivor	Camp America North Pavilion

NAVAL BASE CHAPEL

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

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

15 Minutes of Fame

with Army Staff Sgt. Anthony Simpson

By Army Sgt. Jeshua Nace

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

What do you do for the JTF?

Initially, I was deployed here with the 1-18th Cavalry as part of the security element for detainee operations. While serving in that capacity, I was a member of second platoon, Charlie Troop, as a squad leader.

In Aug. 2005, an opportunity became available to open and operate the refurbished Camp America Post office. I was tasked to fulfill this billet, in Oct. 2005, and after the completion of the naval postal course in Norfolk, Va. I became the post office NCOIC, Camp America facility, the position I currently hold.

What kind of training did you undergo in your career?

As far as what was interesting or the most exciting, I would have to say number one was recruiting. It gave me the ability to change a person's life and situation. Number two was the infantry platoon sergeant course. It was exciting to train with some of the best infantryman the Marine Corps had to offer. Additionally, I was chosen by the school staff to write one of the operation orders for the end of the course. I finished the final field exercise as a junior sergeant. The junior sergeant position is designed for Marines in the grade of staff sergeant or gunnery sergeant. Number three, was both airborne and rappel master courses. I had the thrill of being suspended in the air and having total control over your life and others.

You did a lot of USMC courses; were you a Marine? If so, why did you switch to the Army?

Yes, 15 years on active duty. The reason why I joined the National Guard was to continue my service with the goal of obtaining my 20-year certificate and retirement. 15 years is too much time invested to simply throw away.

What advice can you give to people who are thinking about staying in or joining the military?

The premise of simply joining or being enticed by "college" money or big monetary bonuses can be misleading. A potential applicant's desire to join should be based on the intangible, something more than just money. It should be something in the long run that will sustain him or her when things don't appear to be right, fair or honorable. He or she has to be mentally pre-

pared to be a Soldier 24/7 without compromise.

For those already a part of the system, we have an obligation to "teach" new Troopers about the military's way of life, in addition to being a mentor while practicing morals, values and principles that will affect Troopers' lives. We have an obligation to "teach" to standard, without compromise. What we teach, and how we train and influence our Soldiers, will someday save their lives.

As an Army Soldier, be prepared to do the unexpected at any given time.

Were you ever in a Combat zone?

Yes, I am a veteran of Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine, 3rd Marine Regiment, where I received a Navy achievement medal for my actions. Additionally, I was deployed in '02 with 1-160th Mechanized Infantry as part of the security force element, attached with United States Army Forces Central Command - Saudi Arabia, part of Operation Desert Spring.

What would you say about your time in the military?

My time in the military, as a whole, has been wonderful. I have met some wonderful and positive people. I have had some outstanding leaders, whom I have tried to emulate. The military has allowed me to see parts of the world I know I would never have visited or traveled to. The training I have received has proven to be invaluable. Whether it was jumping from a C-130 or scaling a 250-foot cliff face, I would not trade it for the world.

Last, but definitely not least, my experience as a recruiter and a combat squad leader was wonderful. As a recruiter, you change people lives, hope for their and their families betterment. As a combat squad leader, you shoulder a huge responsibility of teaching and mentoring those under your care, which someday, if those warriors are in harm's way, they will know what to do. As a leader, you have to be the one that the recruiter informed recruits about, the one that will provide you with the challenges of being a warrior. For me, those two positions are inseparable.

Could you talk about your experiences?

Each school brought its own type of excitement and experiences. With the exception of air-



Photo by Army Sgt. Jeshua Nace

borne school, everything that I did involved the care and safety of fellow Marines. Each course enforced discipline and attention to detail without compromise. Everything that was taught was then taught to others and applied either in training or real-case scenarios.

Being a member of the Marine Corps Security Force (MCSF), I would say ranks as my second best assignment in the Corps, other than being a Marine 0369 (MOS designator for Marine infantry platoon sergeant in the grade of staff sergeant). As a 0369, you have to be competent or knowledgeable in all areas of infantry tactics and weapon system organics of the infantry battalion, as well as being skilled in the areas of call-for-fire from artillery and close-air support operations. This position is the "peacock" of the Marine Corps. I took a lot of pride in being an infantry platoon sergeant (the best infantry position in the corps) and being responsible for young 19-year old Corporals, and serving as a Sergeant of the Guard (SOG), all were an awesome responsibility.

My main goal was to maintain a state of constant readiness to deploy several security force elements, to prevent any threat or the taking of "special capable weapons" during movements and/or at the compound site. ■

15 Minutes of Fame

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

AROUND THE JTF



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Brien Aho

▲A small Virginia Military Institute contingent currently on the island. From left to right: Air Force Maj. Joe Schenk (95), Army Capt. Paul Balassa (98), Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Glenn Garrett (01), Army Maj. James Cook (honorary) (06), Marine Col. Turk McCleskey - Professor of History (Not pictured), Army Capt. Doug Stransky (93), Army Staff Sgt. Chris Buchness (98).



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

▲Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew Hall, Naval Provisional Guard leaps over Army Staff Sgt. David Burch 525th Military Police Battalion and Tyrese Moore during a slam-dunk competition at the base gym.



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

▲National Public Radio correspondent, Jackie Northam, conducts an interview with the JTF-GTMO Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Jay Hood as JTF Director of Public Affairs Army Lt. Col. Jeremy Martin looks on.



Photo by Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica

◀JTF-GTMO Deputy Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Edward Leacock welcomes Troopers from the 29th Infantry Division to GTMO.