



# THE WIRE



Honor Bound To Defend Freedom

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15 Minutes of Fame, pg. 11

## Heroes, home and abroad

By Spc. Seth Myers

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Amidst the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina, many people felt the need to help in any way they could. Some donated money to charities to help those unfortunate people who were directly affected. Other individuals traveled there themselves to aid more directly. The Sailors of Echo Company in the Naval Provisional Guard (vice naval), Guantanamo Bay, contributed to the Hurricane Katrina relief effort as well.

The Sailors were in Gulfport, Miss. training for their mission here at the time the hurricane struck. A need for their assistance rose due to Katrina's destruction. The master-at-arms were able to provide the necessary security to Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport and the

***"It was definitely an experience... It was shocking, and it was bad; but it needed to be done, and we got it done."***

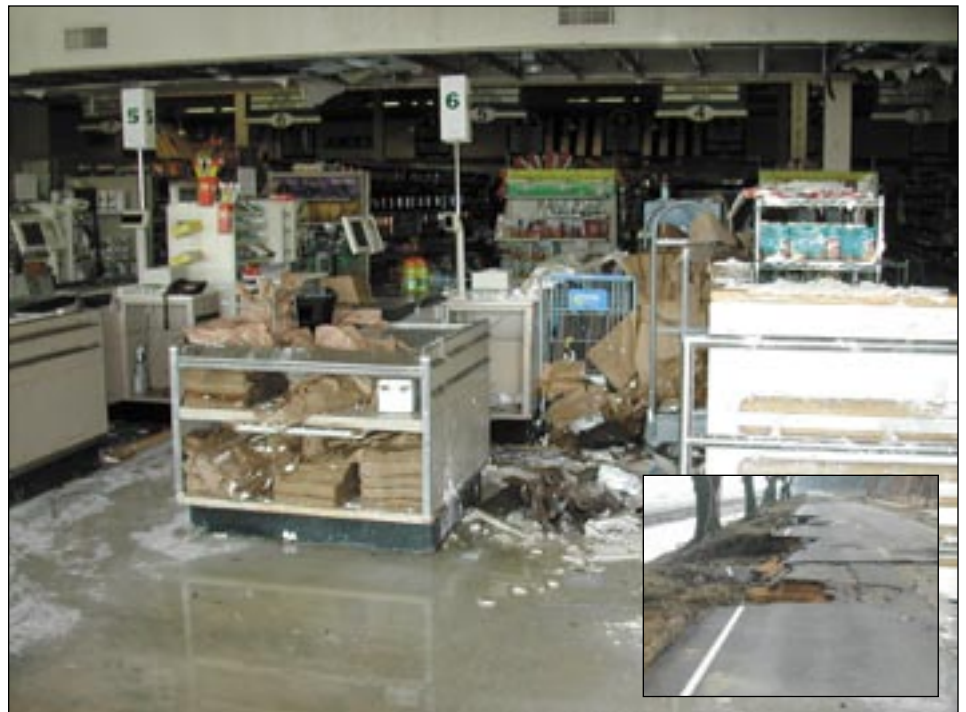
***-- Navy Petty Officer  
3rd Class Robert Edwards***

Armed Forces Retirement Home nearby.

"After the hurricane was over there was extensive damage to the fence line security, the commissary was severely damaged, the Navy Exchange, the sewage was out, the power was out, the water was partially out," said Navy Lt. Brian Pavone, commander, Echo Company. "What was asked of us, to prevent looting and to provide safety, was to augment base security."

The Sailors of Echo Company had to deal with looters and ensure people didn't enter structurally unsound houses.

"It was definitely an experience... It was shocking, and it was bad; but it needed to be done, and we got it done," said Navy Petty Of-



Photos Navy Lt. Brian Pavone

**Katrina's wrath was felt throughout Gulfport, including the commissary and left little unscathed.**

ficer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Robert Edwards, a master at arms, Echo Company.

Despite these trials, they had training to do in preparation for the critical mission here. They worked diligently to complete this training on time while still performing their security duties. The hardships the Sailors faced were not overlooked, though. The people they were helping were extremely grateful for their assistance.

"All I remember hearing every time we would be at a stoplight or park somewhere is 'thank you for what you guys are doing.' That wasn't just directed at Echo Company, it was directed at the military in general. They were out there and they were appreciative," said Pavone.

The Sailors did such a good job that they were asked by the base commander to stay for an extra week.

When they arrived here they received awards for their selfless contributions and hard work. The awards were presented by Navy Capt. Thomas Beall, Navy element commander here, during an ceremony at the Windjammer.

Echo Company is not only here professionally serving and working hard to maintain the safe, humane custody of the detainees, they protected the people who were harmed by Katrina. I'm sure everyone is happy to welcome our new brothers in arms, for they have proven themselves to be heroes both home and abroad. ■

# Starting Out, Hitting Your Stride, Finishing Strong

By Maj. Gen. Jay Hood

JTF-GTMO Commanding General

*Troopers, the article below is a reprint of my Feb. 11, Trooper to Trooper. We have had a changeover of 1000+ Troopers since this article was first published and I think it is important for Troopers serving today to understand how I see our job here...and how I depend on each and every member of the JTF to try and improve what we are doing. Read every word and focus on the "GTMO - All" instructions.*

Every day I look around and ask myself these questions:

What can we do to make Joint Task Force-Guantanamo (JTF-GTMO) better? What can we do to improve our procedures and facilities to ensure safe, humane custody of enemy combatants? What can we do to improve our intelligence-gathering mission? How can we improve the living conditions for Troopers of the JTF?

I challenge you to ask yourself these same questions. Naturally, over the course of your assignment here, your perspective and the way you answer these questions will change.

In my view, JTF Troopers fall into three general categories: Those who are fairly new to the task force, those who are about halfway through their tour, and those who are seasoned veterans with a few weeks or months to go.

Each Trooper in the JTF—regardless of your rank or your time here—can contribute to making the mission better. Here's how each of you can do just that.

## Starting Out

For those who have been here only a few weeks or months, it may have seemed overwhelming to you at first in trying to absorb all of the information you needed to know to do your job right. I commend you for meeting that challenge with optimism and confidence.

Don't underestimate the contribution you can make now. You benefit the JTF with the fresh perspective you bring to the fight. Perhaps you have experience from previous deployments or your civilian job that can help improve the way we do business. Asking yourself the above questions early on will put you in a position to observe what is going on and make things better for those who eventually replace you.

Begin planning now to make your transition with the next force better than when you assumed the duty. The key is to remember what it was like the first few days after your predecessor left. Did you feel like praising or cussing them for what they did or didn't do to prepare you to take the conn?

Finally, set goals now to improve some aspect of your duty and your personal development. Remember, you will get out your GTMO tour exactly what you put into it.

## Hitting Your Stride

By now, you know your job well and have practical experience under your belt. You know what works and what doesn't. It's easy to just put things on autopilot. Don't let that happen! Continue to

ask yourself the four questions every day and your focus will stay where it needs to be.

**Follow your Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).** If you see something that doesn't make sense, convey those concerns to your chain of command. Remember, SOPs can be improved and updated only if you tell someone about things that need to be fixed.

Be aware of what is going on around you. You know your job well enough that you can expand your situational awareness. With the experience you've gained, you have a better grasp on the big picture and know how all the pieces fit together. This knowledge will make you more effective.

## Finishing Strong

You can see the finish line from here. Don't give in to the temptation to coast, take shortcuts, or get careless. Remember that alcohol-related incidents and other misbehavior tend to increase at the end of tours.

You know just about everything there is to know about your duties. Knowing your job inside and out is one thing, but the ability to communicate lessons learned to your replacements is the key to a successful transition.

As you prepare for battle handover, ask yourself the four questions and teach your replacements to do the same. Our reputation will be based on the effectiveness of the transfer of authority from outgoing to incoming forces.

## GTMO-All

While each group I've identified has specific needs and challenges, there are some things that apply to *every* Trooper in the JTF.

- Don't become complacent in doing your job or in working toward your professional and personal goals. Whatever your experience and knowledge, set goals to improve some aspect of your duty. When you reach a milestone, stop just long enough to catch your breath, get a fix on your next target, and move out.

- Keep your eyes open and stay **vigilant** at all times. Doing this will reduce the chances for accidents or mission failure.

- Tell leaders what equipment or facilities you need to do your job better. Those in charge do the best they can, but they can't be everywhere. You are their eyes and ears in the foxhole.

- I hold Troopers responsible for their individual behavior. I hold leaders responsible for setting the example in their individual conduct and for ensuring that their Troopers know what they need to do to be successful and safe.

- Never accept the status quo; we can always do better.

Thank you for your service to the nation. Whether we're newcomers or on our way out, we all play an important role in this fight and can continue to look for ways to do it better.

Honor bound! ■



## JTF-GTMO Command

### Commander:

Maj. Gen. Jay W. Hood

### Joint Task Force CSM:

Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Febles

### Director of Public Affairs:

Lt. Col. Jeremy Martin: 9928

### 326th MPAD Commander:

Maj. Jeffrey Weir: 3713

### Command Information Officer:

Lt. Angela King-Sweigart: 3651

### 326th MPAD First Sergeant:

Sgt. 1st Class David Zerbe: 3649

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## The Wire

### Editor:

Sgt. Jessica Wilson: 3594

### Managing Editor:

Spc. Seth Myers: 3589

### Layout Editor:

Spc. Ian Shay: 2171

### Photo Editor:

Sgt. Todd Lamonica: 3589

### Staff Writers & Design Team:

Spc. Jeshua Nace: 3499

Spc. Timothy Book: 3592

## Contact us:

Base Information: 2000

Public Affairs Office: 3594 or 3651

From the continental United States:

Commercial: 011-53-99-3594

DSN: 660-3594

## Online:

[www.jftgtno.southcom.mil](http://www.jftgtno.southcom.mil)



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# International reporters visit GTMO

**By Army Sgt. Justin Behrens**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, six different international media outlets from countries with large Islamic populations visited Camp Delta and Guantanamo Bay from Oct. 11 to Oct. 15.

The reporters were Arshad Mahmud from Daily Prothom Al (Bangladesh), Khalid Hasan from Daily Times (Pakistan), Anwar Iqbal from Dawn (Pakistan), Khalil ur Rahman Bughio from Associated Press of Pakistan, Salmly Gheblawi from Malaysian News Agency and Avian Tumengkol from Waspada Newspaper (Indonesia).

In a news conference last summer, President Bush invited media here to see for themselves the truth about Guantanamo Bay and the detention facility. The U.S. Department of State hosted the media tour for that reason.

Doris Robinson and Todd Leventhal, both employees of the U.S. Department of State and escorts, wanted to accomplish three things from this invitation. "First, I wanted to establish a working relationship with the JTF. Second, I wanted to help with stopping the misinformation that is coming out from the media (concerning operations here) and lastly, wanted to meet with the media that I work with", stated Leventhal. Robinson added, "I want the media to see it first hand."

The itinerary was intense and included numerous opportunities to see operations first-hand. The Camp Delta tour began at an unoccupied cellblock in Camp 1. Following that, they saw Camp 4, and were able to observe detainees interacting and exercising. After Camp 4, reporters went to the detention hospital and received a briefing by Capt. John S. Edmunson, commander of Joint Medical Group. The Camp Delta tour ended with Camp 5. Camp 5 is the newest state of the art facility here. In addition to the tour of Camp Delta, reporters interviewed guards and Cavalry Troopers. Included in the week was an interview with Capt. Mark Leary, NAVBASE commander and an opportunity to witness an Administrative Review Board.

A process afforded to all detainees here, the Administrative Review Board is not a judicial process, but assesses whether the detainee is a threat to the U.S. and it's allies. Based on that assessment the board issues a recommendation on whether the detainee should be released, transferred to another country or continued to be detained.

Bughio observed, "I see that there is an improvement in the camp compared to Camp X-Ray. For example, the bathrooms are much more private." Camp X-Ray was a temporary facility used to house detainees from Jan.-Apr. 2002.

The visiting media sat down with the commanding general for a corporate discussion concerning current operations, improvements and challenges.

The media that visited GTMO all agreed that there is a greater improvement in Camp Delta than is perceived in the news. They were impressed with the facility and all that it offered the detainees.

The reporters said that the lower enlisted Troopers reflect the professionalism of their highest officers. Hasan then explained his feelings about Maj. Gen. Hood, "He is a friendly, compassionate and dedicated man." ■



Photo by Avian Tumengkol

**Foreign media interview Navy Provisional Guard Troopers at Club Survivor to better understand the guard's mission.**

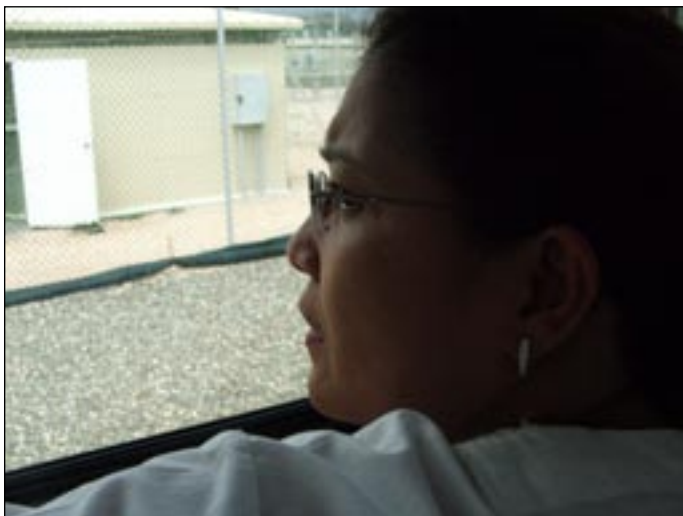


Photo by Army Sgt. Justin Behrens

**Salmly Gheblawi, Malaysia News Agency reporter, intensely looks in on Camp 4 waiting for the Muslim prayer call to begin.**

# Walking in the CSM's shoes

By Spc. Jeshua Nace

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The position of command sergeant major is the apex, the peak of enlisted life. During Army basic training any sergeant major who is rumored to come and do a barracks inspection immediately changes the goal of the day and it becomes a time to scramble to dress everything right and square away toothbrushes. Even Hollywood portrays the position as an old Soldier who has nothing better to do but scream, yell and square away Troops.

These realities were broken for me when I spent a day in the life of Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Febles. Words like integrity and dedication aren't just values on an Army poster. They live in all of us, and I know he wants us to do what is right. In his meetings, he is very serious about military life and everything involved in it (military bearing, Trooper welfare, presentation of the JTF in the world view).

While most JTF Troopers are enjoying a good night's dream, Febles is starting his day at 4 a.m. so he can be ahead in his day's work. What he does all day is hard to define. If there were any way to relate his position to the civilian world, he would be much like a president or a CEO of a large corporation (to the enlisted). Problems come up his chain of command from different sections and it's his job to decide the best way to handle them, especially in circumstances where more than one section conflicts with another.

"I try to keep the boss informed of what's going on in the JTF. Getting ahead of problems that could distract the commander is my job and I try and bring him issues, not problems. If I'm bringing him problems I'm not doing my job. I want to bring him solutions," said Febles.



During meetings with his section leaders and sergeants major, it's easy to tell with his long distinguished career that he has become a knowledge center. He speaks with experience in all areas that are discussed and there is little he doesn't know about what is going on here.

Because he is knowledgeable in most military matters, one of his primary jobs is providing guidance to his senior enlisted. Through this guidance his senior enlisted can better perform their jobs knowing they have the command sergeant major's assurance.

But to know what he does in a day, you have to understand he is flexible. "What am I doing at 1 p.m.? Well I can tell you what I think I'm doing," said Febles. What he does can't be summed up in one day, because no single day is the same. He might enter his office wanting to do a task, but he will be mobbed by Troopers needing his signature or guidance.

Febles shows dedication to his Troops by trying to attend as many promotions, re-enlistments and award ceremonies as possible. Even with the different kinds of ceremonies we have here, to include NAVBASE, his face is seldom missed.

He cares about all of the armed services. Preparing all branches to work together is a future trend, especially with the war in Iraq.

"We are so small right now. We can't survive combat without each other. It's no longer just an Army guy or a Marine fighting in Iraq; it's all of the services working together," said Febles.

Knowing our leadership better and being aware of how they help make our jobs easier shows me that if the JTF was a body, many of us Troopers are the hands, but Febles is the heart. ■

## What's the Deal With All the Rain?

By Army 1st. Lt. William Baldwin

JTF-GTMO JDG

"It never rains in Guantanamo" - heard at Ft Lewis, Washington; Ft Dix, New Jersey; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Dallas, Texas.

What?

That's right - the 1/18<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Troopers were given this information while mobilizing for GTMO 6.0 at Ft Lewis. Then, upon arriving here, the New Jersey Army National Guard's 2/113<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment further expounded upon this while showing the Cav around.

The Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders were told the lie as well, prior to leaving Dallas. They discovered the reality of Guantanamo's weather immediately upon arriving here, as the rain threatened to cancel their first show at Bulkeley Theater (thankfully, they performed).

In fact, you were probably told that Guantanamo Bay was a dry, mostly rain-free duty station as well. I distinctly remember how barren Guantanamo Bay appeared when I first arrived here on Easter of this year: the brown, parched foliage, the baked, dusty earth, and the

hazy, simmering heat rising from the (then) rain-deprived ground. Even the sky's blue seemed to be dreary, unlike the bright skies you might think of when the word "Caribbean" comes to mind.

So what happened? Is our exceptionally heavy, early rainy season a spin-off of the stronger than average hurricane season?

According to the web site weather.com, the maximum average precipitation here occurs in October; the months of May and June come in a close second for rainfall, at an average of just over three and a half inches each month.

Historically, rainfall increases to an average of 3.6 inches in the early summer months of May and June, then drop to a low of approximately two and a half inches in July and August before climbing up to October's high. The remaining months' rainfall averages decrease by approximately half an inch per month until reaching the low of 1.4 inches in February (March's rainfall average is a mere 0.1 inch higher than February's).

The average annual rainfall amount is 24 inches, according to weatherbase.com's records.

The following information is provided on climate-zone.com's climate information page. Click on the Cuban city of Guantanamo (not the United States' Naval Station Guantanamo Bay),

So - what conclusions can we draw regarding our local weather? Statistics lie. With so much variance, all I can conclude is - it DOES rain in Guantanamo Bay.

And after reading the bottom figure in the chart below, I'm waiting for it to snow. ■

### Yearly Precipitation Statistics

Month	Average	2005
May	3.56	9.8
June	2.1	10.5
July	1.14	1.06
Aug.	1.91	2.48
Sept.	3	4.66
Oct.	5.1	14.9

Maximum Precipitation in one year 47.18 inches in 1948. Total Precipitation for Year to Date (as of 1000L on 16 October 2005) 46.77 inches.

# SETH & JESH'S... GAMERS ARCADE

## NINJA GAIDEN

### SETH

When I first heard they were making a new Ninja Gaiden game, I couldn't help but be concerned. I have been a fan of the games since they appeared on the original Nintendo. My concerns were obviously not well founded, though. Although the game has taken a very different look, they have carried the spirit of the games well.

The game has the typical vengeance story and orients around the ninja Ryu Hayabusa. The story isn't anything special, but what the game lacks in plot, it makes up with legendary game play. The combat system is almost flawless and the constant action never leaves one wanting. The plethora of weapons available for use, mixed with the diverse choice of combos, allows you to dice through your opponents in almost any way a slick ninja could want to. Plus, no opponent is a push over. Even the non-boss characters can make swift work of Ryu if you slip up.

At times, the camera angles can frustrate even the most skilled ninja, but for the most part it works out well. In the recent release of Ninja Gaiden Black, they gave you complete control over the camera making this an almost flawless game.

The music is fluid, getting one in the mindset for some good old slicing action, and the graphics are the most impressive I've seen on the X-box system.

This game of vengeance will surely satisfy

any action gamers' needs. I, for one, am eagerly awaiting Team Ninja (the programming geniuses who created this game) to announce the next epic installment of this series.

### JESH

When we were coming up with ideas for video games to review, my first thought was Halo 2. But frankly, it would be a waste of time because anyone who owns an Xbox probably has the game. So we picked a game that was as intense as Bungie's hit, but not as hyped up or well known as Halo.

Ninja Gaiden's third-person fighting style can be compared to Legacy of Kain and Dynasty Warriors, but the controls are so much more tight and concise that it makes me want to pick up a katana (or ken, according to Seth who is the ninja master extraordinaire) and follow the way of the ninja.

Ninja Gaiden isn't the kind of game where you come in and start smashing buttons. As a ninja you're not armored to the tooth like a Samurai or a Knight. You have to roll around, jump out of combat and block attacks if you want to survive. This is definitely the kind of game you want to experiment with and memorize your moves. Knowing the strengths and weaknesses of your enemies will allow you to get to the next level without using up all your potions.

The game, at first, seems like it could take



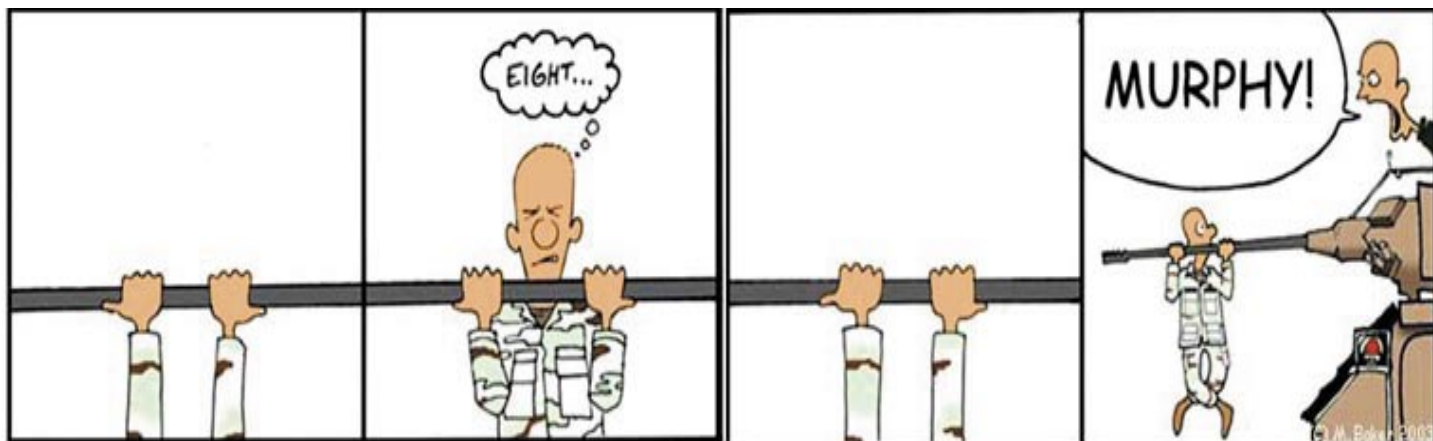
place in the past, but the world is definitely its own unique universe. The game starts off in a mountainous ninja town, then works its way to a blimp, several other towns and a fortress.

The maps are linear, but they are extremely detailed and interactive. When you're fighting hordes of demons you can use walls to your advantage. Your character can jump against walls and perform more powerful attacks, raining death showers from above.

You can get more weapons during the game and go to shops to upgrade them, but the starting weapon is pretty powerful. Upgrading your weapon unlocks more combos, and trust me, you want more combos.

If you're looking for a game that will challenge you at every turn, then you're looking for Ninja Gaiden. If you're going to rent it from MWR, plan on renting it more than once. ■

## Comic corner-- Pvt. Murphy



Comic by Mark Baker

# Navy celebra



Photo at Wikipedia.org

▲John Paul Jones, the father of the U. S. Navy.



►The HSV-X1 is a catamaran styled vessel used as a high-speed logistics-support platform.



Photo at navysite.de



Photo at screaming eagles.org

▲Haze gray and underway, USS Harry S. Truman's crew performs air operations while sailing in the North Atlantic.

►USS Enterprise (CV-6) participated in every battle in the Pacific and was part of a task force commanded by Admiral Arleigh Burke.

USS ENTERPRISE (CV-6)



▲The S. fi

# ates 230th birthday



◀The prototype Joint Strike Fighter will be the new generation of fighters used by the Navy.



Photo at Danshistory.com



Photo at Bluejacket.com

The F4U Corsair was the longest production U.S. fighter during World War II.



Photo at HazeGray.org

**By Army Sgt. Todd Lamonica**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

It's 1775; the American Revolution has just begun. Congress decides to form the Continental Navy. At the time there are only five ships in the fleet. A captain, John Paul Jones, who was Scottish by birth and had quite a reputation in Britain as being a pirate, decides to offer his services to the Navy.

He is commissioned as a first lieutenant and serves aboard the Alfred, for which he learns to hone his skills in Naval Warfare. Jones' skills gave him quite a reputation. He achieved the rank of captain in 1778. While commanding the Ranger, he sailed into France flying the Stars and Stripes. This was the first time our nation's flag was recognized by a foreign government. Jones also gave Congress advice on the drawing up of Navy regulations.

Throughout the years, Jones became a household name in Britain. In 1779 he took command of a warship renamed the Bon Homme Richard, which was a tribute to Benjamin Franklin's book "Poor Richard's Almanac."

As commodore of a squadron of seven ships, he set sail to destroy commerce in Britain. Sept. 23, 1779 was the day of his most famous battle. Out gunned by the HMS Serpais, Jones maneuvered his ship alongside and a 3.5 hour battle ensued.

When asked by the opposing force if he was ready to surrender, Jones replied, "I have not yet begun to fight." He and his men prevailed through honor, courage and commitment and went on to capture over 500 men.

Jones was slated to take command of the Navy's biggest and newest ship, the "America," but those plans were denied and he went on to lead the way to the establishment of the Navy.

The Navy went on to fight wars and continued to be led by men of courage. Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry was one, known for fighting off the Barbary pirates and defeating the British at Lake Erie.

As time went on, the Navy became a formidable power in the air as well as on the sea. This was due to men like Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz. Taking command after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he formed a task force with limited resources to halt the Japanese and defeat them in Pacific battles.

Commodore Arleigh Burke, commander of the famed aircraft carrier task force 58, flew many missions and was highly decorated for his valor during World War II and the Korean War.

Let's not forget Admiral Elmo Zumwalt. He was the youngest admiral in U.S. history and the youngest promoted to Chief of Naval Operations at 49. In addition, he was the architect of the modern Navy and a voice for the common Sailor.

We must also remember Admiral Jeremy Boorda, the first Sailor to rise from the ranks of Seaman to Admiral and go on to be Chief of Naval Operations. These men, and all sailors like them, are a testament that the pioneering spirit lives on in the Navy.

On the Navy's 230<sup>th</sup> birthday, take a minute to reflect on the contributions made by these great Naval leaders and their efforts in making the world's finest Navy. ■

**Background painting: Captain John Paul Jones' ship, the Bon Homme Richard, engages in a battle with the HMS Serpais.**

# Chicago clinches the Pennant

Commentary by Spc. Ian Shay

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

It's almost that time again. Time for baseball's biggest event. The World Series. Last year's American League Championship series was the real event. The New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox was an epic thriller filled with suspense, surprise and lots of heart. This year's World series will not include the curse breaking Red Sox, but will be replaced with a lesser-known sox, the Chicago White Sox.

Chicago might not have the huge names like Manny Ramirez, David Ortiz and Johnny Damon, but it's not always the big names that win championships. After losing game one to the Los Angeles Angels, the Chicago White Sox answered back with four solid wins in a row to take the series. Chicago dominated the 2005 season, posting a regular season record of 99-63, second only to the St. Louis Cardinals. The next step for Chicago is awaiting their challenger in the World Series in hopes winning the pennant for the first time since 1917.

Who would step up and face the White Sox in the World Series? Well, unless the St. Louis Cardinals could pull out a death-defying act like the Red Sox did last year, all would be lost for them. The Houston Astros were one game out of the World Series going into game five, but Albert Pujols smacked a three-run homer that helped take the series to game six in St. Louis. Houston proved to be too much for St. Louis in game six advancing to the World Series



Photo found on espn.com

**Ozzie Guillen will be the first Latin American to manage in the Series.**

by a score of 5-1.

Last year, it was the big hitters that made the playoffs exciting. This year, teams are winning big for a different reason, pitching. Everyone loves a home run, but you have to respect the skill it takes for a pitching staff to compete all season long. We all know Houston's hall of fame pitching staff of Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte, but what about Chicago's Mark Buehrle, Jon Garland, Freddy Garcia and Jose Contreras. The four starters for Chicago have

won 12 of their last 13 games and are 7-1 in the post season.

It's great to see a series that has great players on both sides, but it's hard to pick which team to root for. On one side you have the "Rocket", Roger Clemens, a player who outlasted most of his peers and continues to awe baseball fans across the country. Then you have Chicago, a city that is in bad need of a Championship and has worked hard to get there. Personally, I'm pulling for Clemens. ■

## NFL PICKS

**MONDAY NIGHT  
N.Y. JETS AT ATLANTA**

**SHAY (PHILADELPHIA):  
FALCONS 24-21**

**HUGHES (RENO):  
FALCONS 42 POINTS**

**JACKSON (NASHVILLE):  
FALCONS 28-21**

**LAST WEEK  
(11-3) SHAY VS. HUGHES (11-3)  
CONRAD ELIMINATED**

*Picks submitted by Spc. Ian Shay, Sgt. 1st Class Fredrick Jackson and Air Force Master Sergeant Michael Hughes.*

Week 6  
 Detroit at Cleveland  
 Green Bay at Minnesota  
 Indianapolis at Houston  
 Kansas City at Miami  
 New Orleans at St. Louis  
 Pittsburgh at Cincinnati  
 San Diego at Philadelphia  
 San Francisco at Washington  
 Dallas at Seattle  
 Baltimore at Chicago  
 Buffalo at Oakland  
 Denver at N.Y. Giants  
 Tennessee at Arizona



**Shay**  
 Lions  
 Packers  
 Colts  
**Chiefs**  
 Rams  
**Steelers**  
 Eagles  
 Redskins  
**Seahawks**  
**Bears**  
**Bills**  
 Broncos  
**Titans**



**Hughes**  
 Lions  
 Packers  
 Colts  
**Dolphins**  
 Rams  
**Bengals**  
 Eagles  
 Redskins  
**Seahawks**  
**Ravens**  
**Raiders**  
 Broncos  
**Cardinals**



**Jackson**  
 Lions  
 Packers  
 Colts  
**Dolphins**  
 Rams  
**Bengals**  
**Chargers**  
 Redskins  
**Cowboys**  
**Ravens**  
**Bills**  
 Broncos  
**Titans**

Open Date: Carolina, Jacksonville, New England, Tampa Bay.



# More than man's best friend

By **Spc. Timothy Book**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

A dog may be man's best friend, but to handlers working here, military working dogs are partners.

Speaking of his partner, Canto, a nine-year-old German Shepherd, Army Sgt. Michael Brickles, JTF kennel master and handler said, "We are a team. In fact, with a team, the dog is always one rank above the handler; so Canto is a staff sergeant. He works harder than I do; so he deserves it."

The military mostly employs German Shepherds, Dutch Shepherds and Belgian Malinois as working dogs. These breeds have the best overall combination of a keen sense of smell, courage and intelligence, said Brickles.

Working dogs are used as sentry or patrol partners and for detection of either drugs or explosives. Working dogs are never used as an interrogation technique or in any intelligence effort.

Brickles demonstrated his partner's abilities by giving Canto a single command. "Canto, seek," he said and the dog began sniffing around the training area. After searching the area thoroughly, he stopped at a covered hole. He sat and looked back at his partner. In the hole was a piece of cloth that had traces of explosives. "That's his way of letting me know he found something," he said. "That was just a trace amount. If there was a larger amount, he would have been more excited."

To show his sentry training, Brickles patted down another dog handler while Canto sat 10 feet away and watched every move. When that was done, he simulated taking the man into custody and escorting him away. Canto walked beside the two and watched every move the handler made.

"It's important that training like this is fun for the dogs. They have to enjoy what they're do-



Photos by Spc. Timothy Book

**Army Sgt. Michael Brickles training with his partner Canto.**

ing," Brickles said.

Training isn't limited to the kennel. "We find different places to train," he said. "Sometimes, we train in a field, or we'll use a building. It's important to do different things to keep it interesting."

The dogs receive daily attention. "We brush them every day, and we are always looking for any changes in behavior," said Brickles. "They see the vet regularly and whenever we think there may be a problem."

"We provide full service care for the MWDs," said Army Capt. Jeffrey McCollum, OIC for the Army Veterinary Hospital here. "We perform a physical exam semiannually with health screens like blood work and parasite checks. It's like get-

ting your five year physical twice a year."

In addition to these regular checkups, the dogs' health is continually monitored and cared for. "We are available around the clock for any emergency needs, and any MWD requirement takes precedence over any other animal (pets, wildlife)," said McCollum.

The Vet Hospital also ensures the dogs' habitat is well maintained. "We inspect the kennel facilities monthly to ensure it provides a safe and sanitary working/housing environment for the dogs," McCollum said.

Throughout history, the dog has been a companion and protector. Military working dogs are much more than that; they are partners. ■



Photos by Spc. Seth Myers



**▲Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Oscar Perez swears in during his reenlistment ceremony by the flagpole in Camp Delta Oct. 16. ◀The Sailors of Echo Company received an award for their services during the hurricane Katrina relief effort.**

# Keep your attitudes out of the red

By Navy Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) S.J. Vanden Boogard

NAVBASE Chaplain's Office

Most of us have heard the expression he or she "is changeable as the weather". This is what is said of people who have unpredictable moods.

The thermometer of such peoples' attitudes and feelings goes up and down without rhyme or reason—to the disadvantage of them and all those with whom they happen to come in contact. It is as if they get up on the wrong side of the bed in the morning and their whole outlook on life is negative, and worst of all, they take out their moods on all those around them. These people are

irritable, thoughtless, inconsiderate and over-sensitive to the actions of others.

While in a negative mood, they start a chain reaction in all the people they meet in the course of the day or night. The next day they might be at the other extreme.

Moods that are the result of negative approach to life are like a ship that lost rudder control at the helm on the bridge and is tossed here and there without any sense of direction until aft steering takes control of the rudder.

Living a full life will include

taking care of the spiritual, physical, emotional and psychological of the whole person.

Spiritual needs can be met by church attendance, prayer, and reading inspiring books.

Physical needs are taken care by proper diet, physical training, and rest.

Emotional needs are addressed by getting in touch with one's inner self.

Psychological needs are met when we socialize with others. All of this can be accomplished when we use the limited time off from work or duty as quality time.

When all of our needs are kept in check then each day can be the beginning of an in-

teresting time of growth and variety in our lives. When our thermometer is steadily on the rise, we can expect life, family, friends and fellow Shipmates, Battle Buddies, Marines and Wingmen to respond accordingly.

We will be successful and "honor bound" when we keep the thermometer of positive attitudes and balanced sensitivity adjusted to the workaday world around us. ■



## Trust

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Stephen Molnar

JTF-GTMO Chaplain

The Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous—AA—are extraordinarily religious. Step Three, for example, is: "Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him." This means to trust God. This does not mean you walk off tall buildings tempting God to save you. It means doing the best you can without worry or anxiety, and then leave the rest to God. We were not made to carry large amounts of anxiety. Life without God tends to pile the anxiety high on our shoulders. Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28ff.) Drinking may appear to make the problems go away. As we all know, however, they will be there in the morning.

Times of change are good times to learn to trust God. I hope all of you who are going through changes have at least considered God as a source of strength and turned to him in prayer. There is a great passage from one of the Old Testament books of wisdom. It says: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5f.) One of the great theologians of the Twentieth Century, and one of my favorite religious scholars, Reinhold Niebuhr, was the author of the famous SERENITY PRAYER. Most of you have probably heard it or seen it somewhere. It goes: *God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.* When the weight of anxiety gets a bit heavy on my shoulders it helps me to imagine handing that heavy "rucksack" over to Jesus for a while. My prayer for you is that you can do the same. ■

### CAMP AMERICA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<b>Sunday</b>	9 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
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:30 p.m.	Soul Survivor	Camp America North Pavilion

### NAVAL BASE CHAPEL

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

*Jewish Services held every third Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Naval Base Chapel complex.*

*Hebrew classes are being offered at the Naval Base Chapel complex Thursdays 7-8 p.m. in Room 11.*

# 15 Minutes of Fame

## with Navy Lt. Cmdr. Tony De Alicante

By **Spc. Ian Shay**

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Tony De Alicante has been in the Navy for 13 years. He is the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for JTF-GTMO. De Alicante supports the mission here with utmost respect and care. He understands what a great job the Troopers have done over his 10 months on the island.

He has his Masters in Business Administration (MBA), Juris Doctorate, Masters in National Security and Strategic Studies (with distinction) from the Naval War College and has also received his Master of Laws (LL.M) in Taxation.

De Alicante served as a Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) aboard a carrier, defense counsel and legal assistance counsel. At his home station, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, he serves as the senior prosecutor. After 20 years in the Navy, he plans to venture back into private practice and utilize his skill in advanced tax training.

De Alicante enjoys learning day in and day out. As an educational venture, he actually earned a fixed wing commercial instrument pilot's license and worked as a pilot for a stint. He plays acoustic guitar for the NAVBASE Praise Team and participates in the Protestant worship service.

### Why did you join the Navy?

Well, I actually came out of the private practice. I was in private practice for a few years, and I joined for a few reasons. I wanted to go to the Naval Academy while I was looking at colleges, but my parents said no. I was not enjoying private practice with my firm. I hated the billable hour. I wanted to travel and live overseas. I had always wanted to serve my country.

### Why did you choose law?

For several different reasons. I enjoy history, and law has a lot to do with history and applying what we have done in the past as precedent for the rules we abide by now. We use precedent to establish a lot of our laws. In the legal profession, you're constantly learning. You always have to



Photo by Spc. Ian Shay

keep up to date on cases and laws that are always changing so that you are current to represent your clients at that time. I never wanted to stop learning, and I thought the legal profession would be an area where I would be constantly learning.

### What are some of the differences between private practice and military law?

In the military you definitely take a pay cut compared to your civilian counterparts. I've gone up against litigators who have been paid \$500 an hour, but a lot of those folks don't do as good a job as the military lawyers do. We have the luxury of spending more time on our cases than our civilian counterparts.

### What are the advantages to practicing military law?

I've been able to do a lot of things I would have never been able to do in private practice, which makes it a more interesting practice. I spent two years as an SJA aboard an aircraft carrier. I've been able to serve overseas in Italy for a couple of years. I've been able to serve within offices of general counsel for various government agencies. I was in the National Security Agency for three years practicing civil litigating. So to

an extent, that's an advantage of being able to practice in different areas without having to reapply with a new employer.

### Which side of law is more difficult, prosecution or defense?

I think prosecuting is more difficult. As a prosecutor, you have to prove every element of your case, and you're working for the government as your client. As defense counsel, you have a live client in front of you, and you just have to poke one hole in the prosecution's case for them to lose.

### Any events in your career that stand out?

This for me stands out as one of the most interesting and enjoyable things I've done. Both the quality of people I've been able to work with in this office and enjoying the joint environment. Plus, the issues we get to deal with have made this just as interesting a tour as I've ever had in 13 years of the Navy. ■

## 15 Minutes of Fame

Know a Trooper worthy of being highlighted in "15 Minutes of Fame?" Call Master Sgt. Stephen Miller at 3594.



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace



Photo by Army Master Sgt. Stephen Miller

▲Jon Secada performed for service members and their families at the Windjammer.

◀Jesse Brown, a local skater, rides a rail outside of the NEX. The rails were setup for pro skaters on the Vans tour. The show was cancelled because of the rain, but later, one of the pros ollied a safety barrier.



Photo by Spc. Jeshua Nace

▲Washington Redskin's cheerleaders perform their show for the NEX Customer Appreciation Day.



Photo by Army Sgt. Jessica Wilson

▲In honor of NEX Customer Appreciation Day, many servicemembers and families entered the 5k run. The run started and ended at the NEX.

# AROUND THE JTF NEX Appreciation