



the Wire

“HONOR BOUND TO DEFEND FREEDOM”

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Friday, December 19, 2003

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

By SGT Jolene Staker

For a place where people can wear shorts to a Christmas party, it may be hard to imagine how the landscape can look like Christmas, but with the multiple-tree display at the NEX, the huge light display on CPO hill, lights hanging from the light poles on Sherman Avenue and all of the decorating done by individuals, Guantanamo Bay does look like it's ready for the holidays.

While some JTF troopers are missing the snow they would have seen at home, and all are missing loved ones, Christmas spirit is alive and well here.

“We're away from home – not too far but far enough – so we've got to make the best of it,” said SFC Kenneth Sobecki, motor sergeant at the J-4 maintenance shop of the 177th Military Police Brigade. “I do Christmas; it's just who I am, and I try to share that with people here.”

From the troopers at the shop on Sherman Avenue who have decorated their motor pool, to the first sergeant who had soldiers decorate the tree his wife sent him, troopers are finding ways to cope with being away from their fam-

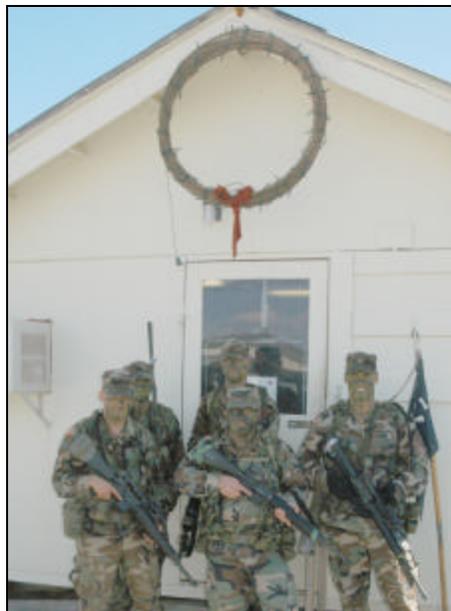


Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

Members of A Company, 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment stand under the concertina wire wreath hanging over their unit headquarters. Pictured are: back (from left) – SPC Todd Collins and SGT Allan Raymond; front – CPL Philip Trimble, SPC Kenneth Pierce and CPT John Drohan.

ilies at home by focusing on the way to support their military family here.

“I just came back from leave where I did Christmas with my family, but I'm still going to do Christmas here,” said 1LT Joshua Romano, executive officer for B Company, 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment. “They're my family here – my GTMO family.”

1LT Mike Paquette, 1st platoon leader of A Company, 1-181st said that his unit will be having several small unit parties of different ethnic backgrounds. This will allow the members to both celebrate their own culture while at the same time learning about other cultures.

Many units are having Christmas parties and gift exchanges. Troopers will also have a special Christmas meal at both Seaside Galley and Café Caribé. Shrimp cocktail, beef, turkey, ham, potatoes, rice pilaf and fresh dinner rolls are just a small sampling of what will be available.

Besides celebrating with their military family here, troopers will also want to get in

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HOLIDAY MEMORIES



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Trooper to Trooper

Use technology to stay in touch this season

Happy holidays.

The Christmas season always seems to invoke memories of traditional family gatherings, enjoying peace and solitude and reflecting upon the true meaning of Christmas. During this season a number of our troopers will have the opportunity to take leave and enjoy the holidays with family and friends. I sincerely hope that our troopers with young families have been given the first opportunity for some well deserved time at home. It is indeed a joyous time of year.

Many of us however will not have the opportunity to be with family this year during Christmas. For those of us who will be on duty during the holiday season it is important that we maintain the link with those back home. Being away from family is not easy but there is little doubt that we remain foremost in their thoughts and they in ours.

There are several ways in which you can stay in touch. Hopefully, many of you have taken the opportunity to wish your loved ones a happy holiday by doing a short video that will be aired on your local television stations back home. Our public affairs office has done a wonderful job compiling footage of our troopers both individually and as units.

The MWR facilities offer another way to stay in touch. Utilizing e-mail or the chat features of our computers is definitely technology in action. The video cams add visual contact as well. Have you tried Dial Pad? Visiting <http://www.dialpad.com> will allow you to register for PC to telephone contact back home at very little cost. You will need a headset in order to complete the call, but it offers the ability to utilize the MWR resources in yet another way.



BG Mitch LeClaire
JTF GTMO
deputy commander
for operations

Video teleconferences provide another alternative to link up with those back home. If your armories or reserve centers have VTC capability you can arrange a time through your unit. See your first sergeant or commander and schedule a block of time. This is a great way to communicate!

Finally, family support groups have been doing great things in our absence. Many of them have established electronic newsletters and have kept family members informed. I've also heard reports of these organizations providing help to needy families.

Hopefully these methods of linking up with hometown America will assist you in contacting your family and friends this holiday season. They are faster than the mail and cheaper than using the telephone. At any rate, please contact your family this holiday season.

Your senior leadership of the JTF wishes to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Honor Bound.

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Holiday fitness events

Dec. 20: **Jingle Bell Fun Run**, 7 a.m., G.J. Denich Gymnasium

Dec. 27: **JTF 5K**, 6:30 a.m., Camp America

Dec. 31: **New Year's Eve Resolution Run**, 11:59 p.m., G.J. Denich Gymnasium

Christmas memories return with holidays

By SrA. Thomas J. Doscher

With Christmas less than a week away, JTF GTMO personnel are looking back to fond Christmas memories and looking forward to making new ones with new friends here on the island.

For some people, fond Christmas memories, from childhood or later in life, are about the lights, the tinsel and getting that one special gift.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Eric Resler, J-4 Maintenance, remembers the first thing he did when he got his first bike one Christmas morning when he was 7 years old.

"I rode it," he said, despite the snow on the ground in his home town of Bedford, Ind.

Resler had never had a bike of his own before that Christmas.

Resler said the troopers in his shop are celebrating Christmas this year together.

"We're exchanging gifts," he said. "And we just decorated the shop."

SPC Jason Bracht, 384th Military Police Bn. also treasures the Christmas where he got his first bike, but that's not the main reason.

"I was seven, and my uncle came back from the Marines," he said.

Bracht's uncle, who was a helicopter mechanic in the Marine Corps, returned from six months at sea to surprise his nephew for Christmas.

"It was cool," Bracht said. "We had football games in the



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

MAJ George Harrington of Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment poses with Grinch. Grinch was a gift from a civilian co-worker. Grinch has been to Bosnia and will go on any future deployments as well. Harrington doesn't really qualify as a Grinch since he is one of the officers who will be working the gate on Christmas to give his soldiers extra time off.

back yard. And snowball fights. We didn't do that kind

of stuff when he wasn't around."

Bracht said he'd try to make the camaraderie he felt at that Christmas felt at this one.

"My unit's having something at the Community Center," he said. "I'll hang out with friends and make it like a family."

Petty Officer 1st Class Joe Hutton's fondest Christmas memory is from two years ago, the last Christmas she spent with her family.

"All my family gathered together for my grandmother's Christmas party," Hutton said. "Family from all around - her sister and her kids and her grandkids got together for a joyous time."

Hutton said deployments abroad have prevented her from being with her family for Christmas since then, but she intends to make the best of it.

"I'll just be hanging out with new friends," she said.

Memo to JTF troopers: Gen. Claus on the way

To: JTF-GTMO personnel

From: SGT Joshua Carroll, JTF GTMO PAO

Subject: JTF-GTMO Official Command Visit.

This office has been informed of an official visit by Gen. Santa Claus to the Joint Task Force Guantanamo on 25 December. The following directives will govern activities of personnel during this visit:

1. No creatures will stir without official permission. This will include all native mice and banana rats. Special stirring permits will be obtained through the Chief of Staff's office. Requests should be sent to Navy Capt. McNeill, acting JTF chief of staff, no later than 20 December.

2. Personnel will settle their brains for a long winter nap prior to 2200 hours on 24 December. Uniform for nap: pajamas, cotton, light drowsing, with kerchief, general

purpose.

3. Personnel will utilize standard ration sugarplums to dance through their heads. This item may be picked up at Seaside Galley. POC is MSG Hay.

4. Stockings, wool, cushion sole, will be hung by chimneys with care. Necessary safety precautions will be taken to avoid fires. Individual sections will submit stocking-hanging plans to Lt. Kringle in Bulkeley Hall by 0800 hours, 22 December.

5. At first sign of clatter from lawn, all personnel will spring from their beds to investigate and evaluate cause. Immediate action will be taken to tear open shutters and throw open window sashes. Personnel located in Camp America will throw open their doors in lieu of shutters and/or windows.

6. Volunteers are needed to drive one sleigh, miniature, and eight (8) deer, rein, tiny, for use of Gen. Claus. Driver must

have current rooftop license or be able to pass a rooftop safety course as given by the J-4 Transportation Office. Interested personnel should see SFC Waltenburg to arrange a class time.

7. Gen. Claus will enter all sections through chimneys. Sections without chimneys will draw a Chimney Simulator from the J-4 Warehouse for use during ceremonies. Requests must be submitted to SSG Dennie in triplicate prior to 20 December.

8. All personnel will be rehearsed in shouting "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night." This shout will be given upon termination of Gen. Claus' visit. Uniformity of shouting is the responsibility of all section chiefs. Any trooper who requires remedial Shout Training should contact any member of the Public Affairs Office no later than 21 December.

Puerto Rican Guard unit serving throughout JTF

By SPC William Ingram

Some members of the Puerto Rico National Guard are serving on a deployment close to home.

The 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment, has been attached to the various military police companies at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, working as military police for the Joint Task Force. Their training consists of various activities relating to operations at Camp Delta. This unit consists of soldiers from all over Puerto Rico, which has a long history of National Guard service.

The first body of the Puerto Rico National Guard formed for U.S. military service was a battalion of volunteers authorized by Congress in March 1899. After several years of forming several different regiments, in September 1920 the Puerto Rico Volunteers became the 1-65th Infantry Regiment.

The 1-65th unit is home based out of Fort Bragg, N.C., where for five months the unit trained up on their military readiness before venturing to Guantanamo.

Members of the unit have upbeat attitudes and are motivated to work hard, according to unit leaders. Unit members speak highly of this deployment and are



Photo courtesy of Navy Photographer's Mate Second Class (AW/SW) Shawn McDonald

SSG Raul Ortiz of 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment, Puerto Rico National Guard, assigned to the 216th Military Police Co., closes a sally port gate in Camp Delta. The regiment's members have been serving with various units within JTF Guantanamo Bay.

ready to get back to their families once the deployment is over, said SPC Frank Rodriguez.

A majority of the troopers are civilian police officers, which gives the unit a great deal of experience that is valuable on this deployment.

SFC Rusty Jennings, 463rd Military Police Co. Operations NCO, said that

members of the 1-65th Inf. Regt. have worked well with other units.

"The 1-65th Inf. Regt. has done an excellent job working and training with 463rd military police company," he commented. "We have approximately eight military police companies and all that the 1-65th worked beside stated that working with them has been an honor."

1/65 de Infantería Orgullo de Puerto Rico

Traducido por SFC Ernesto L. Ramos

Algunos miembros de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico fueron activados y están destacados muy cerca de casa.

El 1er Batallón del Regimiento 65 de Infantería están atachados a varias compañías de policías militares en la Base Naval de la Bahía de Guantánamo.

Su entrenamiento consiste en varias actividades relacionadas a las operaciones del Campamento Delta.

Este grupo de soldados de Puerto Rico miembros y que tienen una larga historia en el servicio de la Guardia Nacional.

El primer contingente de soldados de la Guardia Nacional formados para servir en el Ejército de los Estados Unidos fue un Batallón de voluntarios autorizados por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos en Marzo de 1899. Después de muchos años de formar diferentes regimientos, en septiembre de 1920, los voluntarios de Puerto Rico vinieron a formar el Regimiento 65 de Infantería.

El 1-65th con base en Fuerte Braga, NC, estuvo

por espacio de 5 meses entrenando y saliendo a diferentes misiones antes de iniciar su misión en Guantánamo.

Los miembros de esta unidad son soldados altamente motivados y comprometidos a cumplir su misión; según los líderes de sus respectivas unidades. Los soldados han hablado muy bien de esta movilización y ya están listos para regresar a sus casas junto a su familia y seres queridos, según afirma el SPC Frank Rodríguez.

La gran mayoría de ellos son oficiales de la policía en su vida civil, que le da a la unidad un buen equipo con experiencia esencial para cumplir la los objetivos de esta misión.

SFC Rusty Jennings de la unidad 463 de Policías Militares dijo que los miembros del 1/65 han trabajos excelentemente con sus respectivas unidades.

Tenemos aproximadamente 8 compañías de Policías Militares en las que el 1/65 de Infantería están atachados y dijeron que trabajar con ellos es un honor.



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

In the holiday spirit are (from left) SFC Kenneth Sobecki, J-4 motor sergeant from the 177th Military Police Brigade; and SPC Carlos Ortiz, SPC Anthony Magojna and SGT Thomas Miller, J-4 mechanics of the 463rd Military Police Co. The troopers have decorated the motor pool on Sherman Avenue.

Christmas from page 1

touch with family at home. Paquette said that his comrades “will try to take it easy for a change and call or e-mail home to talk to loved ones.”

Because of mission requirements, many troopers will be working on Christmas. Units are working around busy schedules to take the time to celebrate Christmas, and the Command Group of the 1-181st are going to step in and work as many schedules for their troops as they can to allow them more time off.

“I feel it’s only right as a commander to give our soldiers some extra time off, and one

way we can do that is to step in and take a shift,” said LTC Joseph Noonan, 1-181st commander. “The leadership is not going to take a day off while their soldiers are working on a holiday.”

While troopers cannot be home for Christmas they will be surrounded by people dedicated to ensuring they experience as many Christmas-related events as the mission allows. “On behalf of the JDOG staff I would wish that everyone have a safe and meaningful holiday season,” said CSM Steven Short, JDOG Camp Commandant.

For religious holiday events please see page 8.



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

1LT Mike Paquette (above), 1st platoon leader, B Company, 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment, looks at Christmas Cards sent by students of the Immaculate Conception School in Massachusetts. SGT Steve Yablonski (below) of B Company, 1-181st stands by the tree he decorated for unit members, ready Christmas presents. The tree was sent to 1SG David Lavoie by his wife. Having the tree has improved the Christmas spirit for this unit, he said.



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

From the unusual, SSG Jason Girt (from left), SSG Brian Moore and SPC Bryan Brager all of the 384th Military Police Battalion, stand in front of the palm tree they decorated as a Christmas tree. The tree might not be traditional, but the trio said that it will certainly suffice for watching over presents.



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

RIDO improves skills, response for JTF troopers

By SSG Patrick Cloward,
Senior Airman Thomas Doscher,
SGT Jolene Staker and
SPC William Ingram

Bombs, bus crashes and mortar shells.

Joint Task Force Guantanamo underwent Rotation Four's second Routine Integrated Defense Operation last weekend, keeping them ready for the fight in defense against terrorism.

SPC Edwin Rosario of the 1st Brigade 181st Infantry Regiment worked with his team, firing mortar shells at a seaside target. He had nothing but positives to say about the training.

"I think we did a really good job," he said. "You can't beat the gunner that we had. SPC [Chris] Cunningham was all over it."

Sgt. Dan Jones, who was cross training on the mortars, took value from the time he spent.

"I like it a lot. It's really cool," he said.

More localized training came from a bus accident earlier.

See RIDO on next page

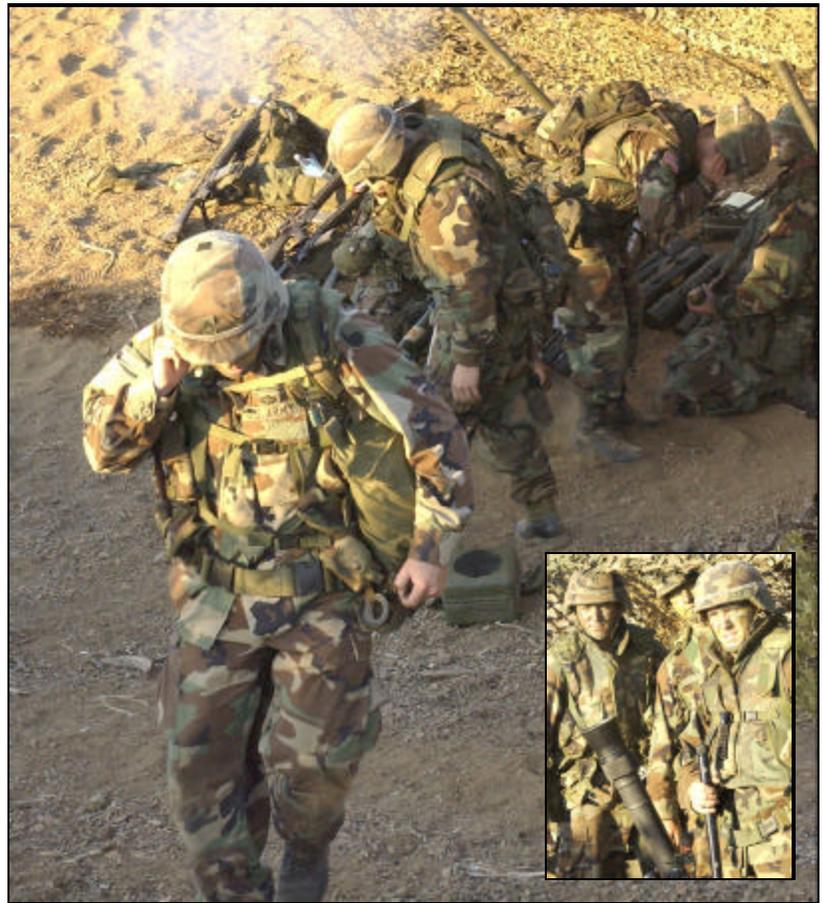


Photo above and inset photo by Senior Airman Thomas Doscher
Members of Bravo Co., 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment fire mortar shells at a target boat during Saturday's live fire exercise. SPC Dan Green (below, left) fires a machine gun at a target while SSG Sean Maguire assists.



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Shawn Eklund

Clockwise from top right:

Photo by SPC William Ingram

A medical technician evaluates "casualties" during a mock bus accident scene Friday morning.

Photo by SPC William Ingram

Emergency response personnel rehearse evacuating "casualties."

Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Shawn Eklund

Medical personnel quickly evacuate a "casualty" from the scene of an exercise.



RIDO from previous page

"I wish that we had more training with emergency responses," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jored Cardona, a Corpsman with the Naval Base hospital. "The experience we received will help us to improve our ability to work smart, fast and get to the site fast. I believe that we need to train all the time and perfect our skills."

Master Chief David Peck, who was on

the scene, also saw it as good training experience.

"The emergency response teams are working hard and fast to their abilities and their training," he said.

On the Leeward side, Marine forces had good things to say about their experience.

"The live-fire exercise went extremely well," said Marine 1st Lt. Eric Olson of M Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Marine Division. "We were able to coordi-

nate with an adjacent unit and conduct a live exercise with Naval Security Forces and MSST."

Though some saw the teaching value in the effort, many saw it for its fun.

"All training is serious because it could happen in real life, but it can also be fun because it is training," said MASN James Lawrence of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Security Forces Ground Defense Element.



Photo by SGT Jolene Staker

Ssg Reeve Winters (left), SPC Luis Marrero and SSG Jeffery Lewis (right), JTF chaplain assistants browse through the holiday decorations at the Nex to prepare to decorate the new Camp America Chapel. December 21st will be the first service in the new building.

Chaplains, staff support troops during busy holiday season

By SGT Jolene Staker

For those wanting to attend chapel services and events during the holiday season there are many to choose from.

The first activity in the new Camp America chapel will be the Christmas decorating on Saturday at 7 p.m., which will be followed by caroling practice and then refreshments.

Christmas caroling will be on Monday. Carolers need to meet at the Camp America chapel at 6:30 p.m. and will go to different locations to sing.

The first service in the new chapel will be held Sunday morning at 9. There will be a candle-lit service on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m.

There will be a Catholic Mass by Bishop John Kaising, who is the auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of the Military Services, on Christmas Day at 5 p.m. in the Camp America Chapel.

A Catholic Advent Penance Service will be held at the NAVBASE Main Chapel at 7 p.m. on Monday

There is also a Christmas Eve Catholic vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Midnight Mass, which will start at 11:55 p.m. On Christmas Day there is a Catholic service at 9 a.m.

Chaplains will greet troopers at both the Seaside Galley and Cafe Caribe during the special holiday meal on Christmas day.

Chaplain Stephen Feehan, JTF chaplain, is working to take care of troopers' special spiritual needs during this season.

"At Christmas we sing 'Joy to the world, the Lord is come' we celebrate the birth of Christ, the Light of the World, who came to the world to cast out the darkness of evil," Feehan said. "He is here today, and He continues that work today."

JTF choir to perform concert

Members of the JTF choir will join with the United Jamaican Fellowship for a holiday concert tonight.

The concert, "Voices of Praise," will begin at 7 p.m. and will be at the W.T. Sampson Elementary amphitheater.

Alpha: an opportunity to explore the meaning of life

Tonight:

"Why and how should I tell others?"

Dec. 26:

"Does God heal today?"

7-8:30 p.m.

Camp America Chapel, Bldg. 3203

Worship Services

Catholic

Main Chapel

| | | |
|--------|------------|-------------------------|
| Wed. | 5 p.m. | R.C.I.A. (Cobre Chapel) |
| Fri. | 5 p.m. | Rosary |
| Sat. | 4:15 p.m. | Confession |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Vigil Mass |
| Sun. | 9 a.m. | Mass |
| | 10:15 a.m. | Spanish Mass (Sanct. B) |
| M-Fri. | 11:30 a.m. | Mass (Cobre Chapel) |

Camp America

| | | |
|------|--------|-----------------------|
| Sun. | 5 p.m. | Mass Wooden Chapel |
|------|--------|-----------------------|

Protestant

Main Chapel

| | | |
|--------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Mon. | 7 p.m. | Prayer Group Fellowship* |
| Wed. | 7 p.m. | Men's Bible Study* |
| | 7 p.m. | Spanish Group 390-Evan's Pt |
| Thurs. | 6:30 p.m. | Home Group Nob Hill 5B |
| Sun. | 6:30 a.m. | Praise and Worship Service |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 11 a.m. | Service/Sunday School |
| | 5 p.m. | Bible Study |

* Fellowship Hall located in Chapel Complex

Camp America

| | | |
|------|--------|---|
| Wed. | 7 p.m. | Service |
| Sun. | 9 a.m. | Seaside Galley (Temporary location until further notice) |
| | 7 p.m. | Service Wooden Chapel |

New Life Fellowship

Main Chapel

| | | |
|------|------------|---------|
| Sun. | 12:45 p.m. | Service |
|------|------------|---------|

Pentecostal Gospel

| | | |
|------|--------|------------------|
| Sun. | 8 a.m. | Service (Sanc C) |
| | 5 p.m. | Service (Sanc C) |

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

| | | |
|------|--------|-------------|
| Sun. | 9 a.m. | Sanctuary A |
|------|--------|-------------|

Islamic

| | | |
|------|--------|--------------------------------|
| Fri. | 1 p.m. | Classroom 12 Chapel Complex |
|------|--------|--------------------------------|

Jewish

| | | |
|------|--------|-----------------|
| Fri. | 8 p.m. | Fellowship Hall |
|------|--------|-----------------|

Camp America Church Bus schedule:

| | | |
|------|-----------|---------------|
| Sun. | 8 a.m. | Windward Loop |
| | 8:15 a.m. | Tierra Kay |

The bus will return following worship.

Need a spiritual lift? Join Chaplain Daniel Odean and other JTF troopers for music and fellowship during Soul Survivor. 7 p.m. every Wednesday at Club Survivor.

Counseling can quelch problems before they start

By Air Force Lt. Col. Bruce Medaugh

Sometimes, when an issue has been brought to the Inspector General's (IG) office, it is something that might have been resolved earlier, if leaders follow Policy Letter No. 8.

Policy Letter No. 8 established the requirement that both civilian and military personnel receive an initial counseling within 14 days of their arrival at GTMO and can create a win-win situation for everyone.

The initial counseling helps leaders and their troops establish the tasks and performance expectations they are required to meet. For you, the trooper, you will be on your way to successfully doing your job and meeting your expectations once you've received your initial counseling.

The second part of Policy Letter No. 8 requires a performance counseling be conducted every 45 days after the initial counseling. This helps the supervisor and the person who works for him or her to talk about how things are going and if necessary, identify any areas that may need to be improved.

The supervisor is required to conduct and record each of these ses-

sions. It is the supervisor's responsibility, but each member should also help track this requirement. It is in everyone's interest to do so. If you know your counseling is not meeting this standard, remind your supervisor that it is required.

Meeting the requirements set by Policy Letter No. 8 is important because it is a clearly defined standard, which must be met. Most importantly, when the counseling is done right and to standard, the supervisor and member will be able to discuss and resolve issues before they erupt into a problem which may end up in our office.

If you have a question about counseling or any other matter that you can't solve in your chain of command, please feel free to contact the Inspector General. Each IG team member is ready to assist you with issues you may be experiencing during their deployment.

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



Photo by CW3 Gerald Jordan

Parade winners

Christmas parade contest winners celebrate their victory. Pictured are 1SG David Folsom (standing), JTF first sergeant, and SFC Kenneth Sobecki (left) and SSG Steve Holman.



Camp Bulkeley

Fri., Dec. 19

8 p.m. *Freaky Friday*
PG - 97 min
10 p.m. *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*
R - 97 min

Sat., Dec. 20

8 p.m. *Secondhand Lion*
PG - 107 min
10 p.m. *The Medallion*
PG13 - 89 min

Sun., Dec. 21

8 p.m. *Cabin Fever*
R - 94 min

Mon., Dec. 22

8 p.m. *American Graffiti*
PG - 109

Tues., Dec. 23

8 p.m. *Grind*
PG13 - 100 min

Wed., Dec. 24

8 p.m. *Midnight Run*
R - 125min

Thurs., Dec. 25

8 p.m. *Johnny English*
PG - 88 min

Movie Schedule

Downtown Lyceum

Fri., Dec. 19

7 p.m. *Elf*
PG - 88 min
9 p.m. *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*
PG13 - 98 min

Sat., Dec. 20

7 p.m. *Good Boy*
PG - 88 min
9 p.m. *Lost in Translation*
R - 102 min

Sun., Dec. 21

7 p.m. *The Last Samurai*
R - 144 min

Mon., Dec. 22

7 p.m. *The Runaway Jury*
PG13 - 128 min

Tues., Dec. 23

7 p.m. *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*
PG13 - 98 min

Wed., Dec. 24

7 p.m. *Elf*
PG - 88 min

Thurs., Dec. 25

7 p.m. *The Last Samurai*
R - 144 min

Free calls available

Coupons for a free 15-minute telephone call will be available to servicemembers in Guantanamo Bay.

The calls may be made between tomorrow and Dec. 31. The coupons will be available from troopers' command.

At Club Survivor ...
Dec. 30: The Least Worst Band, rock and roll;
Jan. 1: Dot Wilder, jazz;
Jan. 2: Wild Gypsy, variety.



Photo by SPC Rick Fahr
 SPC Kurt Witucki (above) of the 177th MP Brigade returns a volley during JTF beach volleyball tournament action Saturday. SPC Brian Tivnan (below, right) warms up with teammate Daniel Jones of the 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment team. The 1-181st, seeded first, won the tournament.

1-181st wins beach volleyball tourney

177th, 384th, 273rd also compete in event

By SPC Rick Fahr

The JTF beach volleyball regular season winners maintained their supremacy in the league's postseason tournament on Saturday.

Members of the 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment rolled through the four-team event, beating the 177th Military Police Brigade team in the final match.

Other teams in the tournament were the 384th Military Police Battalion and the 273rd Military Police Co.

In the opening round matches of the single-elimination tournament, the 1-181st defeated the 273rd in three games – 16-14, 11-15 and 15-7. The 177th dispatched the 384th in two games – 15-3 and 15-8.

In the final, the 181st needed only two games to claim the title – 15-4 and 15-3.



Photo by SPC Rick Fahr

Hash-running complements fitness program

By SPC Rick Fahr

On Saturday afternoons, it's not unusual to see a group of 30-50 people scrambling around Guantanamo Bay like they're looking for something.

They are.

They're trying to find a trail of flour left by "hares."

They're hashers.

Hash-running has been around for generations, and it's growing in popularity at Guantanamo Bay.

It's a combination of a physical fitness event and a social mixer.

Hash-running offers physical training benefits to just about anyone because the trails have built-in mechanisms to keep the pack of hashers more or less together. Some participants run the entire distance. Some walk. Most do both over the courses, which are usually at least 4 miles long.

"A hash run is sometimes very challenging. Sometimes it's a lot longer than I would care to run," said MSG Randolph Hay of the 177th MP Brigade, an avid runner. "If you're doing other things – going to the gym some, running some – then a hash run fits right into that."

In addition to the physical aspects of the runs, hashers get a different perspective on the island they inhabit.

"The great benefit to a hash run is that we have some excitement, and we see Guantanamo Bay from some very different angles," Hay explained. "We just don't see it from the roadway. We see it from the skyline. We see it from the trails. It's a great way to see Guantanamo Bay."

See HASH on next page

Trooper picks

JTF personnel's predictions for this week's games

Games

Chiefs at Vikings
 Lions at Panthers
 Titans at Texans
 Redskins at Bears
 Giants at Cowboys
 Broncos at Colts
 49ers at Eagles
 Chargers at Steelers
 Ravens at Browns
 Dolphins at Bills
 Last week's record
 Overall record



1st SGT
 Sandra Adams-Jones
 273rd MP Co.

Chiefs
 Panthers
 Titans
 Bears
 Cowboys
 Colts
 Eagles
 Chargers
 Ravens
 Dolphins
 6-4
 71-45



Craig Basel
 MWR director

Chiefs
 Panthers
 Titans
 Bears
 Cowboys
 Colts
 Eagles
 Steelers
 Ravens
 Dolphins
 7-3
 70-46



SSG
 Deon Lee
 216th MP Co.

Chiefs
 Panthers
 Titans
 Bears
 Cowboys
 Colts
 Eagles
 Steelers
 Ravens
 Bills
 8-2
 80-36



SSG
 Stephanie Nielsen
 384th MP Bn.

Chiefs
 Panthers
 Titans
 Bears
 Cowboys
 Colts
 Eagles
 Steelers
 Ravens
 Bills
 9-1
 76-40

Sports highlights

Rams, Chiefs continue winning ways

Compiled by
 SPC Rick Fahr

If the **Kansas City Chiefs** and **St. Louis Rams** continue on their paths, the road to the Super Bowl will be Interstate 70.

Both teams have clinched their divisions and are eyeing home field advantage for the playoffs.

Other teams that have clinched their divisions are the **New England Patriots** and **Carolina Panthers**. The **Philadelphia Eagles** and **Indianapolis Colts** have clinched playoff berths. Two divisions are still up for grabs

In the AFC North, the **Cincinnati Bengals** and **Baltimore Ravens** are tied with 8-6 records. The Bengals have a tougher road ahead, though, as they travel to St. Louis this weekend. The Ravens play the **Cleveland Browns**.

The **Green Bay Packers** and **Minnesota Vikings** are tied for first place in the NFC North with 8-6 records. The Packers have an edge this week as they play the **Oakland Raiders**, while the Vikings host the Chiefs.

Other contenders kept their playoff hopes alive with wins on Sunday. The **Tennessee Titans** beat the **Buffalo Bills**, 28-26. The **Dallas Cowboys** pasted the **Washington Redskins**, 27-0, and the Colts thumped the **Atlanta Falcons**, 38-7.

Quick: Who had the best record in the NBA as of Monday?

The **Los Angeles Lakers** (18-5). Everybody knows that. But who was a half-game behind the dream team? The **Indiana Pacers** (18-6).

And don't look now, but some other teams have posted surprising early season records.

The **Sacramento Kings** were at 16-5, and **New Orleans** had romped to a 17-7 mark.

In the crazy world of men's college basketball, **Kentucky** and **Connecticut** are at the top of the rankings.

A flurry of oddball losses has shuffled the top teams, but expect **Florida**, **Duke**, **Missouri** and **Kansas** to be in the mix for the national title.

This week's football bowl lineup includes: Monday – **Tangerine, N.C. State** and **Kansas**; Tuesday – **Fort Worth, TCU** and **Boise State**; Wednesday – **Las Vegas, Oregon State** and **New Mexico**; Thursday – **Hawaii, Houston** and **Hawaii**; Dec. 26 – **Motor City, Northwestern** and **Bowling Green**, and **Insight – Virginia Tech** and **California**.

Compiled from
www.espn.com



Photo by SPC Rick Fahr

Hashers – including MSG Howard J. Kingsley (right) of the 384th Military Police Battalion – make their way up one of Guantanamo Bay's many hills. Each hash run has its own course, with varying degrees of difficulty and length.

HASH from previous page

After each run, the hashers – most of whom have earned nicknames for participating in the runs – gather for a period of food and fun.

"We have our hash names. We kid each other a lot. It's great fellowship. It's wonderful fellowship," Hay said.

For more information, contact Stanley Hovell, ext. 7606.

15 Minutes of Fame...

With SPC Frank Rodriguez, 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment

By SPC William Ingram

SPC Frank Rodriguez is a member of the Puerto Rico National Guard on his first deployment.

Q. What inspired you to join the military?

A. My uncle in the Air Force inspired me. He said a very honorable thing to do is join the military.

Q. How many years and in what branches and components have you served?

A. I have always served in the Army. I served seven years in the Puerto Rico National Guard. I've always been an infantry soldier. At home I am an accountant for a hospital, and I really enjoy working there.

Q. Where have you deployed?

A. This is my very first deployment, and it has been an experience of a lifetime to finally get the opportunity to use my skill in the National Guard.

Q. What do you recall as your best military experience?

A. The work that I am doing here has to be my best military experience. I was given the chance to be deploying to another country and have the opportunity to visit the United States while I was stationed at Fort Dix, New Jersey. We were training very hard to learn the skill to be deployed at Guantanamo Bay.

Q. How has your military service impacted and molded you as a service-member and a person?

A. The service has impacted me a lot as a person. I will be a better person professionally at my job and at home with my family.

Q. In what ways has your family supported you in your military career?

A. My family has supported me in my decision to join the military. Without



SPC Frank Rodriguez
1st Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment

their support I would not be so proud to continue my career in the military. My family has been there for this deployment. My family is supporting each other at home by staying in contact with each other and staying close to each other.

Q. In what way have you kept in contact with your family?

A. I call my family as much I can. I use the morale calls and LCN to stay in contact with my family. It is very important to stay in contact with your family because this will help keep you motivated when you are far away from them.

Q. What is the greatest challenge you anticipate experiencing here?

A. I anticipate getting more experience while I am deployed here at Guantanamo Bay. We are challenged everyday to provide the best support to the Joint Task Force here in Cuba. We are also challenged in learning how to treat people with respect when they are from another country. Trying to keep myself physically and mentally fit, ready for any training that may come up, is a challenge too. The language barrier is not a challenge for myself, but some soldiers in my unit do not speak English that well. It is always important to challenge yourself.

Q. Do you feel that it is important to have more training with the U.S. National Guard and the Puerto Rico National Guard on regular basis?

A. It is a really good idea to have the chance to train and learn other skills that the Army National Guard provides for us. It will give us an opportunity to work on some of our language barriers and make the guard more unified.

Q. How do you feel your personal experience have equipped you to succeed here professionally and personally?

A. Personally you will never see the world in the same way. I have seen a lot of things that I know that I will not again take for granted, like my family and job.

Q. Do you feel yourself a role model?

A. Yes I do because my family and my friends are proud of me. I am a positive person that believes in working hard and playing hard.

Q. What qualities in others assist you here at Guantanamo Bay?

A. People have their own qualities here at Guantanamo that help me complete the mission. My unit here and back home supports each other, and that also is a great quality.