



# the Wire

“HONOR BOUND TO DEFEND FREEDOM”

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Friday, August 20, 2004

## World Watching Historic Military Commissions



Photo by Spc. Jim Greenhill

**By Spc. Jim Greenhill**

The world is watching the Joint Task Force.

A JTF infantryman who imagines a million eyes staring from the Guantanamo Bay night isn't paranoid: The eyes of the world are watching Troopers as the JTF gears up for Military Commissions.

**A JTF Trooper conducts an interview with civilian reporters from the British Broadcasting Corp. (left). When dealing with the media, there is no such thing as "off the record."**

provide a fair and full trial while protecting national security and the safety of all involved, including the accused.

"Joint Task Force-Guantanamo supports the Military Commissions by providing Troopers and resources to facilitate the proceedings," said Col. Frank Caruso, officer in charge (OIC) of the Military Commissions.

"The President has directed that the commissions be as open as practicable," John Altenburg, appointing authority for the Office of Military Commissions (OMC), said at a Tuesday news briefing.

Fifteen of the detainees held here are eligible for trial by Military Commission, according to a Department of Defense briefing prepared for the dozens of domestic and international media representatives following the process.

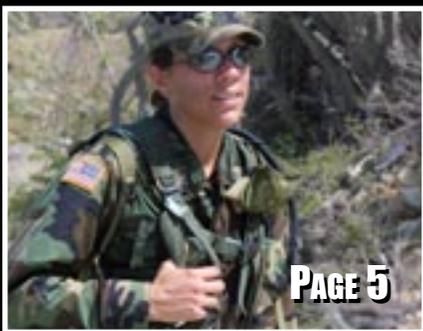
Of the 15, four have been charged with conspiracy to commit war crimes and their cases have been referred for prosecution.

**See Commissions, Page 4**

"As this is the first Military Commission since World War II, there is intense media interest in how the process will be carried out," said Maj. Hank McIntire, of the JTF Public Affairs Office.

The purpose of the Military Commissions is to prosecute enemy combatants who violate the laws of war, according to the Department of Defense. Commissions

## Inside The Wire ...



**PAGE 5**



**PAGE 6-7**



**PAGE 8**

# Trooper To Trooper

## Making the Most of the JTF Mission



Photo by Pfc. Jessi Stone

**By Col. Brice Gyurisko**

I want to introduce myself and thank the staff of the Wire for the opportunity to address Joint Task Force Guantanamo. I am Col. Brice Gyurisko and arrived at GTMO on July 10 after spending the last two years in The Pentagon working as an operations officer in the Army Operations Center. I am from New York and started my career as an enlisted military policeman in 1975. Thanks to some terrific officers and noncommissioned officers, I attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., and was commissioned in 1982. I am honored to do this mission. I said during the change of command what a privilege it is to lead our Troopers and that I looked forward to the challenge of being part of this vital mission. What I've seen since arriving has only reinforced those feelings! I am impressed by the professionalism I see exhibited by all our Troopers. The Joint Detention Operations Group is comprised of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines from the active, reserve and National Guard components. All bring a unique specialty from their respective service and component. I cannot be prouder of the opportunity to serve with this organization, which conducts a variety of missions, whether in the hot sun and humidity or through the recent thunderstorms.

Every military organization is only as good as those people who lead it. I can honestly say we have a talented pool

of officers and NCOs throughout JDOG. The units embedded within JDOG conduct security functions with the professionalism of seasoned veterans. The supporting Troopers are also a vital part of our mission, and I cannot thank you enough for your hard work and service.

I want to share a few thoughts that have assisted me in my 28 years of service. First, leave your unit, JTF and GTMO better than you found them. Think of ways to improve the mission, your work and living areas. Set goals for your time here. Challenge and develop yourself and stay fit. Fitness is comprised of three components: mental, physical and spiritual.

**Mental fitness:** Stay fit through continuing your education and keeping up with current events. Read books and magazines for professional development and for fun. **Physical fitness:** Keep yourself fit by eating right, maintaining weight standards and challenging yourself through conditioning programs that are readily available here—fitness centers, pools and running trails. **Spiritual Fitness:** Stay fit through worship or by devoting time to spiritual thoughts. There are a variety of religious programs available at various times and locations. We in JDOG are starting a monthly prayer breakfast starting August 25 at Seaside Galley.

Also, remember to contact your family. Be careful of OPSEC, but keep the lines of communication open. Take some time for yourself. Leaders, it is important for you to take some time away from the office and the blocks. As you get a bit stressed out, you may stress out your Troopers.

**Do physical training.** It will make you feel and look better. Leaders, lead from the front. We are a family here, and although we may not always agree, we need to take care of each other. Watch out for your buddy who drinks too much; he may say or do inappropriate things.

My challenge to all of you is to lead by example, maintaining the standards for which this JTF is renowned. Always do the right thing, especially when no one is looking. *Honor Bound!*

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# OPSEC: The Misunderstood Ally of JTF Troopers

By Pfc. Jessi Stone

Operations Security (OPSEC) is a tricky and complex subject. Many Troopers are fuzzy on the details. What can they say? What can they do? Out of fear of doing the wrong thing, many rumors arise about what can and cannot be done. Kevin Grant, the OPSEC program manager, provides the truth behind the rumors so that every Trooper knows the rules.

The first misconception many Troopers have is that they cannot take any pictures in Camp America.

In reality, only pictures of detainee facilities, the shoreline from Windmill Beach to the Cuban/American fence line and any area or facility with "No Photography" signs posted are prohibited, Grant said. Whether on land or out in the water, be sure not to take any pictures of the shoreline from Windmill Beach to the Cuban/American border. "No photography" signs are usually posted; make sure not to get any of these areas in the background of the pictures. When in doubt, don't take the picture.

Troopers may take photos of their living areas, Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) facilities, gyms, Club Survivor, the Chapels and recreational areas.

If an individual is caught taking photos of an unauthorized location, their cameras will be confiscated and the incident investigated, Grant said.

Another rumor is that the photo development center at the main Navy Exchange (NEX) will confiscate any pictures with OPSEC violations in them.

This one is true. Grant said that all photos processed at the NEX are screened. If an individual has questionable photos, they will be pulled and turned over to the command for investigation.

Troopers also fear that their burned CDs, photos, diaries or records of time spent here will be taken before going

home.

All personal belongings must be checked before leaving the island, Grant said, and any items that contain OPSEC or security violations will be confiscated, but that does not mean all CDs and photos will be taken. It is recommended that Troopers turn their belongings in to be checked a week before they

through unsecure communications such as the MWR computers and telephones, others could be listening and collecting information about them, their families or the mission.

It has also been said that Troopers cannot tell their family the exact dates of their leave or return over the phone or the Internet.

This is false. Troopers *can* talk about their individual leave dates with their families. What *cannot* be discussed are unit rotations and large troop movements.

Grant added that when you return for leave, it is important to remember a few things to keep you and your loved ones safe.

"When traveling back home," he said, "Remember to be aware of your surroundings. When you are in an airport or taking other public transportation, don't draw attention to yourself. No one should discuss operations conducted by the JTF.

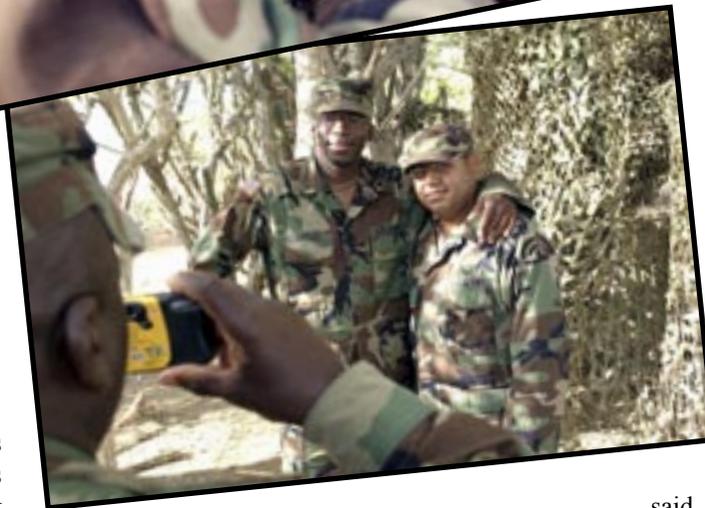
"If the media approach you, it is OK to talk with them. The key to success is to remember to stay in your lane," Grant

said. "Do not give details about your duties; keep it general.

"Media outlets post their stories on the World Wide Web, so watch how much personal data you provide. Remember that information about you is just a few keystrokes away. Do not give the enemy the advantage or put your families at risk."

Grant said his goal is to increase OPSEC awareness among Troopers. "OPSEC is taken very seriously," he said. "It protects our mission, residents of Guantanamo Bay and our families."

Photos by Pfc. Jessi Stone



leave to make sure it gets done in time.

Some Troopers feel that all they can tell their family when they call or write home are details on the weather. That is an exaggeration.

Troopers must make sure they do not release any information regarding detainee operations and force protection in phone calls and e-mails, Grant said. This means they usually cannot talk about work and never talk about detainees, the commissions or Camp Delta. If Troopers communicate

# GTMO Commissions the First in Over 60 Years

## Continued from Page 1

One of those four also is charged with aiding the enemy and attempted murder by an unprivileged belligerent.

The four detainees are scheduled to appear in a preliminary hearing here soon to be formally accused, on the record, with their attorneys present. The four will be told about the Military Commissions procedure and their next hearing dates will be set.

“These types of Commissions have been with us since the Revolution,” Altenburg said. Commissions were used in the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the War of 1898 and World Wars I and II.

But, Altenburg said, “We haven’t done it in 60 years ... since the late ’40s.”

Army Col. Pete Brownback presides over a Military Commissions panel that includes two Marine colonels, an Air Force colonel and an Air Force lieutenant colonel.

Familiar features of the Military Commissions include a presumption of innocence, free defense counsel, the option to pay for additional attorneys, no requirement for defendants to speak and the standard of proof beyond reasonable doubt. Defendants can cross-examine witnesses, challenge evidence and present witnesses and evidence.

The upcoming preliminary hearing means the JTF is under even more scrutiny than usual. Troopers may notice an influx of officials, reporters and others; additional security measures and changed routines.

This first step is similar to the arraignment of a suspect in a civilian court. For all of the logistical efforts and influx here of dozens of officials and reporters, the actual court appearances could be brief – but they are an essential part of the justice process.

“It’ll be fairly pedestrian, because you’re not going to see witnesses testifying,” Altenburg said.

The twists and turns of trials are unpredictable, but the months ahead could see more hearings. The number of hearings could vary from case to case. When actual trials could begin is unpredictable.

“Ultimately there will be the trial,” Altenburg said. “That trial will look very much like any trial ... in the United States.”

The process of filing motions before the Military Commissions is likely to take months, according to the Department of Defense briefing.

Meanwhile, the world media watches.

“The media are here to view and report on the Military Commissions process,” McIntire said.

Media agree to ground rules to satisfy operations security (OPSEC) requirements before they set foot in Guantanamo Bay. Media representatives are to be escorted at all times. They are easily recognizable by the badges they wear.

What should a Trooper do who sees an unescorted member of the media strolling around or finds a reporter in an off-limits area?

“They should politely escort the person to a secure area and notify their supervisor and the Public Affairs Office,” McIntire said.

What about Troopers approached by reporters for interviews?

“After notifying their supervisor and being accompanied by a JTF Public Affairs representative, they may speak to the media,” McIntire said. “Troopers also have the option to decline an interview if they so choose.”

And what of the Trooper who finds himself sitting next to a reporter at the Tiki Bar who offers a free drink?

“Consider every communication with a reporter to be on the record,” McIntire said. “Notify the Public Affairs Office and request a public affairs representative to be present. If you do elect to speak to a reporter, practice OPSEC and stay in your lane. Talk about what you know, but don’t speculate.”

Lt. Col. Leon Sumpter of the JTF Public Affairs Office also offered advice for Troopers.

“We as Troopers – no matter what uniform or lack of a uniform – are all representatives of the government and of our nation,” Sumpter said. “Be cognizant of what you say and of your demeanor. Maintain vigilance, be polite, don’t be afraid to say ‘I don’t know,’ and maintain your composure. Remember, if you are interviewed you can terminate it anytime. Close it cordially, from the onset stay within your lane, set the tone and the amount of time you have available. Never speculate or address policy issues. Policy issues are for those in

Washington, D.C.”

Once the Military Commissions

enter the trial

phase – after

all the pre-

trial plead-

ings are done with

– cases will be presented by the

prosecution and defense, panel members

will deliberate and an outcome will be announced.

How fast all of this happens depends on factors such as what motions are filed and whether any plea bargains are reached.

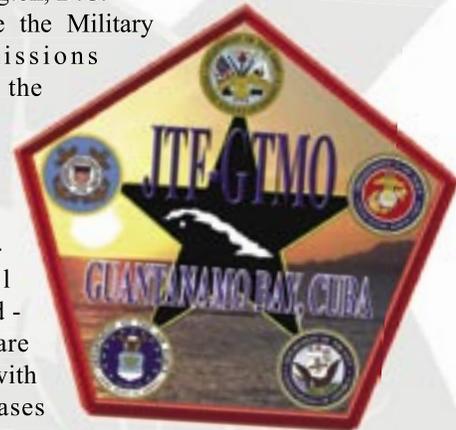
Altenburg emphasized his commitment to openness. But the Military Commissions could be briefly closed to observers to protect sensitive information. Detainee attorneys hold clearances allowing them to see classified information, ensuring fairness.

The courtroom looks much like the civilian version all Americans are familiar with, with prosecution and defense tables facing front. In place of one judge, the Military Commissions panel sits at the front tables facing the audience. Among others present are interpreters, international observers and a pool of eight media representatives.

Other media watch the proceedings on closed-circuit television from nearby.

Troopers will not be able to observe firsthand. But Troopers can relish being a small part of the JTF’s historic mission – something some Troopers will one day share with grandchildren.

“We have nothing to be ashamed of here at Guantanamo,” Sumpter said. “All of our Troopers are well-trained and versed in their duties. Nothing abusive or inhumane occurs on Guantanamo. Standard operating procedures, our military ethics and civilian ethics and screening processes preclude such activities from occurring. No matter what your job at Guantanamo may be, you play an important part in the JTF mission. This is something that your loved ones, your nation and you can be extremely proud of.”



# Cuban-American Trooper Returns for JTF Mission

By Spc. Jody Metzger

The decision to leave was not her idea, though destiny and the revolution of a corrupt leadership intervened. Opposed to the idea of communism, Spc. Mirelys Carvajal and her family went through many trials for their belief of a free life.

Born a Cuban, now an American Trooper, Carvajal serves the mission Operation Enduring Freedom in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Working in the 350th Finance Det. for one and a half years, she has dedicated her life to always working to the best of her abilities, whether it is being a Trooper, a mother, a business owner or a full-time employee.

"This opportunity has given me time to reflect on my goals in life and hope and pray some day soon that I can come back to a free Cuba, where my people have human rights and freedom to speak their minds," Carvajal said.

Eighteen years later, Carvajal has found her way back to her homeland. Whether it was fate or destiny, she feels that coming back is a blessing and that being in Cuba again has given her back the memories of her childhood.

"Everything reminds me of my childhood: The beautiful blue ocean, the hibiscus trees and the birds singing," Carvajal said.

A young Mirelys, along with her parents, fled from Fidel Castro and the iron hand that he has held on Cuban soil since coming to power in 1959.

"Prior to leaving Cuba most of our neighbors, people I grew up and went to school with had turned against us. They felt that since we no longer wanted to be in our country, we betrayed the revolution," Carvajal said.

This dictatorship suppressed the uprising of the Cuban community, bringing thousands to their deaths. Over 84,000 Cubans who have tried to make it to freedom have either drowned or been eaten by sharks, Carvajal said. "The kind of freedom (they risked their lives for), many people take for granted," she said.

Gathering in front of her house, Carva-



Photo by Spc. Jody Metzger

**Army Spc. Mirelys Carvajal, from the 350th Finance Det., expresses happiness and gratitude to her adopted country, the United States. The mission in Guantanamo Bay has given Carvajal the chance to revisit her native country, Cuba.**

jal continued, those that believed in Cuban communism would stand in front of their door and shout *gusanos*, meaning worms, as an insult.

"The day I left, what I remember the most about that terrible time was when my mom was forced to give away our house that my family and neighbors had built," Carvajal said. A common communist belief is that people cannot own anything because everything belongs to the people.

"I remember waving goodbye to my grandma who was trying her best to calm her nerves so I wouldn't panic."

With bags containing three sets of clothing—as much as they were allowed to take—Carvajal and her parents drove to the airport where they were searched thoroughly by Cuban immigration to make sure they did not smuggle anything out,

only taking what was specified on the packing list.

The inspiration to be an American Trooper has led Carvajal to explore many dynamics of her personality through her life experiences. Carvajal's family heritage and the needs of the Army given her a very strange and almost incidental gift: Allowing her the chance to reach back into the memories of her childhood and reacquaint herself with the culture she knew 18 years ago.

Whether it is her countless stories, the intensity of her family heritage, or her memories of childhood, the blue waters that surround Cuba seem to wash away the longing and the remembrance of a life once lived.

Military service was a prophecy, Carvajal explained, a family tradition her father passed down to her. "I guess I got that Soldier instinct from my father who spent many years in the Cuban Army and was deployed to Angola for three years in his desire to contribute to his family," Carvajal said.

Like her father, Carvajal's interest in providing a good life for her son has kept her strong, like a guiding light directing her to do better.

"My support comes from both my mom and dad and influences everything I do," Carvajal said. "They are proud of the job we are doing and my accomplishments."

She spoke of how a part of her is missing her relatives and the culture that she left behind many years ago. Carvajal feels that as a Trooper in the United States Army she will someday be a part, whether directly or indirectly, of guiding her native country to a better understanding of equal rights and the freedom that she knows from being an American.

"Even after all I've gone through I wouldn't change it for the world, because it made me a better person," Carvajal explained. "It made me wiser and gave me the opportunity to be who I am today, a Cuban American and a United States Soldier, who with great pride wears the uniform of freedom."

# Exotic Wildlife Distinguished

## Observing Nature's Unique Creations Enliven



*Hutia*

Story by Pfc. Jessi Stone  
Photos by Pfc. Chris Gardner

**B**elieve it or not, military installations are important locations for wildlife conservation.

Most of the land on military installations is undeveloped and has restricted access, so it provides a stable haven for wildlife, said certified wildlife biologist, Paul Schoenfeld, the Natural Resources manager for Guantanamo Bay.

"Department of Defense land is just as (important) and sometimes more important than national parks and wildlife refuges," he said.

Guantanamo Bay is home to dozens of endangered, protected and endemic species. Endemics are animals found in only one place in the world.

In addition to land creatures that make the base their permanent home, many birds migrate here, whether passing through or staying.

The most obvious of all these creatures are the reptiles, most notably the Cuban rock iguana. This particular species of iguana is federally protected under the Endangered Species Act, and Guantanamo Bay harbors an estimated five percent of all the Cuban rock iguanas in the world, Schoenfeld said. Cuban rock iguanas are an endemic animal.

Other lizards commonly seen are the "curly tails," geckos and anoles. There are three types of curly-tailed lizards on the base, seven types of geckos and

eight anoles. Some species, such as the saw-scaled curly-tailed lizard, are more commonly found than others, Schoenfeld said.

There are six different kinds of snakes on the island, none of which are venomous. The biggest of these snakes is the Cuban boa, reaching up to 20 feet in length. The biggest Cuban boa recorded in Guantanamo Bay was 15 feet long, Schoenfeld said. The Cuban boa is another endemic species, and very prudent conservation measures are taken to ensure the safety of these snakes. Some are equipped with a radio transmitter surgically implanted beneath the skin, keeping track of their location.

A reptile and amphibian expert occasionally comes from the Toledo Zoo, Ohio, to study the snakes of the island, Schoenfeld said.

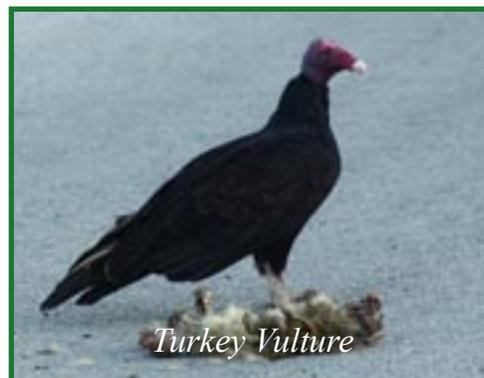
The Natural Resources Department avoids relocating snakes when they are found because the snakes are best off in the places they have made their homes, Schoenfeld said. Only if they are in danger or causing a serious problem are they relocated.

Perhaps the most amazing wildlife on the island are the birds. "The bird life here is the most diverse and spectacular of all the terrestrial life," Schoenfeld said. 178 types of birds may be seen here throughout the year, either resident or migratory birds (here during the fall and winter). Guantanamo Bay is home to the world's smallest bird, the bee hummingbird.

The best time of the year to see migratory birds, Schoenfeld said, is during November and December when



*West Indian Woodpecker*



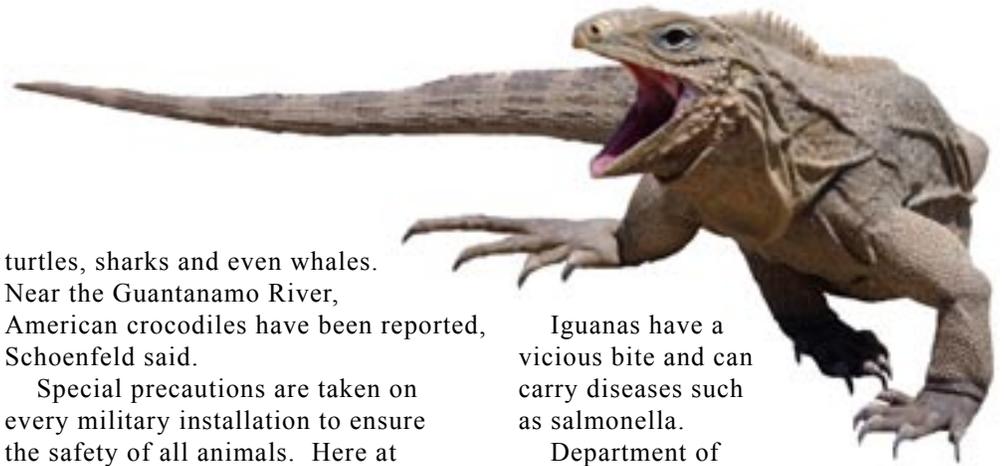
*Turkey Vulture*



*Monarch Butterfly*

# es Bay

## ens Deployment



Iguanas have a vicious bite and can carry diseases such as salmonella.

Department of Defense territories are “often the last stronghold for endangered, threatened and endemic species.”

For more information on the wildlife of Guantanamo Bay, please contact Paul Schoenfeld, base natural resources manager, at 4493 or Petty Officer 1st Class William Barnett, base game warden, at 4331.

the rains cause the salt flats on the leeward side to flood. “You can see thousands of birds,” he said. “Hérons, egrets, pelicans, waterfowl, waders — the diversity is just incredible.”

Guantanamo Bay is also home to birds of prey. Perigrine falcons, the fastest flying bird in the world, make their home here in the winter. There are also many hawks and owls that can be seen around the base.

Not as many mammals have evolved in this part of the world in comparison to other parts, Schoenfeld said. This is known as island biogeography: many species evolving while geographically isolated from mainlands. This biogeography explains the high incidence of endemics, he said. Mammals did not thrive as well as birds and reptiles on these isolated island ecosystems.

One mammal here that everyone knows and sees is the hutia, more commonly known as the “banana rat.” Hutias are actually not rats at all, but they are the common rodents of Cuba. Some varieties of hutia have been so widely hunted that they are extinct or in real danger of extinction. The kind of hutia most often seen here is not one of those varieties; but, its populations are managed. “Everything on this base is treated the same as far as conservation goes,” Schoenfeld said.

Other common terrestrial mammals most often found here are bats. There are many different kinds of bats that live on the base — mostly fruit eating varieties, Schoenfeld said.

Terrestrial animals are not the only spectacular wildlife found in Guantanamo Bay. Many of the exotic creatures reside under water.

The reef life of Guantanamo Bay is typical of any reef in the Caribbean. There are countless, colorful tropical fish that can be easily observed while SCUBA diving or snorkeling, Schoenfeld said. In addition to reef life, Troopers can see manatees, dolphins, sea

turtles, sharks and even whales. Near the Guantanamo River, American crocodiles have been reported, Schoenfeld said.

Special precautions are taken on every military installation to ensure the safety of all animals. Here at Guantanamo Bay many policies are in place to protect the unique wildlife. Beaches are off limits to vehicles to prevent trampling of sea-turtle nests.

A portion of Windmill Beach, a popular nesting ground for sea turtles, has even been closed to pedestrian traffic, Schoenfeld said. With more and more Troopers going to Windmill Beach, these precious nests were in danger of being trampled.

It is also very important for boaters to obey the no-wake zones while cruising in the bay. This is to protect Antillean manatees, whose greatest danger is colliding with boat motors.

No-wake zones are usually posted and include the whole leeward coastline 150 feet out, the St. Nicholas channel, Mahomilla Bay and the entire Guantanamo River. All these areas are highly used manatee areas, although manatees can be found anywhere in the bay’s waters.

Troopers also need to refrain from feeding the wildlife, particularly iguanas. It has happened so much that many iguanas have lost their natural fear of humans. “It ruins the iguanas,” Schoenfeld said. Iguanas become aggressive when they expect food, and unfortunately, small children fall victim most often, Schoenfeld stated.

*Saw-Scaled Curly-Tailed Lizard*



*Cuban Tody*



*Great Lizard Cuckoo*

# SPORTS WIRE

## Unwind by Getting “Tied up” in Brazilian Jiu-jitsu



Photo by Pfc. Chris Gardner

**Sgt. Clifford Meros protects himself against an arm bar from Pfc. Angelo Martinez. “It’s addictive,” said Martinez. He said he thinks about moves when he’s not even training — when he’s doing patrols.**

**By Pfc. Chris Gardner**

Full-body ground grappling in awkward, tied-up positions is a new scene common to lower Camp America — it’s called Brazilian Jiu-jitsu.

Complementing Troopers’ physical training by recreational activity, Brazilian Jiu-

jitsu sessions offer Troopers 14 hours of training monthly for \$40.

Brazilian Jiu-jitsu is an outstanding self-defense discipline whether you’re in combat against the enemy or protecting yourself against a personal assault, said participant Capt. J. Araujo, commander of Char-

lie Company 113th Infantry Regiment. Jiu-jitsu enhances “the ability of an infantryman to hone his skills in hand-to-hand combat,” Araujo said. So impressed by the conditioning of Jiu-jitsu, Araujo made one session a week a mandatory supplement to the infantry company’s physical-training program.

“I wanted to add a different type of physical conditioning, which truly results in a total-body workout,” he said.

After taking on five to six guys in a row, you build stamina, said black-belt Jiu-jitsu instructor, Pfc. Romulo Bittencourt of Charlie Company. Your body changes, losing weight and gaining solid muscle, he said.

The art of Jiu-jitsu is largely based on Ground-Fighting Techniques (GFT), Bittencourt said, initial takedowns requiring “only a couple of seconds.” Moreover, “ninety percent of fights end up on the floor.” He said he trains participants to “finish it” in under a minute — sometimes, in just a few seconds. “Once you’re on the ground, it’s pretty much done.”

Chokeholds, submission holds, leg locks and joint collapses of the ankles, knees, elbows, shoulders and wrists are among some of the variations taught.

Still discovering new chokeholds and grappling techniques, Bittencourt called the variants “innumerable.” It’s all about developing your own style, he said — using what works for you.

Sessions are every Thursday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and

every third week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday (same time). Morning sessions may be available upon request. For more information on the sessions, please contact Capt. J. Araujo at 3161.

*Troopers from C Co. 2-113th, contributed to this report.*



Photo by Pfc. Chris Gardner

**Sgt. Jonathon Keich (above) practices a sidemount, pressing his knee into the stomach of assistant instructor Spc. Alexis Velez. This shows who is dominant in the engagement.**



Photo by Pfc. Chris Gardner

**Staff Sgt. Jeffery Carter avoids Sgt. Clifford Meros’s guard. “I wish when I went through the police academy we would have had Jiu-jitsu ‘hand-to-hand,’” said Meros.**

# JTF Food Services Ensure Quality for Detainees

By Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

Dozens of packages of meat bear a white seal with Arabic lettering at the Seaside Galley kitchen.

The seal certifies that the meat contained inside the package is "Halal" or permitted in accordance with Islamic religious practices. As part of the Islamic religion, Islamic detainees can only eat certified "Halal" meat. This is just one of many of the measures the Joint Task Force food service members take to ensure that meals meet the detainees' religious beliefs.

"We take a lot of pride in how we prepare our food for the detainees," said Chief Warrant Officer Thelma Grannison, JTF food services officer.

The JTF food service, which has members from the Army, Air Force, Marines and Navy, stresses high quality for detainee meals. "We inspect the food for freshness and provide feedback options," said Grannison.

Through coordination with the Naval Base, Pentad Foods cooks and prepares the meals for the detainees, in addition to meals for the JTF. A food service non-commissioned officer will inspect each food item before Troopers arrive to transport the items to Camp Delta. Chief Warrant Officer Grannison also conducts daily inspections.

Food such as bread, fruits, rice and vegetables are placed in plastic containers called "mermites" to ensure freshness. The

Photo by Senior Airman Joe Lacdan



Troopers then transport the food to the detainee blocks, where the Troopers will carry the food on trays. A camp guard will then hand the food to the detainees.

"We want them to have the same quality food that we have here," Grannison said. "They won't get the same items because they have different preferences, but our goal is to have them enjoy their meals the same way we enjoy ours."

Outside of Halal meat and Baklava, a Middle Eastern dessert, most of the detainees' seven-day menu has items similar to Galley menus, said Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Markert, JTF food service Noncommissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC). Bread, fruits, milk, juice and vegetables are on the detainee menu. However, some detainees require meals that aren't on the typical menu.

Meals for detainees with special dietary requirements are prepared at the Naval Hospital on the Windward side's northwest end. For these meals, a doctor's prescription is required. Some detainees can eat only



Photo by Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

soft foods, while other detainees require low-calorie items.

NCOs in charge of each camp keep an inventory of menu items, inspecting them prior to the delivery three times daily, Grannison said. JTF food service Troopers do not prepare the meals, but they do observe cooks as they prepare the detainee meals, said Sgt. 1st Class Ozzie James, Seaside Galley NCOIC.

While some troops are assigned to the detainee food service, others are assigned to serve food in the galley inside "the wire," specially delivering items to Troopers who cannot leave their post. The service in the galley is for Troopers and civilians assigned to work inside the wire.

**JTF Troopers prepare to transport meals to detainees in Camp Delta. The food service members inspect every meal for quality before it can be served. They also certify that meats are "Halal," or permitted in accordance with Islamic religious practices.**

# Airlines Help Troopers Make Most of Hard-Earned Leave

By Spc. Simon Cropp

No one is sure how much it will cost or when it will come, but when Troopers are ready to finally go home on some hard-earned leave time they may not realize there are a few traveling options here in Guantanamo Bay. A Trooper may not want to go home and they have some options. Jamaica is close and so is Puerto Rico — what are the fastest ways to get from tropical desert to a tropical paradise?

Air Sunshine is located next to the downtown Lyceum. The sign above the door says “Tropical Aviation,” and it can be easy to miss.

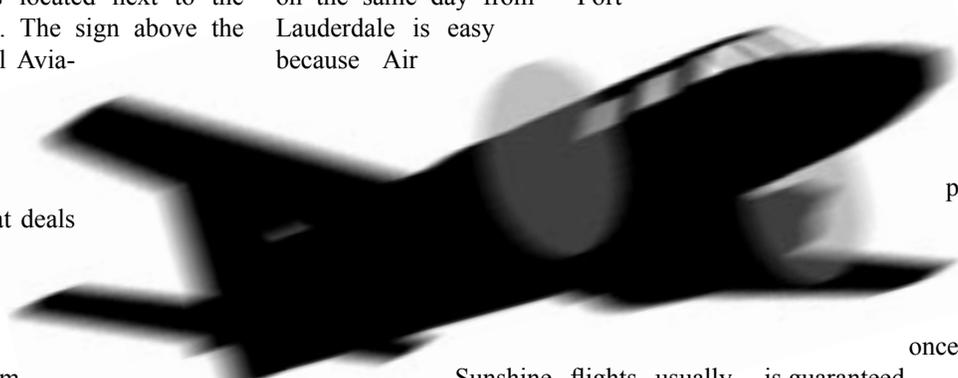
“Tropical Aviation is the part of our company that deals with cargo and Air Sunshine is responsible for transporting people to and from GTMO,” said station manager Lambert Parke.

Different from GTMO’s Rotator, Air Sunshine flies into the civilian airport in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. It takes weekly trips to Jamaica and bi-monthly trips to Puerto Rico, depending on customer demands. Assistant Manager Raymond Reid said this gives Troopers a lot of flexibility when it comes time to head home for a break. The flights to and from GTMO are not only more frequent but leave much earlier than the Rotator.

“This gives some leeway for the people heading home,” Reid said. “Sometimes we’re able to work out specials too if the

company commanders get us a list in advance of dates and times people want to head home; sometimes we can possibly add flights or offer special promotions.”

“This summer, all flights were \$350,” Reid said. Usually a round-trip ticket from GTMO to Fort Lauderdale and back costs approximately \$390. Reid stressed that Air Sunshine remains a popular service because of the flexibility it offers Troopers. Catching a connecting flight on the same day from Fort Lauderdale is easy because Air



Sunshine flights usually land in the airport well before noon.

“We are also trying to work out a package deal with the hotels in Jamaica in the future,” Reid said. The company always tries to find ways to entice and benefit the Troopers in GTMO.

“We’ve been here in Guantanamo for 15 years. We take a lot of pride in what we do and one of the biggest advantages, I think, is that in 15 years I’ve only seen our flights delayed by 24 hours and even that is rare,” Reid added.

Another option for Troopers is Lynx Airlines. The same idea applies for Lynx as does Air Sunshine: Troopers are again

offered a more flexible flight schedule that flies into Fort Lauderdale. There is a difference in price, however, with so many Joint Task Force Troopers taking leave throughout their tours here in GTMO, more availability is better.

At \$411, Lynx Airlines also offers five days of flights leaving the island and four days of return flights to GTMO, these days tend to alternate with Air Sunshine’s days so almost every day of the week has a flight leaving.

Lynx Airlines does not overbook flights so that Troopers are always guaranteed a seat on the flight they’ve purchased. It is common for airlines to overbook, but Lynx feels it is important to let customers know once they buy that ticket, it

is guaranteed.

Air Sunshine can also receive shipments for Troopers, since it flies cargo into GTMO. Troopers can take advantage one to two days shipping for a minimal fee of \$15. Parke said the quick turn around on deliveries is something Troopers are welcome to take advantage of.

Whether or not Troopers decide to use the Rotator or one of the civilian flights when their chance for leave comes up, there are always options and now some flexibility for the hard-working Troopers stationed at GTMO. Both of these airlines are ready to assist anyone with questions. Air Sunshine can be reached at 4915, and Lynx Air can be reached at 4106.

## Rotator Flight a Money-Saving Option for Troopers

The Rotator is one of three flight options offered to Troopers stationed in Guantanamo Bay. A round-trip ticket on the Rotator costs approximately \$360 and leaves GTMO every Saturday and every other Tuesday. It lands at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Fla., during the afternoon. For Troopers wanting to save a little money on their flights home, the Rotator offers space available (Space A) flights for about \$25 one way; however, the cheap price comes with a certain risk. There is always the possibility of getting

bumped by a person of higher rank or a higher paying customer and with the limited flights on the Rotator, it is not always a safe bet.

Some flights are less full than others, and Space A options are better served heading out of GTMO than coming back in. Still a one-way Space A ticket significantly reduces the cost of airfare. The best thing a Trooper can do is prepare for leave in advance and explore all available options. As always keep an open mind and a little flexibility.

# ! WORLD WIRE

... News ... Sports ... Entertainment ...

**Aug. 16:** President Bush plans to recall thousands of troops abroad from mostly Europe and Asia in an attempt to centralize the forces at home so they can respond faster to international crises. ... **“Alien vs. Predator”** was this weekend’s top box office movie. ... Privately owned companies jump into the **space race** in an effort to prove that space travel does not need to be a government-funded undertaking. ...

**Aug. 17:** A new world population report finds there will be population decreases in Europe in the next 50 years, however the overall **world population** will skyrocket to nine billion. ... Saudi Arabia uses the recently drafted **9/11 report** in an attempt to show they have contributed to the war on

terror after their government was recently accused of not doing enough. ...

**Aug. 18:** What started as a fun night by a bonfire in London turns into fiery horror as a rabbit, caught by the blaze, runs from the bonfire and into a cricket club’s equipment shed. The **burning rabbit** catches the shed on fire, causing over \$100,000 in damage—the rabbit’s bones are found and the firemen are reported to be concerned. ... Florida’s Attorney General, Charlie Crist, sues at least two hotels suspected of price gouging in response to **Hurricane Charley**—Crist believes the two hotels took advantage of people who fled the destruction of the hurricane.

**Aug. 19:** Amidst the claims that **John**

**Kerry** did not fight bravely under enemy fire while serving in Vietnam, military records are released that not only counter his critics claims, but also show that some of his critics were similarly awarded bronze stars alongside Kerry ... **A bear** in Washington breaks into a cooler, and drinks about 36 cans of beer before passing out on the lawn of a resort community—not only did the bear seem to have a preference for the locally brewed Ranier over Busch, but when wildlife agents tried to chase it off it lumbered up a nearby tree and passed out for another four hours.

*Spc. Simon Cropp compiles the World-Wire from a variety of online and print news services.*

# ... Faith ... Belief ... Counseling ...

# ! WORSHIP WIRE

## Getting To Know God

There is an old story of a worship service long ago at a large downtown church, which was filled to capacity for a famous preacher. The preacher was known for his oratory skills and masterful use of the English language. He was preaching that day from the famous 23rd Psalm, known as the shepherd’s psalm. The pastor of the church had asked for the scripture to be read that day by a poorly educated member of the church, who had lived a rough life and had experienced a marvelous life-saving conversion to Christ just a year ago. His clothing, appearance, and speaking skills stood in stark contrast to the polished preacher. He walked to the pulpit to read the scripture, and began: “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want ...” The man read with such depth of emotion and meaning that when he finished the psalm there was not a dry eye in the church. The guest preacher then came to the pulpit to preach and made this admission to the congregation. “I may

know the 23rd Psalm inside and out, but this man who just read to you knows the Shepherd better than I”.

In this story we see the difference between knowing about the Bible and knowing the Author of the Book. There is a big difference between knowing about God and knowing God. Jesus said, “If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well.”(John 14:7)

In the Christian faith the key to getting to know God is knowing Jesus Christ. And He is easy to get to know! He wants to be a part of our life. In the front of church in which I was raised there was a copy of a very famous painting called “Jesus Knocking at the Door.” It is based on Rev. 3:20, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in.” All we need do is open the door of our life to Jesus. Getting to know God really is that easy!

*-Chaplain (Maj.) Steve Herman*

## Padre’s Corner

“My Soul Proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit finds joy in God, my savior!” These words, spoken by Mary, after the angels’ message that she was to be the Mother of the Lord, capture the freedom, joy and life direction of the Christian. Do we know the “greatness of the Lord?” Sometimes our speech and attitudes tell another story. It is as if we have made a god in our own image and likeness, one that is indeed narrow and not so powerful. Imagine, the God of Creation taking on human flesh so that we might be taken up into His own divine life. When we know not just in our heads but in our hearts the greatness of the Lord’s joy comes easily. Come to the chapel service of your choice and exercise your JOY!

*-Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.)  
James Dowds*

# 15 Minutes of Fame

... with Sgt. Brandy Bowe ...



Photo by Spc. Jody Metzger

**By Spc. Jody Metzger**

*Sgt. Brandy Bowe from Kokomo, Ind., is a dedicated Trooper, motivating many by her drive and focus to be the best. You can see this in her outstanding PT score—well over the 300 point maximum—and her many accomplishments while in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Unlike many Troopers here, Bowe chose to extend in GTMO to not only support what she felt as a most worthy mission but to be closer to her husband, Staff Sgt. Kevin Bowe. As a corrections officer attached to the 783rd Military Police Co., Bowe's strengths exemplify the importance of a true leader and a great Trooper who inspires those around her.*

**The Wire: What motivates you to perform your job?**

**Sgt. Brandy Bowe:** Watching what is happening on the news, I feel motivated by what we are doing here to help the Global War on Terrorism.

**What do you enjoy about your job?**

Back home, I was a college student in Criminal Justice, so being here and actually working corrections is a great experience. I enjoy being here and doing my job as

an MP and getting the hands-on experience I would never have had if it weren't for this mission. I have been here over a year and there are still a lot of things that I am learning.

**What was your inspiration for joining the Army as an MP?**

My family has always been in the military. My dad was an officer and that was one thing that led me into the military. A lot of people join the military for college; for me it was experience and something I knew I had to do.

**How does your family feel about your deployment?**

My parents are very proud of me. I am the first member in my family to get deployed. My dad who was an officer in the 150th Special Operations was never deployed. You know the movie

"Black Hawk Down?" He knew those people who died. My dad was next in line before they shut the mission down.

**What are your future plans?**

I want a job in the Drug Enforcement Agency. The last time we went on leave, my husband and I both went and took the New York Police Academy test and passed. When I get home I want to go through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program and finish college.

**What inspires you to do better?**

I have been here for over a year and I have seen people do things that I told myself I wouldn't do. I have worked with people who really know their job, and then I have worked with those that have poor leadership. Being a good non-commissioned officer and leader is truly what inspires me to do better.

**What are your accomplishments?**

I have been to the Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) since I have been here and graduated as an honor graduate. I've worked several missions since I've been here and have worked pretty much everywhere. I have also maintained

my physical fitness.

**What advice can you give to the Troopers deployed to the JTF mission?**

I have learned that you need to be totally prepared, you need to be aware of what is going on, and you need to separate yourself from the situations by finding interests outside of work. We all work hard here, and we try to come out ahead.

**What made you want to extend?**

This is not my favorite place, but I wanted to extend to be with my husband. He got here in May, and my unit left about two weeks after his unit got deployed. He pushed for me to extend so that we could be here together. The main reason I wanted to be here was to be with my husband. We have been apart for almost a year, and we realized how different we were when we got back together.

**What is it like having your husband on a deployment?**

Here my husband and I have each other to get us through the deployment. We are really lucky.

**How do you feel about working for the JTF and supporting the mission here?**

I feel really proud of what I do. There is not a moment when I don't feel like I am serving a purpose. There is a purpose behind all of this. We might not see it but I hear it. I hear it from people I work with in different military branches. I hear day after day that we are making a difference by providing valuable information. I feel proud of what I do and also enjoy working with the other military branches.

**Whether in Iraq, fighting the war on terrorism or serving Operation Enduring Freedom, how do you feel about your part in it?**

The people over in Iraq are putting their life on the line. They do go through a heck of a lot more. They deserve a lot of credit. It's a different kind of mission, but we all come together in the end.

**What do you consider your best military experience?**

It's being here, using what I learned in the military to do my job and serving the mission for Operation Enduring Freedom.

# GUIDE WIRE

... Movies ... Buses ... Worship ... Galleys ... Safety ... Updates ...

Friday, August 20, 2004

## BAD TASTE BOWL-A-RAMA!

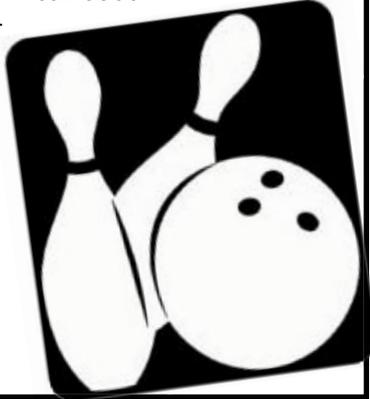
The Combat Stress Control Team is hosting a Bad Taste Bowl-A-Rama on Sunday, August 22nd, and wants YOU to participate! The event includes free food for all, free bowling for participants, free fun, and prizes. Prizes will be awarded for the tackiest outfit and highest and lowest team scores (no throwing of the game, please).

The competition is open to all Joint Task Force Troopers, and will

include a panel of VERY distinguished judges.

The fun starts at 3 p.m. at Marblehead Lanes.

For more information call 3566.



## Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous meets Mondays, Wednesdays and

Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. in Room 4A at Chapel Hill.

## BUSES

Bus Stop Routes include the following stops. Not all stops are listed. Times listed are for every hour of the day (i.e. First Street - 12:00, 12:30, Ferry Landing - 12:17, 12:51, etc.).

### Sherman Avenue

First Street - :00; :30  
 East Caravella - :03; :33  
 Marine Hill - :05; :35  
 Post Office - :10; :40  
 Windjammer - :11; :41  
 NEX - :14; :44  
 Bulkeley Landing - :17; :47  
 Ferry landing - :21; :51  
 Commissions Building - :23; :53  
 Ordnance - :26; :56  
 Bulkeley Landing - :28; :58  
 NEX - :32; :02  
 Windjammer - :36; :06  
 Post Office - :37; :07  
 Marine Hill - :41; :11  
 Hospital - :48; :18  
 Windward Loop 1 - :52; :22

### Camp America/NEX

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

## CINEMA

### DOWNTOWN LYCEUM

#### FRIDAY

8 p.m. *Dodgeball*

PG-13 - 92 min

10 p.m. *Collateral*

R - 120 min

#### SATURDAY

8 p.m. *Two Brothers*

PG - 105 min

10 p.m. *Spider-Man 2*

PG-13 128 min

#### SUNDAY

8 p.m. *The Manchurian Candidate*

R - 130 min

#### MONDAY

8 p.m. *Collateral*

R - 120 min

#### TUESDAY

8 p.m. *Spider-Man 2*

PG-13 128 min

#### WEDNESDAY

8 p.m. *Catwoman*

PG-13 - 104 min

#### THURSDAY

8 p.m. *White Chicks*

PG-13 - 108 min

### CAMP BULKELEY

#### FRIDAY

8 p.m. *The Terminal*

PG-13 - 128 min

10 p.m. *The Notebook*

PG-13 - 128 min

#### SATURDAY

8 p.m. *White Chicks*

PG-13 - 108 min

10 p.m. *Collateral*

R - 120 min

#### SUNDAY

8 p.m. *Spider-Man 2*

PG-13 128 min

#### MONDAY

8 p.m. *The Manchurian Candidate*

R - 130 min

#### TUESDAY

8 p.m. *Catwoman*

PG-13 - 104 min

#### WEDNESDAY

8 p.m. *Collateral*

R - 120 min

#### THURSDAY

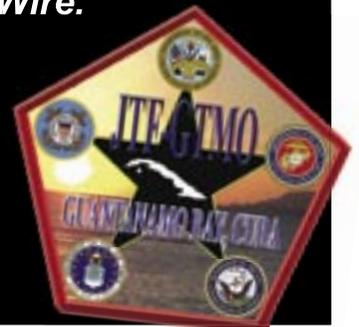
8 p.m. *Dodgeball*

PG-13 - 92 min

## FOR THE RECORD

*The Wire* strives for accuracy. When we fail, we accept responsibility for our errors and correct them. Please call Sgt. Scott Griffin

at 3499 if you see an error in *The Wire*.



## MANDATORY DEPARTURE TRAINING!

Deployment Cycle Support (DCS) training is mandatory for all Joint Task Force personnel within 90 days of departure from Guantanamo Bay. The next three DCS classes are from Aug. 24 to Aug. 25, Sept. 8 to Sept. 9, and Sept. 21 to Sept. 22. The first day of class will be from 8:30 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. and is required for everyone. Both days are required for

National Guard and Reservists; the second day will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon. These classes will be held in Trooper's Chapel in Camp America. Unit administrators should register their entire units and individual augmentees should register themselves by contacting Senior Airman Michael Weems at [WeemsMA@JTFGTMO.southcom.mil](mailto:WeemsMA@JTFGTMO.southcom.mil).

## GTMO 10-Miler Closing In!

The GTMO 10-Miler is fast approaching on Aug. 22, and there have been some changes to the previously announced schedule.

Buses will be available to shuttle runners to Cable Beach. They will depart from Camp America MWR Building #2300 at 5:30 a.m. The bus will then depart

from TK Housing at 5:45 a.m. The last pick-up is at the main gym parking lot at 6 a.m. sharp.

The Race starts at 6:30 a.m., so don't be late! Remember to hydrate and stretch, and most importantly, have fun!

Sign up at the Base Gym or with your MWR rep. For more info call 3540 or 3670.

## Commander's Prayer Breakfast!

The Commander's Prayer Breakfast is being held on Aug. 25th at the Seaside Galley. The first speaker will be the JDOG commander, Col. Brice Gyurisko. The theme of the presentation will be the high standards of morals, values and ethics—all things that are important for spiritual fitness building!

People of all faiths, no faiths, and uncertain faiths

are welcome to attend the Commander's Prayer Breakfast. It will involve prayers for command, mission and fellow Troopers around the world. For questions, please contact Chaplain (Capt.) Kent Svendson at 3242.

Troopers can take heart in the fact there is always a place to go, stress-free and away from the rigors of everyday life in GTMO.

# WORSHIP

### CAMP AMERICA

<b>Sunday</b>	9 a.m.	Protestant Service	Troopers Chapel
	7:30 p.m.	Catholic Mass	Troopers Chapel
	7:30 p.m.	Protestant Service	Bldg. 3203
<b>Tuesday</b>	7 p.m.	Alpha	Bldg. L001
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:30 p.m.	Soul Survivor	Club Survivor
<b>Thursday</b>	7 p.m.	Thursday Night Ticket	Bldg. L001

### NAVBASE CHAPEL

<b>Sunday</b>	8 a.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Sanctuary C
	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	
	11 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel
	1 p.m.	New Life Fellowship	Main Chapel
<b>Monday</b>	5 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Sanctuary C
	7 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
<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>	5:30 p.m.	Vigil Mass	Main Chapel

For information on Jewish services call 2323

# DINING

**Today:** Lunch - Beef Cubes; dinner - Seafood Platter

**Saturday:** Lunch - Baked Fish; dinner - Chicken Parmesan

**Sunday:** Lunch - Roast Porkloin; dinner - Shepherd's Pie

**Monday:** Lunch - Pepper Steak; dinner - Roast Turkey

**Tuesday:** Lunch - Barbecued Chicken; dinner - Fajitas

**Wednesday:** Lunch - Pineapple Chicken; dinner - Spareribs

**Thursday:** Lunch - Chicken Breasts; dinner - Salisbury Steak

**Friday:** Lunch - Parmesan Fish; dinner - Lobster Tails

