

THE WIRE

Magazine



**Commissions Return to
Guantanamo**
Holiday Mail Information
Visitation Policy

Warrior spirit leaves indelible mark

By Sgt. Maj. John Jenson

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Camp Commandant

This month is very personal to me since by presidential proclamation it is officially Native American Heritage Month. One of my most rewarding assignments was as the first sergeant of Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery – an Oklahoma Army National Guard unit from Anadarko, Oklahoma who served in Operation Enduring Freedom. Anadarko is nationally known as the “Indian Capital of the Nation” and is located on the Washita River in Caddo County, the tribal headquarters for the Comanche, Apache, Kiowa and Wichita Indians.

Traditionally Army National Guard units are composites of the local demographics so my firing battery was sixty percent Native American. I was able to witness first hand an inherent value in their culture and that is the proud warrior tradition – a tradition and proven history of the willingness to engage the enemy in battle. In my unit was Staff Sergeant Roderick Poolaw who personified the warrior spirit in every task he was given. He also happened to be the grandson of First Sergeant Pascal Poolaw, America’s most decorated Indian soldier.

Native Americans are no different from others who have volunteered for military service. Although they are the indigenous people of America, they did not receive American citizenship or the right to vote until the passing of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1919, even though their military service has been sought since the birth of America.

During World War I, Choctaw Indians from Oklahoma were assigned to the 141st, 142nd and 143rd Infantries of the 36th Infantry Division. These soldiers employed their unwritten, ‘obsolete’ language as the code for sensitive intelligence transmissions, a code that was never broken by German intelligence. This group was the first of the Native American “code talkers.”

Among these code talkers was a young Native American from the Kiamichi Mountains of Southeast Oklahoma, who exemplified the courageous fighting spirit



of the American Indian. While in the Meuse-Argonne campaign, Private Joseph Oklahombi stormed an enemy position and subsequently discovered a group of 250 German soldiers bivouacked in a cemetery. The cemetery had high walls and only one gate, so he blocked the gate and killed 79 of the soldiers until the remaining surrendered. For his actions during the Battle of Mont Blanc he was awarded the Silver Star and the French Croix de Guerre. Less than 25 years after the WWI armistice the military would once again call upon the code talkers – Comanches in Europe and Navajo in Asia.

No other military unit in America has had a higher percentage of Native American soldiers than the “Thunderbirds” of the 45th Infantry Division, who served during World War II. General George C. Patton Jr. once told the unit: “Born at sea, baptized in blood, your fame shall never die. The 45th is one of the best if not actually the best division in the history of American arms.” For the Native American soldiers who fought with the 45th, that statement became a reality; three returned home to Oklahoma with the Medal of Honor.

Native Americans continue to serve our nation with distinction. Their service comes from the fiercely proud tradition of a martial culture. Throughout their service they have left an indelible mark in military history: 24 Medal of Honor recipients and a strong tradition of service to the United States Armed Forces. This month I pay homage to these Warriors.

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ON THE COVER:

The Lighthouse museum maintains a discreet collection of worn and dilapidated rafts once used by Cuban and Haitian refugees to come to Guantanamo Bay. (Photo by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger)



The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regards to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by the Document Automation & Production Service with a circulation of 700.

Khadr arraigned in military commissions hearing

By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

A Canadian-born detainee held in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, since his capture on the battlefield in Afghanistan at age 15 was arraigned by a military commission on Nov. 8.

During the arraignment of Omar Khadr, a 21-year-old detainee who was captured in Afghanistan in 2002, his attorneys deferred the opportunity to enter a plea for the charges against him or to raise any motions until a later date.

Earlier this year at a June 4 hearing, Khadr's combatant status became a critical issue after Military Commissions Judge Army Col. Peter Brownback dismissed his charges concluding that the court lacked personal jurisdiction over the accused. The judge's ruling was based on the failure of the Combatant Status Review Tribunal (CSRT) to properly establish whether Khadr is an "unlawful" enemy combatant, which Judge Brownback believed was a prerequisite to the military commission's ability to exercise personal jurisdiction.

During a period before the Military Commissions Act (MCA) was promulgated, the CSRT reviewed Khadr's case and determined he was an enemy combatant without considering if he was unlawful. According to Brownback's interpretation of the Act, this failure to make an unlawful status determination prevented the military commission from having personal jurisdiction to hear the case.

The United States Court of Military Commissions review reversed the military judge's ruling that he lacked authority to hear evidence on, and ultimately decide, the matter of Khadr's "unlawful enemy combatant status" under the provisions of the MCA.

The CMRC ruling caused Judge



Courtroom sketch from Khadr Hearing, June 2007

Brownback to revisit the issue of jurisdiction during the Nov. 8 hearing. Although the prosecution was prepared to present evidence establishing that Khadr is an "alien unlawful enemy combatant." Judge Brownback concluded that the prosecution's presentation of evidence was unnecessary since the CMRC's ruling allowed the court to presume that personal jurisdiction exists until it is challenged by the defense in future proceedings.

Charges against Khadr include murder of a U.S. Soldier and attempted murder of U.S. military or coalition forces by making and planting improvised explosive devices in violation of the law of war. Khadr also faces charges of spying and conspiring with Osama bin Laden and other Al Qaeda members.

Throughout the proceedings, the defense reiterated its belief that Khadr cannot receive a fair trial under the military commission's process. During the hearing, the defense engaged in voir dire – [a questioning] of the military judge to determine his qualifications and to reveal any reasons that may disqualify him from presiding over the case. After the voir dire, Defense Chief Counsel Lt. Cmdr. William C. Kuebler challenged Brownback's

ability to serve as judge based on his lack of impartiality in light of political pressures from Washington. Although the judge denied the challenge, Kuebler stated he was uncertain of judge Brownback's qualifications and his ability to effectively preside over the case.

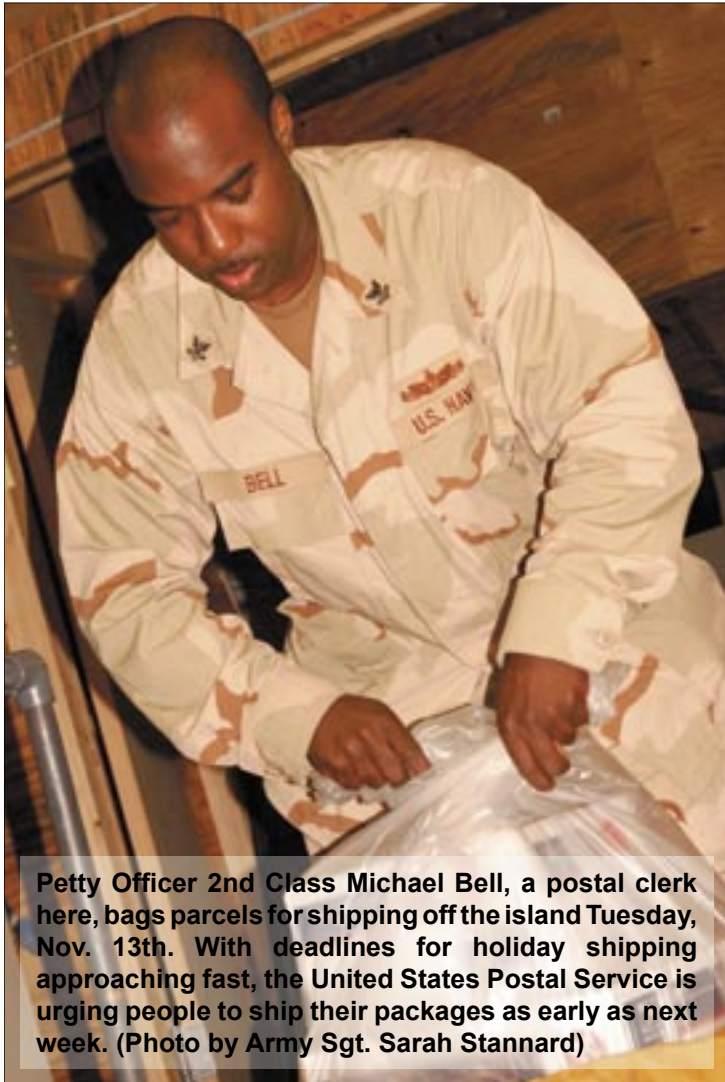
"I thought the judge's voir dire is significant in showing to the appellate court at some point and certainly to the interested public just how much pressure the Department of Defense and others are under to get this process moving," said Kuebler.

During a press conference following the hearing, Kuebler said he was pleased with the outcome of the hearing.

Brownback set the deadlines to file motions in Khadr's case for Dec. 7, 2007 and Jan. 11, 2008, and no trial date has been scheduled.

The next commission hearing is scheduled for Dec. 5, when Military Commissions Judge Navy Capt. Keith Allred will hear the case of Salim Ahmed Hamdan, a Yemeni suspected of working as Bin Laden's personal driver and bodyguard. In June, Allred dismissed charges against Hamdan because he had not been designated as an "alien unlawful enemy combatant."

Holiday mail deadlines fast approaching



Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Bell, a postal clerk here, bags parcels for shipping off the island Tuesday, Nov. 13th. With deadlines for holiday shipping approaching fast, the United States Postal Service is urging people to ship their packages as early as next week. (Photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard)

Story by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Holiday parcels and packages are already flooding into the more than 187,000 United States Postal Service offices operated across the continental U.S. With the amount of holiday mail expected to set records this year, Santa may not be the only one working overtime during this holiday season.

The USPS, which already processes approximately 703 million pieces of mail on an average day, reported that they expect to process over 1.7 billion pieces throughout the holiday season that begins next week and runs through New Year's Day. While the post offices here will not process near the volume of their counterparts in the

States, they still recommend that residents post their holiday mail in plenty of time to reach its destination, said Petty Officer 1st Class Lisa Bennett, a postal clerk here.

The USPS also recommends that family members of loved ones deployed or living overseas post their parcels as early as this week to ensure they reach their destinations on time. Due to the increased numbers of Troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, about 20 million

pounds of mail are expected over the next month and a half, according to an official USPS source. Anyone posting letters or packages to these areas of operation should send them no later than Dec. 4.

Sending packages on time to loved ones stateside is equally problematic from Guantanamo Bay's remote location. With mail flights departing the island three times per week, at most, residents mailing packages should plan for at least two weeks between shipment and arrival during the regular mailing season. For the holiday season, the post office recommends shipping packages by parcel post as soon as possible, and 1st Class letters, postcards and priority mail no later than Dec. 11.

The post office can provide patrons with flat-rate boxes of various sizes. These boxes can be shipped priority mail to national and international locations for a flat rate of \$8.95.

If patrons choose not to use USPS boxes, they should remove all irrelevant package markings and labels from re-used boxes. Also, tape designed especially for shipping should be used, never string or twine. Glass should be carefully wrapped in newspaper or Bubble Wrap. If shipping a picture, remove the glass from the frame and wrap it separately. Batteries should be removed from toys and electronics and likewise wrapped separately.

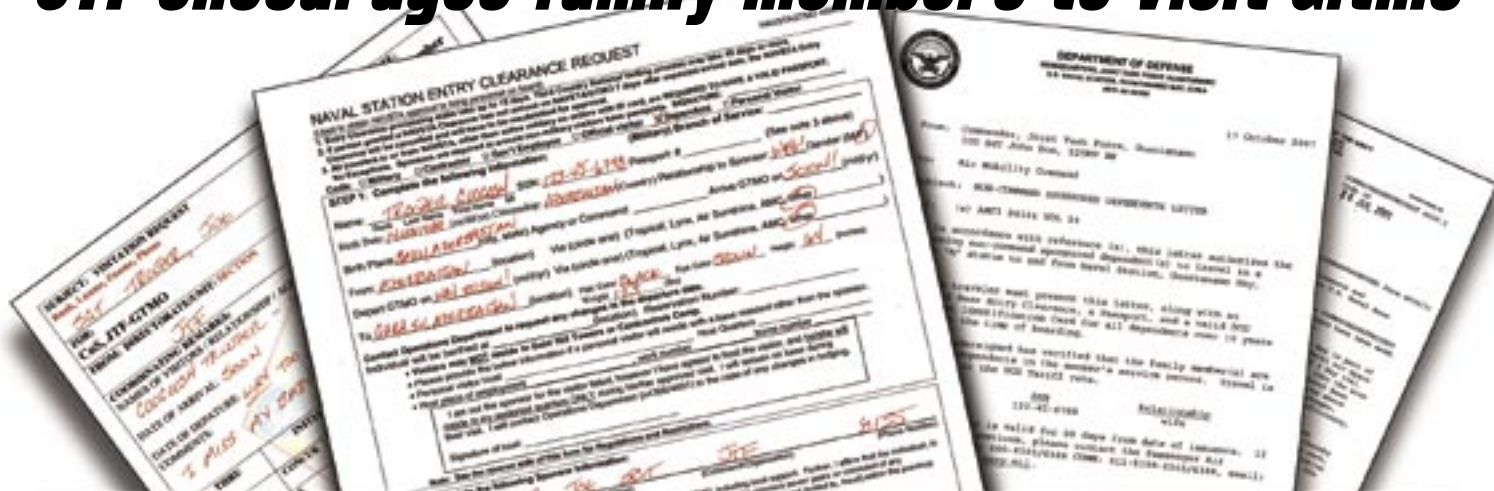
Guantanamo residents mailing items will also have to fill out customs forms for all packages, Bennett said. Recording the approximate value and weight of each item in the parcel will help ensure that boxes will not be opened during shipment.

The USPS has two locations in Guantanamo Bay, one to service the naval station and one to service Camp America residents. The naval station post office, located across Sherman Ave. from Recreation Rd., is open Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Camp America post office is located across from the chaplain's office and is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and Saturdays 9 a.m. to noon.

The naval station post office accepts cash and credit cards and the Camp America post office accepts cash only.

While restrictions are not common on packages being mailed to the U.S., residents should contact the post office prior to mailing any fruits or vegetables. For more information on holiday season mail procedures, residents should contact the naval station post office at 2156, the Camp America post office at 3873 or visit the United States Postal Service Website at USPS.com.

JTF encourages family members to visit Gitmo



Story by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

‘Home away from home’ is a motto that service members adopt to help them adapt to their ever-changing surroundings. Every Trooper makes the decision to support and defend our freedom. However, with this declaration comes difficult consequences. Missed birthday parties, graduations and holidays are cherished celebrations Troopers often miss while serving their country.

It is because of these hardships that Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay are spearheading a morale support operation to let dependents, family members and friends visit Troopers while stationed here.

This privilege is afforded to Troopers under JTF Policy #4 that stipulates Troopers’ leave options as well as their privilege to visitation by order of the JTF Commander, Rear Adm. Mark Buzby, and the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Commander, Capt. Mark Leary.

Troopers must meet two qualifications to bring visitors to the island. They first must be on orders to Guantanamo Bay for at least 365 days, and second, they must be mobilized National Guard, mobilized individual augmentees or on permanent change of station status. Any service member who qualifies is

eligible to bring a visitor.

JTF Command Master Chief Brad LeVault has a vested interest in this program’s success since it is his job to supervise all affairs related to enlisted Troopers’ health and well being. LeVault says that if Troopers work through the set of instructions in JTF Policy #4 properly, the system will work for their benefit. LeVault noted, however, that there are always a few occasions where someone misses a step and lives to regret it. Just recently, LeVault explained, there was a Trooper who brought his wife to visit but failed to fax her the necessary country clearance that would allow her to enter the base.

“She did not have a clearance in hand when she stepped off the plane, so she was on the next plane back to the States,” said LeVault. In cases like this it is best to remember to “follow the step-by-step guide and prepare your visitor with all the information,” he said.

The helpful instructions found on the JTF intranet Web site outline in detail Troopers’ responsibilities to prepare and arrange for visitors to stay. Here, explains LeVault, you will find one set of instructions, JTF Policy #4 and four forms: The Naval Station Entry Clearance Request (COMNAVBASEGTMO4650/8), regulations and restrictions, a non-command sponsored dependents letter

and a routing form.

The first step, LeVault says, is accessing the intranet and then pulling up Policy #4 through the Pubs link. The Naval Station Entry Clearance Request is the most important document and must be completed before any other steps are taken.

“Troopers have to have this entry level request to arrive and depart from Guantanamo. This paper authorizes them to be here,” he said. The country clearance must be accompanied with a passport, explained LeVault. Anybody who is not active duty military with orders needs to have a passport, he said.

The non-command sponsored dependents letter is only applicable to those Troopers bringing their dependents over on the Air Mobility Command rotator. LeVault stresses that these dependents must be listed in the service member’s file for them to be considered.

“The undersigned on the non-command sponsored dependents letter that are listed as dependents in the Troopers service records will be given a DoD rate. The dependents will be a husband, wife or child or a listed dependent that will be authorized the DoD rate. If they are not listed in your service records as being your dependent, you will not get a non-command sponsored letter,” said LeVault.

Sellen predicts LSU vs. Sooners ... but says anything is possible



Photos courtesy www.espn.com

▲Sports Analyst Supreme Patrick Sellen predicts LSU vs. Oregon for the Championship in New Orleans but says that with a season as wacky as this, anything can happen.

By Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

With three weeks to go in the college football season there is still a lot left to be decided. The top five teams all have three games left and whoever survives at the top will meet in the Bowl Championship Series Championship game in New Orleans. So let's take a look at what these teams have left to tackle:

1. LSU Tigers

The Tigers ascended to the #1 ranking for the second time this season. If the Tigers want to hold on to that ranking, they still have work to do. The Tigers travel to Ole Miss this weekend and then host Arkansas, Nov. 23. The Bayou Bengals are heavily favored to win both games by large margins. If the Tigers do win both games, they will play in the SEC championship game against the SEC East Champ. This will be their toughest test; if they pull it off, they should be in the BCS title game.

2. Oregon Ducks

I have to be honest folks until Thursday night I thought the Ducks would waddle their way into the championship game; however, the Ducks suffered two devastating

losses last night. The first was their Heisman Trophy candidate quarterback Dennis Dixon who went down with a serious leg injury, and the second and far more damaging, was a 34-24 loss to the Arizona Wildcats. Without Dixon, the Oregon offense is porous at best and their defense remains suspect. I do not usually believe that one player makes a football team, but in this case, Dixon's health dramatically affects the rest of the Duck's season and any New Year's Day bowl bids.

3. Kansas Jayhawks

The Jayhawks are the only undefeated team left in this group and, if they remain that way, should play for the BCS title; however, I don't think they will. The Jayhawks play Iowa State this weekend at home and should walk away with the win. The following week the Jayhawks host the #5 ranked Missouri Tigers and this is where I think the Jayhawks will falter. If they get past the Tigers, they will probably play the #4 ranked Oklahoma Sooners in the Big 12 Championship game where they will be the underdog despite their unbeaten record and higher ranking. Good Luck, Jayhawks!

4. Oklahoma Sooners

The Sooners travel to Lubbock to play Texas Tech and then return home to play

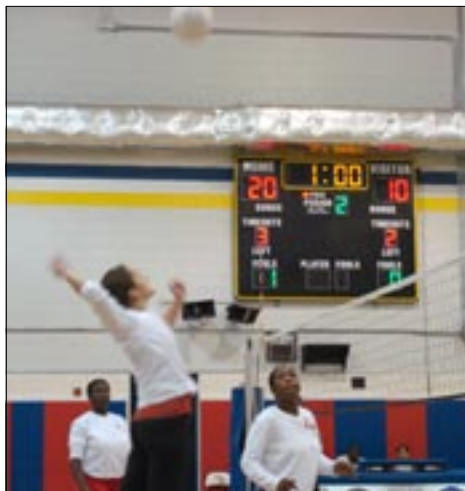
their in-state rivals, the Oklahoma State Cowboys. Neither opponent should be overlooked, but I think the Sooners' talent will prevail. After the Sooners take care of business in those games, they will play the winner of Missouri-Kansas in the Big Twelve Championship game. Add another Big Twelve Championship to the Sooners resume.

5. Missouri Tigers

Missouri has been another big surprise this season and are in a position to play in one of the BCS bowl games, if not the Championship game. After reading the previous predictions on Kansas and Oklahoma, you know that I think the Tigers will beat Kansas after they handle KSU this weekend, but will fall short against the Sooners in the Big Twelve Championship game. Nevertheless, they should still have a shot at a BCS bowl game.

With three weeks left it will not surprise me (given the way this season has gone) if none of these five teams were in the final game. With that said, I say it will be a rematch of the 2003 BCS championship game with the LSU Tigers taking on the Oklahoma Sooners. Sit back, hang on and enjoy the rest of the ride.

Slamming Sisters finish season undefeated, meanwhile ...



Audrey Chapman spikes the volleyball towards her opponents while teammates Natalie Thomas and Deyen Greene look on during the Captain's Cup tournament finals held Nov. 9. (Photo courtesy of Lupe Beltran)

Captain's Cup Volleyball Tournament champions were decided in two intense match-ups Nov. 9 at the J.G. Dennich Gym here. Both the first and second seed teams from the men's and women's brackets found themselves battling on a sweat-drenched court to claim mintonette victory – and a couple big ol' trophies.

In the women's competition, Blunt Trauma ranked second after regular season play took on their rival team, the undefeated Slamming Sisters. An exciting first set, the teams alternated points – matched in skill and speed – and taking Blunt Trauma within one for set point. A side out left Trauma at 24-22 but left the Sisters with the serve. Running off three rockets, the Sisters were up 25-24 (and the set was again within one point of completion) when a Sisters hitting error turned the ball back over to Trauma – 25s all around. Trauma managed one more point before the ball was again regained by the Sisters, and the game was tied ... again. A reception error from Trauma gave the Sisters the ace they needed to

Nothing Drops upsets PPI for tourney win

Story by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office



Captain's Cup Volleyball Tournament second place winners, PPI, hold up their trophy after three hard fought sets against Nothing Drops, Friday, Nov. 9th. (Photo courtesy of Lupe Beltran)

win the first stanza, 27-26.

The second set promised to be much faster than the first – but that promise was broken. With the Slamming Sisters up 9-7 and with the serve, ace after ace left Trauma in a campfire. The Sister's 10 point run took them within six of the set – and the match. But, Trauma was not going to give up so easily and gave the Sisters all they could handle in a 13-3 run. With the Sister leading 22-20, Trauma's service error turned the ball over to the Sisters who, at 23-20, took the final two points for the match.

The men's match up was equally as thrilling as the number one seeded PPI took on the second seed, Nothing Drops. Bringing every one of their renowned power hitters – and even a few not so renowned – Nothing Drops managed to pull out a 25-21 victory in the first set against PPI's scrappy

defense. To the disappointment of the fans, Nothing Drops lost their momentum in the second stanza, and it appeared it may never have been found again. PPI ran up the score 19-9 before Nothing Drops decided they may have actually come to play, got the side out and went on 11-3 run, taking the team within two of the leaders. Both teams played immaculate power ball, tying the game at 23. A Nothing Drops hitting error gave PPI the advantage, as they grabbed the set 25-23.

In the deciding set of the match Nothing Drops jumped out to an early lead as they served up six unreturnable power serves, before they finally lost the serve to a digging error. A seesaw game from six-love to the end, the teams exchanged the ball each serve until Nothing Drops finally secured the game, set and title at 15-13.

Guantanamo's lonely places rekindle memories

By Army Sgt. Jody Metzger



Refugee Boatyard

Refugee Boatyard

The lighthouse grounds are home to a collection of dilapidated boats once floated into Guantanamo Bay in 1994 & 1995.

Lighthouse and Museum

Its white conical cast-iron tower stands as a beacon to Guantanamo's history to the U.S. and then assembled in Guantanamo in 1904. It now serves as a museum collection and houses artifacts that date back to the Spanish-American War.

"La Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre"

Cradled in the hillside along Sherman Avenue, this worship site celebrates the Virgin of Lovers by the Cuban people as the official patroness of their island and a symbol of hope.

Ann Marie Terrell Memorial

Ann Marie Terrell deployed to Guantanamo Bay during Operation Sea Shepherd. She died in a vehicle accident on March 28. On Independence Day, 1995 this memorial was dedicated.

Fisherman's Point Monument

This monument at the Windward Ferry landing marks the day Christopher Columbus was looking for gold on April 30, 1494. The inscription reads: "Christopher Columbus landed here on his second voyage. He and his Spanish adventurers were looking for gold. He died the next day."



Lighthouse and Museum



La Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre

ments in history

e used by Cuban and Haitian refugees who

ory. The lighthouse was originally built in
museum for the base cultural and historical

s the “Virgin of Charity” who is recognized
their freedom.

Signal in early 1995 and died in a motor
was dedicated to honor her life and service.

er Columbus sailed into Guantanamo Bay
Columbus landed here at Fisherman’s Point on
Not finding likely prospects, they left the



Ann Marie Terrell Memorial



Fisherman’s Point
Monument

Army's health assessment working, study finds

By Army Sgt. Sara Moore

American Forces Press Service

The system of post-deployment health screenings the Army has set up is working to identify mental health problems in soldiers returning from combat and reduce the stigma of seeking mental health care, a study published Wednesday, Nov. 14, found.

The report, titled "Longitudinal assessment of mental health problems among active and reserve component soldiers returning from the Iraq war," which will be published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, looks at the first 88,000 soldiers who went through an initial post-deployment health screening and a second screening three to six months after they returned from combat.

The study found that the second screening, which was put in place after a preliminary Army study suggested that a group of soldiers' health problems were being missed with only one screening, is working to identify more health concerns and potential problems before they become worse, Army Col. Charles Milliken, with the division of psychiatry and neuroscience at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, said today in a conference call with veterans service organizations.

"What we're hoping to do with the screenings is to tackle mental health problems while they're still small and temporary," Milliken said. "When these problems get bigger and more complicated, they're much harder to treat, and it increases the likelihood that they will become a chronic, long-term problem. Through post-deployment screenings, we're attempting to catch problems early

and intervene early."

In addition to the two health screenings, the Army also has instituted a program called "battle mind training," which allows soldiers who have recently deployed to interact with each other and learn about common problems faced by returning veterans, Milliken said. This study found that that training, in conjunction with the health screenings, is helping to reduce the stigma of seeking mental health care, he said. Not only do the screenings identify soldiers who need mental health care, but after going through the process, many soldiers are identifying their own problems and seeking help, he said.

Another important finding from the study was that, of soldiers who identified suffering from depression or post-traumatic stress disorder during the first health screening, more than half had improved by the time of the second screening, Milliken said. Many of these soldiers improved without treatment, he said, which shows that the training process itself is acting as an intervention for early mental health problems.

Overall, on both screenings, 20 percent of soldiers were referred for mental health treatment or were already under care at the time of the second screening, Milliken said. This rate is comparable to what the Department of Veterans Affairs reports about the rate of mental health diagnoses for recent combat veterans. Army leaders hope that by identifying these problems early, they can treat the soldiers before the problems progress, he said.

"We are proactively seeking to understand the human dimension of war and apply what we've learned in ways that improve the care that we're providing the soldiers," he said.

Concerned local citizen groups aid progress in Iraq

By Jamie Findlater

Special to American Forces Press Service

Captures of al Qaeda operatives and seizures of weapons caches in Iraq are up, and casualties are down, a senior military official in Baghdad told online journalists and "bloggers" Tuesday, Nov. 13.

Air Force Col. Donald Bacon, a Multinational Force Iraq spokesman, attributed a large part of this success to the surge of operations, the increase in activity among Iraqi security forces, and most recently, the formation of concerned local citizens groups, known as CLCs.

Since surge operations began in June, Bacon said, al Qaeda attacks are down 55 percent, civilian deaths are down 60 percent, coalition casualties are down 55 percent, and Iraqi forces casualties are down 40 percent.

Iraqi security forces are becoming

increasingly active, with Iraqi forces now bearing a big brunt of the casualties, taking 50 percent more casualties than U.S. forces, the colonel explained.

Bacon touted the CLC program's importance.

"Concerned local citizens are part of the force protection plan; without them, al Qaeda would move back in the region," Bacon said. In October, Bacon noted, 43 al Qaeda leaders were captured or killed, up from 29 in September, 25 in August, and 18 in July. To become part of the CLC, citizens are given biometrics and put under a contract which includes a sworn allegiance to protect the Iraqi government.

CLCs also have increased the number of uncovered weapon caches. Of the 72 caches uncovered in October, 40 of them were found by CLCs.

The 5,365 caches uncovered so far this

year far exceed the 2,667 uncovered last year. "These are the fuel that al Qaeda uses to attack Iraqi security forces and civilians," he noted.

The goal going forward, Bacon explained, is to make the CLC groups 20 to 25 percent of the Iraqi security force. He said the program is seen as a way to engage more and more Iraqis in their own government, aiding security and leading to more encouraging statistics in the future.

"CLC is a recently new initiative in recent months that has made a tremendous impact on the security here in the region," Bacon said. "We are working hard with the Iraqi government to make this fully an Iraqi government program. We are working with national and local leadership to work on this program."

(Jamie Findlater works in New Media at American Forces Information Service.)

Security Pitfalls

Information Assurance Office

Joint Task Force Guantanamo

Security incidents occur because of haste, lack of attention to detail, fatigue, lack of knowledge regarding security requirements or willful disregard of security requirements. Some common security pitfalls are as follows:

•**Unauthorized Disclosure or Compromise** is one of the most common security pitfalls. Make sure that any individual with whom you share classified information is properly cleared and has the need-to-know

•**Improper Transportation or Handling of Classified Information.** Classified information will not be removed from designated working areas to personal quarters for work at home. Protect it. Don't neglect it.

•**Laptops and Computers.** Processing classified information on an unclassified laptop is a common mistake in military commands. Ensure the classification of the system that you are using is at least equal to the level of information being processed.

•**Improper Marking of Classified Information.** Individuals may often incorrectly classify information or place improper caveats on information.

•**Telephones and Secure Terminals.** Telephones and secure terminals are potential nightmares if used improperly for the transmission of classified information. Individuals may try to "talk around" the subject on an unclassified line if they cannot get their secure terminal to go to the secure mode. Make sure that you

know the level of classification that the secure terminal is keyed for.

•**Fax Machines.** A common mistake is for an individual to fax classified information over an unclassified fax machine. Individuals may take the easy way out thinking that no one will notice this practice. Maybe persons do not know the procedures for using a classified fax. Make sure individuals are properly trained in the use of both unclassified and classified fax machines. Post signs over the fax machines. Place a security banner on top of the unclassified fax with a reminder not to accidentally place classified documents into an unclassified fax.

•**Leaving Classified Documents Unattended.** Another common error is to walk out of your workplace and leave classified documents unattended. Individuals may leave classified information on top of their desks when uncleared contractors or workers come into the work area. Always lock up your classified documents before walking out of the office if there are no other cleared personnel left in the office to safeguard the information. Make sure that you ask someone else to guard your classified material. Don't assume anything.

•**Talking Around the Subject.** Individuals are notorious for trying to talk around the subject when it comes to working with classified information. This can occur in the parking lot, the store, the local bar or when using the telephone. People may try to talk around classified information at home when conversing with their spouses or significant others. Never try to talk around the subject when working

with classified information. You will lose every time.

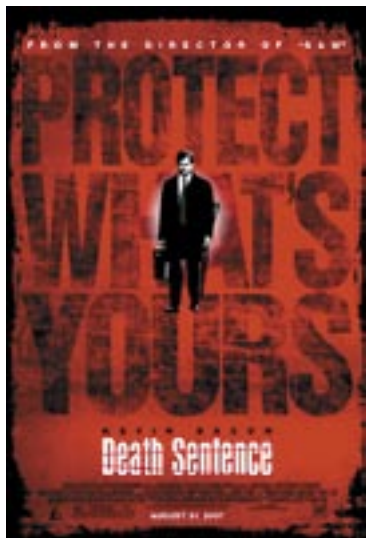
•**Forget The End-Of-Day Checklist?** Office staffs often forget to complete the end-of-duty-day security checklist. People get in a hurry to go home. The same individual in an office may always complete the end-of-day checklist. If that individual is off or away from the office, the checklist may be forgotten. Use the buddy system. Keep tabs on each other to make sure that the end-of-day security checklist is completed. Completing the checklist has prevented numerous incidents and violations.

•**Secure Containers.** A critical part of your checks is to make sure that all security containers are locked. Put all classified material away in the containers. Spin the dials. Check all the container drawer handles. Have someone double-check the safe in the same manner. Ensure that each individual signs off on the container security form.

•**Uncleared and Unescorted Visitors.** Allowing individuals without security clearances to have free access to secure work areas is a major problem. This problem has occurred in many different locations. Uncleared and unescorted individuals have walked into classified work areas without anyone stopping and checking their credentials or security badges.

The message is clear: follow established security protocols, pay attention to what's going on in your office, secure your work and demand the same from your colleagues. There's more than just your career at risk in an unsecure work environment!

"Death Sentence" dispatches family and foe alike



By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert

Rated: R

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Public Affairs Office

Running Time: 99 minutes

"Death Sentence," the latest work of the gore master James Wan, is a modern take on '70s revenge flicks like "Taxi Driver" and the "Death Wish" series. Wan, famous for the disgusting, blood and guts "Saw" series, weaves a righteous tale of an ordinary man pushed into extraordinary circumstances that has you rooting for vengeance and retribution while showing the horrific toll it takes on those involved, including the innocent.

In the beginning, Nick Hume (Kevin Bacon), an average executive type, appears to have it all – a good job, a beautiful wife (Kelly Preston) and two well balanced teenage sons. The families' biggest worry is whether or not they should allow their oldest son Brendan (Stuart Lafferty) to go play college hockey in Canada . . . that is until everything goes very wrong.

After one of Brendan's high school hockey games, he and Nick run into some deadly trouble at an inner-city gas station. The incident results in the brutal murder of Brendan as part of a gang initiation and thrusts Nick into a fit of despair, anger and rage.

The plot twists and turns throughout the film as Bacon's character exacts revenge. Unfortunately, he brings the wrath of the entire gang upon his family, resulting in a violent blood feud involving the gang's leader, Billy (Garrett Hedlund), Billy's gun dealing father Bones (John Goodman) and the entire Hume family.

Bacon's metamorphosis from a straight-laced risk assessment executive into a cold blooded killer has its problems. Compared to Charles Bronson in the "Death Wish" series, Bacon seems awkward in the role, mainly because of the implausibility of his rapid transformation from business executive to avenger.

What started out as simple revenge becomes a tragic fight to protect his family and devolves to all-out retribution. Ultimately the film is effective because the Bronsonesque tale preaches the dangers involved in pursuing revenge and reminds us all that 'an eye for an eye' costs more than most would want to pay.

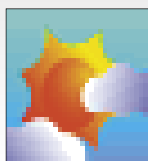
Rating: ★★★★★

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com

Saturday, Nov. 17

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the low-70's.



Partly Cloudy

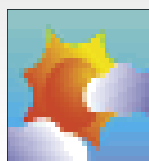
Sunrise: 6:10 a.m.

Sunset: 5:21 p.m.

Chance of rain: 20%

Sunday, Nov. 18

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the low-70's.



Partly Cloudy

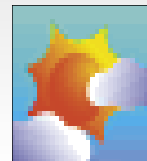
Sunrise: 6:11 a.m.

Sunset: 5:21 p.m.

Chance of rain: 20%

Monday, Nov. 19

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the mlow-70's.



Partly Cloudy

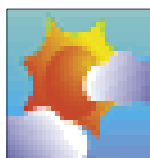
Sunrise: 6:12 a.m.

Sunset: 5:21 p.m.

Chance of rain: 20%

Tuesday, Nov. 20

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.



Sunrise: 6:12 a.m.

Sunset: 5:21 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 20%

Partly Cloudy

Wednesday, Nov. 21

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.



Sunrise: 6:13 a.m.

Sunset: 5:20 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 60%

Scattered T-storms

Thursday, Nov. 22

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.



Sunrise: 6:13 a.m.

Sunset: 5:20 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 60%

Scattered T-storms

Friday, Nov. 23

Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the low - 70's.



Sunrise: 6:14 a.m.

Sunset: 5:20 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 60%

Scattered T-storms

Electric Light Parade and Holiday Concert

Commands, special interest groups, clubs and individuals are encouraged to show off your creativity and holiday spirit by creating your own special float and entering it in the parade.

The parade starts at 6 p.m. along Sherman Avenue and ends at the Downtown Lyceum. Guests include Mr. Johnny Grant with Stephanie Powers, Wilmer Valderama (“That 70’s Show”), Victoria’s Secret Angels, Kari Turner (“JAG”), Skateboarders Mitchie Brusco and Rodney Mullen.

For more information call 75225 or e-mail mwr@usnbgtmpo.navy.mil.

Boots on the Ground

*By Army Sgt. Jody Metzger and
Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert*

“What are you most thankful for in your life?”

**Army Spc. Francis
Gregorin**



Everything the Army has done for me.

**Army Sgt. Deborah
Cruz**



I’m thankful to be a healthy female and that God gave me a precious daughter.

**Army Spc. Brandon
Zelma**



I’m most thankful for my family.

**Army Spc. Garry
Richardson**



The support of my kids and my family.

SPEND YOUR DAYS ON EARTH WISELY WITH REVERENCE FOR GOD



www.photo.net by Peter Dam

By Army Chaplain (Capt.) Y.J. Kim

Joint Task Force Guantanamo

Time is of the essence. I'm sure each of us enjoyed the extra hour "gained" by daylight savings time coming to an end. Time is elusive; we always want more of it, and yet time also seems to be one of the easiest things to waste. Look at any genre of self-help or career advice tools: they all agree that the key to success in life is time management. If we look at Scripture, we see that the writers of our Bible had wisdom beyond any motivational speaker or career guide of today.

Why should we value time? Why, if at all, should we use our time wisely? In his letter to the church in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul cautioned to "be careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-6). We should make the most out of every opportunity because our lives are a gift from our Creator. How you spend your time shows how much you value this gift and how much you value God. We are to live a life of love, faithfulness and trust while guarding against those things that lead us to sin.

Life is short. King David wrote, "Man is like a breath; his days are like a fleeting shadow" (Psalm 144:4). Military personnel and their families often have an even better understanding of life's brevity. Many of us have had comrades or family members whose lives were taken away from us without warning. We don't know what's going to happen tomorrow, the next day or the day after. But we do know our Creator, our Father does. And He tells us that His plans are to "prosper [us] and not to harm [us], plans to give [us] a hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

We only live our lives on this earth once. We shouldn't give up planning for our future and the future of our loved ones. But we should also realize that worrying about our future and our time on Earth or excessively thinking "my life is in my hands" is not what God desires. How we live our lives in the present day, here and now, is our worship to God. How we treat and serve others, how we commune and fellowship with God through prayer and Scripture determines the value of an hour.

Don't squander your time. Use it wisely, and make each minute your very best.

Trooper of the Year credits decisiveness as key to good leadership



Story and photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay
Public Affairs Office

One of the most important qualities a leader can possess is being acknowledged as such by his or her colleagues. One Coast Guard boatswain's mate was recognized for his exemplary dedication to his job and to the Joint Task Force Guantanamo community when he was named senior enlisted Trooper of the Year, Oct. 30.

Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Michael "Scott" Bannon, a boatswain's mate with the 308th Port Security Unit, competed against other recognized JTF Troopers before a panel of JTF leaders and was drilled on subjects ranging from military customs to current events.

Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Rodger D. Holland, a boatswain's mate chief with the 308th, said Bannon is one of the top performers within the boat division.

"He is an eternal optimist and a problem-solver who takes adversity and turns it into opportunity," said

Holland. "We knew that he possessed the dedication and determination needed to compete for the Trooper of the Year."

Although Bannon has spent the majority of his military career navigating Coast Guard cutters, he deployed here in June to provide force protection during detainee movements and to patrol the coastal waters in 25-foot transportable port security boats, commonly referred to as Vipers.

Bannon, who served five and a half years on active duty, said the past 16 years in the Coast Guard helped him develop a system of values and a work ethic that he hopes to pass onto younger Troopers.

"There are two things that a good leader must possess. First, you have to be consistent in how you operate and treat people. Second, you must also be decisive because it is good for morale and productivity," said Bannon. "It's my job to make life easier for the people I supervise and to make the Coast Guard look good. I believe I have done both jobs."

Bannon considers this deployment

to be one of his most rewarding experiences since he has been able to enrich the lives of others while he helps fight the Global War on Terror.

In addition to working a 12-hour day, Bannon mentors middle and high school-aged students who are participating in the Sea Cadet program by teaching navigation skills on the open water. Bannon spearheads a program that provides American flags flown from their boats to families of service members in honor of their service.

During his time here, Bannon has been busy working on an Associates degree in Criminal Justice and participating in running events. As Bannon prepares to return home in December, he looks forward to reuniting with his wife and two boys. However, the experience he gained during this deployment will be with him forever.

"There is a lot of camaraderie in this unit, and we have some of the best people in the Coast Guard here," said Bannon. "Everybody gets along well here, and they all work hard to help accomplish the mission."

AROUND THE JTF



◀ Army 1st Sgt. Jamie Schuler assumed responsibility of the 189th Military Police Company from Army 1st Sgt. Van Carpenter. Army Capt. Wally Noel (center) presided over the change of responsibility ceremony in Troopers Chapel Nov. 14. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)

▶ Coast Guard Vice Adm. Brian Peterman, Atlantic Area Commander, addresses the Coastguardsmen of the 308th Port Security Unit Nov. 14. Peterman spoke about changes in overall Coast Guard structure and uniforms, presented awards and promoted several of the 308's junior enlisted Troopers. (Photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard)



◀ Navy Ensign Karl Michael, Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, recites the oath of reenlistment to Petty Officer 2nd Class Isiah Douglas, a master at arms Nov. 9. An avid fisherman, Douglas reenlisted at one of his favorite places in Guantanamo Bay, the MWR Marina. (Photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard)