

THE WIRE

Joint Task Force
Guantanamo's
Finest News Source

A News Magazine

HONOR BOUND TO DEFEND FREEDOM

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with Army Sgt. Ronnel Aviles

Imagine that, you're already successful

By Coast Guard Senior Chief Petty Officer Eric L. Johnson

USCG PSU 301 Command Senior Chief

The fact that you are taking the time to read this column leads me to believe that you are willing to listen to the voices of experience. By reading these weekly essays written by senior enlisted members of the Joint Task Force, you have a chance to gain knowledge, perhaps without making some of the same mistakes we have made.

Visualization is a common self-improvement technique that is referred to by many names. Properly employed, it can be an effective performance-enhancing technique with many benefits and practical applications. World class athletes are routinely trained to visualize themselves performing well in competitive situations. Many professional golfers speak of visualizing the ball going into the hole just before taking their swing. This all seems easy and I can honestly say that I spent many hours visualizing being a State Trooper prior to finally getting the call.

The goal was set and I was going to do anything I had to in order to reach my goal. Did this mean that up until the point of reaching my goal I was not successful? Absolutely not, we are all successful everyday if we are doing our best and living by our own core values. The Coast Guard's core values of Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty, set a clear path to success. The Air Force core value of Excellence in all we do, speaks volumes in striving for success. Each of the services has their own set of core values that will lead to the same destination ...



success.

Montgomery Gentry has a song titled: "*Something to be proud of*" that states quite simply "all you ever really do is the best you can," I find this line to be in direct alignment with my core values and those of the leaders that I have respected most during my career.

This seems to perhaps oversimplify the road to success down to doing your level best at all that you do. This is harder and the level of commitment is far greater than it may sound. But it is a goal worth shooting for and you will never regret putting forth your best effort.

Please don't look at this column as a guide to success, but rather a guide for successful people to become more successful. By stepping up and volunteering to serve your nation you have already proven that you are successful, anything further will continue to enhance that success. I applaud each of you for your devotion to duty and I am proud to be serving with so many successful men and women.

Thank you! ■

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American Red Cross

By Army Pfc. Phil Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

March is American Red Cross month. For over 125 years, the American Red Cross has been a bastion of hope, care and humanitarianism in the U.S. and abroad. From domestic disasters, to international crises, the American Red Cross has proved pivotal in the welfare and relief of distressed individuals.

The American Red Cross was initially founded on May 21, 1881 by Clara Barton. She started the organization after seeing the help provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross during the Franco-Prussian War. Inspired by the humanitarian efforts of this organization, she pursued the adoption of this organization in the U.S.

Since its conception, the American Red Cross has been involved in numerous disaster relief efforts. It has also proved one of the leading providers of life-enhancing services.

Some of these services include providing donated blood for those in need and immediate responses to various disasters including providing shelter, food, health and mental health services to address basic human needs.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt first declared March to be American Red Cross Month and ever since then the U.S. has celebrated American Red Cross Month. March was originally declared American Red Cross month in hopes of spreading knowledge of the organization and allowing the public to offer support through volunteerism and donations.

The importance of the American Red Cross is manifest today through the American Red Cross' disaster relief efforts in response to Hurricane Katrina, as well as the recent tornadoes in Florida.

The American Red Cross is a shining light in an often dark world. When disaster strikes and people are in distress, the American Red Cross provides that much needed hope and care.

If you are interested in the American Red Cross, check out their website at <http://www.redcross.org>. ■



Navy to Commission Amphibious Transport Dock Ship New Orleans

From U.S. Department of Defense

Special release from DoD

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy will commission the USS New Orleans, the newest amphibious transport dock ship, at a ceremony in New Orleans on March 10.

Sen. David Vitter of Louisiana will deliver the ceremony's principal address. The ship's sponsor is Carolyn Shelton, wife of Gen. Henry H. Shelton, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. She will give the first order to "man our ship and bring her to life!"

New Orleans honors the largest city of Louisiana and one of the world's three largest seaports. In the past century, three naval ships have carried

the name New Orleans: a protected cruiser, eventually designated CL-22, which served from 1898-1905 and 1909-1922; a cruiser designated CA-32, which served from 1934-1947; and an amphibious assault ship designated LPH-11, which served from 1968 -1997.

Designated LPD-18, New Orleans is the second ship in the Navy's new San Antonio class. As a critical element in future expeditionary strike groups, the ship will support the Marine Corps mobility triad, which consists of the LCAC (landing craft air cushion), the expeditionary fighting vehicle, and the Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft (MV-22). The ship also provides improved warfighting capabilities including an

advanced command-and-control suite, increased lift-capacity in vehicle and cargo-carrying capability and advanced ship-survivability features.

Cmdr. John B. "Brad" Skillman, of St. Paris, Ohio, is the first commanding officer of the ship. The ship has a crew of 360 and can embark a landing force of about 800 Marines. Built by Northrop Grumman Ship Systems, Avondale Operations in New Orleans, the ship is 684 feet in length, has an overall beam of 105 feet, a navigational draft of 23 feet and displaces about 24,900 tons. Four turbo-charged diesels power the ship to sustained speeds of 22 knots. The ship will be homeported in San Diego. ■

Security bulletin: Beware of phishing

By Frank Perkins

JTF-GTMO Special Security Office

"We suspect an unauthorized transaction on your account. To ensure that your account is not compromised, please click the link below and confirm your identity."

"Due to concerns for the safety and integrity of the online banking community, it is necessary for you to update your account information to preclude your account being closed."

Several Joint Task Force personnel have received email with messages similar to those above. It's a scam called "phishing" — and it involves Internet fraudsters who send spam or pop-up messages to lure personal information (credit card numbers, bank account information, Social Security number, passwords, or other sensitive information) from unsuspecting victims.

Phishers send an email or pop-up message that claims to be from a business or organization that you may deal with. The message may ask you to "update,"

"validate," or "confirm" your account information. Some phishing emails threaten a dire consequence if you don't respond. The messages direct you to a website that looks just like a legitimate organization's site. But it isn't. It's a bogus site whose sole purpose is to trick you into divulging your personal information so the operators can steal your identity and run up bills or commit crimes in your name.

Victims of phishing can become victims of identity theft, which, among other adverse impacts, can jeopardize one's security clearance. While you can't entirely control whether you will become a victim of identity theft, you can take some steps to minimize your risk. If an identity thief is opening credit accounts in your name, these new accounts are likely to show up on your credit report. You may catch an incident early if you order a free copy of your credit report periodically from any of the three major credit bureaus.

Learn other ways to avoid and deal with email scams at ftc.gov/spam.

Mission first, security always. ■

Daylight Saving Time arrives early this year

By Army Spc. Jason Kaneshiro

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Ready or not, it's time to set your clocks one hour ahead. Daylight Saving Time has arrived early this year. Because of the time change, the sun will rise at a later time and will set at a later time.

The time change will come into effect at 1:59 a.m. on Sunday, March 11. That means that the time will jump from 1:59 a.m. to 3 a.m. early Sunday morning. As this will occur when most people will be asleep, set your clocks ahead that one hour before you hit the sack to prevent confusion the

following day.

In previous years, Daylight Saving would come into effect during the first week of April. On August 8, 2005, President George W. Bush signed an Act that moved the beginning of Daylight Saving to the second Sunday of March and the end to the first Sunday in November. The change comes into effect in 2007.

Not all areas will be affected directly by the change because Daylight Saving is not recognized in all areas of the nation. Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Arizona will not change their clocks along with the rest of

the United States. Even though Naval Station Guantanamo Bay is located in Cuba, it will observe Daylight Saving at the same time as the majority of the U.S. ■



Network News

The Weakest Link

By Air Force 1st Lt. Jim Northamer

JTF-GTMO Information Assurance Office

We've all heard the cliché, "you're only as strong as your weakest link." This phrase applies in many instances, including when talking about the security of our computer networks. The weakest link in our networks could be a number of things at any given time. Here are a few things that typically are our weakest links in the information system chain and what we can do to strengthen them:

Weakness: Newly-discovered hardware/software vulnerabilities. Each day, vulnerabilities are discovered in the hardware and software that we use. Unless resolved, "bad guys" could potentially take advantage of these vulnerabilities to access our network.

Resolution: disseminating "patches" across the network that fixes the respective vulnerability.

Weakness: Computer system users. Users are constantly bombarded with junk e-mails containing malicious attachments, links, etc. If a single user clicks on an attachment, link, or other malware, the entire network can be compromised.

Resolution: continuous user training and awareness. Most users have no intention of introducing a

vulnerability to the network. However, with the increased sophistication of spoofed e-mails, social engineering tactics, etc. that "bad guys" are using, a complacent user could unwittingly introduce a vulnerability to the network simply by clicking on a link or executing an attachment. Users must remain informed and constantly skeptical to ensure they don't unknowingly create a vulnerability on our networks.

Weakness: Insider threat. This is the threat that a "trusted user" (somebody with a user account) poses to the system because of the inherent rights that they have on the network.

Resolution: restricted rights and constant monitoring of network traffic. Generally, everybody on the network (including system administrators and the like) is restricted to what they can and cannot do on the network. Additionally, network traffic is constantly analyzed to ensure that everything that occurs on the network is legitimate. These two controls minimize the potential damage a user can cause to the network.

Knowing where our weaknesses are and how to strengthen them are keys to securing our networks. Although our network is only as strong as our weakest link, if we can constantly strengthen that weakest link, the security of our networks will continually improve.

If you have any questions or concerns about a computer security issue, please feel free to contact the JTF-GTMO IA Office at j6-ia@jftgtmo.southcom.mil or ext. 3333. ■

San Antonio clips L.A. 88-74

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Donald Randall

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

74 is the losing number! On March 2, San Antonio beat Orlando 98 to 74. On the following day San Antonio triumphed over Houston 97 to 74. The Spurs' ninth consecutive win came Monday night against the Clippers 88 to, you guessed it, 74!

The Clippers, who trailed all the way, matched their season low of 38 percent shooting and were led by Corey Maggette's 19 points.

Tim Duncan, with 12 rebounds and nine points, said the Spurs are doing it with defense.

"We've still got a bunch of games to finish this season, but the streak we're on right now is the way we want to play and the way we want to end out this season," Duncan said. "Defensively, we've been solid and we're moving the ball real well.

"We're giving up less offensive rebounds



Photo courtesy/Associated Press

Manu Ginobili of the San Antonio Spurs makes his move against the Los Angeles Clippers. The Spurs would eventually triumph over LA 88-74.

and we're keeping opponents' shooting percentage down. And that's been the difference. We're getting some good play from our bench. Guys understand their roles, and defensively we're staying solid no matter who's on the floor."

The Spurs cannot afford to get complacent observed Manu Ginobili, who scored 16 points.

"We don't want to get so cocky or so happy about the way we're playing. We really struggled a month ago, so we don't want to go back there," he said. "We know we're in a good stretch, but we've just got to be humble and keep working, knowing that we're still far away from Dallas and Phoenix and other teams that we want to catch."

Beno Udrih and Ginobili pulled down eight rebounds apiece totaling 30 points, and Michael Finley shot another 10 allowing the Spurs' reserves to outscore their starters 49-39.

As well as San Antonio is doing, they still trail the Southwest Divisions Mavericks by 8 1/2 games.

"We know Dallas is having an unbelievable season," Ginobili said. "We've just got to give them credit and try to get better in these next 20 games to have an opportunity to beat them in the playoffs."

Tony Parker, the Spurs' second-leading scorer with an 18.7 average, missed his second game in a row because of a strained left hip. Parker's absence did not prevent San Antonio from defeating the Clippers for the third time in as many games.

The Spurs have won 12 of their last 13 games against the Clippers.

Los Angeles coach Mike Dunleavy said, "They aren't going to give you many good looks because they defend well, but when you get them you have to score, and we missed those opportunities."

Clippers' Elton Brand, who scored 15 points and eight rebounds said, "Their rotations are solid. They are a veteran club who know where to be on the court to give them the best chance of stopping the play."

The Clippers never needed to feel threatened. Up 43-34 at the half, and 64-49 heading into the final quarter, it was smooth sailing all the way. ■

Devils turn up the heat

By Army Pfc. Phil Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Devils turned up the heat and burned PPI 48-42 in Monday night's Morale Welfare and Recreation League basketball game.

The Devils offense was led by their leading scorer, point guard Kevin Pacheco. He scored 22 of the Devils' 48 points.

The Devils showed superior offense from the opening tip off, scoring a handful of points within the first few minutes of the half. PPI tried desperately to keep up with the Devils' pace, but the Devils always seemed to be one step ahead.

Although each team showed capable offense, the game was a mainly defensive game, with each team's defense keeping the score rather low. By the closing minutes of the second half, PPI began to cut through the Devils' defense, closing the lead to within three points, making the score 19-16 at the half.

The Devils took their game to another level as the second half began, scoring five consecutive two-point baskets. PPI showed true tenacity, fighting back with basket after basket. The game followed the same pattern throughout, the Devils would gain a big lead and have the gap closed by PPI soon after.

Although PPI put up an admirable fight, they simply could not manage to snuff out the Devils' offensive fire. With passionate play and an explosive offense, the Devils outscored PPI 48-42. ■



Photo by Army Pfc. Phil Regina

While the PPI team tried their best to reach out and snatch the win from their opponents, the Devils managed to keep victory just out of reach.



Until Every One Comes Home.®



Photo by Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

JOHN ONDRASIK OF FIVE *for* FIGHTING



Photo by Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis



Photo by Army Sgt. Jamieson Pond



Photo by Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

By Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

John Ondrasik of Five for Fighting musically entertained audiences in Guantanamo, Saturday night. Between songs, Ondrasik explained the inspirations that helped him create some of his most popular works. Through stories and lyrics he showed his support for the Troopers stationed here and throughout the world. Joint Task Force-Guantanamo Troopers Army Spc. Shaun Riley and Jedidiah Johnson joined Ondrasik onstage and performed with him during the show. ■

Scientists study GTMO reef

By Army Spc. Dustin Robbins

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Interested adults and children from Naval Station Guantanamo and Joint Task Force-Guantanamo met with some of the worlds leading researchers on marine biology to learn about GTMOs reefs at the Windjammer Monday.

GTMO residents received a free lecture on the current conditions of our coral reef system by Dr. Kenneth Deslarzes, Dr. William Pretch and Dr. Martha Robbart. Afterwards, the attendees had a meet and greet with the scientists and were able to ask questions about the local marine biology and what they can do preserve its well being.

The scientists' main reason for being here was to evaluate and compare the conditions of GTMOs coral reef today from its conditions in 2003, the last time they visited. They surveyed four beaches during their study, Cuzco, Blue, Chapman and Windmill beach. Each beach took about four hours to survey.

Dr. Deslarzes' task was to survey the coverage of the coral reef at each location. To do this, he used a special 10 meter rope that is marked off every 10 centimeters. In each 10 centimeter range, he would record the conditions within it. This gives the team 100 points of data for every 10 meters surveyed. Knowing what covers the water's floor provides information on how much living coral there currently is, algae is growing instead of coral, and how much of the floor provides ideal characteristics that will enable new coral growth and reproduction.

Dr. Pretch's job was to analyze the health and mortality of the living reef due to bleaching, diseases and a warming of the water. Currently there are only about 10 scientists in



Photo by Navy Lt. Cmdr. Eileen D'Andrea

Dr. Martha Robbart conducts underwater surveys of the reef at Guantanamo Bay by collecting reef photographs at Blue Beach. Her camera is attached to a device that will accurately take the photos at a set distance each time. The surveys will help her and other scientists determine the overall health of the reef here.

the world who specialize in coral disease, so the studies being done by Dr. Pretch is largely cutting edge. Dr. Pretch recently completed the first-ever book on coral reef restoration, entitled "Coral Reef Restoration Handbook" published by CRC Press of Boca Raton, Florida.

Dr. Robbart was assigned to study the fish that lived around the reefs, taking statistics on the variety, size, age and population of the fish life that surrounded the coral. Studying the fish helps determine what type of future the coral may have because of the impact of the fish on the conditions that the coral live in. For example, algae are an enemy to the coral reef because they actively take up space that coral could be growing in. Herbivorous fish eat the algae, providing more living space for the coral to thrive and reproduce.

The coral reef in the Caribbean has been severely strained due to a general heating of the waters in 2005,

causing a pandemic of coral mortality and allowed for a rapid increase in coral bleaching and disease.

The scientists' initial evaluation of GTMOs coral is that it is generally in better shape than other coral areas that they have surveyed surrounding the Caribbean. When asked if human interaction and impact with the coral was a major factor in damaging and preventing the good coral health, the scientists replied that the coral at Windmill beach was in significantly better shape than the other three locations surveyed, and noted that that beach among the four was the only one open to recreational diving. This provides evidence that most of the damage caused to the coral was done by ecological and natural conditions. They estimated that, because of the good conditions, the coral at Windmill beach will take approximately only 15 years to return to the state that it was in during their survey in 2003. ■

Army fields new protective neck gear

From Army News Service

www.defenselink.mil

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, March 1, 2007) - The Army announced yesterday it is fielding 430,000 new helmet pads, officially referred to as Nape Pads, designed to better protect Soldiers' neck areas from ballistic fragmentation.

The Army has begun shipping the new protective pad to Soldiers deploying in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Army Program Executive Office Soldier coordinated testing of the new neck pad through a National Institute of Justice laboratory certified in ballistic research.

"The Nape Pad easily attaches to the existing rear strap of the Army Combat Helmet, providing support, as well as shielding from fragmentation," said Col. John J. McGuinness, PEO Soldier project manager.

The neck pad further complements the Army's system-of-systems approach to force protection, integrating layers of protection for Soldiers on the battlefield. Additional individual protective gear provided by PEO Soldier includes the advanced combat helmet, ballistic eyewear, hearing protection, night-vision devices, the M4 carbine rifle, fire resistant uniforms, and integrated body armor with

enhanced small-arms protective inserts, deltoid auxiliary protectors, and side-armor plates.

"Protection of our Soldiers is the Army's priority mission," said Brig. Gen. R. Mark Brown, commanding general for PEO Soldier and Natick Soldier Systems Center. "That's why we have the world's best body armor bar none, live-fire tested and proven in combat. And that's why we continue looking for ways to make it even better. The new helmet neck pad, the eighth improvement in body armor in the last three years is a great example because it will further reduce injuries and help save even more Soldiers' lives." ■

Put your butt down! Smoking cessation classes at NAVSTA hospital

By Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jim Brown

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The smell of exhaled smoke and the "pinch between your cheek and gum," can provide pleasure, relief and relaxation for most tobacco users. However, the insidious drug, nicotine, can be as difficult to allude as an iguana bent on suicide- all while exposing others to second-hand smoke or disgust. Luckily, Guantanamo Bay Naval Hospital has a program to weaken the clutch of this deadly habit.

Weekly, Navy Lt. Jason B. Ellis leads classes in tobacco cessation at the hospital here. Meetings are held on Monday's from 4 p.m. to approximately 5 p.m. The cessation program consists of one class a week over a four-week period. The meetings are designed to aid in cessation by providing various treatment programs. Smokers, dippers and chewers all can benefit from the various therapies employed in the program.

"Treatment options we offer are the Zyban pill, nicotine replacement patches, nicotine gum

and nicotine inhalers. By far, Zyban is the most requested option. Many tobacco users express concern over the potential for withdrawal symptoms as a factor when they don't try to quit tobacco. This medication helps alleviate some of the concern so the student can be successful," stated Ellis.

Although ceasing to use tobacco products can be difficult, the program has proved successful. "Overall, the quit rate here in Guantanamo Bay is over 20%. While this may seem low, it is actually higher than our national average," Said Ellis.

When you are fed up with discolored teeth, bad breath and an increased risk of esophageal, lung and mouth cancer, give the tobacco cessation program a try. "Most tobacco users will go through several quit attempts before becoming totally tobacco free for good. The lesson here is that even if you are not successful quitting this time, you should continue to pursue it until you are tobacco free," said Ellis. For additional information please call Navy Lt. Blake Ellis at USNAVHOSP GTMO at ext. 72285. ■

Reunion Issue #3

By Army Chaplain (Maj.) Daniel Jones

JTF Command Chaplain

If you have children, there are some basic behaviors that can be expected. 1) Some children get angry about their parent being gone.

Toddlers and preschoolers may act like their parent is a stranger. They don't understand duty or mission.

2) Elementary school children and teenagers may understand, but show anger or fear by "acting out."

You need to get reacquainted and take things slowly. Children are able to adjust to change better than we are, but you have to give them time. The younger your children are, the harder it is for them to put their feelings into words. This is why they misbehave, show anger, shyness, and fear toward us when we return.

Counselors through Fleet and Family Support Centers, Family Assistance Centers, and Childhood Development Centers can assist us with understanding our children's reactions and suggesting methods to help them overcome the problems of reunion and reintegration.

The most important reaction to avoid is becoming a stern and strict disciplinarian as a reaction to your children misbehaving upon our return. They so desperately want us to love them and become reconnected with that love. Discipline can be interpreted as hate and disapproval to a child. This can

only amplify their misbehavior.

Again, time and support from our friends, family, chaplains, counselors, medical staff, and child psychologists are all resources we should consider if our reunion with our children is difficult and sustained for more than a couple of weeks. ■

SURVIVING SEPARATION

By Army Chaplain (Maj.) Daniel Jones

JTF Command Chaplain

Action Item #3 – If you have children, visit the following websites that can give complete guides to dealing with separation and reunion: www.guardyouth.org, www.guardfamily.org, www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil, www.militaryonesource.com

Any of us who are deployed without dependents or partners are experiencing an abnormal state for ourselves. We are by nature people who enjoy the love and companionship of the family, friends, and partners whom are an everyday part of our lives. We therefore enter into an abnormal experience for us when we go on a deployment. What can we do to overcome feelings of loneliness, sadness, and boredom while we are separated? ■

WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com

Saturday, Mar. 10

Partly cloudy with a chance for overnight showers. Highs in the upper 80's, and lows in the upper 60's.



Partly Cloudy

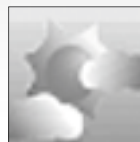
Sunrise: 6:13 a.m.

Sunset: 6:08 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 20%

Sunday, Mar. 11

Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80's, and lows in the lower 70's.



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 7:12 a.m.

Sunset: 7:09 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 20%

Monday, Mar. 12

Chance for isolated thunderstorms and overnight showers. Highs in the upper 80's, and lows in the lower 70's.

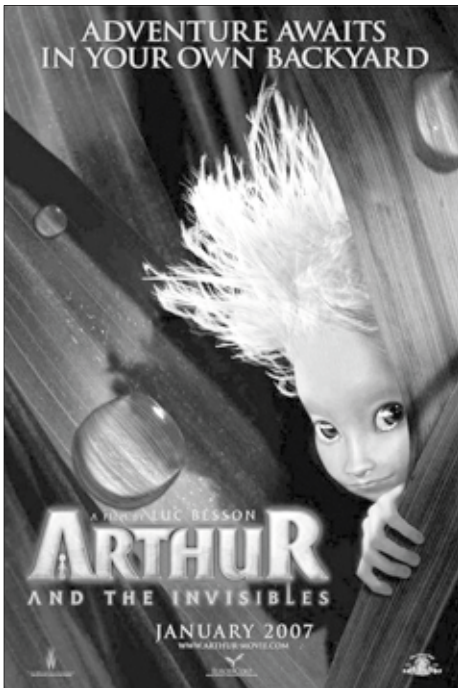


Scattered Showers

Sunrise: 7:12 a.m.

Sunset: 7:09 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 30%



MOVIE REVIEW CORNER

This week's movie review of "Arthur and the Invisibles" by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Trevor Andersen

Luc Besson has directed or written some of the most famous action movies including *The 5th Element*, *The Professional*, and more recently *Unleashed* with Jet Li.

With a series of successful films under his belt, Besson decided to write a children's book called *Arthur and the Minimoys* which was released in two parts. The movie *Arthur and the Invisibles* is the whole story in live action and computer animation.

Arthur's grandfather has been missing for three years when his family needs him the most. His grandmother is being evicted from her home and unless Arthur (Freddie Highmore) can do something, they will have no where to live. Fortunately, his grandfather left him enough clues to find a tribe of miniature people, the Minimoys, who help him save the day.

I really enjoyed this movie.

That being said, there are a few things that bothered me.

The worst part was the voice casting. It was a mistake to cast Madonna as the Minimoys princess. She and Arthur have a little bit of a romance and it just made things creepy. In fact the use of celebrities for the animated characters was a bad idea.

Emilio Estevez did the voice of an old man. He didn't sound old or manish. It was just an attempt to get Emilio Estevez in the movie.

However, if you can get past the fact that Madonna and Estevez (as well as some other poor casting choices) are in this movie, it's very enjoyable. I give it three stars. ■

- Arthur and the Invisibles -
Rating: ★★★★★

Rated: PG

Duration: 102 minutes

Boots on the Ground:

"What's your favorite food?"



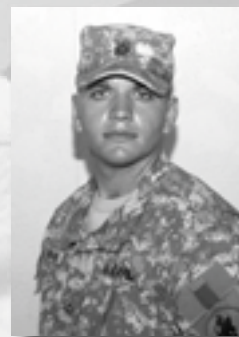
"Steak; 15-20 oz. well done and smothered in shata-ki mushrooms."

-Army Spc. Pablo Andrews, 29th Infantry Division



"Japanese; Obento."

-Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Joseph Jackson, Joint Detention Group supply



"Fettucini Alfredo made with Chicken."

-Army Pfc. Thomas Brown, 193rd Military Police Company



"Lechon a la varita, arroz con gandules, or Pork on a rotating barbecue."

-Army Spc. Luis Delgado, Joint Detention Group Headquarters, Headquarters Company

“Honor et Fidelitas”

The 65th Regiment prepares for the last battalion-sized bayonet charge in a battle during the Korean War.



By Army Sgt. Maj. Oscar Diaz

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

As I stood and listened to the speakers at the recent newcomers brief in Troopers Chapel the other day, a presence of security filled the chapel. The 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry, C Company, the pride of the Puerto Rico National Guard from Coamo, with its rich history dating back to 1899 had arrived. A keen sense of pride and *esprit de corps* was very apparent in this unit led by Army Capt. Alvin Aponte and Army 1st Sgt. Miguel Figueroa. Spirit and morale, was evident in the ear piercing “Hooahs” which rung throughout Camp America during the briefing. The unit, a component of the 92nd Infantry Brigade (Separate), whose HHC (headquarters and headquarters company) element is also serving here, has performed duties around the world providing security on the Global War on Terror in Operations Guardian Mariner, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Formerly known as the 65th Infantry Regiment, the unit prides itself in the wars in which they have served and the valuable contributions they’ve made throughout history in preserving the liberties this great country enjoys. They are most famous for their distinguished service during the Korean War, where the 65th was sent to battle on the front lines and participated in nine major campaigns. Battles which included the Chorwan Reservoir, the Evacuation of Hungnam and the Chinese counter offensive of April 1951. After the war, the regiment was deactivated and its colors retired. On February 15, 1959 the 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry raised its colors again and took its place as a regiment of the

Puerto Rico Army National Guard.

Aponte and Figueroa are very familiar with the battalion and each other because they served together as commander and platoon sergeant for D company. Many of their Soldiers have served here before, as several security detachment teams augmented the 525th Military Police Bn. charged with the custody of the detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, supporting the Joint Task Force.

When asked what does he and his unit looks forward to this year while deployed at GTMO, Aponte said, “working in a JTF with all the different services and different agencies here is an experience I and my unit will gain a world of knowledge from. The Soldiers are very excited about their role in serving with the JTF and continuing its mission of providing safe, humane care and custody of detained enemy combatants and gathering intelligence in support of the GWOT (Global War On Terrorism)”.

After spending sometime in a cold weather environment at their mobilization site, Aponte said “My soldiers are highly motivated from the training they received and are very eager to accept the multiple missions and challenges which are on the horizon”.

If history is an indicator of the future, previous wars have shown that cohesive units are tougher and survive better in combat. You can rest assured that these proud Soldiers of the 65th Infantry will continue to serve on the GWOT and living their motto, Honor and Fidelity”.

Bienvenidos to the Soldiers of the 92nd Infantry Brigade (Separate), HHC and the 1st BN, 65th Infantry, C Company, the pride of the Puerto Rico National Guard. ■

15 Minutes of Fame

WITH ARMY SGT. RONNEL L. AVILES

By Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The seats in the stadium are packed full of friends and families from all sorts of different backgrounds. Kids eating nachos and hot dogs, fathers hollering out to the man with the cold beers, "hey buddy! One more right here!" The playing of the national anthem gave way to the throwing of the first pitch and with all the formalities out of the way it's time for some good old fashioned baseball.

By the sixth inning your team is down by four runs, they haven't been completing their double-plays and your favorite pitcher has just been pulled. In just about any other sport it would be time to throw in the towel. But not in baseball and that's the beauty of it; it's a game of anticipation. At any moment your home team could load the bases and the next batter up could send one flying; maybe not out of the ball park, but far enough to bring a couple of runners home and reignite the fire in the fan's eyes.

This week's *Fifteen Minutes of Fame* is privileged to turn the spotlight to someone who really has a story to tell. Army Sgt. Ronnel L. Aviles was "born to play baseball." And as far as he was concerned, at the age of 18 when he made the big league, he didn't want, nor did he know how to do anything else.

"I played for the Texas Rangers as a short-stop ... I was one of the best hitting short-stops baseball had seen," said Aviles.

Aviles loved knowing that pitchers dreaded throwing to him, and as a switch-hitter you can imagine why. Hitting was hardly the only talent Aviles possessed, once on base he was

Juan Gonzales (left) and now Army Sgt. Ronnel L. Aviles (right) pose for a photo sporting their Texas Rangers uniforms in this 1995 photo.

just biding his time before he would, "stealy-stealy" as he calls it.

"Playing in the big league was like a dream come true," Aviles said. "My family was poor and the money really helped us out."

But, as it would turn out, it just wasn't in the cards for Aviles to make a career in professional baseball. Through a series of unfortunate events including a back injury, incurred while stealing second base against Chuck Knoblauch, Aviles found himself home again and needing a career change.

A friend of his recommended the Army to him and he just laughed.

"I didn't want to join the Army, but I didn't know how to do anything else," said Aviles. So sure enough, just a few weeks later Aviles found himself at Fort Sill and on his way to beginning a new life.

"The Army has made me more mature and taken out all my childish behavior," said Aviles.

Baseball is no longer in Aviles' future but the Army is. He plans to be a sergeant major before he gets out ... no matter how long it takes.

"I'll be in the Army until I can't stand in formation any more and even then I'll crawl to that formation if I have to." ■



AROUND THE JTF



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Watterworth

Joint Task Force commander Navy Rear Adm. Harry B. Harris and outgoing deputy commander Army Brig. Gen. Edward Leacock congratulate Army Lt. Col. Crum and Packard on their recent promotions.



Photo by Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

Army Col. Lora Tucker, deputy director of public affairs for Joint Task Force-Guantanamo, poses for a photo opportunity with students of W.T. Sampson High School after making a donation to one of their education programs.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Watterworth

Joint Visitors Bureau Army Staff Sgt. Robert Tate presents outgoing JVB deputy director Army Maj. Charles Bedore a Certificate of Appreciation last week.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Watterworth

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Eubaldo Nieto Jr. prepares documentation as Navy Petty Officers 2nd Class Anthony Lane and Rayford Sweats process some of this weeks mail in Camp America's Post Office.