

# THE WIRE

A News Magazine

***NEGB History***  
JMG update  
Commissions



# Crawford honors Troopers

By Army Brig. Gen.  
**Cameron Crawford**

Outgoing JTF Deputy  
Commander

Friends and Fellow  
Troopers,

Please see the photograph accompanying this article. Instead of the standard command photo, I chose to use a recent picture of me standing beside a porcelain statue of the Lone Sailor. The artwork was a farewell gift from the Joint Medical Group. Please allow for a Soldier's interpretation of the powerful message the statue sends – a message of readiness, dedication, and yes, loneliness. Forgive me if my thoughts are not official Navy policy!



Readiness is evidenced by the Sailor 'standing to,' sea bag packed. The bag not only contains the physical items he will need, but also the skills and knowledge to use them. You, the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo are trained and ready for this difficult mission. Dedication is represented by the Sailor's alert demeanor and erect posture; he is committed to whatever may come his way, and to accomplishing the mission regardless of the personal sacrifices necessary. There are no mooring lines on the cleat. The Sailor is preparing to leave the relative security of shore duty for the unknowns of the open sea.

You, the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo are committed to the success of this important mission. You press on and get the job done even though you are not sure what the next days, weeks or months may bring. Loneliness is portrayed by the somber shade of the sculpture, and by the Sailor looking out to sea rather than back to the loved ones he left ashore. You, the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo know that the hardest part of any deployment is leaving behind family, friends, and in some cases, civilian jobs. Many of you have been deployed before, and you understood and accepted the sacrifices you and your families would need

to make.

The next 12 months will be a period of great change for the Joint Task Force. While none of us knows exactly what will happen, I believe the importance of your contributions to the Global War on Terror and to national security will become increasingly evident to policy makers. The commissions process and ongoing intelligence efforts should produce results that once and for all demonstrate to the world that we are holding the right people for the right reasons, and that the world is a safer place because of what we are doing. Finally, I urge you to take care of yourselves and your fellow Troopers during the balance of your tours.

The past 12 months have flown by. In all honesty, I will not miss most of the things about Guantanamo. I will, however, miss each of you very much. You have been my inspiration on a daily basis. I leave Guantanamo and the military knowing that our future is in good hands because of you and what you do on behalf of our great nation. Please complete the job you came here to do and return safely home. May God bless each one of you along the way.

With my greatest respect,  
**Army Brig. Gen. Cam Crawford**

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## COVER:

**Inspired by the Louisiana tradition, Guantanamo held its first Mardi Gras parade Saturday. (Photo by Navy petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard)**



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 1000.

# NEGB upholds Guantanamo's mission with distinction

Story by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

When people think of Guantanamo, often what comes to mind are camps filled with detainees and Army guards. However, there is another group of Troopers who share the detention mission of providing safe, humane care and custody with strict professionalism and high motivation. These are the dedicated guards of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion.

However, the NEGB is relatively new. When the detention facilities were first opened in 2002, the arduous task of guarding the detainees was undertaken exclusively by Army personnel. After a few years and the escalation of the Global War on Terror, what began as an Army mission required joint service support. To solve this problem, the Navy came here in 2005, under a new unit called the Navy Provisional Guard.

"It [the Navy Provisional Guard] was stood up as the Navy tried to relieve portions of the Army guard that were here at the time," said NEGB Commander, Navy Cmdr. Jeffery Hayhurst.

The Navy Provisional Guard later transformed the Guantanamo workspace in 2006 as it became a commissioned unit and changed its name to the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, under the command of Navy Cmdr. K.B. Hamft. But its mission stayed the same.

"Our overall mission is to man, train and equip a guard force to support the Joint Detention Group and support the Task Force to provide safe, humane custody of detained enemy combatants," Hayhurst said.

To carry out this mission, the NEGB draws its strength from a diverse group of sailors that undertake a task that may not be the job or rate that they trained for.

"Right now we have about 56 percent that are rated master at arms, so they have the skill sets associated with law enforcement type duties," said Hayhurst. "The remaining 44 percent is straight-stick sailors, straight from the fleet."

Before arriving here, all guards go through extensive training, first in Gulfport, Miss., then in Fort Lewis, Wash. There they learn the skills essential to undertake the demanding work associated with guarding the world's most dangerous men. Upon completion of their training in Fort Lewis, these Troopers arrive in Gitmo and do a two-week, right-seat left-seat training session with their outgoing counterparts before assuming their duties.

When searching for the right kind of Sailors for this mission, the Navy looks for certain personal attributes



**Troopers from the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion depart Camp America for a guard shift within Camp Delta on Wednesday, Aug. 15. These Guards regularly endure long shifts in high heat and humidity while wearing protective gear. (Photo by Army Sgt. Joseph Scozzari)**

rather than specific job or rate qualifications.

"We look for professionalism, considering the arduous duties that they will be assigned. This job takes tremendous professionalism and self control," said Hayhurst.

On a day-to-day basis, the exceptional Troopers of the NEGB endure 12-hour shifts — not including Trooper turnover that could add another 2 hours each day — along with sweltering Caribbean temperatures, and the ill tempers of unpredictable detainees. For all they endure and have to put up with, they exhibit extraordinary resolve and do their part in the overall mission of keeping our country safe.

"In my nearly 29 and a half years of service, this is the most professional organization that I've been associated with," said Hayhurst. "That includes the Joint Task Force, the Joint Detention Group and certainly the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion. What they do every single day, with a smile, makes me proud to be a part of them. They are tremendous Sailors, doing great things and they have made tremendous sacrifices."



# JMG provides care despite challenges

Story and photo by  
Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Medical professionals working in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, face many challenges in 2007. Though they care for detainees and Troopers with the utmost of professionalism, they do so under a cloud of criticism and scrutiny.

Despite the microscopic environment his medical staff works in on a daily basis, Navy Capt. Bruce C. Meneley, commander of the Joint Medical Group and the U.S. Naval Station Hospital at Guantanamo Bay, said they work diligently to provide high quality care to both Troopers and detainees.

“We endeavor to treat both the Troopers and detainees here with the highest medical standards and in an ethical manner,” said Meneley. “Our goal is to make sure they get whatever care they need in a timely fashion.”

As the JMG commander, Meneley oversees the care that approximately 140 medical professionals provide for detainees and Troopers.

Since the population of detainees receiving care continues to age, Meneley said his staff has shifted its focus to the maintenance of their health.

“Initially, we were dealing with detainees who were malnourished and those suffering from battlefield injuries and illnesses,” said Meneley, who is also the Joint Task Force surgeon. “At this point, the medical needs of detainees here have stabilized and our numbers have decreased. So now our focus is on longer term care, preventative health measures, and how to optimize detainees’ health care.”

Meneley added that there are still challenges ahead as many remain critical of the care provided by medical professionals here. Last year, the JMG received criticism from the medical community and the national press after detainee hunger strikes resulted in the enteral feeding of detainees. Meneley said that critics outside of Guantanamo



**The commander of JTF’s Joint Medical Group and the Naval Station’s hospital, Navy Capt. Bruce Meneley, supervises two team that provide medical care to detainees and Troopers, respectively.**

Bay connotes the procedure as a form of torture.

In addition to enteral feeding, some associations have been critical of the use of medical professionals during military techniques such as interrogations. The American Psychiatric Association took a stance in May 2006 banning the participation of psychiatrists during interrogations, while the American Psychological Association defeated a declaration that would have implemented a similar policy.

Despite a commitment to transparency, Meneley mentioned that educating critics on the quality of care and nature of services provided by medical professionals here is a public relations challenge that needs to be overcome.

“There are a number of professional groups who question the ethics of our medical staff because they do not have a clear understanding and knowledge of the conditions here. Unfortunately, most of the American public do not have access to come down here and see it for themselves,” said Meneley. “What the public and my colleagues see is what the press puts out, which can be misleading by giving the public the perception that detainees here are being mistreated in Guantanamo.”

In addition to ensuring that the public gets the real story on Guantanamo Bay,

Meneley mentioned that proving good documentation of care is even more crucial as criminal charges are brought against more detainees. Since medical records are not created for litigation purposes, the JMG administrative staff has been tasked with reorganizing and making sure that relevant information is included within the detainees’ records.

“As we now move into the litigation phase of military commissions, a lot of what occurs during the trial will be dependent on good documentation of the care detainees receive,” said Meneley. “So right now one of our real challenges is being able to go back through all of our medical records and documents and organize them in a fashion that makes sense in a courtroom.”

He added that the assistance he receives from his highly talented and professional staff makes his job a little easier. “I think the staff working within the JMG is doing a fantastic job under exceptionally challenging conditions, and they are some of our true American heroes,” said Meneley. “Just like the guard staff who – despite the things they put up with – go back to work day after day in the same conditions and maintain a level of professionalism, the medical staff here has performed up to those same exceptional standards.”

# Court hears arguments in Hamdan case

By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

A U.S. military commission in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, heard oral arguments last Thursday from defense attorneys who called for the dismissal of charges against Salim Ahmed Hamdan who worked in Afghanistan as Osama bin Laden's bodyguard and personal driver.

The military commissions court heard six oral arguments in which Hamdan's defense attorneys urged Navy Capt. Judge Keith Allred to dismiss charges against their client. During the proceeding, defense counsel also requested the production of classified documents and access to high-value detainees who they believe could provide information that could be relevant to their case.

Hamdan, who worked for bin Laden from 1996 to 2001, was charged with conspiracy and providing material support for terrorism by the military commissions court. The government has alleged that Hamdan transported and delivered weapons, ammunition and other supplies to al-Qaida members. Hamdan is also believed to have driven bin Laden to various al-Qaida-sponsored training camps and press conferences at which bin Laden encouraged attendees to engage in war against Americans.

During the proceeding, the defense urged Judge Allred to dismiss charges based on their theory that the prosecution lacks the evidence necessary to prove that Hamdan conspired or provided material support to a terrorist group simply by being bin Laden's driver and bodyguard. The defense also urged Judge Allred to compel the prosecution to turn over records of Hamdan's confinement in Afghanistan during the period preceding 2002 before he was detained in Guantanamo



**Salim Ahmed Hamdan, pictured in this courtroom sketch from June 2007, was charged with Conspiracy and Providing Material Support to terrorists in a military tribunal held Dec. 5. at Guantanamo Bay. (AP Sketch)**

Bay.

"The prosecution seemed to have no record of the interrogation SOP's in place during Hamdan's detainment...they have no record of detainee treatment...no record of guards' instructions...no records of what camp Hamdan was in during that period," Charles Swift, lead defense attorney, said.

Chief Prosecutor Army Col. Larry Morris stated that, "The missing 2002 records are local detention records that deal with issues of confinement such as diet, exercise, hygiene and the location of the detainee. Prosecutors are confident that every statement made by Mr. Hamdan and every interrogation record was turned over to the defense at least a year ago."

Defense Counsel Harry Schneider also requested access to high value detainees and individuals who were present during Hamdan's interrogation shortly after his capture in Afghanistan. Prosecutors argued that since the video memorialized the circumstances of how Hamdan was interrogated, producing the individuals involved in the interrogation was unnecessary. However, the prosecution agreed to

provide access to a linguist who was present during the interrogation that the prosecution planned to call as a witness during trial. Although the defense plans to meet with this witness, Swift still claimed that the prosecution's failure to offer others involved in the interrogation prevents the defense from checking the veracity of other witnesses.

The defense presented a similar argument in their request to meet with

high-value detainees being held in detention facilities here who they believe could prove that Hamdan was not involved in terrorist activities while employed as bin Laden's driver.

"The prosecution has taken the position that the high-value detainees that Mr. Hamdan is accused of conspiring with have nothing valuable to say, but we expect them to deny that Hamdan was a member of al-Qaida," said Swift. "We are hopeful that the judge will give us access to these high-value detainees."

During a press conference, Swift said the prosecution's failure to produce particular documents prevents them from properly filing motions and adequately preparing their case. However, Army Col. Larry Morris, chief prosecutor, said the prosecution has done what the law requires, which is to provide all requested evidence that is material and relevant to the defense's case.

"We have provided to the defense every statement made by their client," said Morris. "You do not produce every statement just because it is innocuous. We go by what the law requires us to provide."



# Revving up for NASCAR

Story by Navy Petty Officer 2nd  
Class Cheryl Dilgard

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs



Boogity, boogity, boogity!... Any true NASCAR fan knows what that means: *it's race time!* The NASCAR season is quickly approaching and for those who love the sport the anticipation is coming to a head. The NASCAR season and the Daytona 500 are just around the corner beginning Sunday.

Arguably the biggest change this year is no surprise to most fans: Dale Earnhart Jr. is no longer a Dale Earnhart Inc. driver. He's now with Hendricks Motorsports and has adopted the number 88. Now all those with No. 8 tattoos need to go back to your tattoo artist and get the other 8 added on.

For years it was common knowledge that Jeff Gordon fans

were not Dale Jr. fans and vice versa. Now the two dynamite racers are teamed up for what is bound to be a spectacular season full of what we like... speed, rubbin', bumpin', wrecks, and just good old fashion racing. The team-up with Hendrick Motorsports is bound to bring about success for Dale Jr. who was recovering from a "series of unfortunate events" most of last season.

Last year Carl Edwards won three races. For those of you new to the sport, every time Carl wins a race, after hours of driving, he'll crawl out of the car and do a back-flip. For that I give him a 10. Not only is he personable and a good driver, the guy can actually do a back-flip.

I look forward to seeing more from Carl Edwards in the 2008 season, as he is still maturing as a driver into what hopefully will lead to more wins in his future.

Las Vegas odds on drivers this year puts Jimmie Johnson as the NASCAR favorite with Tony Stewart following closely behind. I was fortunate enough to see Jimmie Johnson win in Phoenix, Ariz., last fall. I have to admit Tony is one of my favorite drivers, probably because he is so darn blunt.

This past week Dale Jr. won the Budweiser Shootout and Jimmie Johnson won the pole for Sunday's race with Michael Waltrip starting on the outside. Dale Jr., Waltrip and Johnson have each won at Daytona in the past, so this is going to be a race to the finish worth watching. I am crossing my fingers for Dale Jr. but I am splitting my money between him and Johnson.

My prediction for the new season is that Jimmie will hold strong and Carl Edwards will break his record of three wins last year. According to my little crystal ball, Dale Jr. is going to feel like he really has something to prove being on a new team, and he's going to 'stand in the gas' and win at least three races this year. I also foresee Dale Jr. with much better luck than he had in the 2007 race season and being a much stronger contender in the chase for the race in points this year.





# Bowling ranks high in U.S.

Story and photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

You would never believe what is one of America's top sports. Have you guessed yet? The answer is - bowling. Surprised?

According to a survey conducted by the National Sporting Goods Association, bowling was listed as the fifth most played sport in the United States with over 44.8 million participants. 'Exercise walking' is number one with 87.5 million, followed by swimming with 56.5 million, 'working out' came in at third with 52.4 million, and camping fourth at 48.6.

Here are a few numbers that you're not going to believe: basketball came in at fifteenth with 26.7 million participants, golf at sixteenth with 24.4 million and in twenty-second place was softball with just over 12.4 million players.

So to check the validity of the survey we went down to the Marblehead Lanes Bowling Center to see what all the hubbub was about. Just our luck, they had a fun bowling league going on Monday night. Wow, we couldn't believe how many people were actually bowling and how many beverages were being consumed. That might be part of the reason why bowling is so popular because - beverages and bowling go hand-in-hand.

"Bowling is awesome...where else can you go get a meal, play a few games, and put down a few drinks with your friends," said Michael Smith, a lifelong bowler. "I've been bowling since I was a child and I don't think I'll ever quit. It's just too much fun."

There is currently a league going on at the Marblehead. Every Monday at 7 p.m. you'll find the 'fun mixed league' taking over the bowling

alley. Their objective is simple - toe the line for a friendly competition and destroy as many pins by hurling a 10-pound ball down the lane at them.

"Playing in the league is a blast," said Shawn Gross, a league member. "It's fun getting to play against different people each week. The challenge each week is the main reason we join leagues."

Each player on each team pays weekly to play and at the end of each season each team and individual score is added up to decide the winners. Prizes are awarded to the top teams and players of the league.

For those not playing in a league, the bowling center has a wild type of game called extreme bowling. The lights turn off, black lights and strobe lights turn on and the music cranks up. The tunes vary from 80's classics like Michael Jackson to more

modern rap by Eminem. If you're up for a different type of a challenge then Fridays and Saturdays from 7-11 p.m. are for you.

"I think extreme bowling is the wildest event I've done since I've been here at Gitmo," said David Johnson, a beginner bowler. "It was crazy, one minute you're bowling with the lights on and the next it gets completely dark and the lights start blinking to the music. It was like a disco."

If you're looking to play a regular game with a few of your friends, walk-ins are always welcome, even during league nights. The Marblehead is open seven days a week with supplies, shoes and balls for those that need them.

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For more information on the bowling center call 2118.



**A league bowler releases the perfect ball as he throws a strike to help his team win their match-up Monday night.**



# Mardi Gras brings a taste of New Orleans to Guantanamo

Photos by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard  
and Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

*Inspired by Troopers from the Louisiana Army National Guard, Guantanamo Bay held its first Mardi Gras celebration Saturday. The evening started with an authentic Creole meal before culminating in a parade from the Bayview to O'Kelly's Irish Pub.*





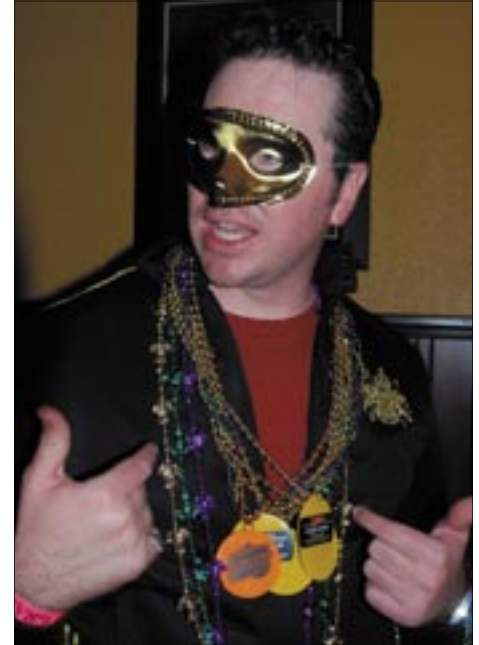
# Mardi Gras Guantanamo Style



Army Spc. Dan Welch and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Tom "Curly" Smith enjoy their first Mardi Gras.



Army Capt. Kevin Cowan and Army 2nd Lt. Lance Cagnolatti sport Mardi Gras garb.



Army Sgt. Scott Griffin shows off his Mardi Gras beads at O'Kelly's during the parade pit stop.

**Story and photos by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard**  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Saturday night the hills were alive with the sound of Mardi Gras. That's right, the Mardi Gras parade began and ended at the Bayview winding down to O'Kelly's. The parade was the place to be for merriment and memorabilia.

There were only two floats in the parade, one from the Army National Guard's 241st from Louisiana and one put together by Naval Station personnel along with members of the Coast Guard's Port Security Unit 313.

The 241st showed up early to decorate their float with assistance from the Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Themed with traditional Mardi Gras colors of purple, green, and gold the float also had a sound system blaring the tunes of Bourbon Street. Two of the crew on the 241st float Dan Welch and Tom Smith had never participated in a Mardi Gras before. "I just wanted to see what it was all about" was the reason

Welch gave for coming out and being a part of the night. Welch continued "It was a lot of fun, it was well planned and well organized."

Tom agreed that the night was a success "This was a great time to build memories with the 241st, and just relax and have a great time."

Members of the Naval Station and Coast Guard Port Security Unit 313 sported a float that was a bit smaller but the personnel onboard were just as much in the spirit as anyone. With beads to throw and twinkle lights to brighten their night, the crew was wild, crazy and full of fun. Although the parade was not long, it was a party unto itself.

The Bayview started the evening off with a traditional New Orleans meal featuring items such as red beans and rice, bar-b-que ribs, gumbo, with king cake for dessert. The bar also got into the spirit of the night serving the infamous Hurricanes for those who dared.

People relaxed under the stars and enjoyed the traditional cuisine, the good

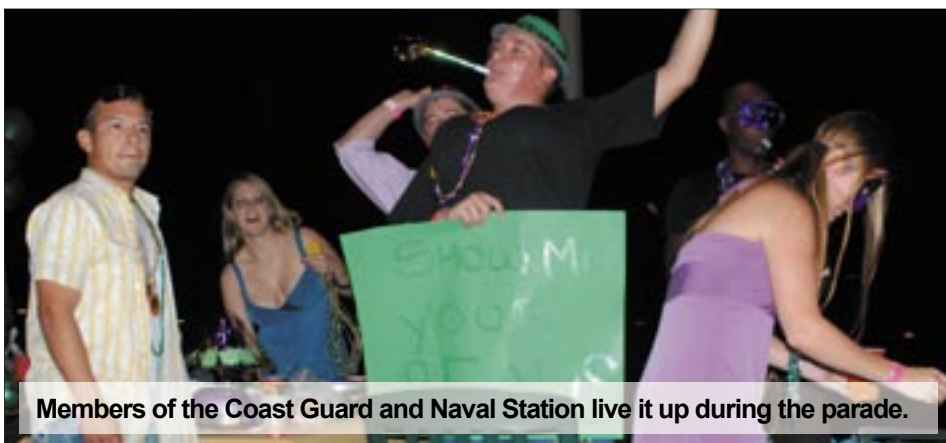
drinks and great company until the hour of the parade. Upon commencement people flooded the floats to start the party and toss out memorabilia. Boxes and boxes of beads, key chains, and Mardi Gras coins to toss were on the floats to be tossed to parade watchers.

The two floats made their way down Sherman Avenue while float participants generously tossed beads and tokens to those on the street as the parade made its way down the hill to O'Kelly's.

The Irish pub got into the New Orleans spirit with traditional Dixieland jazz and Hurricanes. The crowded pub was bustling with activity and Mardi Gras participants having a good time.

Keeping with tradition, many wore customs or masks. Strangers met and left as friends while everyone enjoyed the night. Everyone got off the floats when the floats arrived at O'Kelly's for a quick drink before finishing back up at the Bayview.

The spirit of Mardi Gras was alive in well in Guantanamo if only for one night and made lasting memories (at least for those who didn't have too many hurricanes).



Members of the Coast Guard and Naval Station live it up during the parade.



# Sept. 11 co-conspirators charged

**From the Department of Defense**

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense  
(Public Affairs)

The Defense Department announced Monday that charges have been sworn against six detainees at Guantanamo, alleged to be responsible for the planning and execution of the attacks upon the United States of America which occurred on Sept. 11, 2001. Those attacks resulted in the deaths of nearly 3,000 people. The charges allege a long term, highly sophisticated, organized plan by al-Qaida to attack the United States.

The accused are: Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, Walid Muhammad Salih Mubarek Bin ‘Attash, Ramzi Binalshibh, Ali Abdul Aziz Ali, Mustafa Ahmed Adam al Hawsawi, and Mohamed al Kahtani.

Each of the defendants is charged with conspiracy and the separate, substantive offenses of: murder in violation of the law of war, attacking civilians, attacking civilian objects, intentionally causing serious bodily injury, destruction of property in violation of the law of war, terrorism and providing material support for terrorism.

The first four defendants, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, Walid Muhammad Salih Mubarek Bin ‘Attash, Ramzi Binalshibh, and Ali Abdul Aziz Ali are also charged with the substantive offense of hijacking or hazarding a vessel.

All of the charges are alleged to have been in support of the attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

Now that sworn charges have been received, the convening authority will review the charges and supporting evidence to determine whether probable cause exists to refer the case for trial by military commission. The chief prosecutor has requested that charges to be tried jointly and be referred as capital for each defendant. If the convening authority, Susan Crawford, in her sole discretion, decides to refer the cases as capital, the defendants will face the possibility of being sentenced to death.

The charge sheet details 169 overt acts allegedly committed by the defendants in furtherance of the Sept. 11 events.

The charges allege that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed was the mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks by proposing the operational concept to Osama bin Laden as early as 1996, obtaining approval and

funding from Osama bin Laden for the attacks, overseeing the entire operation, and training the hijackers in all aspects of the operation in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Walid Muhammad Salih Mubarek Bin ‘Attash is alleged to have administered an al-Qaida training camp in Logar, Afghanistan where two of the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers were trained. He is also alleged to have traveled to Malaysia in 1999 to observe airport security by U. S. air carriers to assist in formulating the hijacking plan.

Ramzi Binalshibh is alleged to have lived with the Hamburg, Germany, al-Qaida cell where three of the Sept. 11 hijackers resided. It is alleged that Binalshibh was originally selected by Osama bin Laden to be one of the Sept. 11 hijackers and that he made a “martyr video” in preparation for the operation. He was unable to obtain a US visa and, therefore, could not enter the United States as the other hijackers did. In light of this, it is alleged that Binalshibh assisted in finding flight schools for the hijackers in the United States, and continued to assist the conspiracy by engaging in numerous financial transactions in support of the Sept. 11 operation.

Ali Abdul Aziz Ali’s role is alleged to have included sending approximately \$120,000 to the hijackers for their expenses and flight training, and facilitating travel to the United States for nine of the hijackers.

Mustafa Ahmed Adam al Hawsawi is alleged to have assisted and prepared the hijackers with money, western clothing, traveler’s checks and credit cards. He is also alleged to have facilitated the transfer of thousands of dollars between the accounts of alleged Sept. 11 hijackers and himself on Sept. 11, 2001.

Mohamed al Kahtani is alleged to have attempted to enter the United States on



August 4, 2001, through Orlando International Airport where he was denied entry. It is also alleged that al Kahtani carried \$2,800 in cash and had an itinerary listing a phone number associated with Hawsawi.

If the convening authority refers the charges to trial, the prosecution bears the burden of proving the case beyond a reasonable doubt, which is the standard applied in all U.S. and military criminal trials.

In the military commissions process, every defendant has the following rights: The right to remain silent and to have no adverse inference drawn from it; the right to be represented by detailed military counsel, as well as civilian counsel of his own selection and at no expense to the government; the right to examine all evidence used against him by the prosecution; the right to obtain evidence and to call witnesses on his own behalf including expert witnesses; the right to cross-examine every witness called by the prosecution; the right to be present during the presentation of evidence; the right to have a military commission panel of at least five military members determine his guilt by a 2/3 majority, or in the case of a capital offense, a unanimous decision of a

**Continued on page 13**





# There wasn't a new movie, so I'm crackin' out the 360

**By Army 1st Lt. Lance Cagnolatti**  
 JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

**Rated: T**  
**Running Time: That really doesn't apply**

I remember the sound of the Drill Sergeants voice like it was yesterday. I had to pass at least four basic training exercises: rifle marksmanship, an obstacle course, U.S. weapon training, and training for military operations in urban terrain. After these exercises I was offered the choice of advanced training for snipers or airborne troops.

This high octane, pushing the limit, mean green fighting machine isn't gaining knowledge at Fort Jackson, Fort Benning, or Fort Knox. No, this Soldier's training is produced on a computer game that's all about very realistic – and very deadly – combat.

Originally released in August 2002 for PCs, "America's Army" was one of the best games to hit the PC. Not only were the game play and graphics top flight for the time, but the Army was actually giving it away! Recruiters were giving the game away for free. Oh, yeah baby! Free move-and-shoot loot!

"America's Army: Rise of a Soldier" followed on Xbox in 2005. Recruiting is over and now you had to work as part of Uncle Sam's Army or get enough money to pay for the game. The core of the game started out like a lot military-type games: by doing basic training missions that serve as a tutorial. Depending on how well you complete training requirements, you earned certifications that translate into skill points you used to enhance your character's

abilities in seven different areas, to include leadership, stealth, and honor.

The game play stayed true to form with seven different Soldier archetypes, each having five possible missions associated with them, giving a total of 35 single-player missions. The storyline was pretty straight forward, but had a lot of replay value in by earning higher ratings for more skill points.

And now America's Army has deployed to Xbox 360 as "True Soldiers." Not only do you have to pay for it, the price point is high enough that you might have to use your housing allowance to cover it! Luckily we have the galley to cover our meals.

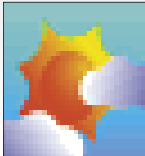
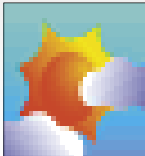
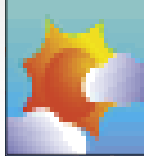
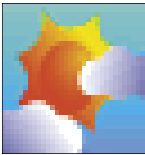
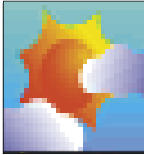
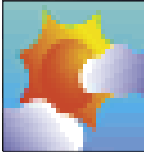

Remember the graphics that were rockin' like Dokken in 2002? It's the same graphics for the 2007 model. As for game play, I almost busted my controller trying to get decent movement out of my digital battlefield double. Think campaign mode should be good? I had a harder time writing this review.

Overall, the America's Army series has potential to succeed in the future. The problems with "True Soldiers" would have been acceptable if players weren't going out-of-pocket for what is essentially a recruiting campaign. That's highway robbery!

I really enjoyed the first and second versions of the game, for that reason only I won't give the third entry an Article 15. I'm warning the makers, though: screw up the fourth entry and I'll put my fancy new training to use.

**Rating: ★★★★★**

\*Editor's note: What was up with not having a new movie? Folks even like us to review the crummy stuff!

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">Weather forecast provided by <a href="http://www.weather.com">www.weather.com</a></span>			
<p><b>Saturday, Feb. 16</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the mid - 60's.</p>  <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b>            Sunrise: 6:29 a.m.            Sunset: 6:00 p.m.            Chance of rain: 20%</p>	<p><b>Sunday, Feb. 17</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the mid - 60's.</p>  <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b>            Sunrise: 6:29 a.m.            Sunset: 6:01 p.m.            Chance of rain: 20%</p>	<p><b>Monday, Feb. 18</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the mid - 60's.</p>  <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b>            Sunrise: 6:28 a.m.            Sunset: 6:01 p.m.            Chance of rain: 20%</p>	
<p><b>Tuesday, Feb. 19</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the mid - 60's.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:28 a.m.            Sunset: 6:01 p.m.            Chance of Rain: 10%</p> <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b></p>	<p><b>Wednesday, Feb. 20</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the mid - 60's.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:27 a.m.            Sunset: 6:02 p.m.            Chance of Rain: 10%</p> <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday, Feb. 21</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high - 60's.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:26 a.m.            Sunset: 6:03 p.m.            Chance of Rain: 10%</p> <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b></p>	<p><b>Friday, Feb. 22</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the mid - 60's.</p>  <p>Sunrise: 6:26 a.m.            Sunset: 6:03 p.m.            Chance of Rain: 60%</p> <p><b>Scattered T-Storms</b></p>



# Military commissions charges referred

*Continued from page 11*

military commission composed of at least 12 members; and the right to an appeal to the Court of Military Commission Review, then through the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals to the United States Supreme Court.

These rights are guaranteed to the defendant under the Military Commissions Act, and are specifically designed to ensure that every defendant receives a fair trial, consistent with American and international standards of justice and the rule of law.

The sworn charges are only allegations that each accused has committed a war crime under the Military Commissions Act. The accused are presumed innocent of any criminal charges unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt at a military commission.

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## DoD Release No. 2

The Defense Department announced Feb. 8 that charges were referred to a military commission in the case of Ibrahim Ahmed Mahmoud al Qosi, aka "Abu Khobaib al Sudani," by the Convening Authority, Office of Military Commissions, Susan J. Crawford.

Al Qosi is charged with conspiring with Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaida members to target, attack and murder civilians and attack civilian objects in violation of the law of war, to destroy

property in violation of the law of war, and to commit and provide material support to terrorism. If convicted, the accused could be sentenced up to life in prison.

The charges allege that in 1996 al Qosi personally served as an armed guard and driver for Osama bin Laden. Until about 1998, al Qosi is alleged to have provided logistical support by obtaining supplies and provisions for al-Qaida, an international terrorist group dedicated to opposing non-Islamic governments with force and violence, at a compound near Jalalabad known as the "Star of Jihad." It is further alleged that from in or about 1998 through in or about 2001, in Afghanistan, al Qosi lived at an al-Qaida compound near Kandahar ("Kandahar compound"), with other al-Qaida members, including Osama bin Laden, where he provided security, transportation, and supply services. It is also alleged that between 1998 and 2001 he traveled from the Kandahar compound to the front line near Kabul, where he fought in support of al-Qaida as part of a mortar crew.

It is also alleged that in 2001, al Qosi, armed with a Kalashnikov rifle, evacuated the Kandahar compound and traveled to Kabul, then to Jalalabad, and then into the Tora Bora Mountains to provide transportation, security and support to Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaida members.

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## DoD Release No. 2

The Office of Military Commissions announced Feb. 8 that three charges have been sworn against Guantanamo detainee Ali Hamza Ahmad Suliman al Bahlul.

The first two charges are conspiracy and solicitation to commit: murder of protected persons, attacking civilians, attacking civilian objects, murder in violation of the Law of War, destruction of property in violation of the Law of War, terrorism, and providing material support for terrorism. The third charge is providing material support for terrorism.

The charges allege that in or about February of 1999, al Bahlul traveled to Afghanistan to attend military-type training and to join al-Qaida. Once a member of al-Qaida, he allegedly served as the personal secretary and media secretary of Osama bin Laden. The charge sheet states al Bahlul created a propaganda video entitled "The Destruction of the American Destroyer U.S.S. Cole," propaganda declarations styled as martyr wills for 9/11 hijackers Muhammed Atta and Ziad al Jarrah, researched the economic effects of the 9/11 attacks on the United States for Osama bin Laden, and operated al-Qaida's media communication equipment. The charges also allege al Bahlul armed himself to protect and prevent the capture of Osama bin Laden.

## Boots on the Ground

*Where would you go on your dream vacation?*

*By Army Spc. Shanita Simmons*

**Petty Officer 3rd Class  
David Kennedy**



*"Hawaii, because the weather is beautiful."*

**Petty Officer 1st Class  
Diante Shabazz**



*"Africa, because I always wanted to get back to my roots."*

**Petty Officer 2nd Class  
Jesse Zambrano**



*"Sigonella, Italy, so I can see my wife."*

**Petty Officer 2nd Class  
T. Davis**



*"Australia, because it's an excellent place to visit."*

# Love: it's still the best motivation



[www.artofthestate.co.uk](http://www.artofthestate.co.uk)

**By Army Capt. Daniel McKay**

JTF Command Chaplain/NEGB Chaplain

How do we defeat our very determined, persistent enemy? More importantly, how do we defeat our enemy, the enemy of our freedom and very way of life, without, at the same time, losing our soul—both individually and collectively as a nation?

The answer, it seems to me, is in motivation. Our enemy has made it very clear that they dislike our freedom. Why? Because freedom allows the ambiguity of choice – allowing some to exercise choices they would never allow. Our enemy has often stated that they especially find disturbing the decadence present in western society (which, ironically, many, if not most people, in our society find troubling, as well). Thus, in anger and hatred, they have struck out against all who have embraced freedom.

Obviously, over the course of these past few years, we have also struck back. The difference, though? While we strive to take the fight to the enemy only, mitigating the loss of innocent life as much as possible, the enemy does not. Our foe, it should be visible to all by now, does not mind the taking of innocent lives to advance their cause.

As a chaplain serving in Iraq with the Marines and now here with Joint Task Force Guantanamo, I often get asked why it is we establish “rules of engagement” or other guidelines that sometimes place our fighting men and women at greater potential risk. I can only offer one answer: love. Love for God and country, love for family and others. Love for freedom and its advantages—not

hatred, enmity, or bitterness—motivates us to restrict the current fight, to the greatest degree possible, to the enemy only. As a result, therefore, we place operational parameters on ourselves in order to encourage right thinking, motivation, and action even in – especially in – time of war.

Of course, this does not mean we have not made mistakes or exercised poor judgment ourselves at times along the way. Indeed, we have. Love, however, demands that we be honest and truthful about such and right the wrong as much as possible afterward. Slowly and painfully, the truth comes out, as it eventually always does, and generations to come will have to judge how well we did in making things right and better thereafter. Love involves forgiveness, so hopefully they will forgive our wrongs, learn from them and appreciate the sacrifices we made in love on their behalf.

No, love is not the easier or even necessarily the least costly path to pursue. Still, given the option between allowing our own heart, mind, and spirit to become clouded and controlled by anger, bitterness, and hate, it remains the best path. This remains true, whether on the battlefield, in marriage, in the family, in the workplace or even in one’s community. It is as the Apostle Paul so well observes: “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails” (I Corinthians 13:4-8a).



# Humble reservist named Trooper of the Quarter

Story and photos by Navy  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Commander Rear Adm. Buzby awarded Trooper of the Quarter recognition to Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class John Shriver on Jan. 29. Shriver arrived in Guantanamo in December 2007 and has already risen to distinction in the ranks of the JTF.

When asked what set him apart from the others that applied for the Trooper of the Quarter Shriver's humble response was "I don't know, honestly we are just a group of hard working people."

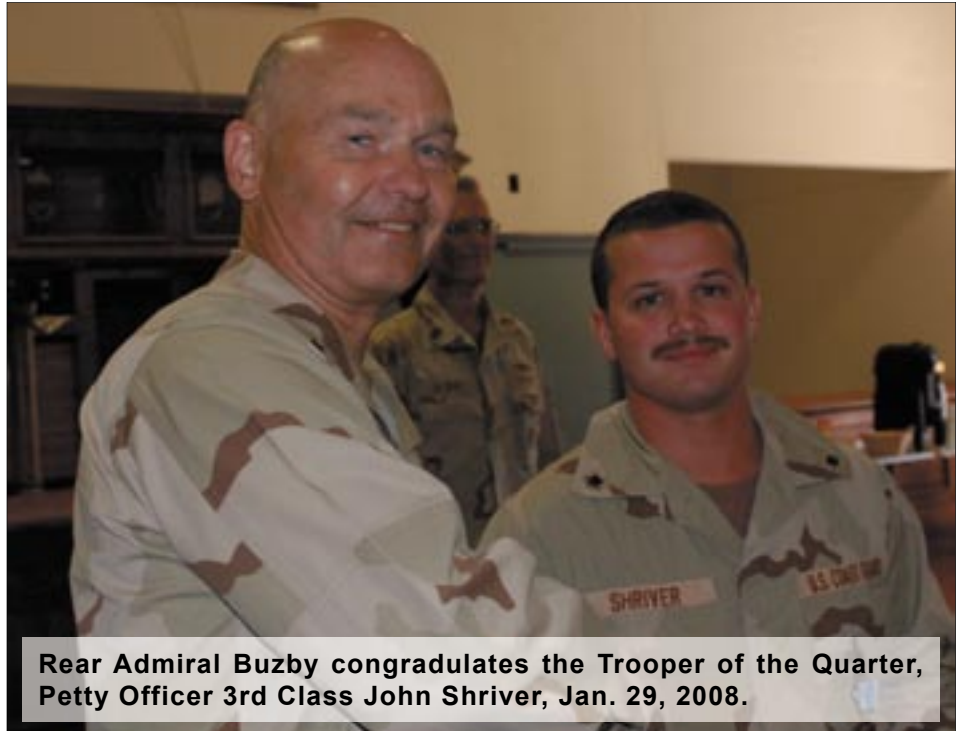
Shriver is a Coast Guard reservist from the Seattle area and while happy to be here, acknowledges missing home and family

The other thing he misses is his favorite bar, a place where everyone knows his name and he can relax after work with a cold one. However, he is not missing the cloudy, rainy weather Seattle is famous for.

"I love the sunshine" he confessed with a beaming smile. In his civilian life, he is a construction contractor, but in the Coast Guard he serves as a Boatswains Mate, and



Shriver enjoys patrolling Guantanamo's waters at night.



Rear Admiral Buzby congratulates the Trooper of the Quarter, Petty Officer 3rd Class John Shriver, Jan. 29, 2008.

is an accomplished coxswain. When asked what he enjoyed most about the Coast Guard, Shriver replied, "There is no greater enjoyment in the Coast Guard than driving a boat".

After high school Shriver found himself considering his options. His family had a varied history of military service. Growing up hearing his fathers Coast Guard stories helped him make his decision. After talking with many recruiters from various services Shriver said the Coast Guard was a better fit. "I enjoyed the mission of the Coast Guard," he said.

Shriver has served with Port Security Unit 313 since joining the Coast Guard six years ago. This is Shriver's second deployment in six years. From February 2003 until August 2003 he was with PSU 313 in Kuwait. There he became interested in Arab culture, which spurred him to obtain a bachelor's in Islamic Studies from the University of Washington, where he also learned to speak Arabic. John confesses that his Arabic is rusty but he practices

on his spare time. Eventually John hopes to pursue a master's in either Near Eastern Studies or Islamic Studies.

While on the job, Shriver spends time working on qualifications and training with his crew. He admits that an important part of his job is "getting people up to speed and advancing their careers."

Shriver enjoys his time here and says the best part of being in Guantanamo "is being underway and doing our mission." When asked what advice he would pass on to new Troopers coming to the island he replied, "Use it as an opportunity to improve yourself because you have nothing but time."

Upon returning to the Pacific Northwest, Shriver hopes to find an East Coast unit so his wife can pursue her master's degree at a college there. His long term goals for the Coast Guard are still undetermined. He is torn between his love of the Coast Guard and a strong desire to work for a Non-Government Organization helping those who are less fortunate.

# AROUND THE JTF



◀ Navy Cmdr. Jeffery Hayhurst awards Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Ronnie Burnett with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal inside Camp Delta, Feb. 8. Burnett was being awarded for his outstanding work with Joint Task Force Guantanamo. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard)

Army Capt. Patrick Ross congratulates Army Sgt. Lavelle Jones following his promotion Wednesday. Jones is an integral part of the 525th Military Police Battalion and has shown great leadership as a military justice paralegal with the 525. (Photo by Army Sgt. Jody Metzger) ▶



◀ Navy Lt. Thomas Ross administers the oath of enlistment to Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Allan Acosta on the Bayview patio, Feb. 8. Acosta reenlisted for another term of service. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)