

THE WIRE

Joint Task Force
Guantanamo's
Finest News Source

A News Magazine

HONOR BOUND TO DEFEND FREEDOM



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Army Staff Sgt. Rafael Almonte

Puerto Rico “A Lo Que Vinimos”

By Army Sgt. Maj. Jaime Perez

JTF-GTMO HHC

During these past few years, the Army National Guard of Puerto Rico has been tasked with missions in different places throughout the world. From Iraq to Afghanistan, from Kuwait to Sinai, our men and women have been representing Puerto Rico with dignity and pride, gaining the reputation of being some of the most dedicated Soldiers that exist. Army General William W. Harris was quoted in the *Puerto Rico Herald* as saying, “Many Puerto Ricans have fought to the death to uphold democratic principles.” This is nothing but the truth.

Many of our men and women have distinguished themselves in and out of the battle field and many have been recognized and awarded for a job well done. We have also lost some of our brothers and sisters during the Global War on Terrorism.

Now, the Puerto Rico Army National Guard has been challenged again, this time with a unique mission. We are to be part of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism. We have over 200 troopers from Puerto Rico adapting to work as part of a task force; Army Reserve and National Guard, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, all together with one common goal ... defend freedom.

It’s not easy to change our native language in one day, but we will adapt fast to this challenge and with some patience from our friendly forces it will be even easier for us to adapt. However, this will not be a barrier for us, that’s why the National Guard of Puerto Rico is known as “a unique bilingual force.”



I am convinced that we will surpass all obstacles that we might encounter and we will accomplish our mission with great honor. First of all, we were well trained by the 654th Area Support Group and the 1st Army at Ft. Lewis. We were also well guided by the Maryland National Guard on how the job has to be done in Guantanamo. But above all, what really has me convinced is the motivation and dedication that I see from each and every one of our Troopers. Now it is our turn to make our contribution to freedom. It is our chance to demonstrate once again how capable we are when it comes to accomplishing difficult tasks.

We know the importance this mission has for the future of Puerto Rico, the United States and the world. We are willing to work hard so that our sons and daughters and our grandsons and granddaughters may have a better future.

We are honored and proud to be part of history, but even more ... WE ARE HONORED AND PROUD TO BE FROM PUERTO RICO.

“A LO QUE VINIMOS” ■

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Sun, surf, and safety

SAFETY FIRST EQUALS SMOOTH SAILING

By Army Pfc. Phil Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The evening sun cascades on the aqua-blue surface of the waters at Windmill Beach, casting pinkish-red reflections on your skin. The setting sun says it's time to call it a day, but the supple swells scream to be ridden. Sure, you remember something about a small-craft warning, but with conditions like this, it means very little. You look behind and see the sets start to pick up; you take a deep breath and begin to paddle. The wave takes you, but your inexperience shows, as it breaks too sharp, taking you head first into the reef.

Water safety is extremely important here. Whether it's swimming safety, boating safety or scuba safety, being safe in the water should be a priority for all Troopers, said Jaron Chapman, a Marina technician here.

"It's safe to say that most of the authorized beaches here are pretty safe to swim in. Boats aren't allowed within 300 yards of these areas, so you needn't fear boats coming through the area. It's when you swim at unauthorized beaches, or near the mouth of the bay that you might find problems," said Chapman.

"The funneling effects of the winds that come through Guantanamo Bay create a heavy undertow near the mouth of the bay," added Chapman.

"It's also a great idea to bring lots of sun block and water. Being out in the water, it doesn't really feel like you're getting too dehydrated or getting too much

sun, but after an hour or two, you can really feel the detrimental effects of all that sun and lack of water," added Chapman.

If you're looking to acquire a boating license, you must first get certified. But for you certified boaters, there are certain safety precautions that are extremely important. Be wary of other boaters, pay attention to the rules of the sea, and it's especially important to stay in authorized waters. The last one is extremely important to remember, if your boat ever drifts into Cuban waters, you can expect immense consequences, explained Chapman.

"Small-craft warnings don't only apply to boaters. It's also very important that swimmers take it into account. If the sea's not safe for a small boat, then it's obviously not safe for a swimmer," added Chapman.

"If you're scuba diving, you should always have a buddy, and if you're diving farther than 300 yards offshore, you must bring a dive flag. It's also highly important to be aware of the proximity of international waters. You don't want to be diving there," said April Berryman, assistant manager at the dive shop here.

The basic rules around water are, have a friend with you, know your limitations, be safe and have fun. The angry wave's aftermath leaves only your body and ego bruised. Next time, perhaps, you'll pay closer attention to those safety precautions. If you're thinking of participating in any of the many water activities offered here, learn the specific rules and regulations, and above all, safety first. ■



Photo by Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

Troopers of the 525 Military Police Battalion participate in water safety training at Windmill Beach.

Last known Yeoman (F) laid to rest

By **Sophia Platt**

Naval Historical Center Public Affairs

Charlotte Louise Berry Winters, the last known Navy Yeoman (F) and female veteran of World War I, was laid to rest March 30 in Frederick, Md. Winters died at the age of 109 on March 27.

Her funeral was attended by an honor guard, pall bearers, and firing party from the Navy Ceremonial Guard, along with family and friends.

Vice Adm. Nancy E. Brown, Joint Staff director of Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems (C4 Systems), presented the casket flag to the family.

"Every Sailor in our Navy joins me today in mourning the passing of our shipmate, Charlotte Winters. We offer her family and friends our deepest sympathies and most heartfelt condolences," said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen.

After enlisting in 1917, Winters served at the Washington Navy Yard in Building 57, current home of the Naval Historical Center. One of the last Yeoman to be discharged in 1919, she was immediately hired by the Navy as a civilian to fill her active-duty job.

"Ms. Winters was a trailblazer, one of a relatively small group of women to serve in our Navy during World War I.

She did so honorably and nobly, helping through that service to bring freedom to millions of people all across Europe and hope to thousands of young women all across America," said Mullen. Winters and every other American Sailor of World War I -- man or woman -- certainly rose to the heroic mood. We salute her memory, and we thank her for inspiring us to do the same," Mullen added. ■



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Brien Aho

Navy Ceremonial Guard carries the casket of Charlotte Louise Berry Winters the last known Navy Yeoman and female veteran of World War I in Frederick Maryland.

Security bulletin: Force Protection

By **Frank Perkins**

JTF-GTMO Special Security Office

Force protection encompasses security programs designed to protect service members, civilian employees, family members, facilities, information and equipment in all locations and situations. "Danger" takes many forms: vandalism, extortion, kidnapping and bombing are the obvious ones. However, as suicide bombers and other terrorist acts so blatantly reveal, danger is not always self-evident. The Force Protection Program gives leaders and soldiers a framework that helps safeguard people and resources.

Force protection merges several security programs so experts can assess threats and vulnerabilities from a broad perspective. Security programs encompass physical, personnel, systems, operations, and information security, anti-terrorism, protective services, law enforcement, and weapons of mass destruction preparedness. Intelligence underlies each portion of force protection. When viewed as an overarching program that encompasses all of these disciplines, chances are greater that threats can be detected before it's too late.

The Force Protection Condition (FPCON) System, established by the Department Of Defense, facilitates continuity among branches of the U.S. armed forces. The system is designed to reduce vulnerability to terrorist attacks through the use of detailed protective measures. There is a graduated series of FPCON systems ranging from FPCON normal to FPCON alpha, bravo, charlie and delta.

There is a process by which commanders at all levels can raise or lower the Force Protection Conditions based on local conditions, specific threat information and guidance from higher headquarters.

The Department of Homeland Security devised a similar system based on colors that complements the Department of Defense force protection levels. The Homeland Security Advisory System provides a comprehensive and effective means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist acts to federal, state and local authorities. Starting from lowest to highest, the levels and colors are as follows: LOW=GREEN, GUARDED=BLUE, ELEVATED=YELLOW, HIGH=ORANGE, SEVERE=RED.

See your command security manager for more detailed information on threat levels. Mission first, security always! ■

Prosecutor: Hicks case good start for military commissions

By Army Sgt. Sara Wood

American Forces Press Service

The military commissions case of Australian detainee David Hicks, which concluded last week with a sentence of nine months imprisonment, was a fair proceeding that established a good basis for future commissions cases, the chief prosecutor for the Defense Department said yesterday.

Hicks, 31, was sentenced according to a plea agreement after pleading guilty to one charge of providing material support for terrorism. The commission recommended a seven-year sentence, which was the maximum allowed under the agreement, but another part of the agreement guaranteed a suspension for any portion of the sentence beyond nine months.

“What I hope is going to be reported is that we gave an al Qaeda terrorist a full and fair trial,” Air Force Col. Morris Davis, chief prosecutor for the Office of Military Commissions, said at a news conference after the sentencing.

Davis conceded that because of the plea agreement, not all parts of the commission process were tested. However, the portions that did happen were fair and orderly, and everyone involved learned from them, he said.

Hicks, the first detainee charged under the Military Commissions Act of 2006, entered a guilty plea March 26 in an unexpected evening hearing here. After two days of negotiations between the defense and prosecution, Hicks appeared before the military judge to confirm that he attended several al Qaeda training camps in Afghanistan in 2001 and that after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, he spent time with al Qaeda fighters at Kandahar Airport and at the front lines in Konduz before being captured while fleeing to Pakistan. He did not, however, admit to ever firing a shot or having any knowledge of the 9/11 attacks in advance.

Marine Maj. Michael Mori, Hicks’s detailed defense counsel, said at the news conference that the plea agreement was Hicks’s choice, and that Hicks is looking forward to returning to Australia soon. The agreement states that Hicks must be transferred to Australian custody within 60 days of the sentence being passed.

“I think David right now is looking forward to getting back to Australia,” Mori said. “He has some certainty finally in his life, and he’ll be able to focus

on getting on with his life, getting back with his family, finishing his education, and putting this part of his life behind him.”

Mori said he has filed all the necessary paperwork for Hicks’s transfer and hopes it will happen before the May 29 deadline.

Davis said about 74 more cases are waiting to be tried in military commissions here, and that the processes will be the same as were used in Hicks’s case. Each case is unique and may or may not involve a plea deal, but what is important are the procedures and rules, he said.

“I’m not as concerned with the outcome of a particular case as I am in that the trial is fair and the proceeding is fair,” Davis said. ■



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Watterworth

Building where military commissions are held at Joint Task Force-Guantanamo Bay.

Gators still have chops, their bites hurt worse than ever

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Gary Keen

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Florida Gators clinched their second consecutive NCAA championship Monday night in the Georgia Dome over the Ohio State Buckeyes, 84 -74, giving the Gators an impressive basketball-football-basketball triple crown. Florida is the first team to win consecutive championships since Duke in 1992. This accomplishment propels the Gators athletic program to the top of college sports.

The five players most responsible for this victory were Al Horford, Corey Brewer, Lee Humphrey, Taurean Green and the one-of-a-kind Joakim Noah.

The Gators defense was on key with the Buckeyes sinking only four of their 23 three-point attempts, failing at the best to Buckeyes Goliath center Greg Oden. Oden stayed out of his usual foul trouble, and finished with 25 points and 12 rebounds. Horford, Chris Richard and Marreese Speights each tried to defend him, but Oden's dominance lasted most of the night.

According to Ohio State coach Thad Matta, "He did everything he needed to do ... I think it was one of his best performances, staying out of foul trouble and doing the things he needed to do to help this basketball team."

Despite Oden's best efforts he couldn't carry his team in the biggest game of the season. The Gators offense proved too much for their opponents. Four starters finished in double figures, led by Horford with 18 points, 12 rebounds and Green's 16 points, six assists. Humphrey added 14 points on four 3-pointers, stretching his NCAA Tournament career record to 47. Brewer scored 13 points with 11 in the first half.

"I would put them in the category of one of the best teams to [ever] win," Matta said. "You're going to see those guys playing a lot of basketball for many years."

Florida completed a championship sweep in the university's two biggest sports -- men's hoops and football. Florida remains the only program in history to hold both championships at the same time. ■



Florida Gators' Corey Brewer celebrates his team's triumphant victory over the Buckeyes, clinching the NCAA championship for the 2nd year in a row.

GTMO Devils prepare for Captain's Cup Tourney

Begin season with 17-6 win over Pirates

By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeffrey Johnstone

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The GTMO Devils and W.T. Sampson High School Pirates kicked off 2007 Captain's Cup softball with the first game of the tournament Monday night at Cooper Field. Both teams took the field with aspirations of victory, especially after a week-long tournament delay caused by inclement weather.

Softball fans watched as the two teams tested each other in the early innings. However, the Devils ran away from this contest with a series of late runs that put the game out of reach.

The Devils found weaknesses in the Pirates' fielding, drilling pitch after pitch into the outfield, keeping their opponent's big hitters on the bench.

Despite W.T. Sampson's enthusiasm and an

avid cheering section around their dug-out, the night proved to be a long one. The Devils brought their game in full force, both offensively and defensively.

The Devils went on to overtake their first opponent of the season, W.T. Sampson, 17-6.

According to the Devils' coach, Luigi Alvarez, the team has a promising chance at succeeding in this year's tourney.

"We placed third last year, and we expect that if we can hit the ball consistently like we did tonight, we should be able to place in the top five this year as well," said Alvarez.

Coach Alvarez saw his team's defense as a strong suit in their win over Sampson. He feels this could be a key to the team's continued success.

"I was impressed by our play in the end," said Alvarez. "We kept getting better. If we can maintain that level of fielding the way we did tonight, we should play well into the season." ■



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeffrey Johnstone

A Pirates batter eyes the ball as it crosses the plate during softball action Monday night. Despite quality hitting from the Pirates in some innings, it was the GTMO Devils who came out on top, 17-6.

Variety; the spice of

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ARMY PFC. PHIL REGINA

Although the Joint Task Force provides delicious galley cuisine for its Troopers, sometimes a break from the usual is needed. Luckily, there are numerous dining options available at Guantanamo Bay.

For Troopers looking for a bit of variety, the Cuban Club provides a bit of spice to the usual GTMO fare with entrees including shrimp fried rice, Cuban sandwiches and fried chicken.

The Windjammer offers variety, as well as some stateside familiarity with its menu. The Windjammer Club serves entrees including chicken Dijon, steak and shrimp Alfredo. They also offer Pizza Hut cuisine, for Troopers in need of a little reminder of home.

For a touch of elegance, try out the Bayview, GTMO's version of fine dining restaurant. The menu offers chicken Caesar salads, filet mignon as well as surf and turf. Remember to bring a collared shirt and covered shoes if you intend to eat indoors.

If you're in the mood for some Caribbean cuisine, head on down to the Jerk House. Their menu may be limited to only three items; jerk chicken, jerk pork and jerk ribs, but the spice and flavor make up for lack of variety. They also offer other specials such as curried goat on certain days.

For those in need of dessert after your dinner, Caribbean Coffee and Cream offers ice cream and Starbucks coffee.

With all the different dining options, GTMO is sure to satisfy just about any craving you may have. Just take a drive down Sherman Avenue and you're sure to find something you like. ■



life



Making the climb through the junior enlisted ranks

By Army Spc. Dustin Robbins

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

So you're a brand new Trooper, eager to jump-start your career in the military. One of the first things you'd like to know is how to become a leader and make it to the top of the Jr. enlisted ranks. This article will guide you on the basic requirements in order to climb that ladder.

Each year, when Congress passes the Defense Authorization Act, it tells the military exactly how many people can be on active duty during the year, Congress also legislates what percentage of the total force can serve in each commissioned, warrant officer and enlisted rank above the grade of E-4. There are no statutory limits for E-4 and below placed by the Congress.

These limits become the basis of the military's enlisted promotion system. Each service takes the number of "slots" they have for each enlisted rank above the rank of E-4, and allocates them to the different enlisted jobs.

For example: Job 'X' may be authorized 5,000 E-5s, while job 'Y' may only be authorized 2,000 E-5s. As a general rule, the higher the rank, the fewer slots there are for that position.

So how does the military decide which enlisted members are going to get promoted? They do so through the use of three different systems: Decentralized promotions, semi-centralized promotions and centralized promotions.

The Army and Air Force use decentralized promotions to promote Troopers up to the pay grade of E-4. The Marine Corps and Navy use this method to promote up to E-3.

Decentralized promotions give the promoting authority to the lowest command level, usually the individual unit commander. In theory, the

commander decides who gets promoted and who doesn't. In actuality, because there are no quotas for promotion, each Trooper is usually promoted once they meet their promotion criteria, as long as they do their job suitably and don't get into trouble.

This is a broad description, and each service has their own unique criteria when it comes to promoting to the higher Jr. enlisted ranks.

The Army may allow the unit commander to waive a Soldier's time in grade and time in service requirements. The commander can waive up to two months TIG for promotions to E-2, six months TIS and two months TIG for promotions to E-3 and six months TIS and three months TIG for promotions to E-4.

Air Force Troopers will follow the normal time in service and time in grade criteria to get promoted, but it has a special program whereby commanders can promote a limited number of outstanding Airmen First Class (E-3) to Senior Airmen (E-4) six months before they would otherwise be eligible.

Only 15 percent of eligible Airmen First Class can be promoted under this program. Qualifying Airmen usually compete in a promotion board to be selected for early advancement with this program.

The Marine Corps also uses its normal time in grade and time in service criteria to promote its



Troopers, but only up to the point of Lance Corporal (E-3). Much like the Congress regulates how many Troopers can serve in each rank above E-4, the Marine Corps also adds the same principle to its Corporal rank, meaning that there has to be a vacant slot in order for a Marine to be promoted into it. With a limited number of promotions to E-4, the Marines need a method to decide who gets promoted. They use a system of composite scores that are calculated every three months. Each quarter, the Marine Corps announces how many Marines in each job specialty will be promoted to E-4. To determine who gets promoted, composite score points are awarded from several different areas of personal development and soldiering skills.

Much like the Marine Corps, the Navy and Coast Guard has established their own limitation on the number of E-4s that can serve, which makes attaining that pay grade a competitive process. A vacancy in the specific job specialty must be available and the Trooper must take an advancement exam that tests their proficiency in their job specialty as well as their basic skills. Troopers will be selected for advancement by their test scores and will need to complete the Petty Officer Indoctrination Course before being promoted.

Now that we know some of the intricacies of each service's promotion process up to E-4, let's take a look at the basics: the time in service and time in grade requirements. You can follow the chart to find your service's basic requirements for advancement.

Armed with this knowledge, you are prepared to become an early leader among your peers and reach the top.

Promotion to E-2:

- Army -- 6 months active duty & commander's recommendation



- Air Force -- 6 months active duty & commander's approval
- Navy -- 9 months active duty and commander's approval
- Marine Corps -- 6 months active duty
- Coast Guard -- After completion of boot camp

Promotion to E-3:

- Army -- 12 months active duty, 4 months as an E-2, and commander's recommendation
- Air Force -- 10 Months as an E-2, and commander's approval
- Navy -- 9 months as an E-2, demonstrated military and professional qualifications, and commander's approval
- Marine Corps -- 9 months active duty, 8 months as an E-2
- Coast Guard -- Six months as an E-2, demonstration of military & professional qualifications, & commander's approval

Promotion to E-4:

- Army -- 12 months active duty, 6 months as an E-3, and commander's recommendation
- Air Force -- 36 months active duty, with 20 months as an E-3, or 28 months as an E-3, whichever comes first
- Navy -- Based on Navy-wide vacancies within each career field.
- Marine Corps -- 24 months active duty, 12 months as an E-3, and meet established score.
- Coast Guard -- Based on Coast Guard-wide vacancies within each career field. ■



Reunion Issue #7

By Army Chaplain (Maj.) Daniel Jones

JTF Command Chaplain

Practically everyone who has been through the reunion cycle agrees that your sense of timing, and that of your partner, matters a great deal. The most important thing seems to be to save the first day or two for just being home and being together. Questions, problems, and complications can wait – whether they are “your” troubles or those of your partner.

Do set aside your first day home for doing nothing but soaking up the fact that you are home.

Do come right out and tell your partner how wonderful it is to be together again; and if you have children and other friends and family around, tell them too.

Do focus on your partner and family for the first couple of days. Unless you are single, let seeing your friends wait until later.

Don't go through your mail on the first day. It's been waiting quite a while already, so a couple of extra days won't matter.

Don't ask where the money came from for the new curtains, or who put the scratch in the coffee table.

Don't make judgments about any changes you

notice in the home, in your partner, or in your children if you have any. Let things settle for a couple of days.

Seek professional and sympathetic support if you are having a difficult time adjusting to your stateside life through your chaplain and family readiness and support programs and staff. ■

SURVIVING SEPARATION

By Army Chaplain (Maj.) Daniel Jones

JTF Command Chaplain

This week's action item is:

Action Item #7 – Think about reorganizing your life.

Plan with your family or loved one what you want to change before you return home. Plan the change instead of being controlled by the change. Simply, work out a way to make the changes you have wanted to achieve during this time of separation. It could be a renovation to your home, buying a new home, moving to a new job, and whatever your imagination can create. ■

WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com

Saturday, Apr. 7

Chance of isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80's, and lows in the lower 70's.



Isolated T-storms

Sunrise: 6:49 a.m.

Sunset: 7:17 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 40%

Sunday, Apr. 8

Chance of isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80's, and lows in the lower 70's.



Isolated T-storms

Sunrise: 6:48 a.m.

Sunset: 7:17 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 30%

Monday, Apr. 9

Chance of isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80's, and lows in the lower 70's.



Isolated T-storms

Sunrise: 6:48 a.m.

Sunset: 7:17 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 30%

MOVIE REVIEW CORNER



This week's movie review of "Smokin' Aces" by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Trevor Andersen

Time for a little heart-to-heart. I love action movies. In fact, the only two movies I've given five stars (Casino Royale and 300) have been action movies. So you can understand why I wanted Smokin' Aces to be a great movie ... it's a shame it wasn't.

With an all-star cast too long to list here, Smokin' Aces tries to emulate movies like Ocean's Eleven and Kill Bill. Buddy "Aces" Israel (Jeremy Piven), a Las Vegas magician and small time gangster, gets in trouble with the mob and several groups of contract killers compete for the job.

We're introduced to all these characters without the time necessary to get to know them. As a result, not one character is likeable, which turns out to be fine because the story is pointless anyway.

All throughout the movie, the director was keeping something from us. We know because they practically tell you "hey, we're keeping this from you." I sat through the movie hoping the "secret" would help everything make sense. It didn't. It just made it worse and more confusing.

I wish I had paid for this movie so I could demand my money back. At least I had a delicious hot dog at the Downtown Lyceum, otherwise the evening would have been a complete failure.

I give Smokin' Aces one and a half stars. You could have a better time polishing your desert boots. ■

- Smokin' Aces -

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Rated: R

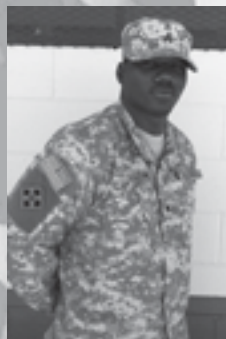
Duration: 109 minutes

Boots on the Ground:

"What is your favorite band?"



"Earth, Wind and Fire."
-Army Staff Sgt. Kenneth Dixon



"R. Kelley."
-Army Sgt. Garrus Richardson



"Scarface."
-Navy Petty Officer 1st Class (SW) Rooney L. Walker



"OutKast."
-Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Travellous Gore

EASTER AND THE RESURRECTION

By Army Chaplain (Capt.) Yurus

U.S. Army Chaplain

Why is it so important for the Christian faith to have a Resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter? The apostle Paul writes, "If Christ has not been raised our preaching is useless and so is your faith ... if Christ has not been raised your faith is futile."

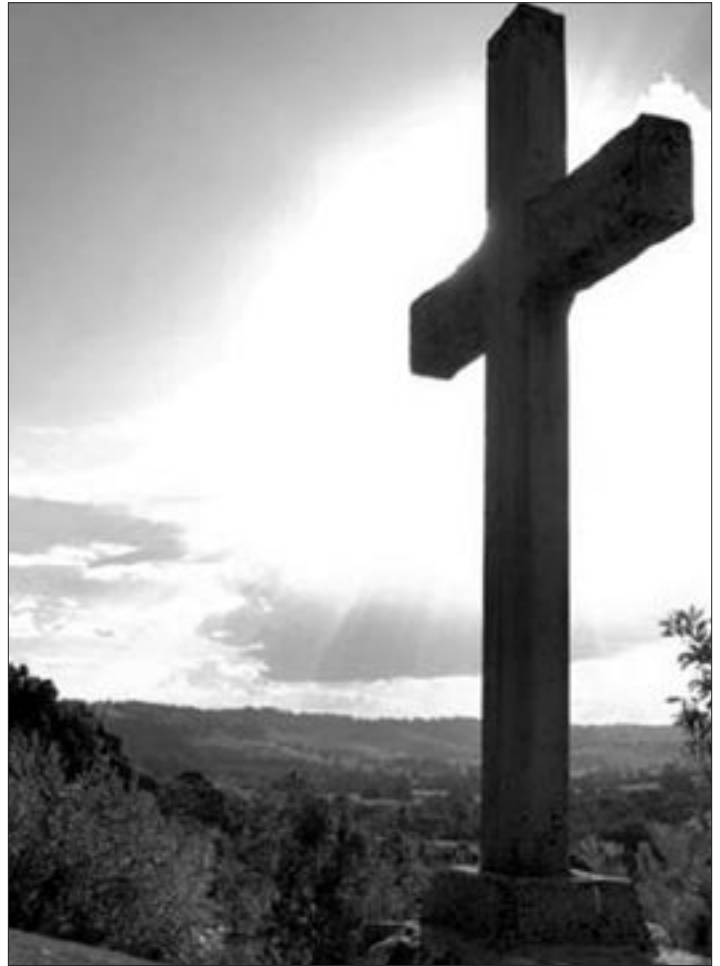
To the Christian faith, Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead and therefore the faith is neither useless nor futile.

According to post-resurrection eyewitnesses, in the forty days following Jesus' resurrection, Jesus appeared to his apostles, his inner circle of friends, and to a gathering of five-hundred people. Gary Habermass PH.D, D.D. states; "The earliest Christians didn't only endorse Jesus' teachings, they were convinced that they had seen him alive after the crucifixion. That's what changed their lives and started the church. Since this was their centermost conviction, they would have made sure that it was absolutely true."

These post-resurrection encounters changed the lives of the apostles and the world. The apostle Peter went from a man who fearfully denied Jesus before his crucifixion, to a martyr who fearlessly proclaimed the gospel of Jesus to the Jews. With the exception of John and Judas Iscariot, each of the twelve original apostles would be willingly martyred for their Christian faith. Is it logical that men would willingly die for a known hoax? No, but history is full of inspiring stories of men and women who are unwilling to compromise the truth, even at the cost of their own lives. Later Jesus appeared to a man named Saul, who was a relentless persecutor of the early church. The effect on Saul's life was no less dramatic than the change in Peter's life. Saul went from a persecutor, to a missionary, to a martyr, not because of a hoax, but because he was an eyewitness to the resurrected Jesus.

When Sir Edward Clarke, a British High Court judge examined the evidence of the resurrection of Jesus he concluded, "To me the evidence is conclusive ... as a lawyer I accept the evidence unreservedly as the testimony of truthful men speaking to facts they were able to substantiate."

The Christian believes their faith is not a blind faith, but rather a faith substantiated by evidence. Have a blessed Easter. ■



CAMP AMERICA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Troopers' Chapel
	5:45 p.m.	Confessions	Troopers' Chapel
	6:30 p.m.	Catholic Mass	Troopers' Chapel
	7:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Troopers' Chapel
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Soul Survivor	Camp America North Pavilion

NAVAL BASE CHAPEL

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13	
	9:00 a.m.	Catholic Mass	Main Chapel	
	9:00 a.m.	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Sanctuary A	
	9:30 a.m.	Protestant Sun. School	Main Chapel	
	10:00 a.m.	Protestant Liturgical	Sanctuary B	
	11:00 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel	
	1:00 p.m.	Gospel Service	Main Chapel	
	5:00 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Room 13	
	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
		7:00 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
Mon. to Fri.	6:00 p.m.	Daily Mass	Main Chapel	
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall	
Friday	12:30 p.m.	Islamic Prayer	Sanctuary C	
Saturday	4:15 p.m.	Confessions	Main Chapel	
	5:00 p.m.	Vigil Mass	Main Chapel	

Jewish Shabbat Services held every second Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Naval Base Chapel complex Room 11.

15 Minutes of Fame

ARMY STAFF SGT.
RAFAEL ALMONTE



By Army Pfc. Phil Regina

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

The Puerto Rico National Guard has been a part of the Joint Task Force for a little over a month now. They took over a very intricate mission, with many different working parts. This challenge was tackled head on by each PRNG Trooper. For some it has been harder than others, but each individual's effort here is made evident by the way the JTF mission continues on unabated.

For Army Staff Sgt. Rafael Almonte, the Joint Visitors Bureau non-commissioned officer in charge, doing his part in the JTF mission has been a challenge met with picture-perfect professionalism.

Almonte is in charge of escorting the numerous distinguished visitors that step foot on the island. He facilitates their movement throughout the island and makes sure that all things are in order as they progress through their tour.

Prior to being deployed in support of JTF-Guantanamo, Almonte was the training NCOIC for the PRNG 92nd Separate Infantry Brigade. He was

under the impression that he would be doing the same job once he arrived here. This was not the case.

"I had no idea what being the JVB NCOIC would entail. I had to just pick up and go along with it. I had no prior experience doing the duties I do now. It's been challenging, but it has also been very rewarding," said Almonte.

Although his current job is entirely different from what he expected, he performs his duties to his utmost abilities and is enthusiastic about the opportunity to experience something new.

"Doing this job has been one of the best experiences I've ever had. Having the opportunity to work in a real joint environment and being able to escort high-ranking officials, congressmen and senators has been great," explained Almonte.

With a new job and a slew of duties, you would think Almonte would feel overwhelmed; his outlook is quite the contrary.

"The Maryland National Guard had set a standard for us to meet before we got here. That standard was pretty high, but I've set a standard for myself to surpass that. No two missions in the

AROUND THE JTF



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Wattenworth

Army 1st Lt. Aminah Johnson presents Army Sgt. Jose Cedeno with his reenlistment certificate Monday.



Photo by Army Pfc. Eric Tagayuna

Joint Task Force commander Navy rear Adm. Harry B. Harris, Jr. Army Capt. Anthony John is promoted to his current rank Tuesday at Camp America.



Photo by Army Pfc. Phil Regina

Burns and Roe, Dick Corporation employees construct a new sidewalk from Tierra Kay housing to Camp America.



Photo by Army Pfc. Phil Regina

Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Michael K. Henckler is promoted to his current rank by Rear Adm. Coogan at the Coast Guard Port Security Unity headquarters here.