

THE WIRE

**Joint Task Force
Guantanamo's
Finest News Source**

A News Magazine

HONOR BOUND TO DEFEND FREEDOM



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Air Force Staff Sgt. Lakisha Exley

Destructive weather preparedness

By Army Sgt. Maj. Kevin Robins

525 Military Police Battalion

The Caribbean wet season is upon us, and it just so happens that it corresponds directly with hurricane season (June through November). It is incumbent on leaders at all levels to familiarize themselves with the actions necessary to ensure the safety and security of those in their charge. Areas of special interest during this time of uncertain weather conditions include:

-Understanding of Conditions of Readiness (COR)

-Hurricane Categories and Effects

-The Destructive Weather (DxWx) Warden and Mayor system for the accountability of personnel

-Individual DxWx preparedness packing lists

-DxWx Relocation Sites

-Command Orders/Policies for actions to be taken in the event of DxWx

Every command within the JTF has a DxWx Plan. Leaders must avail themselves to these plans and become intimately familiar with the actions required to successfully execute their inherent responsibilities of Soldier welfare and mission accomplishment.

Leaders should begin their DxWx training now. Put systems in place that will ensure accurate personnel accountability, inspect packing lists, inspect housing areas to verify rosters, assign



DxWx Wardens and test their effectiveness and coordinate with relocation site points of contact.

We have a tendency to be caught up in the day-to-day grind of activity that is the JTF mission and lose focus on the obvious. Commanders command, Planners plan, Leaders lead and Troopers execute a myriad of complex daily activities. Training is a closely guarded commodity within the JTF and therefore tends to become narrowly focused on those daily activities.

Leaders must find the time required to train DxWx at the lowest level of execution. Soldiers will perform when they understand what is expected of them. We owe it to our Soldiers to train to standard for mission success.

Soldiers are an ingenious breed of people. When they are given the opportunity to anticipate future events, they tend to surprise leaders with their ability in improving current plans and problem solving. ■

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EARTH DAY

By Army Spc. Jason Kaneshiro

Thirty-seven years ago, there was a certain something in the air. Smoke, smog, industrial exhaust and chlorofluorocarbons (the ozone layer depleting CFC) filled the skies of America threatening the health of the people and the natural environment. At the same time, there was a growing movement to protect the environment and reverse the trend of damaging the natural habitats of the United States. One result of this increasing awareness of the state of air and water quality among politicians and the American people was the creation of Earth Day.

In 1970, Earth Day was celebrated by over 20 million people in the U.S. and around the world. As more people became conscious of the issues of the environment and conservation, its popularity spread and it was soon an International event.

Today, Earth Day is Internationally observed on March 21. The United States observes Earth Day on April 22. People the world over take the opportunity to learn about the world in which they live in what they can do to help preserve the diversity of life and the habitats found upon the pale blue dot floating in space that every creature we know of has called home. The legacy of that very first Earth Day in 1970 in the U.S. can be found in such government initiatives as the Clean Air Act. The Environmental Protection Agency, founded on December 1970, is also a result of the social awareness that was created during the first Earth Day celebration.

In observance of Earth Day, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay held a base wide clean up Friday. All personnel from the naval station, as well as Joint Task Force-GTMO, were invited to participate in the effort to help pick up trash and beautify the base. Participants were invited to conduct volunteer work in the morning with a command picnic at Ferry Landing following the conclusion of the clean up activities.

Although Earth Day takes place only once a year, it is important that everyone remains aware of their environment and the role they play in keeping it clean for future generations. For more information on what you can do to help keep the world a healthier place to live in, visit <http://www.earthday.gov> and make a difference, one day at a time. ■

AMERICAN LEGION INAUGURAL MEETING



The Admiral John D. Bulkeley Post 378 of the American Legion will have its inaugural meeting on April 30 at the Windjammer Club, upstairs classroom. The provisional charter under the Department of Florida has been granted. The election of officers and other organizational business will be attended to. All current and past service members are encouraged to attend this historic event. ■

Security bulletin: Reporting personal activities

By Frank Perkins

JTF-GTMO Special Security Office

All holders of a security clearance must keep their security office informed about anything that might have a bearing on their continued eligibility for access to classified information. The kinds of information that must be reported by all cleared personnel are:

Change in Personal Status

Changes in marital status, cohabitation and change of name must be reported.

Foreign Travel

Whether on business or pleasure, this should be reported prior to your travel.

Foreign Contacts

Contacts with individuals of any foreign nationality in which illegal or unauthorized access is sought for classified or sensitive information

Financial Problems

Bankruptcy, garnishment of wages, having a lien placed upon your property for failing to pay a creditor or eviction from a residence for failure to pay rent.

Arrests

The Security office must be notified if you are arrested for any reason.

Other Involvement with the Legal System

Any other involvement in legal or court proceedings should be reported if you are the target of legal action. For example, if you are sued for any reason, or there is any possibility you may be required to discuss your job or organization under oath.

Outside Activities

This includes any planned or actual outside employment or volunteer activity that could create a real or perceived conflict with one's responsibility to protect classified information.

Media Contacts

Any media inquiries about your job or organization.

Pre-Publication Review

Any technical paper, book, magazine article or newspaper article you prepare for publication or for posting on the Internet, or lecture or speech that you prepare to give, must be cleared in advance if it contains information or knowledge you gained during a previous or current classified job.

Loss or Compromise of Information

Known or Suspected Foreign Intelligence Activity.

See your security manager for further information.

Mission first, security always! ■

Updated leave policy for JTF Troopers

By Army Spc. Dustin Robbins

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Troopers assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo for at least one year will now be able to reserve a free roundtrip flight from GTMO to Jacksonville, FL or Norfolk, VA.

The Rest and Recuperation (R&R) Program was approved after officials from the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) visited to survey and inspect conditions of the deployed Joint Task Force Trooper. The new policy also allows for two travel days not charged towards a Trooper's leave. However, the R&R Program is not retro-active.

Ask your respective S1 or N1 for

assistance in filling out the proper paperwork as well.

"In order to use the new leave policy, Troopers will start by getting a leave control number from either the Joint Personnel Service Center or their N1 or S1 office," explained Air Force Capt. Jason Miller, the former officer in charge of the JPSC. "They will also need to sign a memorandum stating that they understand that this is a once a year privilege, as well as annotate their leave form remarks section saying this is in conjunction with the JTF-GTMO R&R Program. The JPSC will then guide the Trooper, through coordination with the J8, to get the funds cited for the rotator flight and with the J4 to book the flight."

A standard operating procedure is currently being written so that each step of the process will be outlined, said Army Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Milbut, the former non-commissioned officer in charge of the J1 here.

"Basically, the only criteria is you have to be a Trooper assigned to JTF-GTMO for at least 365 days."

The new leave policy is sure to be an excellent benefit for the JTF Trooper and many have already taken advantage of it.

If you have an R&R opportunity and haven't already used this new policy, be sure to get in contact with your S1 or N1 and plan now so that you can take full advantage of your benefits. ■

Network News

What is the largest threat to information security systems?

By Air Force Capt. Kenyatta Craten

JTF-GTMO Information Assurance Office

Some people think the biggest threat to the vital information that rides our networks are hackers and viruses. They are wrong. The largest threat to information security is internal users of an information system, meaning you and your coworker sitting next to you.

Users are given access to controlled information with the understanding that they will do all they can to protect that information from unauthorized release or disclosure.

Common Access Cards (CAC) are used to identify you as an authorized user on department of defense networks. In addition, it provides an extra level of protection to information that is vital to the national security of the United States.

When you leave your workstation without removing your CAC, you willingly accept risks of exposing vital information to unauthorized entities.

USSOUTHCOM regulation 1001 states, users are to "protect controlled unclassified information and classified information to prevent unauthorized

access, compromise, tampering or exploitation of the information." It goes on to say that users are to "manually screen-lock the workstation when leaving the immediate work area." Both of these requirements can be easily solved by removing your CAC when you leave your workstation.

I know some of you are thinking, "I just step around the corner to go to the restroom," or "I just walk down the hall to go the printer." Here's my favorite; "My coworker is in my area and she is watching my computer for me."

The fact of the matter is, each individual user is responsible for ensuring unauthorized access does not occur on their workstation. When you leave your workstation, your intent may be to come right back, however often times people are distracted in the halls by a question or a spur of the moment discussion, and that quick second turns into five minutes. All it takes for someone to send a message from your workstation with a sensitive file attachment is 30 seconds.

Information security is the responsibility of all users who have access to controlled DOD information. Having access is a privilege, not a right. When you abuse this privilege you run the risk of being considered a threat to information security. People who are considered a threat immediately have their privileges revoked. Please do not let this happen to you. Your CAC...never leave your workstation without it! ■

Magic's Howard held to eight points as Pistons take 2-0 lead



Chauncey Billups and the Detroit Pistons took a 2-0 series lead over the Orlando Magic in the NBA playoffs. Billups is averaging 18 points and 7 assists per game.

By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeff Johnstone

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Detroit's Richard Hamilton led the Pistons with 22 points and Chauncey Billups scored 21 to lead the Pistons to a Game 2 victory over the Orlando Magic in first-round NBA playoff action.

Detroit's starters each scored at least 10 points, providing just enough offense to secure the game by eight points, 98-90.

Detroit's All-Star Rasheed Wallace also played an integral role in the Pistons' victory over Orlando. Wallace tallied 17 points on the night.

"Rasheed has been very focused ever since we started practicing for the playoffs," Billups told reporters. "You can see the difference in him. When he's like that, we're a difficult team to play."

According to Wallace, his team won't back down when they go on the road against Orlando on Thursday, though the Magic need to win four out of the next five possible games to steal the series.

"We can't let them get back into the series," Wallace told reporters. "We have to get that third win."

In Game 2, Detroit's offense and defense were too much for Orlando's to handle.

"It's so tough to defend them when he's (Wallace) stretching the defense shooting from the outside like a guard," said former teammate Carlos Arroyo. "He can also score inside and defend, so he really creates problems all over the place."

Hedo Turkoglu (22 points) and Grant Hill (21 points) led the scoring for the Magic. While they prevented the game from being a complete abomination, they lacked the support from the rest of the roster needed to pick up the victory.

Other scoring leaders from Detroit included Tayshaun Prince (18 points) and Chris Webber (10 points).

The Pistons controlled most of the game, though Orlando rallied in the closing minutes to make the final score look a little more respectable.

Detroit led by as much as 15 in the final quarter, but found their lead cut to as few as six in the closing minutes.

On Detroit's next possession, Billups scored and was forced to the line. He completed a three point play by connecting from the charity stripe.

Wallace further distanced the two teams by throwing up a 27-footer as the clock expired, giving Detroit a 10-point lead with a few minutes left.

Orlando players, including Hill, were impressed, albeit not happy about Wallace's scoring antics.

"All I could do is tell him (Wallace) was to try shooting with his eyes open next time," said Hill.

In March, Wallace hit a buzzer beater to force a game against the Denver Nuggets into overtime. Detroit went on to win that one, too.

Wallace hits crazy shots like that, said Billups. ■

Hammers nail down championship with perfect 7-0 season

By Army Sgt. Maj. Oscar Diaz

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Sergeant Major

The 2007 Moral Welfare Recreation Spring Baseball League at Guantanamo Bay, just concluded its last game on Sunday. The league was composed of three teams, the Havana Hammers, Seadogs and the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion. The players participating on the different teams were from the Naval Station Guantanamo, Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Cuban migrants at GTMO. The short, six game season was almost over as fast as it started for teams the Hammers pounded on throughout the season. The Hammers went undefeated in the regular season, 6-0, winning by an average score of 11-2.

Last Sunday, the Hammers battled against the Seadogs in the tournament championship game. The Seadogs kept it close throughout, but the Hammers finally pulled off the win with their batting and pitching. It took all seven innings for the Hammers to hold off a late charge by the Seadogs, but the Hammers went on to

win 10-6, and were crowned GTMO champions.

A combination of very good pitching and powerful hitting was too much for the other teams in the league. The Hammers concluded their undefeated season on Sunday behind their pitching ace and team all star, Javier Garcia. Garcia was relentless, going 4-0, with one save during the season. He also led the team in batting with a .583 average, belting out four homers, two in one game during the same inning. When asked what he would remember most about this season, he said, "playing at GTMO with such a great group of teammates and having fun competing on a weekly basis, will always be in my heart." Garcia is slated to be the coach/player for the Hammers in the upcoming season.

The old adage "winning isn't everything" was very evident in this league. There was great competition and great sportsmanship amongst all the teams. Real rewards come from teamwork and playing the game unselfishly. The season might have been short, but the memories of playing baseball at GTMO will be long lived and treasured. ■



Photo by Army Sgt. Karina Hernandez

The Havana Hammers pose for a photo following their 10-6 Championship victory over the Seadogs Sunday. The Hammers pounded their competition this season, touting an undefeated 6-0, record.



Photo by Army Sgt. Jamieson Pond

The 305th Press Camp Headquarters has told the Joint Task Force Troopers' story for the past 14 months. With each weekly issue we have showcased the effort, sacrifice and achievements of the JTF Troopers.

From Morale, Welfare and Recreation events to Change of Command ceremonies to promotions and reenlistments, we've been there to cover it.

As our deployment ends and we get ready to board that plane for the long trip back to Honolulu, we reflect on the legacy we have left behind through our news magazine, *The Wire*. This week's center spread is that reflection personified. Here now is the best of the 305th. ■

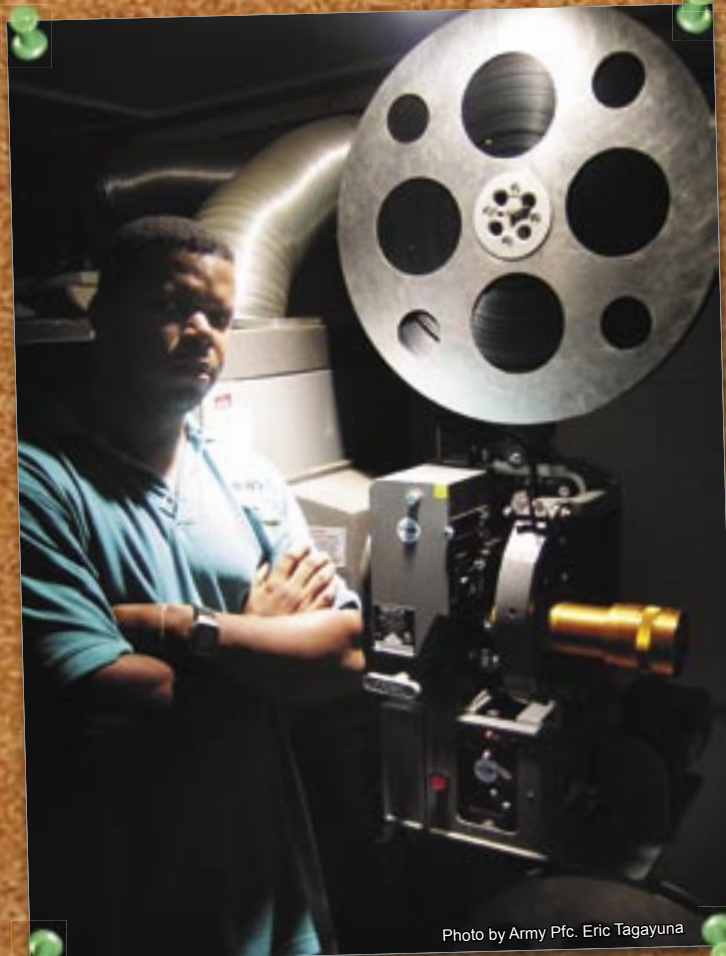


Photo by Army Pfc. Eric Tagayuna



Photo by Army Sgt. Jamieson Pond





Photo by Army Pfc. Phil Regina



Photo by Army Pfc. Phil Regina



Photo by Army Spc. Dustin Robbins



Photo by Army Pfc. Phil Regina



Photo by Army Pfc. Phil Regina



Photo by Army Sgt. Jonson Tulewa-Gibbs

Photo shoot @ 1400 hrs.



Happy Mother's Day

By Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis
JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

There are two days throughout the year that give children a chance to show their support and appreciation to their parents. Even though every day is another opportunity to demonstrate one's love to those who have nurtured them, Father's Day and Mother's Day are ones set aside specifically for this purpose. However, when you're deployed overseas and far from the ones who mean the most to you, it's not always easy to send your appreciation back home.

With that in mind, it's important to know the best ways to send flowers, packages or even just letters. Mother's Day is May 13th and everyone should have just about enough time to send their gifts home. Of course, if you wait till the last minute and haven't arranged for anything, keep in mind that just about any mother will appreciate a phone call at the least.

If you're unable to find anything at the Navy Exchange that piques your interest, check online. You can browse, and in most cases, pick something out you think your mother would really enjoy. Your next step, after filling in your payment information, is to have the gift sent directly to your home. Different shipping options are available at

different costs, but the earlier you process your order the less money you'll have to spend on shipping.

If you're not sure what would best suit your mom in terms of a gift, you always have the ever popular option of sending flowers. Women who don't appreciate an arrangement of flowers given to them for any reason are few and far between. Just use one of the many different flower companies to arrange for the delivery. The cost of the flowers will depend upon the type you choose, and depending on the season, you may not be able to find the specific ones you're looking for. Just consult an online directory to find a store near your mother's home.

The last option, besides making a phone call or sending a letter, is to mail a package from Guantanamo. Since we are outside of the states, it's important to contact the Camp America post office to learn about estimated shipping time. There are other specifics that you can learn about by calling ext. 3873.

The most important thing to remember is that family takes precedence over just about anything. Whether it's Mother's Day, a birthday or even Christmas, when you're away from home, it's harder to express how you truly feel. A gift, some flowers or just a phone call will show that you care and took the time to remember the ones that mean the most to you. ■



Military Runners Conquer Boston Marathon Far From Home

By David Mays

Special to American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 17, 2007 – While thousands of runners braved the remnants of a late spring storm to run the Boston Marathon, servicemembers deployed overseas, and one in space, joined in to participate in the prestigious race.

So-called satellite races are nothing new to servicemembers deployed overseas. These running events, which are held on forward operating bases, are designed to coincide with massive stateside races like the Marine Corps Marathon and the Army Ten Miler.

For the third year in a row, servicemembers at Tallil Air Base, Iraq, marked off a 26.2 mile course and lined up to participate as official entrants in the Boston Marathon, which was held April 16, Patriots Day in Massachusetts. Race officials waived stringent qualifying times for servicemembers racing in Iraq.

Runners in Boston were pummeled with rain, wind and much colder-than-average temperatures, resulting in much slower winning times for elite athletes. Conditions were also strange for runners in Iraq.

The morning of the race was not what you would consider weather perfect, said Army Capt. Andrew Heymann, who organized this year's Boston Marathon in Iraq. Although in light of what was going on in Boston, I'll take it.

Runners at Tallil started their voyage at 5 a.m. local time to avoid temperatures that typically soar to 100-plus this time of year. But like their counterparts in Boston, Iraq participants had to endure nature's fury.

The morning had 20 mph gusts, which kicked a lot of dust into the air, Heymann said. Add to that a rain which fell sideways and a lightning storm.

Army 1st Lt. Elias Gonzales, who is deployed to Iraq with the Florida National Guard, won the Tallil event in 2:35:50, a time that would have easily qualified him for the actual Boston Marathon. Army Staff Sgt. Jennifer Yurczk, a Minnesota National Guard member, was the first woman in the Tallil event with a swift 3:34:39, also well under the official Boston qualifying mark. Both were crowned with olive wreaths, as is the famous tradition for winners at Boston.

Seventy-eight other servicemembers followed a course that took runners outside the base and past one of Iraq's best preserved historical features, a 50-foot tall Sumerian ziggurat, which is a massive, stepped pyramid, part of an ancient temple complex built in 2100 B.C. Runners took a final long lap around the base perimeter to the finish line. Although Tallil runners were not required to meet Boston's rigorous qualifying times, they were offered official bib

numbers, finisher's medals, participant T-shirts and other goodies supplied by the Boston Athletic Association, which has organized the storied New England marathon since its inception in 1897.

Last year's winner of the Iraq race, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Matt Simms, who has since rotated home to Washington, ran the actual Boston course this year in 2:44:23, a time that placed him 186th overall in the 111th edition of America's oldest continuously run marathon.

For the first time, coalition forces in Kosovo ran their first satellite Boston Marathon.

The course was four laps, plus a small add-on loop of hilly terrain around Camp Bondsteel, said Army Staff. Sgt. Richard Fortuna, one of the inaugural events organizers. The race went on time and as planned. We had a great day. The day started with the national anthem, and then a flyover by two Apache attack helicopters.

Meanwhile, Navy Cmdr. Sunita Sunni Williams ran her own satellite Boston Marathon aboard an actual satellite. Williams had qualified to run at Boston with a 3:29:57 finish at January's Houston Marathon. She planned to run it with her sister, Dina Pandya, and colleague, Karen Nyberg. But Williams is a NASA astronaut, and she realized she would be working inside the International Space Station on race day. So she decided to attempt something no other astronaut had done before: complete the 26.2 mile run while orbiting the earth.

Williams was strapped to a specially designed treadmill with bungee cords, an uncomfortable process that puts strain on a runner's hips and shoulders. NASA said Williams treadmill speed registered as fast as eight miles per hour during her satellite Boston race, but in actuality, she was traveling more than five miles per second as the space station completed two laps around Earth during the marathon.

Williams, who is a native of Needham, Mass., wore Boston Red Sox socks for her race in space. She finished the arduous journey in 4:23:10, well off her times on terra firma.

Williams told her NASA colleagues the motivation for running this historic marathon was simple.

I would like to encourage kids to start making physical fitness part of their daily lives, she said. I thought a big goal like a marathon would help get this message out there.

Boston Marathon organizers told NASA they have a different take on this historic achievement. "Sunni running 26.2 miles in space on Patriots' Day is really a tribute to the thousands of marathoners who are running here on Earth," said Jack Fleming, a Boston Athletic Association spokesman. She is pioneering new frontiers in the running world. ■

Reunion Issue #1

By Army Chaplain (Maj.) Daniel Jones

JTF Command Chaplain

Personnel at Guantanamo Bay are constantly arriving and departing every month. Some of us are serving here briefly while others are here for an extended period of time. The longer we are deployed the more we need to pay attention to the eventual "reunion" that we will experience with family and friends. This reunion is even more important if we are married, have children, and we are a reservist returning to a civilian employer, but it is also important if our component is active duty. Issue #1 about reunion after a deployment is: **"Expect to have a few doubts and worries"**.

Some people wonder if their partner and family need them anymore. Our partner has learned to take care of needs and responsibilities without us. Our partner has developed new friends and interests. They have become more self-sufficient and independent. It is therefore natural to feel some anxiety about reunion with our partner. If we have children, they will also have changed and depending upon their age, behave shyly and even react angrily at us when we return.

Tip #1 for Success: Think Positively (people may look and act differently, but they still care about us). We have to give them and ourselves time to adjust and become reacquainted. Children all eventually lose their shyness and work through their anger. Four of the best websites for

understanding this process are: www.militaryonesource.com – This site will refer you to your own service website as well provide general information. You can also call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week **1-800-342-9647**. www.guardfamily.org and www.guardyouth.org. These websites are for both Air and Army National Guard members. www.ffsp.navy.mil – The Fleet and Family Support Center main website. ■

SURVIVING SEPARATION

By Army Chaplain (Maj.) Daniel Jones

JTF Command Chaplain

Action Item #1 – Communicate

The number one positive action we can take at GTMO is to use the many ways of communicating with those we love and miss. Email, letters, cards, phone calls and sending flowers and gifts by the internet all keep us in touch during the time of separation. If we don't do this regularly, we lose connection with the events and needs of family and friends. No, we can't reach through the phone and touch them, but we will "lose touch" with them if we don't perform some regular form of communication. ■

WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast provided by www.weather.com

Saturday, Apr. 28

Partly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms overnight. Highs in the upper 80's, and lows in the mid-70's.



Partly Cloudy

Sunrise: 6:33 a.m.

Sunset: 7:23 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 30%

Sunday, Apr. 29

Chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80's, and lows in the mid-70's.



Isolated T-storms

Sunrise: 6:33 a.m.

Sunset: 7:23 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 30%

Monday, Apr. 30

Chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80's, and lows in the mid-70's.



Scattered T-storms

Sunrise: 6:32 a.m.

Sunset: 7:24 p.m.

Chance of Rain: 30%



Movie Review Corner

This week's movie review of "The Astronaut Farmer" by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Gary Keen

"If we don't have our dreams, we have nothing."

This is a great family movie about dreams, sacrifice and obsession. A former astronaut-in-training, Charles, (Billy Bob Thornton) was forced to leave the space program to save his family's farm. Pursuing his lifelong dream, he is building his own rocket to orbit the earth. The farmer must battle foreclosure of his farm and a small-town community of disbelievers, while simultaneously drawing heavy scrutiny from the FBI, CIA, FAA and the U.S. military. But he remains determined to reach his goal and instill in his children the courage to pursue their own dreams, no matter the odds. Charlie's wife (Virginia Madsen) and kids loyally back his hare-brained scheme, even though it's left the family \$600,000 in debt. The kinds of people who really build their dreams in barns are far more interesting. ■

- The Astronaut Farmer -
Rating: ★★★★★

Rated: PG

Duration: 104 minutes

Boots on the Ground:

"What are your goals while here at GTMO?"



"Save money, get in shape and do my job correctly."
 -Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Thomas Meyer



"To earn my Associates Degree and to become an NCO."
 -Army Spc. Chase Collram



"Do my job well so that I can properly represent the Puerto Rico National Guard."
 -Army Sgt. Juan Colon



"Get a scuba diving license."
 -Army Sgt. Stacey Zinda

“REMEMBER WHEN...?”

By Army Chaplain (Col.) Ray Bailey

Director, Combat Developments USACHCS

My son and I were driving along when he started reminiscing about times in his past that stood out, either in laughter or sadness. It was interesting to hear him going over moments I had forgotten about but were like yesterday to him. They were like a flash picture among other memories.

I know that we all have started a conversation with a family member or good friend by saying, “Remember when...?” Then the two of you move back into time traveling to that moment and replay it with renewed laughter or somberness. Maybe only one person remembers it due to its impact on that person and less on the other.

Mark Twain had a great quote. He said, “A man who carries a cat by the tail learns something he can learn in no other way.” Now, there is an image! I’ve had a few of those lessons myself and scratch marks to prove it.

“A man carrying a cat by the tail learns something he can learn in no other way.”

You might say that many of those flash memories we have are “carrying a cat by the tail” moments in life. They stand out due to the impact they had on our lives and in so doing, our memories. We even have the scares from scratch marks on our hearts and in our minds to prove it. They leave an imprint, and that is good.

Those memory flash moments are really important ones when our lives were significantly changed. The changes were sometimes obvious to our eyes, but most often subtle in pushing us to change a way of living. That is why we still smile and cry when we remember.

We remember and sometimes wish the lesson of life didn’t make such an impact in our memory. We would have liked for it to be less painful. However, sometimes it takes a snarling cat scratching us to get our attention and leave the lesson grounded deep in our hearts and

minds...for the rest of our lives.

Oh, by the way, you can let go of the cat when you get the point. ■



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
Monday	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

Photo and Story by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeffrey Johnstone

AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. LAKISHA EXLEY

Service members do what they can to ease the burdens of being deployed. While it's always a tough endeavor to be away from family and friends for months at a time, it's up to individuals to make the best of their deplo

Air Force Staff Sgt. Lakisha Exley presents a positive example of how to make time away from home go by faster. Not only that, but she presents a good example of how to make a deployment a personally rewarding one. Exley is the NCOIC of the Joint Task Force (JTF) / J4 Travel Office. She books all rotator flights for JTF personnel.

"I'm the only one who books rotator flights for JTF, so the job is high tempo," said Exley. "I book flights for rest and relaxation (R & R), emergency leave, permanent change of station (PCS) and Temporary Duty (TDY) assignments."

Exley, who is TDY to GTMO from Charleston AFB, S.C., has served in the Air Force for seven years. Prior to arriving in GTMO, She booked travel at Charleston AFB for four years.

"I enjoy what I do, because I feel like I'm helping people, especially if they're going for R & R or Emergency leave," said Exley. "I try to extend customers as much help as I can, and try to get people off the island and



where they need to go as quickly as possible. I enjoy helping people go on regular leave, because they work long hours and I enjoy doing what I can to help them start their much deserved break."

Exley, a native of Henderson, N.C., speaks fondly of her family back home. She is the happily married mother of a 23-month old son, Elijah.

"We call him Eli," said Exley, referring to herself and her husband, also a Staff Sergeant in the Air Force. "I enjoy being a wife and a mother. Being a dual military family makes being on deployment hit that much harder, but it also makes you stronger, and you appreciate family even more."

Swimming and Salsa lessons head up her list of things to do, but she has also taken to an activity she once enjoyed as a 13-

year-old; singing in the church choir.

"I haven't sung in a choir in over ten years," said Exley. "I joined the 1300 Gospel Choir during my second week in GTMO. It was one of the first things I wanted to do when I got here. It's good for me, because at the end of the week, I can relax with my singing and get into my comfort zone."

My grandmother, who still lives in Henderson, is a strong influence in my life. She was instrumental in getting me involved with our church and the local community."

While she looks forward to the day she sees her family again in South Carolina, she is having fun with her free time activities.

"I've had a chance to find myself here, because I'm doing things I wouldn't ordinarily do if I was at home," said Exley. ■

AROUND THE JTF



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeffrey Johnstone

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Albert J. Smokes (right) receives a Joint Service Achievement Medal from Navy Capt. Michael Reynolds Friday.



Photo by Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

Army Pvt. Samantha Myers battles through the stages of pepper spray training in Camp America on Tuesday.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeffrey Johnstone

Navy Chief Petty Officer Barry Forsythe receives the Joint Service Commendation Medal from Navy Capt. Michael Reynolds during an award ceremony Friday.



Photo by Army Spc. Jonathan Mullis

A Joint Detention Group Trooper is promoted to the rank of specialist inside of Camp Delta on Monday.