

# THE WIRE

A News Magazine



**PSU Training**  
**Navy Reserve Birthday**  
**Strategic Intelligence Collection**

# In the Zone



**By Navy Command Master Chief  
Petty Officer Brad LeVault**

JTF Command Master Chief

Zone Inspection is a weekly event in the Navy and all of the upper chain of command participates including the commanding officer. The ship is separated into areas (zones) and each inspector is given spaces (rooms) to inspect. Inspectors look at the general condition and cleanliness of the space, then they dig down deep, going under, inside and behind everything. Nothing is sacred.

Why dig so deep? It may come as a surprise to some, but ships are delicate. Location alone (floating in saltwater) makes a ship highly vulnerable to deterioration. Even if newly commissioned, an unkempt ship can and will be rendered unserviceable in a year without constant upkeep. I've seen steel frames (ribs) several inches thick on an aircraft carrier completely rusted through for lack of attention. I found this when inspecting a void (empty space) that no one had bothered with for years.

It's no surprise to anyone that ships rock and roll. Every piece of equipment must be bolted to the deck or lashed down to prevent the item from falling on someone or being destroyed. I've seen publication libraries scattered about

the deck and pages all mixed up from failure to latch a locker door. I have smiled ruefully as I heard plates crash in the Wardroom Pantry, a deck above, in heavy seas. Thankfully no one was hurt and the only pain was a lengthy clean up, but the danger is very real.

Fire is a sailor's most real danger and clutter not only increases the chances of one beginning, it also reduces a crew's ability to escape it and put it out. Lockers and cabinets overstuffed with who-knows-what and old equipment pushed aside contribute to this real danger. As well, being poorly organized prevents you from performing your mission at peak ability and wastes funds as you order resources you already have and aren't aware of.

Now you're saying to yourself "But Command Master Chief, we are not a sea." Well, the responsibility to maintain the physical condition, safety, fiscal responsibility and integrity of our Troopers, mission and assets is the same on the beaches around Joint Task Force Guantanamo as it is at sea. Good order and discipline come first in any military organization and start with cleanliness and orderliness. Seniors and subordinates follow a leader and leaders set the tone, so dig deep in the zone; it's where success begins.

## JTF GUANTANAMO

### Commander:

Navy Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby

### Joint Task Force CMC:

Navy Command Master Chief  
Brad LeVault

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#### Director:

Navy Cmdr. Rick Haupt: 9928

#### Deputy:

Army Lt. Col. Edward Bush: 9927

#### Supervisor:

Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen: 3649

## The Wire

### Executive Editor:

Army Capt. Cara Thompson: 3596

### Editor:

Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker: 3651

### Assistant Editor:

Army Sgt. Scott Griffin: 3594

### Layout and Design:

Army Sgt. Jody Metzger: 2171

### Staff Writers:

Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing: 3589

Army Spc. Shanita Simmons: 3589

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class

Cheryl Dilgard

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class

William Weinert: 3592

## Contact us:

Base Information: 2000

Public Affairs Office: 3651 or 3596

From the continental United States:

Commercial: 011-53-99-3651

DSN: 660-3651

Email: [TheWIRE@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:TheWIRE@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

ONLINE: [www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](http://www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

## COVER:

Dr. Peter Tolson, director of conservation and research at the Toledo Zoo, presented a crowd at Windmill Beach with several examples of Guantanamo's reptile population Saturday. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert)



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.

# PSU 313 Trains for the Future



Port Security Unit 313 drops a grenade off the coast of Guantanamo Bay, Feb. 7. Coast Guard PSUs regularly train on the use of concussion grenades to deter swimmers and divers who may pose a threat to ports or vessels.

**Story and photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Guantanamo Bay is an excellent place for Coast Guard Port Security Unit 313 to conduct training because the physical environment affords them opportunities that do not exist in their home port and training areas. It gives them the opportunity to apply many of the skills they first acquired in stateside training environments.

Once every three years, the unit travels to Camp Lejeune for specialized training in land and sea defensive operations. The technical training they receive on land includes manning entry control points, constructing defensive gun positions, searching vehicles, detaining suspicious personnel, looking for explosives, and securing perimeters. Their sea training focuses on improving the specific skill sets that coxswains and crews employ on the water.

“Of course our missions are waterside, but we can also guard bases, and we can be utilized to guard other land assets,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan Seward.

In Guantanamo PSU 313 has the opportunity to continue the training they get at Camp Lejeune. They can throw live grenades and fire their machine guns over open water as well as practice Marine Corps insertions – all standard training operations for port security units.

“This is a good real world, low threat environment where we can build our training level and communication skills while working with each other day in and day out,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Eric Swanson.

Their home-port area around Seattle-Tacoma is too populated for the unit to do tactical weapons training, so they have to travel to the Canadian border near Vancouver in order to live fire weapons over open water. Live weapons training in Guantanamo has been conducted by Navy and Marine Corps units for many years, so environmental barriers to effective training are not at issue here.

In February 2003, PSU 313 deployed to Kuwait where they were able to put their high speed training to the test in a real world mission. There they conducted patrols outside of a Kuwaiti Navy

base prior to the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom and then guarded a vital oil platform after OIF began.

“We took possession of the platform from Navy SEALs and a Marine FAST (Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team) element. My understanding is that we were seen as less of a threat to the Iranians than a bunch of Marines,” said Swanson.

Although PSU 313 may have seemed less of a threat to the Iranians, it is only because they did not know how hard and how well the PSU trained.

“When we went to the Gulf we had been in a ready status since right after 9/11. We had most of the questions already answered before we got there. We train like we work and we work like we train,” said Swanson.

It is their practice of training like they work and working like they train that makes them a vital asset here in Guantanamo in the performance of their Joint Task Force missions.

“Our primary mission is anti-terrorism force protection and detainee operations protection, which we perform by patrolling water ways and coastlines, whether in the bay or out in the ocean. Our secondary mission is to escort distinguished visitors, and vessels, both foreign and domestic, in and out of the bay,” said Seward.

PSU 313 has almost 150 members and all but a handful are reservists. The majority of the unit members are law enforcement officers, prison guards or firefighters. They come from all over the Pacific Northwest to be part of the unit. For many, PSU 313 is their first command. “We get em’ raw,” Seward said.

Despite the fact that PSU 313 is a reserve unit, it has to maintain the same readiness and qualifications as any active duty unit. For many, that means coming in before drill weekend and staying late in order to get the time on the water necessary to qualify members as coxswains and crewmen.

These training requirements are fast-tracked while on deployment since time and ready access to water and sparsely populated coastlines are not issues.

“When we leave here we will have more coxswains than required and all of them will have fully-qualified crews, a process which can take six-months to a year as a reservist,” said Seward.

# “A tough old bird” U.S. Navy Reserve Turns 93

Story and photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nathaniel Moger

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

“When my Grandma was 93, she did PT better than me.”

Everyone in uniform remembers singing that cadence call while running in formation or marching to chow. She was the fittest senior citizen the world’s ever seen, but next payday it looks like she’ll have another old-timer to compete with, and this one too looks like a tough old bird.

On March 1, 2008, the United States Navy Reserve will celebrate its 93rd birthday. Originally an off-shoot of the National Guard, the USNR has since evolved from a naval militia comprised of civilians drawn to the sea to a highly flexible and deployable pool of Sailors capable of serving anywhere alongside their active duty counterparts.

Since 9/11 over 40,000 reservists have been mobilized in support of the Global War on Terror, bringing their expertise and training to many commands. At Joint Task Force Guantanamo, their impact has been effective at all levels.

“Many people on the JTF staff are reservists,” said Rear Adm. Mark Buzby, JTF commander. “I’d be hard pressed to tell you which one is reserve and which one is active duty, there’s such seamless integration.”

While the perception is that the USNR is just one weekend a month, two weeks a year, the reality is much different.

“I find that most reservists want to mobilize,” said Senior Chief Petty Officer John Inglis, JTF engineering leading chief petty officer. “Nowadays, it’s not if you’re going to mobilize, it’s when.”

Reservists find themselves facing



**Navy Capt. Greg Rismiller, head of the JTF’s Engineering Directorate and a USNR Civil Engineers officer, surveys blueprints with the rest of his team. JTF Guantanamo utilizes both active duty and reserve components to perform its mission.**

the same difficulties as their active duty counterparts. “As a reservist, I’m proud to be here, serving on active duty,” said Chief Petty Officer Jason Marino, JTF engineering assistant. “It’s tough on a lot of people, having to leave their families and their jobs, but we know what’s involved when we joined.”

While active duty Sailors rely largely on their Navy schooling, on-the-job training and shipboard experience, reservists have their civilian experiences to draw from and influence their day-to-day decision making. In an environment like JTF Guantanamo, reservists bring a skill set to the table that can be a real asset in certain billets.

“For us in the civilian world, we’re keeping up with the market, with the new

products coming out; we’re keeping up with the trades,” explained Marino on the utility of having private sector experience in the world of contracting and construction. “Out there it has to be done faster, better. We can bring that knowledge in a reserve status to a detachment or battalion.”

The USNR also functions as a pool of reliable Sailors who can deploy either as a unit or in an individual augmentee status, lending flexibility to the process of rounding out operations worldwide. “It’s a way for ‘Big Navy’ to fill tough billets,” said Marino.

Pulling from reserve units is also a perfect way to lend support and technical expertise to a joint environment like the JTF. While each branch of service has its own idiosyncrasies, like the on-going war over whether a restroom is a “head” or “latrine,” reservists discover that their real-world experience gives them an advantage.

“We’re not just used to working in a Navy environment,” said Capt. Greg Rismiller, JTF engineering director. “In the civilian world... we work with everyone. It’s like working in a joint environment every day.”

With the birthday as reason to reflect on the contributions of reservists, the rare breed of service members willing to lead dual lives straddling the line between the worlds of the Department of Defense and the civilian, Inglis sees the USNR being the strongest it’s ever been.

“93 years is a long time for any institution, but judging from the quality and professionalism of the other reserve Sailors I’m serving with down here, I don’t see the Navy Reserve slowing down a bit,” said Rismiller. “As long as the mission requires us to mobilize and serve our country, we’ll be ready to answer the call.”

# JIG Director discusses strategic intelligence collection at Gitmo

Story and photo by Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The director of the Joint Intelligence Group, JTF Guantanamo told a national reporter recently that actionable intelligence was gleaned from detainees at Guantanamo through ‘rapport building’ techniques, and not torture. Not unexpectedly, hard-core critics scoff. Others, curious and predisposed to open minds ask questions. What is strategic intelligence collection? How is strategic intelligence collected at Gitmo? What qualities do effective interrogators possess? How does strategic intelligence collected here make a difference on today’s battlefield?

The aforementioned director, Paul Rester, tackled these questions and more in a recent, wide-ranging conversation with this journalist. Rester, who has served this country with distinction – in uniform and out – since the Vietnam War, began by describing how strategic intelligence collection at Guantanamo is fundamentally not much more than posing questions to detainees in overlapping layers of redundancy – “a tautology,” he said.

“Those questions have a genesis and the genesis comes out of the greater intelligence community, which includes the intelligence components of the forward war fighter. It includes the national intelligence community. All of those thousands of questions are put together and tasked out to the organization [JTF Guantanamo] that is expected to be most capable of answering those questions,” Rester said.

Rester isn’t exaggerating when he says that the JIG combs through ‘thousands’ of requests from the larger intelligence community. To illustrate the complexity of this process, Rester refers to a period of time when over 6,000 intelligence requirements were levied against Guantanamo Bay.

“Of those 6,000 individual requirements, each could include 10 or more 10’s and 10’s of questions. And



**Paul Rester, director of the Joint Intelligence Group, says that strategic intelligence collected from detainees in Guantanamo has had a positive and direct impact on the battlefield.**

so the responses to those questions and requirements come one question at a time from multiple sessions and interactions with the detainees over extremely protracted periods of time,” he said.

As to what these queries are looking for, Rester says not much more than what all Army Soldiers in basic combat training are trained to observe in an enemy, the acronym S-A-L-U-T-E (Size, Activity, Location, Uniform or Unit, Time, Equipment) or, for the lay person, the basic tenets of good journalism: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

“What we’re looking for is very straight-forward, very simple. As you go up through the levels and layers [to the strategic level], you begin to develop a degree of complexity and sophistication that demands complex questioning and an ability to comprehend complex answers,” said Rester.

This explanation begs a question suggested earlier: What makes a good interrogator? Rester’s answer resonates.

“In my opinion, based upon the osmosis I’ve achieved from doing it so long is this: inherent curiosity. That’s what makes you good. The inherent personal desire to learn something that is not otherwise known is what makes a

good interrogator. Most people assume that interrogation is just going in and getting someone to open up to talk, then throwing a barrage of questions at them, without any concept of how questions are constructed or how they’re formulated or why they are asked in the first place,” he said.

The priority intelligence requirements of battlefield commanders, the 6,000 queries mentioned earlier, drive the reasons interrogators ask the questions they do. As Rester, and Rear Adm. Mark Buzby, Commander JTF Guantanamo, have said in recent interviews, strategic intelligence collected from detainees in Guantanamo has resulted in timely, measurable success on the battlefield.

“Strategic intelligence is directly supporting operations of the forward war-fighter through the sophistication of such collection operations as unmanned aerial vehicles all the way down to on-ground tactical human intelligence collecting.”

“Literally, information that is acquired through national means, at the strategic level like here at Gitmo, can be brought to bear at the platoon or squad level forward in the field. We can bring those small pieces together, one piece at a time.”

**Continued on page 13**

# Woods continues to dominate



**Tiger Woods holds up the Walter Hagen Cup following his 8 and 7 victory over Stewart Cink in the championship match of the Accenture Match Play Championship golf tournament at The Gallery Golf Club at Dove Mountain, in Marana, Ariz., Feb. 24. (AP Photo)**

The Championship differs from most PGA events in the sense that it is match play, not stroke play. Tiger blew through it with the exception of a 20 hole match against Aaron Baddeley in the third round.

This year Tiger has won both of the events that he has entered and passed Arnold

Palmer on the all-time wins list at 83. Now Ben Hogan sits in Tiger's sights with a career win total of 84. At the ripe old age of 32, Tiger appears to be playing the best golf of his life and in a sport that does not have the same wear and tear on the body as football Woods could easily be around for another 15 years. Who knows how many wins he could have before it is all said and

done.

Right now Tiger is the most dominant sports figure in the entire world. In a sport where it is extremely difficult to win one event per year, Tiger has managed to win multiple times every year since 1996 (when he turned pro) with the exceptions of 1998 and 2004. He won an amazing 9 times in 2000, capturing three out of four majors that year. He has 13 major titles on his resume and a staggering career earnings total of \$78,865,376. He has also been named PGA Player of the Year nine times and has tied Jack Nicklaus in leading the tour in earnings eight times. Aside from all-time wins, the only significant record that Tiger does not already own is most majors, which is 18 held by Jack Nicklaus. Only time stands in the way of Tiger holding this record and any other record that he does not have.

Unless a star of epic proportions is born in the golf world, Tiger Woods will rein as the golfing world's king for quite some time as there is no one on tour right now that can consistently challenge him. Although it is early in 2008, I predict that Tiger will win ten times this year and capture another two majors as he continues to earn his stripes.

**By Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Tiger Woods once again proved what everyone already knows Sunday, that he is the most dominant player in golf.

By defeating Stewart Cink 8 and 7 in the 36 hole World Golf Championship, Tiger dispelled any rumors that he might be slowing down.

## Rain delays Auto Club 500 at Fontana

**By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

A weekend of rain put the kibosh on the Auto Club 500 race in Fontana, Calif., Sunday, but by Monday the track was raring to go. The drivers completed 87 laps Sunday before the race was called on account of weather. The drivers picked back up Monday completing the remaining 163 laps of the 2-mile track.

Fontana has traditionally been kind to drivers Jeff Gordon and Jimmie Johnson but the gods of the race car were smiling favorably on one of my favorites: Carl

Edwards. Carl brought home the bacon and fried it up in the pan as he did his famous back-flip when he got out of the 99-car in victory lane.

This week's Las Vegas race seems to be partial to home-town favorite, Kyle Busch. Busch is leading the points for the cup series and he knows how to hold his own on the track. This weekend should prove a rubbin' racin' good time.

**Carl Edwards does a back flip off of his car after winning a NASCAR Sprint Cup Auto Club 500 in Fontana, Calif., Feb. 25. (AP Photo)**



# King Crab Volleyball Tournament heats up Windmill Beach



“Bump, set, spike was the norm for most points and that made it an enjoyable challenge to play,” said competitor John Gildea, Feb. 23. In total, 12 teams battled it out at the King Crab Volleyball Tournament at Windmill Beach. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Paul Meeker)

**Story by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The sun’s rays beat down on the sands of the volleyball court as cutthroat competitors battled it out at the King Crab Volleyball Tournament. The stage was perfectly set as the Windmill Beach Volleyball court became the site of a 12-team sporting showdown.

The King Crab Volleyball Tournament was held Saturday Feb. 23, as a continuation of the previous day’s observance of National Recreation Sports and Fitness Day. The event was a single-elimination tournament featuring teams made up of an assortment of JTF, Naval Station and civilian personnel.

“We haven’t had a beach volleyball tournament in awhile, so the patrons really enjoyed this one. We had a lot of great feedback and multiple patrons asked if we could do this more often. We understand that we are here for the people and so we are looking into having more of these tournaments,” said Aubrey Kiemnec, Morale, Welfare and Recreation assistant sports coordinator.

Throughout the day’s event, teams of four competed each other with all the skill they could muster as the blazing sun beat them down and the Caribbean breeze cooled them off. Each team continued their bid for glory as long as they

could keep up their winning streak. The single elimination guideline was set to keep the pace of the tournament going quickly.

As the day drew to a close and even the most persistent teams began to show weakness, two mammoth teams emerged. The “All Around” and the “GTMO Heat” battled it out in the last round with the “All Around” emerging as the victors.

“Bump, set, spike was the norm for most points and that made it an enjoyable challenge to play,” said John Gildea, captain of “All Around.”

The fast pace and all-round sportsmanship among competitors made the event challenging for the players and entertaining for spectators.

“I was surprised by the level of play from all of the teams. We didn’t have an easy game the entire tourney. We had to keep up our intensity all the way through the finals. That says a lot for the quality of players around the base,” Gildea said.

Overall, the day turned out to be a great success, giving many a day full of outdoor fun.

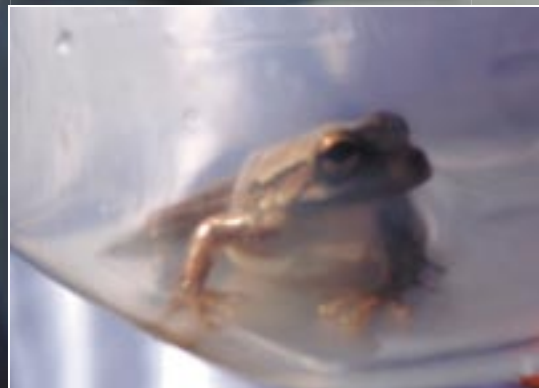
“The beach was packed. A little sun and some sports went well together,” said Kiemnec.

# Reptile Expert gives Guantanamo a show

By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

*Dr. Peter J. Tolson, Director of Conservation and Research at the Toledo Zoo, wows his audience at Windmill Beach Feb. 23, showing off many of Guantanamo's creatures. Dr. Tolson makes regular trips to Guantanamo to study the lives of the Cuban Boas. The show provided the audience with safe interaction with Guantanamo wildlife.*





# Americans celebrate Black History here and at home



**Don McNeal, a former Miami Dolphins defensive back, shares his success story with the Guantanamo Bay community during the Guantanamo African American Association Annual Gala held Feb. 23. The GAAA has sponsored events in honor of Black History Month to commemorate the contributions of those individuals who have helped foster growth within American society. (Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons)**

***By Army Sgt. Lavelle Jones and  
Army Spc. Shanita Simmons***

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The month of February has been designated as a period to commemorate those who have made significant contributions to black history and culture. The month is not only an opportunity to educate the public on the various ways that blacks have contributed to society, it also serves as a period where African-Americans can reflect the state of their existence.

Black History Month has become an essential aspect of social education since many events now occur that focus on the growth of black society. It's important that children of tomorrow are reminded of the sacrifices that blacks have made that helped foster the many accomplishments blacks experience today.

One such event occurred Saturday night when the Guantanamo Bay community was educated and enlightened during the Guantanamo

Bay African American Association Annual Gala. Participants were entertained by the Morale Welfare and Recreation hip-hop dance group, and Army Sgt. Lavelle Jones who recited an inspirational poem.

Don McNeal, a former Miami Dolphins defensive back, was the guest speaker during the event where he shared his success story with attendees. McNeal recounted his early days growing up in Alabama and how the many people who came into his life helped inspire him to achieve greatness in his personal and professional life.

The gala concluded with Rhythm and Blues singer Blue Cantrell bringing the audience to its feet as she sung some of her latest hits. In addition to the Gala, the GAAA sponsored other events including a freedom march last month to pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Although many events are planned in honor of Black History Month, simply ensuring that today's

youth understand and appreciate their history is one of the best gifts that can be given.

Black History Month was created not just to show the history of black people, but to provide a landscape of how society can influence history. The part black Americans have played in the historical and contemporary context within our society has had a question mark surrounding it for many years. From as far back as the dynastic period in ancient Egypt when monuments and statues resembling blacks were left behind to a time when blacks were considered chattel property and three fifths of a human, blacks have played a critical part in sculpting history. Despite the deep roots that blacks have cultivated in American society, it was only a short time ago that blacks were considered to have no rights that whtise were obligated to respect.

Many things, good and bad,

***Continued on page 10***

# Charges referred on detainee al Bahlul

## Department of Defense Release

The Defense Department announced Wednesday that three charges have been referred 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 authorize a maximum sentence of confinement for life.

The charges allege that in 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 director and media director of Osama bin Laden. The charge sheet states al Bahlul created a propaganda video titled "The Destruction of the American Destroyer U.S.S. Cole," proposed propaganda declarations styled as martyr wills for Sept. 11 hijackers Mohammed Atta and Ziad al Jarrah, researched the economic effects of the

Sept. 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.

In accordance with the Military Commissions Act of 2006, al Bahlul and his detailed defense counsel will be served a copy of the charges in English and Arabic. Additionally, a military judge will be detailed to the case. The Manual for Military Commissions requires the accused be arraigned within 30 days of the service of charges and the military judge to assemble the military commission within 120 days of the service of charges. Assembly is the procedural step that usually occurs when all parties, including the jury, are present and sworn, and the judge announces on the record that the commission is now assembled. The military trial judge will contact attorneys in the case to set an initial trial schedule.

Brig. Gen. Thomas Hartmann, legal advisor to the convening authority, has stated military commissions guarantee the following rights recognized in all American courts: 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 offered 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 prevent admission of statements obtained by torture; the right to have a military commission panel of at least five military members determine his guilt by a 2/3 majority; 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 U.S. Supreme Court.

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

Of the 275 detainees at Guantanamo, approximately 80 are expected to face trial by military commission.

## Continued from page 10

have been documented about black history, but the most significant aspect of it all is that one day someone considered the history of blacks in America to be so critical to America's story that it spawned the creation of Negro History Week, as this celebration was first known.

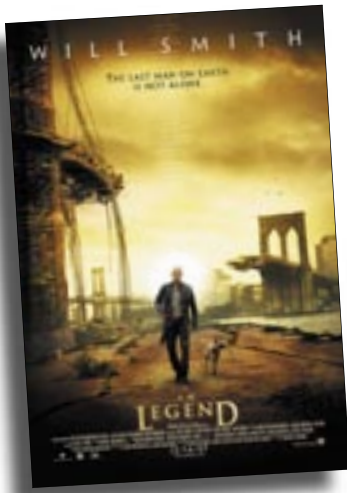
One of the oldest black fraternities, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., was responsible for creating Negro History Week in order to help foster recognition of the culture, heritage and achievements of black people. Although support for the celebration remained stagnant for a period of

time, interest in commemorating the accomplishments of black people was reignited by Carter G. Woodson, who is known as the Father of Black History.

With the backing of the Association for the Study of Negro Life, an association created in 1915 to help fund research and writing projects, Woodson designated the second week in February as the period when black people would recognize their accomplishments. The time frame, which falls between Feb. 12 and Feb. 14, the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass respectively, was chosen due to the great roles both men played in black history.

These week long events eventually evolved into Black History Month, which was officially created in 1976.

The celebration of black history is a wonderful thing, but it will lose its significance unless the children of tomorrow are reminded of the sacrifices black people, named and unnamed, have to make in order for blacks to be in a position where they are able to further the accomplishments they are making today. Americans, black and white, must not think for a second that the hands of the clock can not be turned back if their collective memory is robbed or denied the truths of its history.



# Will Smith totally steals the show in "I Am Legend"

By Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

Rated: PG13

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Running Time: 100 minutes

"I Am Legend" stars Will Smith (and almost nobody else) as Lt. Col. Robert Neville, an Army virologist who helped develop a cure for cancer that mutates into a virus and kills most of humanity. That virus has depopulated 90 percent of the population and turned the remaining 10 into flesh-eating zombies. Neville is the last man standing, immune to the virus and over-protective of his

the original 1954 novel by Richard Matheson, Neville is a man alone, literally fighting against the darkness that has gripped humanity.

The zombies are creepy enough, in the now-too-common vein of mindless flesh eaters. They are fast and violent beyond the point of self preservation, but the most disturbing scene was a first-glimpse of them backed away and facing a wall, standing together mindlessly while waiting for sundown. Neville later dictates notes regarding the zombies "social de-evolution" and nothing drives it home better than that moment. Good, creepy stuff.

I guess the flesh eating helps, too. That's also pretty creepy.

As with most movies written by Akiva Goldsman (assisted by Mark Protosevich), the third act fizzles. Turns out some other humans are out there. A Brazilian lady (Alice Braga) and her kid show up from nowhere to save Neville from suicide. Braga does a below-average job of playing Neville's spiritual savior, quoting scripture and claiming that the death of almost six billion people is all part of God's plan, which is very hard to believe. The ending gets preachy and humanity is saved, which is good because I'm a card-carrying member of humanity.

Overall, "I Am Legend" delivers on the goods. Director Francis Lawrence ("Constantine") creates some beautifully stark scenes and eerie cityscapes that seem to float in silence. But that third act was lame. It made me miss Charlton Heston in "The Omega Man." That guy could fight apes *and* zombies.

Rating: ★★★★★

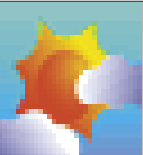
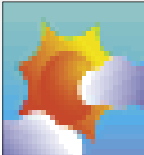
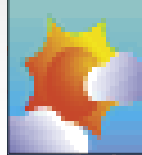
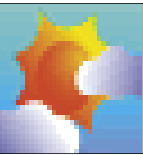
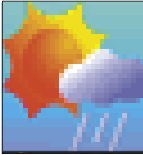
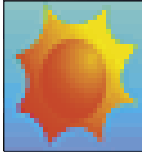
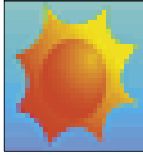
\*Editor's note: "The Omega Man" was a version of "I Am Legend" made in the 1971. Big, cheesy fun.

only companion, his dog, Sam, who is awesome. I'm not even a pet person and I loved that dog.

Neville spends his mornings deer hunting from a Ford Mustang with a tricked-out M4 assault rifle and his trusty canine sidekick. New York is now overgrown with plant life and animals run amok during the day. By animals, I mean lions. Giant lions that are hunting the same deer as Neville. Again with the awesome.

Neville also picks fresh corn in the overgrown streets and practices his golf swing from the tail of a Blackbird jet parked on an aircraft carrier. By afternoon, he's working in a basement lab in an attempt to find a cure for the virus. By night, he's locked up in his fortress home that's being assaulted by the sun-allergic zombies.

Smith's portrayal of the last man on Earth is well done, never straying too far into the humorous routines he's known for. True to

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST <span style="float: right;">Weather forecast provided by <a href="http://www.weather.com">www.weather.com</a></span>			
<p><b>Saturday, Mar. 01</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high - 60's.</p>  <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b> Sunrise: 6:20 a.m. Sunset: 6:06 p.m. Chance of rain: 20%</p>	<p><b>Sunday, Mar. 02</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the mid - 60's.</p>  <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b> Sunrise: 6:19 a.m. Sunset: 6:06 p.m. Chance of rain: 20%</p>	<p><b>Monday, Mar. 03</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the mid - 60's.</p>  <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b> Sunrise: 6:18 a.m. Sunset: 6:07 p.m. Chance of rain: 20%</p>	
<p><b>Tuesday, Mar. 04</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the mid - 60's.</p>  <p><b>Partly Cloudy</b> Sunrise: 6:18 a.m. Sunset: 6:07 p.m. Chance of Rain: 20%</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, Mar. 05</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the mid - 60's.</p>  <p><b>Scattered T-Storms</b> Sunrise: 6:17 a.m. Sunset: 6:07 p.m. Chance of Rain: 60%</p>	<p><b>Thursday, Mar. 06</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the high - 60's.</p>  <p><b>Mostly Sunny</b> Sunrise: 6:16 a.m. Sunset: 6:08 p.m. Chance of Rain: 20%</p>	<p><b>Friday, Mar. 07</b></p> <p>Highs in the mid - 80's, and lows in the mid - 60's.</p>  <p><b>Mostly Sunny</b> Sunrise: 6:15 a.m. Sunset: 6:08 p.m. Chance of Rain: 10%</p>

## Continued from page 5

It is the bits and pieces of information collected over time – which reinforce each other in terms of veracity, credibility, and reliability – that fascinate Rester and his colleagues in the intelligence community. They are largely unconcerned with the questions that plague law enforcement officials, questions of truth or falsehood, innocence or guilt. Those questions are the province of the law, not intelligence gathering.

“Unlike a law enforcement interview, an intelligence interrogation is not trying to prove something. We are not trying to prove a known. Fundamentally, the worst thing we can possibly do is accuse someone of lying when they are actually telling the truth. The second worse thing we can do is accept a lie as the truth. In either case, we have fundamentally failed at our job. Now when I say truth, I mean truth that is subject dependent. That is... it is based upon someone’s knowledge, their ability to provide the information. It’s what they believe to be so, from their perspective,” Rester said.

Rester sees his mission, the JTF mission to keep enemy combatants off the battlefield and obtain from them strategic intelligence that aids battlefield

commanders and saves American lives, as the development of a context which contains all the knowledge that relates to a particular person of intelligence interest.

“We look at that individual’s story and then we look at other knowledge we are able to acquire as it relates to that individual. And we look at all that with a goal in mind. The mission of doing that, the purpose in doing that is to be able to advise the task force commander as regards the threat or mitigation of threat that an enemy combatant in custody here might pose, whether to U.S. personnel here or U.S. personnel on the battlefield,” Rester said.

Stories that cohere with each other and contribute actionable intelligence value to national leaders and theater commanders simply don’t arise from the application of harsh treatment or torture, according to Rester. He asserts that to believe otherwise – that information resulting from torture is generally valid and reliable – is to believe in an absurdity.

“Harshness and brutality can not result in detailed coherent information or knowledge. Remember, knowledge is the goal. It’s oxymoronic to assert that we are going to reduce a person by bending him to our will. Because

then what is being asserted is that I’m going to reduce someone’s cognitive skills to a level below that which I can adequately have a conversation. If you think it through, it’s all contradictory. Intelligence gathering is fundamentally about being able to sit down and have a decent conversation with somebody in a fairly sublime setting.

“Furthermore,” Rester continued, “military intelligence interrogators are trained to interrogate with restraint, to the standards of the Law of Land Warfare. They are trained to uniform standards that have the force of US law. While our enemies routinely exploit this as a weakness and critics may scoff with claims to the contrary it is our greatest strength. And, it is the moral and ethical thing to do.”

The hard-core critics of JTF Guantanamo and American military policy in general, will not likely be dissuaded or persuaded by Rester’s take on the strategic intelligence activities of the Joint Intelligence Group. Those predisposed to curiosity and open minds, on the other hand, will keep asking questions and mulling over the information they gather. And if their motives jibe with Rester’s – the safety and security of America and its citizens – we’ll all sleep a little easier at night.

## Boots on the Ground

*What’s your favorite television show and why?*

*By Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class William Weinert*

Army Sgt.  
Brandin Schumann



*“Man vs. Wild,’ because it teaches you how to survive in the wild.”*

Army Pfc.  
Joseph Shannon



*“Entourage,’ it’s just hilarious.”*

Army Sgt.  
Julio Montalvo



*“Viva La Bam,’ because of all the crazy things they do.”*

Army Pfc. Gregory  
Miller



*“Ultimate Fighting Challenge,’ for the entertainment value.”*

# Dependability really does matter



www.flickr.com

**By Navy Lt. Cdr. Daniel McKay**

JTF Command Chaplain/NEGB Chaplain

Recently, I watched an interview with multi-millionaire businessman and philanthropist Jon Huntsman. The person conducting the interview asked him, “What quality do you think has served you the best over the years?”

“Dependability,” Huntsman answered without hesitation.

“Why dependability?” the interviewer pressed him.

“Without proving yourself over time to be a person who can be trusted it’s impossible to be successful,” Huntsman replied. “Whether in the home, in business, or anything else people have to know you are a person of your word. And, what’s more, they have to know that you’re going to deal with them fairly and honestly, which is part of being dependable as well.”

As thought provoking as this portion of the interview was, it was the next part of the conversation that really caught my attention. The interviewer, tearing up as he began to speak, said, “You know, Mr. Huntsman, this is why I wanted to interview you. You are a hero of mine, because, unlike so many in our world today who talk the talk but fail to walk the walk, you are the genuine article. You really practice what you say you believe.” The interviewer then went on to provide an example of what he meant. He told how Huntsman had once lost millions of dollars because he agreed to sell his stocks in a business venture to another businessman. Before the lawyers finished the paperwork to complete the transaction,

quite unexpectedly, the stock took a significant upturn: causing it to be worth millions more than Huntsman’s original selling price. The other businessman, not wanting Huntsman to take such a great loss, offered to buy the stock at the new value. Huntsman, however, refused the offer.

Smiling in disbelief, the interviewer exclaimed, “Why? Why did you do that? It cost you millions of dollars!”

Huntsman simply leaned forward, and, in his matter-of-fact style, said, “Because, we had shook hands on the deal. There’s no going back once you’ve given your word, even if it means unexpected loss.” No wonder Huntsman is so widely respected as one of the most trusted, honest and gifted business leaders in our world today.

Striving to be a faithful, reliable, trustworthy and dependable spouse, parent, friend, neighbor and co-worker is, without doubt, one of the most worthy goals in all of life. It takes great effort and perseverance on our part, to be sure. In the end, though, as Huntsman’s personal and professional example well demonstrates, it is very much worth it.

It’s as God’s Word encourages, “Make every effort to add to your faith, goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive . . .” (II Peter 1:5-8).

# Windy City son hosts 'Vibe Sessions' for Troopers

By Army Spc. Daniel Welch

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The military often uses the ideas of personal change in their recruiting videos as a means to attract young men and women into a particular branch of service. Discipline, job skills and money for higher education are some of the benefits, along with service to the country, that make the military an attractive opportunity for many.

Another benefit of military service is the prospect of touching other lives and enlightening and enriching those they come into contact with.

Army Sgt. Lavelle Jones is just such a Soldier. Growing up in the "Windy City" of Chicago, Jones entered the military three years ago after graduating from Western Illinois University with a degree in law enforcement and a minor in sociology. Jones explained that he joined the military to "further my career in the criminal justice field."

Currently, Jones works for the staff judge advocate, JTF Guantanamo and noted that he has enjoyed his experiences here professionally they have allowed him to help fellow Troopers in the command.

"The mentorship I have received from

**Jones hosts "Vibe Sessions" at his residence every Friday at 9 p.m. where budding performance artists can sing and recite poetry during an open-microphone poetry night. (Photo by Army Spc. Daniel Welch)**



**Navy Lt. Erika Delaparra discusses a legal matter with Army Sgt. Lavelle Jones, a paralegal in the JTF Military Justice office. (Photo by Army Spc. Shanita Simmons)**

those above me has been incredible and has really allowed me to succeed," said Jones.

However, Jones' interests expand well beyond the legal field. During his time at Guantanamo, Jones has left an impressive mark here writing articles for "The Wire" on a variety of subjects, including sports and a touching piece on his personal interpretation of the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"I had written a little bit in college, and was writing recaps of intramural basketball for some of the people playing in the league here," said Jones, "Someone suggested that I might be able to write for the 'The Wire.' I sent them an e-mail and they allowed me to write."

Besides newspaper writing, Jones has wide interests such as athletics, chess, and reading. He is also an active participant in the Guantanamo African American Association.

Maybe the most visible of Jones' contributions to the Guantanamo community has been "Vibe Sessions," an open-microphone poetry night held every Friday at 9 p.m. at his residence, Tierra Kay 97.

"When I was in college, three friends and I started a show that was similar called, 'cultural expressions.' It was a poetry set

that allowed anyone to perform, and is still hosted to this day at Western Illinois," said Jones.

"When I got here I wanted to do something different. Going out to the bar is ok, but I wanted to create something that gave a voice to people here in a positive way," explained Jones.

Besides hosting the show, Jones also participates, lending his voice to the creative mixture of poets, singers, rappers, and musicians that stop by on Friday nights.

Though the show is open to anyone who would like to perform, Jones asks that all material be kept clean. "I would like this to be something that is open to everyone, so people feel comfortable bringing their kids if they want," said Jones.

"I started writing poetry a few years ago. I am not as skilled as other people out there, but I really enjoy it as a way to express myself and my feelings," said Jones.

In the five weeks since "Vibe Sessions" began, the crowd has gotten larger and larger and Jones noted that he is trying to find someplace maybe a little larger than his living room.

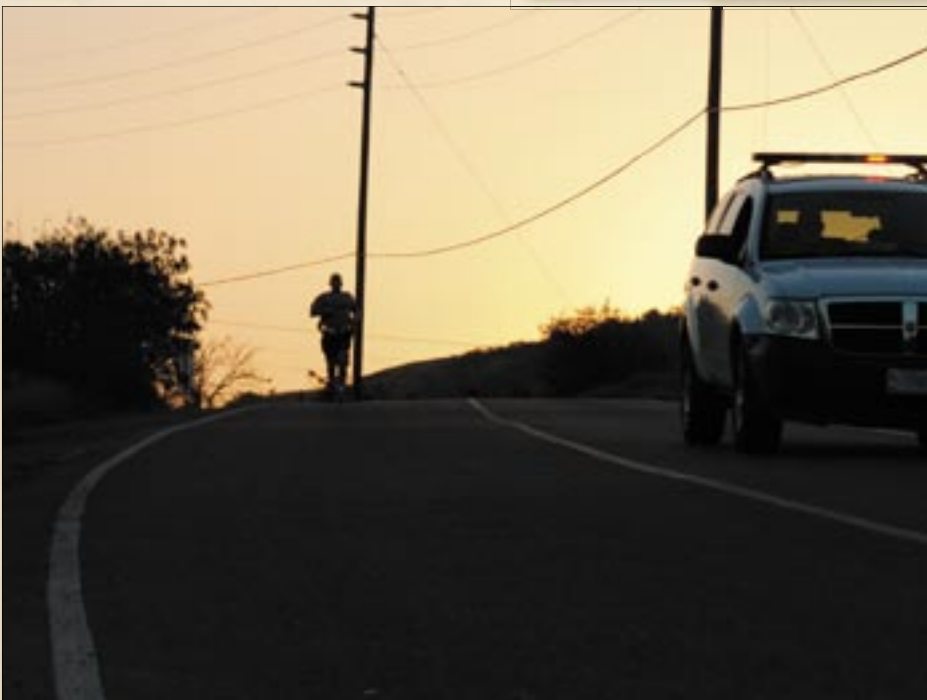
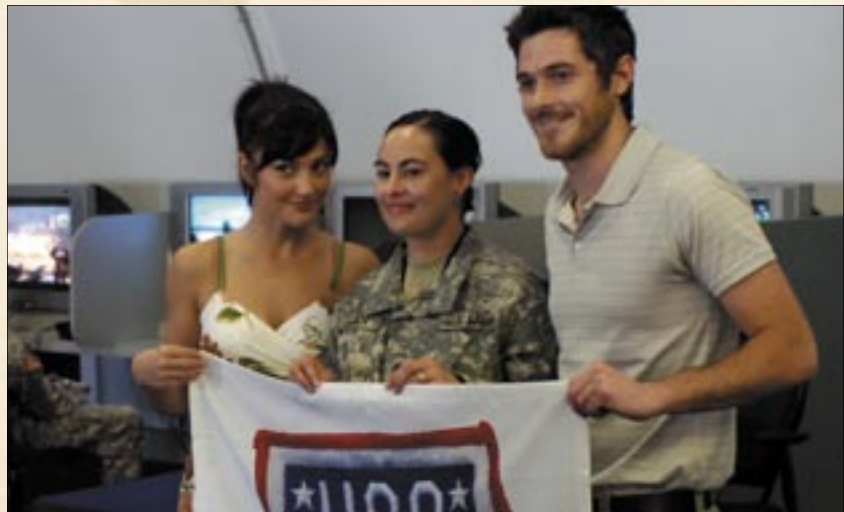
The future looks wide open for Jones, who says he intends to stay in the Army for right now. He plans to continue reading, writing, learning and living as well.

# AROUND THE JTF



◀ The moon is covered by the earth's shadow during the only full lunar eclipse of 2008 on Feb. 20. The next full lunar eclipse will occur in December, 2010. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nathaniel Moger)

Minka Kelly, a star of the television show "Friday Night Lights," and Dave Annable, a star of the television show "Brothers & Sisters," pose for a photo with Master Sgt. Jackie Lujan during a USO tour of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Feb. 27. Kelly was listed as number 42 on Maxim magazines 2007 Hot 100 list and Annable was recently named People magazines seventh sexiest man alive. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nathaniel Moger) ▶



◀ Army 1st Sgt. Patrick Sellen from the Louisiana Army National Guard sprints behind the Naval Station police pace car during the Morale, Welfare and Recreation 5k Run Feb. 22. Sellen was the first place finisher in the race with a lead of over 90 seconds. (Photo by Army Sgt. Scott Griffin)