

Guantanamo Bay Gazette

Vol. 63 No. 51

Friday, Dec. 29, 2006

Year in review



Swim across the bay



New Go-Kart track



BREMGOR

"Newspapers always excite curiosity. No one ever puts one down without the feeling of disappointment, Charles Lamb, British Essayist, Critic, 1775-1834.

Leadership that has come to GTMO



SECNAV Visit — Secretary of the Navy, Dr. Donald Winter, gets an orientation of the base's layout enroute from Leeward to Windward from Maj. Gen. Jay Hood, USA, Commanding General of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, and CAPT Mark Leary, USN, Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. Seated beside Maj. Gen. Hood is Col. Douglas Wadsworth, USMC, military aide to SECNAV.



Left: Rear Adm. Harry Harris Jr., incoming JTF Commander. Right: Maj. Gen. Jay Hood, outgoing JTF Commander



RADM Harris named as next JTF Commander — Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen named Rear Adm. (lower half) Harry B. Harris, Jr. as the next Commander, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, U.S. Southern Command, Guantanamo Bay, on Friday, Feb. 17.

Harris previously served as Director, Information, Plans and Security Division on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C. In this capacity, he is responsible for Navy current operations and anti-terrorism/force protection.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to command such an outstanding group of joint military professionals who perform such an important mission in the Global War on Terror," said Rear Adm. Harris.

GUANTANAMO BAY

Gazette

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Commanding Officer.....CAPT Mark M. Leary
Executive Officer.....CDR Sylvester Moore
Command Master Chief.....CMDCM(SW/SS) Larry Cairo
Public Affairs Officer.....Ms. Stacey Byington
Asst. PAO/LPO.....MC1 Robert Lamb
Journalist.....MC1 Igo Wordu
Journalist.....MC2(AW) Honey Nixon

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New Leadership

— CAPT Ronald Sollock assumed command of U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay. CAPT Sollock takes over from CAPT John Edmondson, who is reporting to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.



CAPT Ronald Sollock

"As we look ahead into the next century, leaders will be those who empower others," said Bill Gates, Microsoft founder, 1955-?.

Improvement and development projects



Easier access — Thanks to a group of Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Seven (NMCB-7), a new refueling pier was built on the Leeward side in June. The battalion completed an on-going project that provides fuel service to Navy and Coast Guard vessels coming to Guantanamo Bay. BUCN Joshua Dibenedetto, with NMCB-7, knocks the rust off a piece of scrap metal to use for a template for the new refueling pier.



Needed repairs — In June of this year Burns, Roe and Dick Corporation (BRDC) workers carry sandbags in order to shore-up the improved sea wall at Windmill Beach. Significant storm surges from Hurricane Dennis in 2005, damaged structures and littered beaches along the Guantanamo Bay coast. One of those beaches was Windmill Beach which was covered by storm surge up to 14 feet. Because of the damage, Windmill Beach was closed for quite some time, while personnel from the Public Works Dept. removed logs and boulders from cabana areas and surveyed the damage.



Customer satisfaction — RDML Mark Boensel, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, and Darnell Davis, Guantanamo Bay Airfield Facilities Manager, cut the ribbon opening the newly refurbished Leeward Air Terminal Hangar. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was held May 15, during Boensel's visit to GTMO. Many different departments and contractors put their touches on this new gateway back to the states.



Understanding our surroundings — Learning about the area in which we live is very important to the legacy that we may leave behind. Our ecosystem is to be admired not destroyed. Zach Driskell, a first-grader at W. T. Sampson Elementary School, gets up close with a Cuban Iguana. The Reptile Show is throughout the year in GTMO.

"As long as I can conceive something better than myself I cannot be easy unless I am striving to bring it into existence or clearing the way for it," said George Bernard Shaw, Irish-born British Dramatist, 1856-1950.

The Gazette staff would like to thank everyone who contributed photos and stories for the base newspaper throughout the year.

GTMO has learned throughout the year



Fear is not a factor — Adam Fisher shakes and squirms more than the squid he has in his mouth during the GTMO '2006 Teen Center Fear Factor' challenge. Forty-four students from the W.T. Sampson High School tested their fear on Friday, March 31, at the Windjammer pool.



Push yourself to the limits — Area athletes endured rigorous regiments of kayaking, biking and running during the GTMO's Extreme Adventure competition on March 4. They were competing for the championship crown and a possible chance to represent Guantanamo Bay at a regional contest slated for later that year. The competition began from the Sailing Center at the Marina with the first contest, a 1-mile kayak relay.



Diversity of cultures is extremely important — Matthew James Adkins (Eagle Bear), entertains the large crowd at the Down-town Lyceum on Nov. 19. Other tribes that showed their Native American spirit were Cree, Aztec, Chero-kee, Pawnee, Seneca, Lumbee and Lakota Indians.



Sports should be about fun — Blake Smaw smiles as he rounds third base after hitting an in-the-park home run in the first inning of the first game of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Little League Baseball season.

"In every man there is something wherein I may learn of him, and in that I am his pupil," said Ralph Waldo Emerson, American Poet, 1803-1882.

GTMO has recognized other cultures throughout the year



Cuban-American Friendship — *Marines from Marine Corps Security Force Company Guantanamo lead the first leg of the 10-mile Cuban-American Friendship Day Northeast Gate Run on Jan. 27. The run began at the Northeast Gate. Command units and teams either ran in formation or individually in 2-mile legs or for the entire distance.*



Jamaican Independence Day — *4 years old, Te'Nya Craig, along with her family, enjoyed the festivities at the Windjammer Club during the Jamaican Independence Day Celebration.*



Philippine Independence Day Celebration — *Dancers performed the "Singil" during the Philippine Independence Day Celebration at the Windjammer Ballroom, June 17. This is one of the oldest Filipino dances, drawing its name from the bells worn on the ankles of a princess.*



Hispanic Heritage — *Students from W.T. Sampson Elementary School perform 'La Murga del Carnaval,' a traditional dance of Panama, during the Hispanic Heritage celebration at the Windjammer ballroom on Saturday, Sept. 30. Hispanic Heritage Month is a period to recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans.*

"Culture of the mind must be subservient to the heart. No culture can live if it attempts to be exclusive," said Mahatma Gandhi, Indian Political and Spiritual Leader, 1869-1948.



New faces of GTMO in 2006



... and those we lost along the way



GTMO has earned throughout the year



College graduation — *Prior to Columbia College's first commencement, graduates of Columbia College-Guantanamo Bay pose for a group photo before being presented their graduation diplomas on Sunday, March 26, at the base Chapel.*



Big Promotion — *Natasha Wills, fire department administration clerk, pins the symbol of Neville Stewart's new rank on his collar during a promotion ceremony held at Fire Station No. 1 on Saturday, July 8. Stewart was promoted to the rank of Battalion Fire Chief.*

GWOT Expeditionary Medal

Naval Base Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) learned that it was awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for its support with contingency operations pertaining to Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom earlier this year.



His and her majesty — *Joshua Hulbert and Heather Brittle were named the W.T. Sampson King and Queen for the November Homecoming Dance on Nov. 18.*



School's over! — *Congratulations to the W.T. Sampson High School Class of 2006, whose graduation took place at the base Chapel on Friday, June 9. Graduating seniors were: Heather McGarity, Nick Basel, Langston Edwards, Jessica Brewer, Heather Panaro, Aaron Carvajal, Alyssa Roper, Felecia Green and Faith Walker. Fair winds and following seas to all.*

"It's no use saying, "We are doing our best." You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary", said Winston Churchill, British Statesman, Prime Minister, 1874-1965.

Worship Services

Catholic

Catholic Mass Mon. thru Fri. 6 p.m. (Main Chapel)
 Confession, Mon. thru Fri. 5:15 p.m. (Main Chapel) Sat. 4:15 p.m., Sun. 8:15 a.m.
 Vigil Mass, 5 p.m. (Main Chapel)
 Sunday Mass, 9 a.m. (Main Chapel)
 Eucharistic Adoration, daily 24 hrs.

Protestant

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday Services, Main Chapel, 11 a.m.
 Children's Sunday School, 11:30 a.m.
 Gospel Worship Service, 1 p.m.
 Monday
 Prayer Group, 6 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
 Wednesday
 Men's Fellowship, 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
 Gospel Bible Study, 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary A)
 Thursday
 PWOC - 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
 Sunday, Protestant Liturgical Service, 10 a.m. (Sanctuary B)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

(Sanctuary A)
 Monday, Family Home Evening, 7 p.m. (rm. 8)
 Sunday Sacrament, 9 a.m.

Filipino Christian Fellowship

(Sanctuary A)
 Sunday Worship, 7 p.m.

Iglesia Ni Cristo (Sanctuary B)

Bible Study, Thursday, 7 p.m.
 Sunday Worship, 5:30 a.m.

Pentecostal Gospel Temple

(Sanctuary D)
 Sunday Worship, 8 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Seventh Day Adventist (Sanctuary B)

Prayer Meeting, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
 Vesper Meeting, Friday, 7 p.m.
 Sabbath School, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.
 Divine Service, Saturday, 11 a.m.
 Bible Study, Saturday, 4:30 p.m.

Islamic Service (Sanctuary C)

Friday Worship, 1:15 p.m.

United Jamaican Fellowship

(Bldg. 1036, next to Phoenix Cable)
 Sunday Service, 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Second Friday of the month, Rm. 11, 7:30p.m.

"I would rather entertain and hope that people learned something than educate people and hope they were entertained," said Walt Disney, American Artist, Film Producer, 1901-1966.

Entertainment



Top notch music — *Music of all types is always a big thrill here in GTMO. Rap artists, 'Master P' and 'Lil Romeo, performed together at the Downtown Lyceum on Oct. 13. It was one of the kick-off events of the NEX Customer Appreciation Day. "I feel that I am doing my part in supporting the troops for all the sacrifices they make in order to defend this country," said 'Master P.'*



Regular comedy riot — *Comedian Tess Drake performed her adult stand-up comedy routine a couple of time this year. Drake's comedy involved marriage, divorce and life in general.*



Ombudsman Corner

Cheryl Crouse

NAVSTA Ombudsman
 Local Liaison
 Phone - 75860
 Pager - 4447-2000
ccrouse35@yahoo.com

Senora (Sunni) Malone

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Jennifer Amaio

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Downtown Lyceum

Friday, Dec. 29

The Santa Clause 3

7 p.m., G, 102 min.

A Good Year

9 p.m., PG-13, 118 min.

Saturday, Dec. 30

Night at the Museum

7 p.m., PG-13, 105 min.

Borat

9 p.m., R, 84 min.

Sunday, Dec. 31

The Marine

7 p.m., PG-13, 91 min.

Monday, Jan. 1

The Pursuit of Happiness

7 p.m., PG-13, 113 min.

Tuesday, Jan. 2

A Good Year

7 p.m., PG-13, 118 min.

Wednesday, Jan. 3

Flicka

7 p.m., PG, 95 min.

Thursday, Jan. 4

Man of the Year

7 p.m., PG-13, 115 min.



The Pursuit of Happyness

Genre: Drama and Biopic

Cast: Will Smith, Thandie Newton, Jaden Smith, Dan Castellaneta, Zuhair Haddad

Storyline: Chris Gardner is a bright and talented, but marginally employed salesman. Struggling to make ends meet, Gardner finds himself and his five-year-old son evicted from their San Francisco apartment with nowhere to go. When Gardner lands an internship at a prestigious stock brokerage firm, he and his son endure many hardships, including living in shelters, in pursuit of his dream of a better life.



Night at the Museum

Cast: Ben Stiller, Carla Gugino, Kim Raver, Mickey Rooney, Dick Van Dyke

Storyline: Good-hearted dreamer Larry Daley, despite being perpetually down on his luck, thinks he's destined for something big. But even he could never have imagined how big, when he accepts what appears to be a menial job as a graveyard-shift security guard at a museum of natural history. During Larry's watch, extraordinary things begin to occur: Mayans, Roman Gladiators, and cowboys emerge from their diorama.

MWR Happenings

Windjammer Dinner Theater

Monday, Jan. 1, at 5:30 p.m. Bring the family to the Windjammer Club to enjoy dinner and then watch family oriented G- or PG-rated movies. No movie Scheduled. Normal movie and event schedules at the Windjammer Dinner Theater will resume after the holidays. Happy Holidays!

New Year's Eve Concerts

Dec. 31., 9 p.m. Will Brock will be performing at the Bayview, starting 9 p.m.. Ticket for this show is \$40 per person and \$75 for couples. Also included with ticket price is New Year's Eve breakfast, which will be served from 12:30 - 1:30 a.m. Breakfast is open to the general public for \$5 per person. Sean Paul and Shanna Crooks will perform at Cooper Field while Mary White Band will perform at the Goat Locker, p.m.. Tickets for this show will be \$9 per person, includes heavy Hors D'Oeuvres and complimentary Champagne at midnight. Tickets available at the Bayview and Goat Locker. Dress to party. Open to chiefs, military and civilian equivalents only. Mary White will also be performing at Club Survivor on Jan. 3, showtime is 8 p.m.; Bayview patio on Jan 4, showtime is 7 p.m. and the Windjammer Club on Jan. 5, showtime is 8 p.m. FMI call 75225.

MWR taxi service

Coming soon. Drivers needed. FMI call 4363.

GTMO Xtreme Adventure Race

Saturday Feb. 3, at the Marina. FMI call 2345.

GTMO Shopper

For Sale

(2) 27-in. Sharp TV w/remote, \$150; 34-in. Sony KV-34FS120 FD Trinitron WEGA Flat-screen CRT TV, \$350; complete Live Well, constructed on island from 1/2 55 gallon plastic blue container, \$70. FMI call 9815 or 79574.

(2) 2 Scuba tanks, \$75 ea. FMI call 78032.

(2) HP Pavillion DV 1000 laptop w/Microsoft XP home edition, 5.1.2600 service pack 2, X86 based PC, TPM.512MB, TVM2GB, X86 family 6 model, \$700. FMI call 77175 or 75643.

(2) Miscellaneous indoor and outdoor House Plants for sale, please call after 4 p.m. 77985.

(1) Carpets, bound w/padding: 15 x 23, \$200; 13.5 x 16 \$150; 16X10, \$100; 12 x 10, 9.5 x 12.5, \$100. FMI call 77729.

(1) King-size bedroom set including mirror, chest, and night stand, \$1,000; Burgundy sectional couch w/two massage recliner and a pull-out bed, \$800; VCR \$25; kids twin bedroom set including nightstand and chest, \$60; Computer desk, \$25; Cannon 8mm Video camcorder \$90; Cannon 35mm camera, \$70; coffee table w/storage \$40.

(1) Two complete golf set, fair condition, \$30 ea. or \$50 for both; CD player w/remote, brand new, still in box, \$30. FMI call 78123.

(1) 1998 Chrysler Sebring LXi, runs good, pwr. windows, locks, seat, sunroof, leather w/new DVD player, speakers, subs and amp, \$5,500 OBO. FMI call Richie at 90015 or Laura at 2156 or 2369.

Vehicles/Boats

(2) 2000 Ford Explorer, 118k miles, well maintained, \$8,500. FMI call 2033.

(2) 1984 Chevy Celebrity, conver-table, runs well, \$750 OBO. FMI call 2351.

(2) 1997 Saturn Coupe, 2 dr., 106k mile, A/C, radio/cassette, great condition, \$4,200. FMI call 4503 or 77360.

(2) 1987 Volkswagen Cabriolet, convertible, A/C, AM/FM/CD, low mileage, \$4000 OBO. FMI call 77868.

(2) 2000 Buick Century, pwr breaks, window locks, A/C,

automatic, asking \$8,500. FMI call 4063.

(2) 1992 Geo Tracker, available FMI call 75749.

(2) 1984 Honda Shadow, low miles, good shape, runs good, \$1,500. FMI call 4380 or 77716.

(2) 1987 Mazda 626, auto, good shape, runs good, available Dec. 23. \$1,800 OBO. FMI call 4043 or 77912.

(2) 2006 Harley Davidson Sportster 1200, custom, less than 600 miles, \$9,500 OBO. FMI call 78032.

(2) 2003 Motorbike, 50cc, \$1200; 2000 Motorbike, 50cc, \$1200 and 1992 Jetski, runs good, \$1900. FMI call after 4 p.m. 77985.

(1) 1989 Dodge Caravan, \$1,900 OBO. FMI call Pan at 79483.

(1) 1993 Ford Ranger, good condition, excellent engine w/ rebuilt transmission, good tired and brakes, brand new CD/MP3 player, \$2,500 OBO. FMI 78017 or 3292 after 3 p.m.

(1) 1983 Toyota Corolla, \$800. FMI call Travis 4994 or 4956.

Employment

(2) The GEO Group Inc., Migrant Operations Center has the following position available: Housing Escort Officer.

Qualification required: High school diploma or GED equivalent. One year full-time experience in a public or private security or law enforcement-related field. Must be a U.S. citizen or a lawful resident. Bilingual is a plus: English-Spanish; English-Haitian Creole. FMI call 76149.

(1) The Human Resources Office has the following vacancy available: Practical Nurse LGS-0620-04, Announcement No. FN06-019, closing date is Jan. 9, 2007.

(1) Lynx Air International has some part-time and temporary positions open for 3-6 months, starting Jan. 2007. Work experience is necessary, however, training will be provided. Interested person must be available for flexible hours and willing to work on weekends and holidays. If interested, drop off your resume at the Lynx office at bldg. 834 on Sherman Ave.

Announcements

(2) The African American Cultural Organization (AACO) will be having a car wash/bake sale at the NEX parking lot on

Saturday Dec. 30. The organization meets every Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at the Acey Duecy. All interested in joining the organization are invited to attend. FMI call Nicole Steele at 9769.

(1) Professional Nurses' Association would like anyone who did not receive their Grinch photo by e-mail to contact LT. Sheila Allen at 75842.

(1) W.T. Sampson School Advisory Committee (SAC) will be meeting on Jan. 23, 2007, 6:30 p.m. in the high school library.

(1) DRMO will be on island from the Jan. 8 - 18 for issue and receipt only. No sale will be conducted on this trip. Please have all documents ready. The new area manager, Mr. Francisco Valdez, will be in GTMO from 9-12 at DRMO.

Wanted

(1) Looking for Japanese speakers to hold conversations in Japanese. If interested, call 75830 after 5 p.m.

Yard Sales

Dec 30—Center Bargo, #1159, 7 - 10 a.m.



The staff at Gold Hill Galley is wishing the GTMO community a happy holiday season.

Sometimes things were unusual in GTMO



Weather is strange — On Sunday morning, Aug. 27, 'Ernesto' became the first hurricane of the Atlantic season with winds of 75 mph. At that point, the storm was located just south of Haiti tracking west northwest. Weather predictions had the eye of the storm crossing Cuba west of Guantanamo Bay, but indicated the base would still get heavy winds and rain from the storm. Not! But NAVSTA was prepared never the less. The digital sign in front of the Navy Exchange flashed base readiness conditions during the storm.

The Naval Station Command Duty Officer notified all base leadership, including NAVSTA department heads, U.S. Naval Hospital and Joint Task Force personnel that there was a noon meeting in the NAVSTA conference room, in Bulkeley Hall, to discuss preparations and base readiness for the approaching storm. Even though Ernesto fizzled out, NAVSTA was prepared.



Strange outfit — The traditional sending off a colleague or friend in GTMO is a special one. One day this past fall Ed Wilson showed up at Ferry Landing dressed like this, mainly so his friend would remember GTMO. We remember ED!



Activities are strange — NAVSTA leadership, NEX and Commissary workers, cut loaves of fresh bread recently. The NEX Bread and Deli counter has been a great hit in GTMO. It's not on the barge but behind the counter. NEX Bakery/Deli officially opened on Oct. 11.



Circus was in town — Philip 'The King' Soloman dazzled the crowd with his flame-balancing act during the circus show. It had been 20 years since a circus performed at GTMO, until April 23. The Vamphear Circus performed to a packed audience during the two-day circus show with acts ranging from fire-eating, knife-tossing and an aerial artists.

"I like nonsense — it wakes up the brain cells. Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living. It's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope... and that enables you to laugh at all of life's realities, said Dr. Seuss, American Writer and Illustrator of Children's Books, 1904-1991.