



# THE WIRE



## Honor Bound To Defend Freedom

Volume 7, Issue 10 www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

Friday, May 26, 2006

15 Minutes of Fame, pg. 11

# Troopers performed “magnificently”

By Navy Petty Officer 1st Class  
Lacy D. Hicks

JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Office

Joint Task Force guard force and medical Troopers responded swiftly to events inside Camp Delta May 18, including a coordinated suicide attempt by detainees in Camp 1 and an ambush on the guard force in Camp 4.

In a press briefing held Friday, Rear Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., commander of JTF-Guantanamo, commended the fast action of the guards and the medical team.

“I believe the American Guard Force, performed magnificently, showing remarkable restraint in the face of considerable danger,” said Harris. “They were, in fact, heroic. The young men and women here are doing a magnificent job and I am proud of each of them,” Harris told reporters.

Harris also spoke on the outstanding work performed by the medical staff. “Equally tremendous work was done by the Medical Group. Thanks to them, they saved the lives of the two would-be suicides,” said Harris.

Troops responded swiftly to a morning medical emergency after a detainee in Camp 1 was discovered unconscious. That afternoon, Troopers found a cache of drugs hidden in the toilet of a detainee, and another detainee was discovered frothing at the mouth due to an overdose.

Other detainees had apparently saved and transferred their prescribed drugs to designated suicide victims in support of a



Photos by Army 1st Lt. Anthony John

**An improvised shield from the blade guard of a 30-inch pole fan, a fluorescent bulb broken to be used as a stabbing weapon, and a piece of electrical conduit shaped as a bludgeoning weapon were used by Detainees in Camp 4 against the American Guard force here.**

martyrdom operation.

Later that afternoon, a suicide attempt was staged in Camp 4, a medium-security facility where detainees live in a communal-living arrangement. It is considered to be the most dangerous camp because detainees have the opportunity to plan and act in groups.

JTF policy is to intervene to save the life of a detainee, but the guard force trains for the possibility that a suicide attempt may be used by the detainees to create an opportunity to assault, take hostage or kill the guards.

When the guard force entered the compound, the detainees assaulted them. The detainees had slickened the floor of the block with feces, urine, and soapy water in an attempt to trip the guards. Detainees

then assaulted the guards with broken light fixtures, fan blades and bits of metal.

The altercation itself lasted about four-five minutes. Minimum force was used to quell the disturbance, using a continuum beginning with verbal commands to Oleoresin Capsicum Pepper Spray to physical force and finally, non-lethal crowd control measures. Over the next hour, the area was secured and the detainees were examined for injuries. Six detainees were treated for minor injuries. No servicemember was injured.

Harris concluded his remarks to the media, stating, “This illustrates to me the true nature of the men we have detained here. They are dangerous men and committed jihadists willing to die and order others to commit suicide.” ■