

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Getting thrifty

Savings you can take to the bank

Hazmat Pharmacy

A prescription for readiness



United we stand

**Navy Command Master Chief
Scott A. Fleming**

JTF Guantanamo Senior Enlisted Leader

I recently had the pleasure of observing a rehearsal for a detainee legal proceeding held in one of the Joint Task Force's courtrooms. While the event was impressive for its precise efficiency, a more remarkable aspect was the complex-yet-choreographed collaboration among resources. No less than five components – represented by four services and civilian professionals – seamlessly combined efforts to keep the process moving smoothly. No egos, no parochialism ... only a procession of distinctive camouflage uniforms working in concert to achieve a common objective.

I use this simple example to illustrate our collective capacity as a force. Similarly applied exponential synergy occurs regularly on battlefields, in the Pentagon, and around the globe. JTF Guantanamo is a microcosm of military reality in the 21st century. Services rarely find themselves flying solo today. Instead, they march in multi-colored formations, dependent on composite chains of command for combined success. It has not always been that way.

Few people have familiarity with the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986, but we are all heirs to its impact. A little history: Goldwater-Nichols prompted seismic defense reorganization, streamlining the operational chain of command from the President to the Secretary of Defense to unified commanders. It emphasized the idea that to be most effective, we must be fully integrated as a fighting force – intellectually, operationally, organizationally, doctrinally, and technically.

Certainly this is strategic stuff, arguably somewhat arcane in our day-to-day tasks. Still, I think it's important to have a basic understanding of history to appreciate our present fighting position. You are not standing next to Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen on a rock in the middle of the Caribbean Sea by accident. Smart people decided that together, we are simply stronger than we are as separate services. Joint Task Force Guantanamo is validation of that fundamental mathematic principle, and you are essential to the equation.

The National Defense University's Keystone Course for Joint Senior Enlisted Leaders visited here a couple weeks ago. More than 40 E-9s from the five services and a retired Marine Corps general spent seven hours on the ground for familiarization with our organization. They left thoroughly impressed with your professionalism, teamwork and tenacity. Next month, a group of one-star admirals and generals with the Capstone Course will be here for a similar purpose. Again, these are very conscientious efforts by the Department of Defense to equip leaders with an appreciation for the challenges and advantages of a joint environment so they can function effectively when it's their turn to run a railroad.

Why is any of this relevant to your assignment? Communication and situational awareness are the answers ... because they equip you with tools to capitalize on shared interests rather than focusing on differences. We are indeed in this together, and chances are, wherever you deploy in the future, you will probably be surrounded by comparable circumstances. It is imperative as leaders and followers to understand the sheer strength of united ideals, and to recognize that marching, sailing and flying make us the standard bearers of modern warfare.

You do amazing work under difficult circumstances, and are a source of immense pride to people who witness your integrity. Keep fightin' the good fight. It does not go unnoticed. ★



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COVER:

Army Staff Sgt. Rene Salazar a training non-commissioned officer, for the 193rd Military Police Battalion, mounts an MK-19 grenade launcher atop a Humvee, July 21. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann



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 1,000.



Heartfelt thanks

Gordon Haberman, who lost his daughter at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, talked about his daughter to the Soldiers of the 189th MP Co. and thanked them for their service. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell



Kenneth Fairben embraced as many of the Soldiers from the 189th MP Co. as he could during the recent meeting of the victim families and JTF guards. For Fairben, reaching out and expressing his gratitude physically was important. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell

**Army Staff Sgt.
Emily J. Russell**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

For some Troopers, serving at Joint Task Force Guantanamo is one more chapter in the book they call life. For others, the significance of the mission holds a deeper meaning – more personal – especially for Troopers who have lost friends, loved ones or know someone affected by the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

For the Soldiers of the 189th Military Police Co., the mission became more personal when family members of Sept.

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11 attack victims, visiting Guantanamo during the recent military commissions proceedings, made a special effort to say “thank you,” and convey gratitude, face to face, for a job well done.

“I started talking with [Army Capt.] Chaplain [Scott] Brill last night and he was talking about the guards,” explained Gordon Haberman who lost his daughter Andrea during the World Trade Center attack. “I thought we should meet them to thank them ourselves, they’re the ones who deal with the [detainees] every day; we can go home at night and forget about them.”

With the idea firmly planted, it only took a few phone calls to set the wheels in motion. That evening, the 189th MP Co. stood tall in formation at Cooper Sports Complex instead of Windmill Beach, where they typically conduct physical fitness training, awaiting the hand-shakes, hugs and words of gratitude from the visiting family members.

“It felt great to meet the families,” said Army Sgt. Justin Garner, a guard with the 189th MP Co. I feel like we’re generally looked down upon by America, and we don’t get a lot of positive media coverage, so for [the families] to come down here, see us, say thank you, and let us know that we’re not bad people, it is helpful for the Troopers’ [morale].”

Garner expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the visit, as did many of the Soldiers of the 189th MP Co.

“It was the most clenching experience I’ve ever had, [I felt it] in my heart, my whole body,” said Pfc. Lucas Morian, another guard with the unit. “It was a very emotional experience.”

For Haberman and many of the other visiting family members, the experience was sobering as well as they gazed into the young faces that provide safe, humane, care and custody of the detainees, with utmost professionalism.

“Many of these guys here are young, 18 and 19 years old,” Haberman said looking across the group of Soldiers after shaking many of their hands and saying thank you. “They were 11 and 12 [years old] when [Sept. 11, 2001] happened, some of them enlisted because [of it]. God bless them, this has got to be the toughest job.”

Janet Roy, who lost her brother Capt. William F. Burke Jr., a firefighter from Engine 21, when the north tower of the World Trade Center collapsed, was honored to meet the Soldiers and be able to “put a face with her thoughts.”

“We want [Troopers] to know we appreciate them and are thinking of them,” Roy said. “We’re told that everyone who works at the JTF thinks of us and our family members. It’s good for me to say, ‘yes, I’ve met a [guard] in flesh and blood, and they are human beings too and they deserve to hear that their work is appreciated.’”

See **VISIT/12**

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Air Force Senior Airman Mark Stricklen washes his clothes at one of the laundry facilities at Camp Justice. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Steven Rougeau



Air Force Master Sgt. Eddie Moore checks the fuel level to a boiler. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Steven Rougeau

Vital mission sustains Camp Justice

showers, shave units, latrines, laundry facilities, generators and much more.

Camp Justice is a product of the new military, where instant tent cities can be built to house and support training. This tan colored tent city becomes a functional and self-contained city providing all the comforts of home in a field environment for Troopers, civilian media and lawyers.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. John Taylor, a member of the 130th Air Lift Wing, West Virginia Air National Guard, and non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the 474th ECES utilities section, is responsible for providing and maintaining the water supply throughout the camp to all the showers, shave units, laundry facilities and latrines.

“Our main water source runs off a fire hydrant from McCalla Hanger that feeds this entire camp,” Taylor said. “It runs through a fire hose that is connected to the shower and laundry pumps that boosts the pressure and makes the system work more efficiently.”

“We have boilers that provide hot water for all the showers and shave units in the camp,” added Air Force Master Sgt. Eddie Moore, with the 130th Air Lift Wing, West Virginia Air National Guard.

These lines run throughout the camp feeding the latrines, showers and laundry facilities. With all these locations using water, holding tanks, are placed at each of these sites to collect the waste water which is periodically pumped out by the contractors on the base.

The utilities section must also be able

to get rid of the waste water – called grey and black water – to meet sanitation requirements. Grey water is waste water from the showers and laundry facilities, black water is sewage water. Both types of waste water are pumped out and disposed of by contractors.

There is also a backup fresh water supply in case the main water has to be shut off for any period of time.

“Some of the challenges we have to deal with is the hardness of the water which clogs up the screens and shower heads,” Taylor said.

In order to support the water needs of Camp Justice and help the utility team provide quality service, fuel is a necessary element to mission success.

The fuels section, headed by Moore along with his team, monitors and supplies fuel usage for Camp Justice.

“The fuel is used to run generators, mobile lighting units, Bobcats and fork lifts,” Moore said. “We perform weekly preventive maintenance checks to ensure no leaks are present on any of our valves, hoses and fuel bladders, we check for serviceability and replace these things when needed. Since shore power has been connected to Camp Justice, consumption of fuel has been estimated to have been reduced by 85 to 90 percent.”

Tent cities like Camp Justice were designed for Southwest Asia operations where there is a no freeze environment. These systems can be built in a matter of weeks, housing thousands of Troopers for military operations to sustain long-term permanent rotations. ★

Army Sgt. 1st Class Steven Rougeau

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron utilities and fuels section, with Joint Task Force Guantanamo, provides the creature comforts that are often taken for granted. Living in a tent city, such as Camp Justice, was much harsher in the past when the military would deploy and set up a camp with the minimum amount of amenities that would make day-to-day living bearable. Troopers, more than anyone else, experience limited facilities in remote areas when deployed.

The men and women of the 474th ECES build and maintain camps like Camp Justice throughout the world. This concept is based on the Air Force’s Harvest Falcon system that provides billeting with heating and cooling,

Navy Cmdr. Kenneth Bell (right), the officer-in-charge of dental at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, explains to Army Spc. Kevin Tardi how he is going to pull out his tooth before the procedure takes place at the Joint Troop Clinic, July 21. Bell believes that explaining his plan to the patients helps put them at ease. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

Dental mission: taking care of Troopers, detainees

**Army Sgt.
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Dental hygiene is a critical aspect in being a healthy Trooper attached to Joint Task Force Guantanamo. The Joint Medical Group provides a dental department that has a dual mission.

“We have two missions,” said Navy Cmdr. Kenneth Bell, the officer-in-charge of dental. “The first mission is to care for the detainees, mission two is to take care of JTF active duty personnel. [Our duties] cover the entire spectrum of dental [care].”

Even though Troopers may dread going to the dentist, Bell feels he is making a difference.

“I love my job,” Bell said enthusiastically. “The way I see it, every filling I do and tooth I pull could have eventually turned into a life threatening infection. I am saving lives everyday.”

Bell and his staff support a large dental mission here.

“It is a fairly challenging mission,” Bell said. “The biggest challenge is trying to take care of everyone with such a limited staff. We have only two doctors to take care of more than 2,000 Troopers and approximately 240 detainees.

“We stay really busy with fillings,

extractions and periodontal cleanings,” Bell continued. “Everyone wants a cleaning, but we don’t have the [staff] to offer cleanings.”

A periodontal cleaning is different from a normal cleaning. It is performed when your gums have an excess of bacteria build-up and are starting to lose bone. It is a painful procedure where people are typically put under anesthetics according to Bell.

Even though Bell’s staff is small, he feels he is surrounded by hard working, dedicated people.

“I am proud and honored to work with the finest young men and women the Navy has to offer,” Bell said. “They are a great bunch of [Troopers] that jump through hoops daily to provide the highest possible care to the patients entrusted to our care.”

The six-member dental staff is responsible for maintaining the three dental clinics at JTF Guantanamo; the Joint Troop Clinic, the Detainee Hospital and another clinic in Camp 6.

Bell explains the procedure or treatment he believes is necessary, in great detail, to each patient.

“It helps put Troopers at ease,” he said.

Unfortunately, this doesn’t always work for the detainees for whom he cares.

“The detainees, as human beings, have the right to refuse treatment,” Bell explained.

“It takes two-to-three times longer to treat a detainee. I have to convince them that I know what I am talking about, and I have to convince them that they truly need the treatment.

“I tell a lot of them they need to have their wisdom teeth taken out and they just don’t believe me,” Bell continued. “They don’t trust me and it is hard to convince them that I am doing what is best for them.”

Bell, along with everyone attached to JTF, conducts safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of the detainees here.

“Anything I do here [for the detainees] is a step up from what they are used to,” Bell stated.

Bell’s success doesn’t just lay within detainee care, the dental department also supports the large need of JTF Troopers.

“We are successfully treating the Troopers who seek help,” Bell said. “I have [medically evacuated] people for special care and even brought a [specialist] on island for a more complicated root canal.”

Although there are several ways to practice good hygiene, there are only a few ways to maintain healthy teeth according to Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael Whitaker, an advanced dental technician.

“The key to healthy teeth is picking up a tooth brush everyday and flossing three times a week,” Whitaker said. ★



‘Nothing replaces hard work’

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Craig does 50 floor-wipers during MWR’s 300 Challenge, July 18. Craig would go on to win the competition with a time of 7:20. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt, Michael Baltz

**Army Sgt.
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The 300 Challenge: 25 pull-ups, 50 push-ups, 50 dead lifts with 135 pounds, 50 box-jumps of 24 inches, 50 floor-wipers with 135 pounds, 50 clean-and-press with 35 pounds and then 25 more pull-ups to



Roger Wilson does his initial 25 pull-ups for the 300 Challenge, July 18. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt, Michael Baltz

end it all.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosted a 300 Challenge for Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Troopers, July 18.

“The purpose of the event is to allow some guys to bond,” said MWR fitness coordinator, Ryan Rollison. “They are out there challenging one another trying to get the better time. This is more challenging because I am presenting it as a competition, so they are getting in better condition and shape.”

The challenge stemmed from the movie “300.” In order to get the actors into shape for the battle scenes, the 300 Challenge evolved. Since then, it has spread throughout gyms and military installations allowing people to compete and to come together.

“This pretty much works out every muscle in your body, your muscular endurance and your cardiovascular at the same time,” Rollison said.

It is considered a difficult workout for many, but for Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Craig it was just a 7:20 workout.

“My goal was to beat my own time more than anyone else’s,” said Craig, a member of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion. “50 reps is a lot, you just have to force yourself to keep going.”

Although he has never competed in anything, he knows the key to being successful.

“Nothing replaces hard work,”

Craig exclaimed. “You can sit in the gym for hours and take a lot of supplements and not get anything done. The only way you are going to get there is by pushing yourself in the gym.”

Craig was followed by Jabril Mohammad with a time of 12:16. Colby Phillips went on to finished third at 12:44. Roger Wilson came in fourth with 13:01, while Cameron Espitia, finished out the top five. Lucas Morgan, Peter Bahn and Brian Bennett also participated in the event. Everyone finished the competition in less than 18 minutes.

Although Wilson didn’t meet his personal expectation, the event made him feel at home.

“Back home I am used to competing,” said Wilson, an MWR aide. “I feel like I belong by competing.”

He said the most challenging part of the competition was the dead lift, and he considers the competition is something only for the select few due to its difficulty.

“I think it is a really great event,” Wilson said.

Wilson also mentioned that he wishes to see more events like this; something Rollison has been taking into consideration.

“I am glad we had a good turn out,” Rollison said. “I would like to congratulate all the guys who participated in the first 300 Challenge.”

If you have any suggestions or ideas for events e-mail Rollison at ryan.rollison@usnbgtdmo.navy.mil ☆

Editor’s Note: The full name of Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Craig has been withheld per the Trooper’s request.



Don't bother with 'Dance Flick'

**Army Sgt.
Emily Greene**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Another tired parody has hit the big screen, and this time it's about dance flicks. After running through every other classification of movie genre (scary movies, epic movies, date movies, etc.) it was inevitable that a dance movie spoof was to come, and that is exactly what "Dance Flick" turned out to be; another spoof that is pretty much the same as every other spoof – a sadly large market.

Admittedly, the Wayans brothers had nothing to do with many of the post-"Scary Movie" films, but the assumption remains that they did and this taints "Dance Flick" by association. While this send-up, created in large part by a new generation of family members (Damon Jr., Craig and Damien Dante Wayans) has a firmer comic footing, it never manages to reach the level of any other good comedy.

Full of toilet humor and silly cameos, "Dance Flick" lumbers through a variety of dance movies to include "Step Up," "Stomp the Yard," "You Got Served" and even the more classic "Fame" and "Flashdance." Some of the highlights include a ghetto-fabulous teen mom, a couple of dance-offs between opposing gangs and a man in a leotard and tights.

The miss-and-hit parodies score best when focusing on the Julia Stiles-styled girl next door (Shoshana Bush) chasing her dream of becoming a ballet dancer



PG-13

83 minutes

Rating: ★☆☆☆☆

while attending Musical High. It's not in the Wayans' family makeup to develop an actual plot with connective tissue, but had they stayed within the school's corridors, they could have had a lot more fun with Marlon Wayans' aptly named drama teacher Mr. Moody and the vindictive girl's gym instructor (Heather McDonald), whose name, like most of the movie's humor, cannot appear in print.

Damon Wayans Jr. is Thomas Uncles, the street dancer boyfriend who inspires his girl to follow her dream, resulting in a local dance contest where their crew must win \$5,000 in order to pay off a bad debt. He keeps a straight face throughout the movie, proving himself the only one to possess any real comic talent.

For some reason, Halle Berry shows up in her "Cat Woman" latex attire, causing the viewer to wonder if she has really fallen that far.

The truly funny moments in the movie are few and rare. A few amusing dance moves remind the viewer just how silly dance flicks really are. The clash of two worlds is always funny, and the film takes full advantage of it.

The utter lack of respect for, well, anything is a Wayans brothers' trademark and is evident in the film.

This cluelessly crude comedy is just another in a long line of lame parodies that fail to elicit the expected laughs. We live in desperate times if this film is the best Hollywood can come up with to entertain the American public. ★

Women's Summer Soccer League



Samantha Lonstad, a Real GTMO player, battles with Jeri Torres of the Soccer Bombers.



Rachel First of the Soccer Bombers, looks over the field to pass the ball to one of her teammates.



Players from both teams race to gain control of the ball.

As the Women's Summer Soccer league season winds down, Real GTMO and Soccer Bombers battle it out at Cooper Field to place for the final standings, July 20. Real GTMO beat the Bombers 3 to 1, challenging each other on every drop of the ball for approximately an hour. With the tournament starting July 31, both teams will be honing their skills for the grand finale of women's soccer.

JTF Guantanamo photos by
Army Sgt. 1st Class Steven Rougeau
Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell and
Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

Planning for the future

■ TSP program helps Troopers save

**Army Spc.
David McLean**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Typically not a top priority for young military folks, saving for retirement is tougher to accomplish in a down economy. Young adults tend to be more focused on launching their careers, starting a family or, for service members, transitioning to civilian life. Plus, if you're going back to school, saving can be very difficult, if not impossible. But where there's adequate income, there's a way.

"I can't imagine not working; I couldn't retire," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Dennis Fetter, a member of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion. His plans for retirement involve watching his children grow up, marry, and have children of their own. He wants to be able to live debt free later in his life. He has saved and invested, while his retirement is still a long way into the future.

Not all Troopers have a plan for their financial future when they decide to stop working. The increased cost of living, unpredictable stock market, and rising inflation rates can have a great impact on the amount of money that is available for living, let alone retirement. However, the federal government has a way to invest money for the future with the Thrift Savings Plan.

The TSP is a federal, government-sponsored retirement savings and investment plan offered to all Troopers. The purpose of the program is to provide additional income for retirement based on an employee's desire to invest in their future. The money put into the TSP program is deducted automatically from a Trooper's pay at an amount or percentage they control. The TSP program is very similar to other investment plans.

The TSP and a 401(k) program are similar and work like a mutual fund. Money is taken from a paycheck before taxes are withdrawn, deposited into an account, and invested in certain companies at different risk levels. They have some of the same rules for when a Trooper reaches retirement age, and similar tax laws. Both of these plans have risk involved with the investment, but the TSP does not have the higher maintenance fees associated with a 401(k) plan. Either plan can net money for the future, but time for the investment to mature is an important matter.

"With time, the money left alone will



- JTF Guantanamo Illustration by Army Spc. David McLean

reap huge benefits," said Sam Rayburn, personal finance manager, Fleet and Family Support Center, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. "If you are 21 or 22 years old, and you deposit \$2000 a year for eight years, you don't have to do anything else at retirement age, and you'll have \$1 million."

"The earlier you start saving, the better off you will be when it comes to retirement," Fetter said. "You may even be able to benefit from an earlier retirement."

Whether retiring early or earning \$1 million dollars, the TSP might be an easier way for a Trooper to reach those goals. The money used for the plan is automatically deducted from a Trooper's account, and can be monitored from the government Web site and on monthly leave and earning statements. If a Trooper decides to be more or less aggressive with the account earnings, they can make the changes from the Web site at his own leisure.

"The Web site is easy," said Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert Behan, postal clerk with Joint Task Force Guantanamo. "You can change things monthly, how much you

want to go in, where you want it to go to."

There are some options to determine where the money is invested with the program. The TSP offers six investment funds to place contributions into to grow wealth with the program. They start with a secure, low-interest fund, and climb with higher interest rates and risk. Depending on when a Trooper wishes to retire, investment in these different funds can give a source of income for the latter years of life.

Besides income for life after work, the TSP can help lower taxes right now as the TSP program uses pre-tax dollars.

"You put money in here and it comes out of your taxable base," Rayburn said. "You are looking at your income tax liability."

Whether saving money now, or later, the TSP offers an opportunity to save money and invest in a Trooper's future. Enrolling in the TSP can be done with a branch-specific financial office, or online in the MyPay system.

For more information, contact the Fleet and Family Support Center at ext. 4050 or visit the Web site at www.tsp.gov. ☆

Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Gatens takes a test for promotion proctored by Candice Rice at the Navy College Office. The Navy College Office provides Troopers with information on educational opportunities and benefits and also provides proctors for college and professional development tests. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army 1st Lt. Christopher W. Cudney



The path to higher learning

**Army 1st Lt.
Christopher W. Cudney**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The term Navy College may bring to mind the image of the hallowed halls of some grand educational institution draped in the banners, flags and insignia of the Navy and the Marine Corps, so you may be surprised to find that it actually consists of two small offices currently run by just one woman.

The Navy College Office here isn't a school at all, according to Candice Rice, director of the Navy College Office at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. It is actually a program designed to provide counseling for professional, career and personal development opportunities within the military and civilian sectors.

"We have 54 offices worldwide, and we fall under the [Navy] Voluntary Education Department," Rice said. "I [work for] the Center for Personal and Professional Development. The CPPD primarily provides training and education for our Navy."

While the Navy College Office is funded by the Navy and is predominantly equipped to assist Navy and Marine Corps service members, it does not cater solely to these branches. According to Rice, the Navy College Office is available to any Trooper interested in personal and professional development.

"GTMO is a unique situation; there is no way that I can turn away anybody," Rice said. "We help all the different branches to include third-country nationals that want to go to school. We help the fire department [obtain their]

certificates for enrollment; we're out here to help everybody."

Through the Navy College Office, Rice is able to provide Troopers with a myriad of information tailored specifically to their military training. She directs Troopers to the American Council on Education where they can use the Army ACE Registry Transcript Service or the Sailor, Marine ACE Registry Transcript Service. These programs track academic credits already earned by Troopers from prior military training and schools.

"We want to use those credits and then

take them and put them toward a degree, that way the [service] member is constantly moving forward," Rice said.

After identifying the credits a student has already earned, Rice helps Troopers locate schools that will accept those credits.

"The key is to go to a school that is military friendly," Rice said. "We actually have 37 schools that have partnered with the Navy; we call them our Navy College Program distance learning partnership schools." These schools accept previously earned military credits and provide rating "road maps" that identify which degrees will utilize the majority of those credits.

The Navy College Office offers educational testing opportunities such as the SAT Reasoning Test, ACT, Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support and the College Level Examination Program. Proctors are available for Troopers taking college exams requiring a proctor's presence. Tests necessary for promotion, advancement, and certification are also offered.

"There are a lot of people taking classes [here] and this is a good place to take a test," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Gatens, 474th Base Emergency Engineer Force structures trainer, before taking an exam for promotion to the rank of Sgt. 1st Class. Gatens had the test sent to him from his home station to be proctored and processed by a certified education professional.

Troopers interested in continuing their education professionally or independently may contact Candice Rice at navy.college.gtmo@usnbgmt.navy.mil or call ext. 2227. More information can be found at <https://www.navycollege.navy.mil>. 🌟



Candice Rice, Navy College Office director, provides certification testing materials to Jeffrey Anderson, a firefighter at the base fire department. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army 1st Lt. Christopher W. Cudney

Lasting impression for Troopers, families

VISIT from 3

For Roy, and many of the other victim family members, it was a surprise to hear Troopers tell them how much their presence and words of thanks meant.

“I stumble when people say, ‘I’m honored to meet you, and we’re doing this for you,’ because to me the honor is for me to give, not to receive,” Roy said. “The respect and honor that the Troopers have shown me goes both ways. They give [of themselves] and put others ahead of [them which] is an extremely important character trait [people] have to develop. I think by the fact that these men and women are here; they’ve already learned that lesson.

“From the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of my family, thank you, Roy continued. “Thank you for letting us be part of your lives. It’s important to me [because] when I go to sleep or when I pray for people I can envision [who I’m praying for].

The time the Soldiers spent with the family members was brief, but

left a lasting impression.

“For me it was very emotional,” said Army 1st Sgt. Mark Tillman, the senior enlisted leader for the 189th MP Co. “It reminded me why I come to work every day. I spent a year in Iraq and have been stationed here for 16 months and sometimes, all we hear is the negative media coverage that is prevalent in the news. To have families

come here and thank the Soldiers for what they do takes it all away. I saw Soldier’s faces light up when I told them why we moved the location of [our physical fitness training], they had no idea that they were coming to talk with them. I believe that it was a real morale-booster to hear, ‘thank you,’ from those that were directly affected by the tragedy of [Sept. 11, 2001].” ☆



Elizabeth Berry shows a photograph of her brother, Capt. William F. Burke Jr., a firefighter from Engine 21 who died when the north tower of the World Trade Center collapsed. Berry and her sister, Janet Roy, visited the Soldiers of the 189th MP Co. during their visit to JTF Guantanamo. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell

Kicking up too much dirt?

- Slow down in gravel parking lots. The speed limit is 5 mph.
- **BUCKLE UP!** Seatbelts are required in ALL vehicles, not just utility vehicles.
- Hard hats are required in any utility vehicle that does not have a roof.
- Report speeding or unsafe behavior – hold each other accountable.

For more information, please e-mail safety@jftgmo.southcom.mil



Roadside assistance?

Army Spc. Jason Adams, Sgt. Samuel Nobles and Sgt. Steven Jones, all members of the 193rd Military Police Co., trained for the Military Police Warfighter Competition by pushing a Humvee around the loop at Windmill Beach, July 20. The Soldiers pushed and strained during the uphill climb and successfully moved the one-and-a-quarter ton vehicle around the loop despite loose gravel and mid-day heat. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell

Boots on the Ground

by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann

What is your favorite Will Ferrel movie and why?

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Joli Barden



“Anchorman,’ two words - Ron Burgundy.”

Army Spc.
Inez Tauvela



“Talledega Nights,’ because they named a dance after him.”

Air Force Airman 1st Class
Jacob Masters



“Superstar,’ because I am a superstar also.”

Army Pfc.
Stephen Pollett



“Landlord,’ because the little girl in there is hilarious.”



Spiritual readiness

**Air Force Maj.
Robert L. Sullivan**

JTF Deputy Command Chaplain

Spiritual readiness is a guiding principle that influences every other aspect of readiness. It gives you intestinal fortitude in the heat of battle. It's a source of moral courage. It's knowing that you are the best that you can be: physically, mentally and spiritually with the God of Heaven on your side. It's doing the right thing when no one is looking.

Are you ready? Are you prepared for battle? If you are not ready, it could cost your life. Our nation cries for its military to be ready to confront any enemy. We should always be ready to fight and win, 24 hours a day every days a week.

Your spiritual preparation should not be left on the back-burner. It deserves your attention as well. It will help you hold it

together in the high stress crisis mode. In the face of life and death, it will give you an extra dose of courage under fire.

Even when a family crisis is out of your reach to assist and you are missing loves and friends, you can still have hope. Being spiritually ready helps secure and stabilize you when the raging winds of trouble come your way.

The Psalmist David, who was also a king, warrior and a prophet, depended on God for his spiritual readiness. He said in Psalm 144:1 "Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teaches my hands to war, and my fingers to fight." He said in Psalm 34:7 "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivered them." He also said in Psalm 127:1 "Except the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman wakes in vain."

King David knew that his relationship with God was critical in his spiritual readiness. The Apostle Peter also warned believers to be spiritually alert in 1 Peter 5:8, he said "Be sober, be vigilant..." Being ready to fight is required to be victorious.

Finally, spiritual readiness recognizes the presence of God on the battlefield and at home. It reminds us that we are not only accountable to the military, but we are also accountable to God. It encourages faith, prayer and commitment to family and our nation. It provides integrity and the highest moral principles.

The same God that blesses and takes care of me and my family at home will do the same, even if I'm separated halfway around the world. Spiritual readiness remembers that we are not alone in the fight. The Commander in Chief of Heaven helps prepare us to win. ☆

JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

Catholic Mass
Sunday - Friday
6:30 a.m. Mass

Spanish Catholic Mass
Sunday: 5 p.m.
at NAVSTA Chapel

Protestant Worship
Sunday: 9 a.m.

Spanish Protestant
Worship
Sunday: 11 a.m.

Bible Study
Sunday: 6 p.m.
Wednesday: 7 p.m.



Air Force Tech Sgt. Jeanette Gooch, a member of 474th ECES is in charge of all hazardous materials that comes in and out of Camp Justice. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Wright

In charge of all things hazardous

Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian A. Wright

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Most 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron personnel who deploy to U. S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo know what their job is going to be before they arrive. However, that was not the case for Air Force Tech Sgt. Jeanette Gooch, an emergency management craftsman from the 130th Air National Guard Air Lift Wing from Charleston, W. Va.

Gooch, who works primarily with chemical and biological agents, ended up working in two different locations dealing

with emergency response actions for natural disasters and enemy attack, as well as her Camp Justice mission as the hazardous materials coordinator.

“My original career field is emergency management, we monitor and sample [chemical and biological] agents and give recommendations to the commander for personnel safety and mission continuation,” Gooch explained. “As the HAZMAT coordinator, I monitor and remove all potentially dangerous hazardous materials from work areas in Camp Justice.”

In addition to her duties as non-commissioned officer-in-charge of emergency management, Gooch spent six weeks working at the Intelligence Operations Facility working for the previous JTF senior enlisted advisor, Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Brian Schexnayder. There, she outlined and wrote the comprehensive emergency management plan for all of the JTF which explains the response and recovery actions for major accidents, natural disasters and enemy attacks. The 70-page document was coordinated with several base agencies and parallels the GTMO destructive weather plan.

“When I was acting command chief for JTF, Tech Sgt. Gooch was always willing to go above and beyond her assigned duties to ensure all her [mission requirements] were met and completed in a timely and professional manner,” said Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Michael A. Withrow, JTF liaison for National Guard Bureau deployment-for-training teams.

Gooch earned an Army Achievement Medal for her dedication to taking a secret-rated

instruction for the destructive weather plan and making it into an unclassified version in two days to disperse to all of JTF.

“I felt privileged and surprised that someone would think my work merits an army achievement medal,” Gooch said.

Gooch’s self-motivation over her eight-year enlisted career inspired her to pursue becoming an officer in the United States Air Force. This month she received an e-mail announcing her selection to the Air Force’s Officer Training School. She will attend in the early part of 2010.

“The whole process took about a year,” Gooch said. “I had to take the Air Force Officers Qualifying Test and pass the flight physical, as well as go in front of two [review] boards consisting of only colonels and above. It’s going to be a great growing experience.”

Once Gooch leaves GTMO she will go back to her civilian career at the department of agriculture in West Virginia.

“I conduct a lot of plant and insect surveys,” Gooch explained. “Often I bring the samples back to the lab and run tests to determine if they contain plant disease DNA.”

Both her military and civilian job are alike.

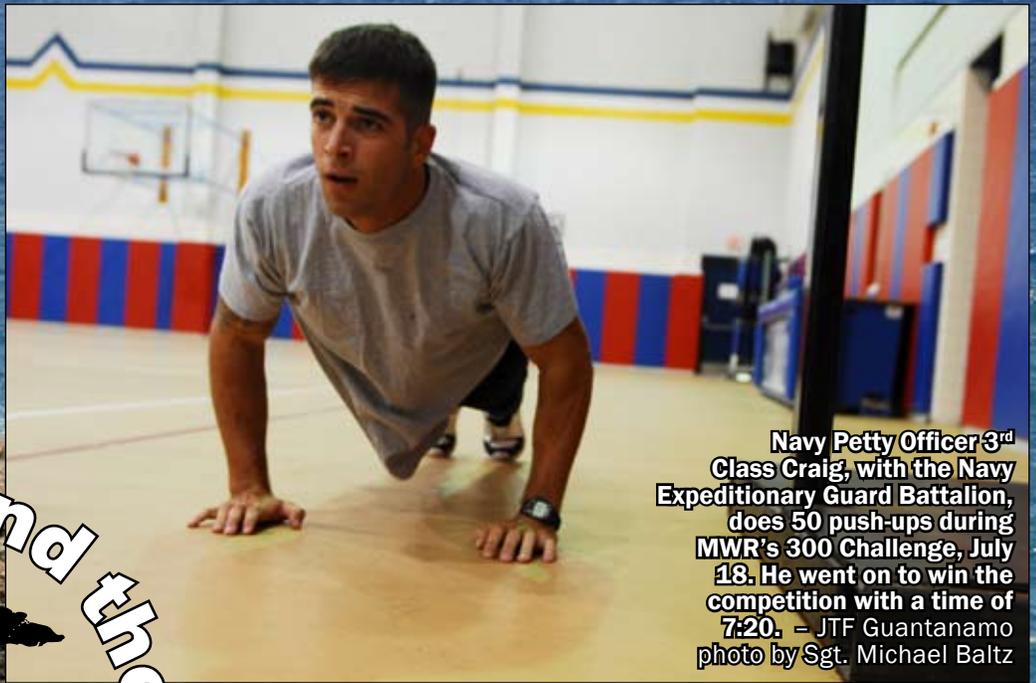
“My military career encompasses sampling also, but I sample chemical and biological agents and nuclear radiation,” Gooch said.

According to Gooch, her deployment to GTMO has been an enjoyable one, but she is happy to go back to her life as a civilian for the next few months before becoming an officer in the United States Air Force.

“I would like to thank [Air Force 1st Sgt.] Charlie Brown, he’s been there for me through the entire deployment as well as the rest of the 474th ECES members,” Gooch said. “It’s been a great deployment and I’m going to miss you all.” ★



Air Force Senior Airman Anthony Lester, a member of 474th ECES, assists Gooch during a random inspection of a hazardous waste storage locker. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Wright

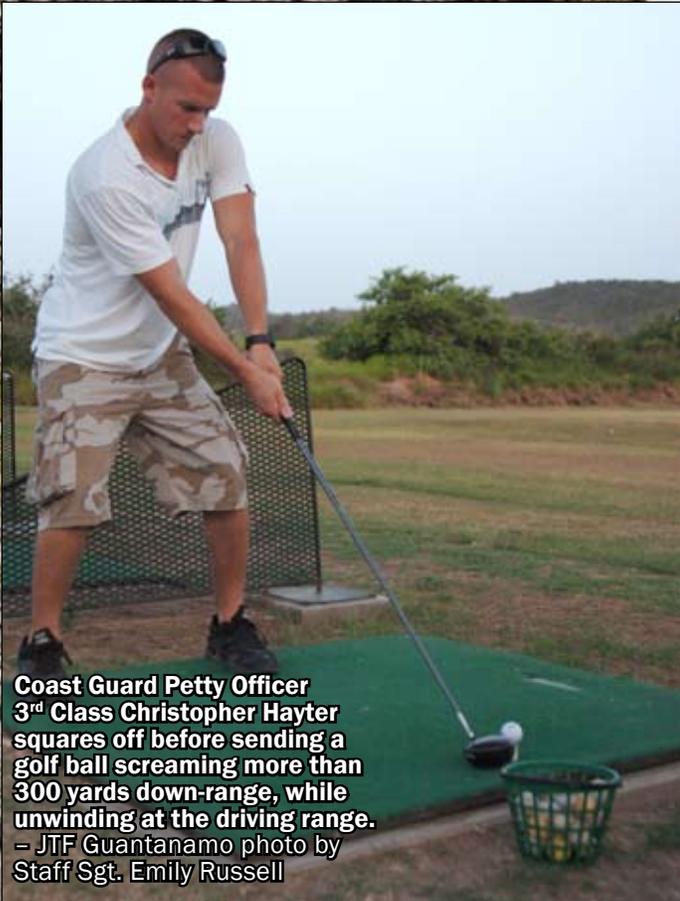


Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Craig, with the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, does 50 push-ups during MWR's 300 Challenge, July 18. He went on to win the competition with a time of 7:20. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Sgt. Michael Baltz

Around the



JTF



Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Hayter squares off before sending a golf ball screaming more than 300 yards down-range, while unwinding at the driving range. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Russell



JTF service members enjoy a day of recreation at the sand volleyball court at G.J. Denich Gym, July 21. The gym recently opened the new sand beach volleyball court for all of U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to use. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Spc. Cody Black