

# THE WIRE

A JTF Journal

## 219 Candles

Celebrating the Coast Guard birthday

**Going under**  
Dive safety at GTMO



# Evolving Leadership

**Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer  
Steven Wheeler**  
JMG Senior Enlisted Leader

Remember your first day at boot camp? It was probably a day of loud, one-sided conversations, maybe with a few expletives thrown your way. It was definitely a culture shock.

Beginning with the first day of your military career, you are exposed to some form of leadership. This exposure begins the process of building your leadership style and principles that will define you as a future leader. As you navigate through the various stages of your career, you will have the opportunity to observe different leadership styles and traits. We have to wade through and experience many types of leadership in an attempt to build the foundation of how we will lead. One thing will constantly change – the Troopers we lead! Just when you think you’ve figured out the game, the players change.

A common mistake I’ve seen from young leaders in the past is the expectation that their Troopers will adapt to their leadership style. In reality, it’s quite the opposite. It is the leader who must analyze, learn, adapt and implement appropriate leadership styles and traits to achieve the desired goal. Regardless of your branch of service, the one common element we live with as military members is the constant change of our Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen. Leaders get stuck in the mud when they fail to realize that leading troops is an ever-changing dynamic. What worked 20 years ago may be ineffective in today’s military. Evolving leadership isn’t an option in the 21<sup>st</sup> century military, it’s a necessity to mission success, career progression and, above all, it just makes sense.

The easiest way to break bad habits is to never acquire them. As young Troopers beginning your journey down the road of leadership, remember to never get locked into one style of leadership for every situation or for every Trooper. The Troopers you lead tomorrow will be completely different from those you lead today, as will your challenges. You owe it to your Troopers to evolve your leadership in order to ensure success of the future leaders of your service. Evolving leadership may be easy for some and very hard for others. It takes an enormous amount of courage to admit your leadership style may not be working and to tap into other leadership resources you’ve observed throughout the years. The more leadership tools you have stashed away in your tool box, the better prepared you will be to handle future challenges.

Some of your fondest memories, as you reflect back on your career one day, will be the realization that your leadership made the difference in a Trooper’s life and career. The success of your Troopers is a direct reflection of you... as their successful leader! ☆



## JTF GUANTANAMO

### Commander:

Navy Rear Adm. Thomas “Tom” H. Copeman III

### Command Master Chief:

Navy Master Chief Petty Officer  
Scott A. Fleming

### Office of Public Affairs:

#### Director:

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Brook DeWalt: 9928

#### Deputy Director:

Army Maj. Diana Haynie: 9927

#### Supervisor:

Army 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Shellie Lewis: 3649

## The Wire

### Executive Editor:

Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Chris Cudney: 2171

### Command Information NCOIC:

Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michael Gholston: 3651

### Editor:

Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens: 3594

### Assistant Editor:

Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

### Staff Writers:

Army Maj. James Crabtree  
Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass  
Army Sgt. Emily Greene  
Army Sgt. Derrol Fulghum

## Contact us

**Editor’s Desk:** 3592 or 2171

From the continental United States:

**Commercial:** 011-53-99-3592

**DSN:** 660-3592

**Email:** [thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil)

**Online:** [www.jftgmo.southcom.mil](http://www.jftgmo.southcom.mil)

### COVER:

**The Naval Station Guantanamo Bay lighthouse at sunset.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass

### BACK COVER:

**The Reef Raiders Dive Club hosted a fish fry, Aug. 8.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Richard Wolff



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



**Joint Task Force  
Guantanamo  
Commander, Navy Rear  
Adm. Thomas "Tom"  
Copeman speaks about  
his vision for the JTF  
and his expectations  
for the Troopers. - JTF  
Guantanamo photo by  
Spc. Cody Black**

# Copeman: Focused on JTF success

**Army Sgt.  
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

As he begins a tour as Joint Task Force Guantanamo commander, Navy Rear Adm. Thomas H. Copeman, talks about his hopes to accomplish what he calls, "the most professionally-run detention facility on the planet."

Copeman took command of the JTF Guantanamo June 19. Since then, he has spent time talking to and meeting with Troopers throughout the task force.

"My goal is to continue to enable and execute the mission of safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees until such time when we will be able to cease detention operations here in accordance with the President's executive order," Copeman said.

The referred order states that the detention facilities here will close by January 22, 2010.

"All of our efforts and planning are shooting for all detention operations to end on that day," Copeman continued. "My goal is to continue with the level of professionalism and excellence in detention operations that we have right now until the very last detainee leaves."

While Copeman expresses his confidence in this organization, he realizes that there is a

lot of uncertainty that hovers over GTMO.

"We are very sensitive to the fact that there is a lot of uncertainty," Copeman said. "We know that there are a lot of events that have to occur in a short period of time for the goal to be met.

"When I know something different from the President's order, the Troopers here will be the first to know," Copeman added. "The only advice I can give the [Troopers] is to maintain this focus and intensity even more so as we move toward closure."

Copeman has held many commands and positions throughout his Navy career. There are certain skills he feels are necessary for a commander to be successful.

"I think there are a lot of skill sets that are required to be a successful commander: having the long habit of making clear and unequivocal decisions and being able to listen to subordinates to get a good input before making decisions are all important factors for contributing to success for a command," Copeman explained.

"The Troopers, more specifically the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion and Naval Expeditionary Guard Battalion, are the main battery for the safe and humane custody of the [detainees]. They are the ones on the cell blocks with these guys every day. These Troopers are the key ingredient in successfully completing our mission here. It is their morale and professionalism that

will enable the Joint Task Force mission to be a success."

As commander of a joint task force, Copeman sees the value and experience a joint environment can provide for Troopers.

"I think the joint environment is different for each service member based on their experience level," Copeman said. "I think the value of working in a joint environment is that the Troopers who are a little more junior get an exposure to the culture of the other services. I think the value of joint operations is [Troopers] pick up different ways to succeed that might be out of [their] culture."

Copeman has a message for the Troopers about their mission here at the JTF.

"Despite what [Troopers] read in the newspaper from people who haven't been here, the folks that really count – the American public and the congressmen who come here and see what we're doing – are behind them 100 percent of the way," Copeman said.

Copeman is excited about his next two years as the JTF commander and hopes to provide the Troopers here an environment that will foster success.

"It is always an honor to command, especially at a place like this. I hope I can enable the best in everyone to come out," said Copeman. ☆

# Coast Guard celebrates 219 years

**Army Sgt.  
Emily Greene**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Members of the Maritime Safety and Security Team 91101, from Seattle, Wash., celebrated the United States Coast Guard birthday at Cable Beach, Aug. 4. The celebration marked 219 years of service to the nation.

The United States Coast Guard is a military, multi-mission, maritime service within the Department of Homeland Security and one of the nation's five armed services. Its core roles are to protect the public, the environment and U.S. economic and security interests in any maritime region in which those interests may be at risk, including international waters and America's coasts, ports and inland waterways.

At Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, the MSST plays an integral role by providing anti-terrorism force protection within the naval defense sea area of Guantanamo Bay. The team also provides landside security for the Expeditionary Legal Complex during the military commissions process for detainees.

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Cameron Espitia, a boatswains mate with the MSST, said he was enjoying the opportunity to recognize his branch's birthday and the years of service and sacrifice by its members.

"This is an important day for us Coast Guardsmen and we are glad we can take this time to recognize it," said Espitia.

On August 4, 1790, Alexander Hamilton led the Congress

in authorizing the construction of 10 vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws, prevent smuggling and protect the collection of federal revenue. This small fleet would come to be known as the Revenue Cutter Service and formed the precursor of the modern

Coast Guard. When the Revenue Cutter Service merged with the United States Lifesaving Service in 1915, the Coast Guard adopted its present name.

The branch continued to expand in later years as it absorbed the Lighthouse Service and the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation.

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Raquel Spear, the lead watchstander with the MSST, said she is proud of her service and has had a number of unique experiences celebrating the Coast Guard birthday.

"Wherever I am each year I end up doing something a little different," Spear said. "This year is unique because I am in Guantanamo Bay. I will always remember the place and the people here. This celebration is a great way to spend time together, honoring our service and its contributions to our country."

Members from the Coast Guard Cutter Bear (WMEC 901), which was temporarily docked at the naval station, also participated in this year's birthday celebration.

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Nick Burris said he was enjoying spending time with his fellow Coast Guardsmen at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

"This is one of my favorite stops we make during our time at sea," Burris said. "What a great place to spend this great day." ☆



**Coast Guard Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Joshua Dower readies an M240B machine gun at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's Grenadillo Range, Aug. 5. Dower is deployed with Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team 91101 and patrols the waterways surrounding Joint Task Force Guantanamo in support of detention operations.** – JTF

Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Richard Wolff

MISSION | FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2009



**Air Force Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mark Quinn, left, and Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andre Petrin, right, of the 157<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron, load a concrete picnic table base onto a forklift as they repair tables at Windmill Beach as part of their two-week Deployment For Training.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass

## Base reaps benefits of real-world training

**Army Sgt.  
Andrew Hillegass**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

For Troopers in reserve units, mandatory two-week training periods are the order of the day. Reservists know that they will have to leave their families during the year and head out to their local training facilities. For some members of the Air National Guard, they may find themselves in another part of the world for their Deployment for Training period.

Members of the New Hampshire Air National Guard's 157<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron found themselves at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay for their yearly DFT period and are not running short of real-world conditions to prepare themselves for possible overseas deployment.

Since arriving on island at the beginning of August, they have immersed themselves in almost non-stop work, completing a number of projects in a short period of time.

"We have kept very busy here. As a matter of fact, the other day [Navy] Capt. [Carl] Knuckles told us that in the first four days we were here, we completed about

10 days worth of work," said the non-commissioned officer-in-charge for the DFT, Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Bill Russell.

Although not the first location for the unit, which provides a gamut of services from construction to electrical and plumbing repair, Joint task Force Guantanamo is proving an important training tool for the Airmen.

"It is great coming down here, even if for two weeks, because we are helping out everyone here in Guantanamo, not just the JTF," added Russell, who has more than 20 years with the Air National Guard.

Air Force Lt. Col. Mike Busby, the commander of the 157<sup>th</sup>, enjoys what Guantanamo provides for his Troopers. The location has not only provided real-world training for the unit, but it also gives them the chance to experience an environment that differs greatly from their home state.

"When we come down, we have to deal with elevated temperatures, being away from home and even the living conditions. Those are the things that are going to make the difference when we deploy," said Busby.

The list of projects the team has been

involved with have ranged from the relatively small, such as swapping out some electrical panels at the public works self-help building, to slightly more labor-intensive projects like resurfacing the roof of the naval station's hospital.

"Our guys were out at the hospital, the first week we were here, working on their roof. It gives my guys the opportunity to complete a job that not only gave my guys roofing experience but also saved the base nearly \$50,000 in contractor costs," praised Russell, a nine-year active duty veteran.

In addition to resurfacing the hospital roof, they are also putting the finishing touches on a new gazebo, running electrical lines to the structure so that they will be able to hook up lights and a ceiling fan.

For Busby, who has been in the unit for more than 20 years as both enlisted and officer, this kind of on-the-job training is the type of thing that not only boosts the morale of his Airmen but also provides them with invaluable training that his unit has been lacking over the last few years.

"Over the last 10 years we have lost many personnel because they want to get out and do their jobs instead of preparing

See **DFT/13**

# Safety in the deep blue



**Coast Guard Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Jarreed Sablan, left, and Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Jared Johnson, right, do pre-dive safety checks before conducting a dive during the PADI Open Water Course, Aug. 8.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Christopher Cudney

**Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
Christopher W. Cudney**  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

There are many words that come to mind when people think about diving - “fun”, “exciting”, “relaxing”, “amazing” - but the most important word on a Trooper’s mind should be “safety”.

Diving is one of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay’s most popular recreation activities. With their pristine coral heads, myriad of wildlife and a variety of sunken vessels, the waters of Guantanamo offer diving opportunities matched by few places in the world. But with that opportunity comes a responsibility for the safety of yourself and of other Troopers.

There have been two diving accidents within the last three weeks, each requiring a diver be treated in the base hyperbaric recompression chamber.

Two long-time residents and dive enthusiasts of Guantanamo, William and Jessie Keenan, have always stressed dive safety.

According to William, a NORESKO project manager and Professional Association of Diving Instructors dive instructor, most diving injuries can be avoided by conducting safety checks and evaluating your physical readiness.

“There are a lot of factors that we can control on our own that will help

prevent us from being more susceptible to decompression sickness,” William said.

The term decompression sickness or decompression illness is used to encompass all injuries associated with the precipitation of dissolved gasses into bubbles inside the body during depressurization. Decompression illnesses can be as simple as feeling overly tired after a dive or mild tingling in the extremities or as severe as partial or complete paralysis and even death. A diver’s susceptibility to these injuries, while rare, can be increased by a multitude of factors that are unique to every individual.

“A lot of the conditions for divers here are conditions they can help prevent; for instance, staying hydrated. Dehydration is probably the number one cause of decompression sickness even though [divers] are within the [PADI recreational dive planner] tables. Other things [include] strenuous exercise before or after diving, alcohol consumption, your physical state, and fatigue – for instance if you didn’t get enough sleep the night before. Smokers have an increased susceptibility to [decompression illness],” William said.

There are other factors that increase risk that divers cannot control but of which they need to be aware.

“There are factors that we don’t have control over; age, body [composition] – everybody’s metabolism and body is a little

bit different from another person’s, so your body will react a little bit differently to the loading of nitrogen than the next guy,” William said.

Utilizing the PADI recreational dive planner conservatively can greatly reduce these risk factors.

“Be more conservative with the [recreational dive planner] tables on your own by choosing shallower depths and spend less time at specific depths. We always teach you in the open water course; stay away from your maximum limits. The further away from the maximum limits you are, the less susceptible to [decompression illness] you are going to be,” William said.

Divers with a decompression illness are treated at the base hyperbaric recompression chamber. According to Navy Chief Petty Officer Michael Hajduk, naval station command diving officer and harbor magistrate, the chamber is designed to pressurize the atmosphere within to simulate pressure incurred at specific ocean depths. During treatment for a decompression illness this pressure “crushes the [nitrogen] bubbles” and as the pressure is reduced gradually it allows the gas to leave the body more naturally. When the chamber is in use all diving is suspended.

See **DIVE SAFETY/12**



# Washington, Travolta take Pelham 123

**Army Sgt.  
Emily Greene**

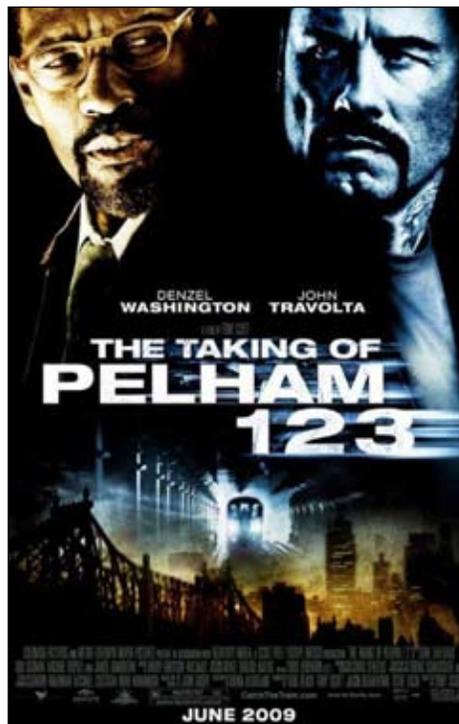
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The world of train dispatching may seem dull to the outsider. Days of sitting at a microphone, watching dots move across a screen *just in case* something should happen could lead one to believe the job is boring, to say the least. Not so in "The Taking of Pelham 123," when a dispatcher's day suddenly becomes very exciting.

Of course, this dispatcher is not the average train-dispatching type. He was once a more important fellow who fell under suspicion for accepting a bribe to choose a certain brand of rail car for a big contract and his punishment is working the mics in the dispatch office. He happens to be working the station when Pelham 123, a Manhattan-bound train, is hijacked.

Denzel Washington is Walter Garber, the not-so-average dispatcher. Washington uses his trademark calm to its best advantage, mixing it with a small dose of sleaze to deepen his stoical everyman heroism. Garber is the guy next door who got mixed up in some sketchy deal, but manages to use that smudge on his character to connect with the hijacker.

That hijacker is a mysterious fellow named Ryder (John Travolta). His wolfish grin, tattooed neck and overstated



**R**

**106 minutes**

**Rating:** ★★★★★

manner is as calculated and professional as Washington's ostentatious display of restraint. The two actors interact mostly via squawk box, cell phone and radio, as Ryder in his purloined subway car issues demands to Garber at his desk. But even at a distance from each other, they conduct a tag-team master class in old-style movie star technique, barreling through every cliché and nugget of corn the script has to offer with verve and conviction. Even when you don't really believe them, they're always a lot of fun to watch.

Tony Scott directs this updating of the 1974 mass transit thriller originally starring Walter Matthau and Robert Shaw. Like the original film, adapted from John Godey's novel, this version indicates just how action-movie technology has evolved over the years. The sleek, graffiti-free cars and humming high-tech screens in this movie make the mass transit universe seem much more glamorous than the reality.

However, despite the fine acting expected from the likes of Washington and Travolta and the pretty glowing lights, the story is pretty routine. There is only so much action that can happen on a subway car or behind a desk. After the initial excitement, the viewer is left paying more attention to the relationship between the two main characters and nothing else. ☆

# Not so quiet riot

JTF Guantanamo photos by  
Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens  
Army Sgt. Carmen Gibson  
Army Pfc. Christopher Vann



Marines from the Marine Corps Security Forces Company at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay conducted a site security exercise Aug. 11-12 on Marine Hill.

This exercise incorporated many of the tasks Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Teams, or FAST, company Marines, are tasked to do on a daily basis throughout the world. FAST company Marines, like the Marines who provide security at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, conduct defensive combat operations, military security operations and rear area security operations for the Chief of Naval Operations.

The exercise included mass casualty drills, riot control drills and nuclear, biological and chemical scenarios designed to test the Marines' training.



# Halo, let's go!

■ *Junior Sailor's Association uses gaming to raise funds for Trooper activities*



**Army Sgt. Derrol Fulghum**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Video games are an \$18 billion-a-year industry in the United States. The Army uses them in recruiting. Public schools have begun using them as teaching tools. At Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, the Junior Sailor's Association uses them to raise money.

Almost three dozen Troopers participated in a Halo 3 tournament Aug. 8, hosted by the JSA. Halo is a "First Person Shooter" game that debuted on the original Xbox in 2001. The game's protagonist, known only as Master Chief, is tasked with stopping an alien race from activating a "halo," which, if turned on, would destroy entire solar systems. The weapons he's given to accomplish this task are many and varied, but include the FPS staple of an assault rifle and fragmentation grenades. Halo was successful enough to spawn four sequels, including Halo 3 on the Xbox 360, the game played at the JSA tournament.

Where the game really shines through, though, is in multiplayer. Marshalling up to 16 of your buddies via system link and teaming up to capture the flag, or simply annihilate the opposition in free-for-all shoot-em-up goodness is amazing fun. This has become a sport in the United States, with winners of tournaments sometimes earning \$250,000 for their efforts.

Using this idea as a basis, the JSA



**Navy Seaman Adam Anderson practices for an upcoming Halo tournament outside Cuzco barracks. Anderson is part of the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Junior Sailor's Association which is using Halo tournaments to raise money for Trooper activities.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Derrol Fulghum

charged \$5 per person to enter the tournament. Teams of four competed in bouts ranging from Capture the Flag to Team Slayer.

Navy Seaman Adam Anderson, captain of the winning team "And Halt" and master-at-arms for the JSA, said, "We knew we were going to win before we showed up, we practiced a lot together to prepare for the tournament." While one round was fairly close – the score was 48 to 50 – And Halt came out on top, winning the cash prize and bragging rights until the next tournament.

Anderson said the JSA is about more than just Halo, however. "The JSA does volunteer work as well as hosts events

geared toward boosting morale for military personnel on island," he said.

Another Halo 3 tournament is scheduled for Aug. 15 at 1:00 p.m. at the Marine Hill Liberty Center.

The JSA also hosts Navy-wide enlisted advancement study sessions at the Bulkeley Hall classroom every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday at noon for all junior sailors who are preparing for advancement tests.

Troopers interested in joining the JSA should go to O'Kelley's at noon on Tuesdays for their weekly meeting, or contact Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Danielle Mugford at ext. 9815. ☆

# VJ Day: WWII comes full circle for the U.S.

**Army Maj.  
James Crabtree**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

On Aug. 15, 1945, the last of the Axis powers, Japan, surrendered to the Allies. A war which began in Poland in 1939 was over, having left 60 million dead. The war didn't immediately affect the United States; in fact, earlier in 1939 the world was at peace as President Franklin Delano Roosevelt visited Guantanamo aboard the cruiser *USS Houston (CA 30)*. The ship was popular with the President and he traveled many times on board the cruiser. Some modifications, such as elevators, were made to *Houston* in order to accommodate his disabilities.

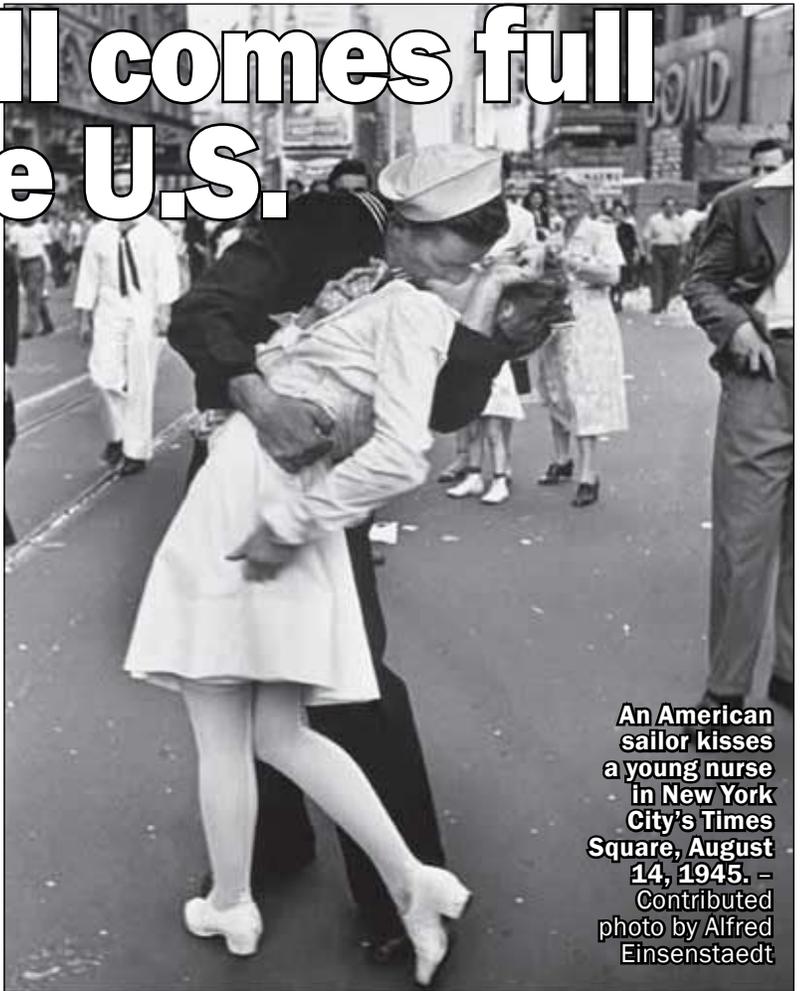
In 1941, the world war finally reached the United States. Everyone remembers Pearl Harbor and the images of U.S. Navy ships burning at the docks. Everyone remembers that the attack was launched with no declaration of war. Nowadays, people forget that this was just the beginning of Imperial Japan's war against America. Hours after Pearl Harbor, the Japanese launched similar attacks on airfields throughout the Philippines, which were at that time a U.S. possession. Japanese troops landed on the islands and the U.S. and Filipino forces were overwhelmed by Japanese forces which did not have to cross the great lengths of the Pacific to get supplies. It was clear that American forces could not prevail in the Philippines without immediate help but in this situation, help could only be delivered across the vast Pacific Ocean by convoys protected by U.S. Navy warships, most of which were already crippled or at the bottom of Pearl Harbor. A small Navy force in the Philippines, led by *Houston*, was forced to withdraw toward Australia to avoid being trapped by Japan's Combined Fleet.

In 1942, President Roosevelt was forced to make the painful, but inevitable, decision to end operations in the Philippines. Thousands of American Soldiers surrendered and went into captivity and hundreds would die from deliberate abuse by their Japanese captors. Filipinos suffered under Japanese occupation and many fought as guerrillas for years after the fall of Manila. The United States chose to return to the Philippines on its own terms – the commander of U.S. Forces in the Far East, Lt. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, promised he would, even as he obeyed President Roosevelt's order to relocate to Australia.

*Houston*, a ship which enjoyed the hospitality of Guantanamo just before the world descended into chaos, was not destined to return to the Caribbean. Earning the name of "the Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast," she served with Dutch, British and Australian naval units attempting to slow the Japanese advance through the Dutch East Indies. She was sunk, far from home, overwhelmed and out of contact with Allied forces, on March 1, 1942. Only 368 members of her crew of 1,061 survived, including 24 Marines of the ship's USMC detachment. Most were taken prisoner by the Japanese.

The United States moved on. The loss of *Houston* could be considered to be a turning point in the Pacific War, the last of the opening defeats for America. But the path to victory would be long and hard.

The U.S. armed forces spent the next three years fighting one island at a time, until by June 1945, it conquered Iwo Jima, an operation which left 120,000 Japanese dead and in which U.S. forces suffered 48,000 casualties. In July, the Allied leaders met at Potsdam in occupied Germany and reiterated that only the



**An American sailor kisses a young nurse in New York City's Times Square, August 14, 1945. – Contributed photo by Alfred Einsenstaedt**

unconditional surrender of Japan was acceptable. The U.S. Army Air Force had been bombing Japan since 1942 but the raids increased in intensity, with entire cities being virtually firebombed out of existence. Mines and submarines were employed to intercept all shipping attempting to reach Japan. Still, Japan held out, defying the world.

The United States had one weapon that Japan had been unable to build, despite years of work: the atomic bomb. On Aug. 6, 1945, the first nuclear weapon was unleashed on Hiroshima, virtually leveling it. Some Japanese scientists involved in nuclear research refused to believe that America could have more than a few bombs, as they were familiar with the enormous effort it would take to create such a weapon. The United States dropped a second bomb on Nagasaki on August 9, and President Truman implied that more bombs would follow. It was a bluff. Two bombs were all the United States had and more couldn't be built for weeks due to the nuclear processes involved. On that same day, the USSR invaded Manchuria. There was no hope even for survival if Japan continued to resist. On Aug. 15, the Emperor of Japan's pre-recorded speech was broadcast by radio, announcing Japan's surrender.

A formal surrender ceremony was held in Tokyo Harbor on Sept. 2 aboard *USS Missouri (BB 63)*. General of the Army Douglas MacArthur presided over the event, having by then fulfilled his promise to return to the Philippines. Nearby was Lt. Gen. Jonathan Mayhew Wainwright IV, a friend of General MacArthur. Lt. Gen. Wainwright had stayed behind in the Philippines and had surrendered the last of the Americans holding out there over three years before. He had been a Prisoner of War until just a few months prior to the ceremony.

Today, we Troopers can look back at our victory over Japan objectively, dispassionately; but as Marines, Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen and Coast Guardsmen, we must never forget the cost of that victory among those who came before us... especially those Sailors of *USS Houston* who spent their liberty here at Guantanamo Bay on their way to a date with destiny. ✪

# Safe diving can provide stress outlet for Troopers

## DIVE SAFETY from 6

“We’re the only chamber in town. The next [available recompression chamber] would require you to fly off island,” Hajduk said.

Divers can also avoid other types of accidents and injuries by following the proper safety procedures covered in all dive certification courses.

“[Dive courses] not only teach you how to keep yourself safe but also how to help a buddy,” said Jessie Keenan, manager at the local dive shop, Ocean Enterprises.

Divers must also follow the guidance posted in naval station instruction 1711.1. This instruction covers proper procedures for reporting dive plans, water entrances and exits, maximum depth limits, equipment requirements, and disciplinary actions, to include the Uniform Code of Military Justice, for failure to comply with the instructions.

“The 1711.1 is the base regulation that was put out by the naval station. It is a diving regulation that keeps everyone on the same page and tells you what [the base] limits are,” Jessie said.

According to William and Jessie, the rules and regulations on diving at GTMO are designed to ensure the safety of all Troopers who wish to enjoy the recreational opportunities of diving. They urge all divers to comply with rules because when accidents do occur it affects more than just those involved; it affects the entire base.

To view a copy of the NAVSTA dive instruction 1711.1, visit the intranet at <https://intranet/index/diveinstruction.pdf> or pick up a copy at Port Operations. For more information on diving safety, visit [www.diversalertnetwork.org](http://www.diversalertnetwork.org), ask for information from an instructor or contact the NAVSTA Dive Locker at ext. 4444. ★



Navy divers Petty Officers 1<sup>st</sup> Class Clessie Simmons, left, and David Lutz, right, practice treating decompression illnesses in the hyperbaric recompression chamber. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Christopher Cudney

## GTMO rotator information

- All personnel with **CONFIRMED** reservations on outbound rotator flights are required to check in the day prior at the **Windward Terminal Annex** located near the Lyceum.
- Hours for check-in are 3:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. the day prior to departure.
- All checked baggage must be transferred to the **Leeward Terminal** via the baggage truck.
- Baggage is not allowed on the LCU (this does not apply to space available travelers).
- Baggage should be limited to **50 lbs per person**.
- In the event of an overbooked or overweight flight, passengers will be removed from the flight list beginning with the last paying customer.



# Air Force engineers train at GTMO

DFT from 5

for inspections and other things that we have had in years past,” said Busby.

Air Force 1st Lt. Carrie Smith, an engineering officer, echoed Busby’s emphasis on the training as a great tool to enhance morale and teamwork within their unit of approximately 90 personnel.

“It is great that we get to come down here and have the opportunity to use equipment that we may not have back at home station. Our guys get to come down here and interact with one another and build on teamwork. We don’t have to send our guys off to school to get the same training we are able to do down here,” praised Smith.

Busby also recognizes the importance of overseas DFTs for his unit. He has noticed over the last 10 to 15 years the demographic of his unit has become younger. This leaves him with a force that may not hold the same jobs in the civilian world as they do in his unit.

“Years ago we had a lot more people that were doing their jobs outside of the military, so that lent us a great deal of expertise and knowledge for our guys to draw on,” reflected Busby, who spent nine years enlisted as an electrician.

However, in the same breath Busby is quick to commend the younger Airmen for their willingness to work outside of their comfort zone and says that attitude gives him comfort for the future of his engineering squadron.

“I have guys who are plumbers by trade but have no problem when there are no plumbing jobs left, of picking up a hammer and helping out the construction guys. The degree to which they help each other out is amazing, these guys are one of a kind,” concluded Busby. ☆



**Air Force Master Sgt. Todd Buttrick, left, and Air Force Airman 1st Class Mark Quinn, right, of the 157th Civil Engineering Squadron, secure a metal bracket to a tabletop at Windmill Beach during their two-week Deployment For Training, Aug. 10. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass**

## Boots on the Ground

by Army 1st Lt. Christopher Cudney

*What would be your theme song?*

**Army Sgt. 1st Class Mario Perez**



**“The wind beneath my wings.” - Bette Midler**

**Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Yvette Jackson**



**“Good times.” - Chic**

**Army Pfc. Dana Eltaher**



**“Home.” - Daughtry**

**Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Parker Bryce**



**“Last resort.” - Papa Roach**

# United through religion

**Air Force Capt.  
Matthew J. Streett**

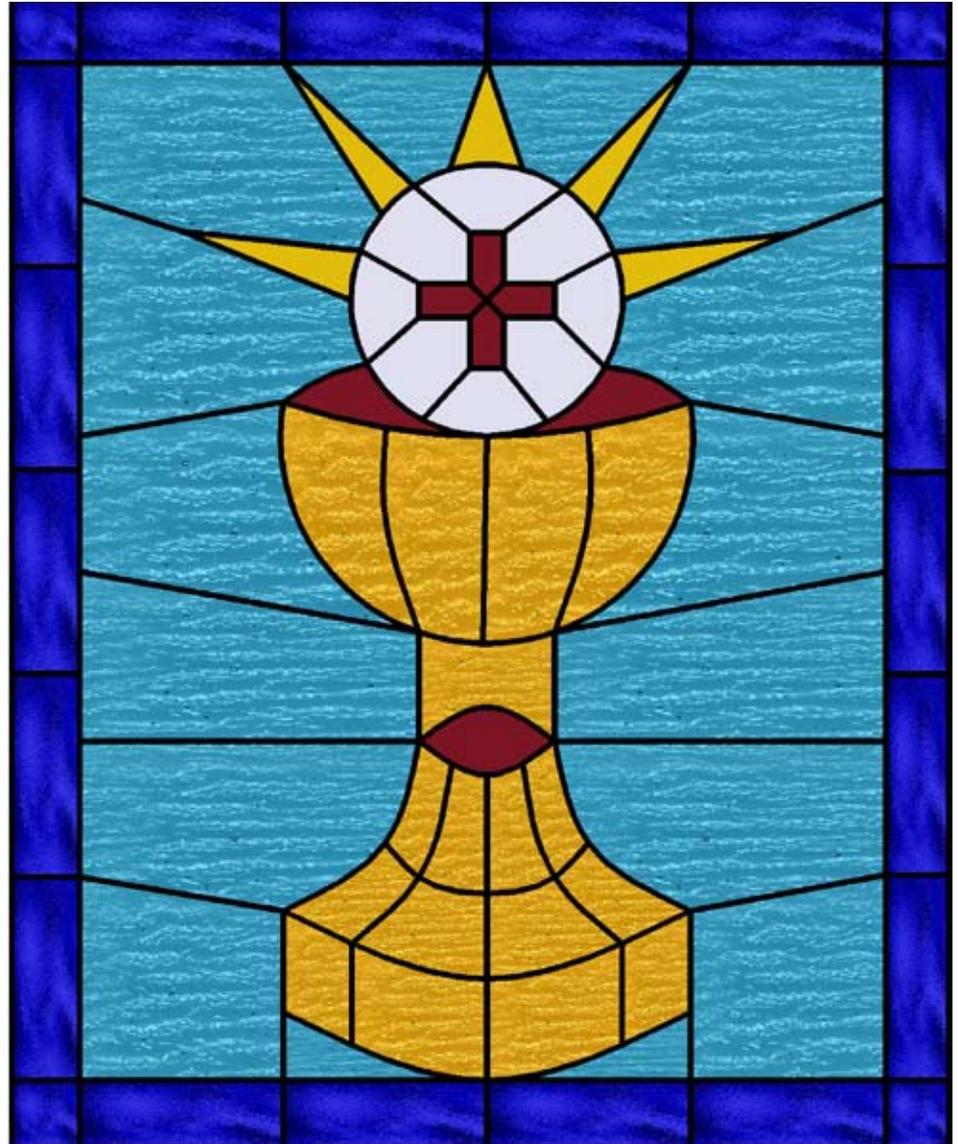
Visiting Orthodox Christian chaplain

I assemble the chalice like I used to assemble my M-16 when I was enlisted. Piece by piece clicks into place and I extract an altar's worth of furnishings from a couple of green weatherproof cases. My vestments are lightweight, small enough to be folded into a tight package. I've got my censer, and I've tucked incense and charcoal away in medicine bottles and metal cases. My gospel book is smaller than my appointment book. You could say that I haul all the altars of ancient Christendom on my back.

That's what it's like being an Orthodox Christian chaplain. You carry your religion with you, all 2,000 years of it. In a religion where an element of tradition that's only 800 or 900 years old is still considered "new," the events that played out in history books are as vital to you as things that happened to you yesterday. There are a lot of labels that we attach to our names—Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Serbian, Bulgarian, Romanian, Coptic, Ethiopian, etc.—but they all boil down to the same traditional approach to Christianity.

Coming to GTMO, even on a short-term basis, has been a wonderful experience so far. One of the challenges for any smaller religious community is that you may only get your services a few times a year. That's why priests like me, who are currently assigned to other installations, make a point of visiting the more isolated American service members, flung out into the world at bases and posts that cling to the edges of countries everywhere on the globe. It may be someone else's country, but we carry our nation in our heart. For small religious communities, worship is a part of your identity that links you to God, your family and your past. It is my honor and privilege to be able to feed that hunger for God through the ministry and the military allows me to do this for the sake of religious freedom.

I get surprised, too. Somebody I'd never met before hugged me yesterday. That's what ministry boils down to— that bit of human contact that reminds us that we



love each other. We're often tired and miss family and can begin to view the day as a list of things to "get over" or "get through" but a community of strength and love surrounds us that we often forget about. I bring that care and concern in a chalice, in sermons or in counseling sessions. Other people bring it in a hug. How do you bring it?

As an Orthodox priest, I've served

communities of countless ethnicities. The thing that binds us all is our common faith, a thing that cuts through time and circumstance to unite us. Through it all, our common dedication to justice, freedom and, most of all, love for one another, unite us as a nation. ☆

*Streett visited JTF Guantanamo in early August to offer Orthodox services for JTF Troopers.*

## 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.

# Troopers' hard work shines at board

**Army Staff Sgt.  
Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Hard work, studying and preparation came together for two Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers who recently participated in the JTF Trooper of the Quarter boards. Army Sgt. John Murphy of the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion and Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Evan Hill of the Joint Information Group were named the JTF Non-Commissioned Officer and Trooper of the Quarter, respectively.

Both Troopers, along with several other Troopers from across the JTF, were reviewed by a panel of senior enlisted JTF leaders and grilled on subjects ranging from military knowledge to leadership to current events.

"Going before the board is a great experience," said Murphy. "It builds your knowledge and builds confidence. I think it is something everyone should do at every rank."

Murphy has been in the Army for nine years. He's attended military boards in past units and while stationed at JTF Guantanamo attended the promotion board for staff sergeant as well as his company's NCO of the Month board. During these previous boards, Murphy says he felt he did well, but not as well as he could have.

"I was motivated by my nomination to attend the NCO of the Quarter board," said Murphy. "I think [my leadership] saw something that I did not."

To prepare for this board, Murphy studied the study guide and suggested reading provided to him as well as civics,



**Army Sgt. John E. Murphy of the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, is recognized by Navy Rear Adm. Thomas Copeman for recently being named NCO of the Quarter, Aug. 4.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Richard Wolff

current events, leadership and the Code of Conduct.



**Going before the board is a great experience. I think it is something everyone should do at every rank.**

– Sgt. John Murphy

"It was not your typical Army board where they just ask a question and you answer it," said Murphy. "A lot of the questions required a lot of thought and analysis while you were in the hot seat."

For Hill, who has been in the Navy as an intelligence analyst for almost two years, preparing for his first board was a good learning experience.

"My friend helped me study every night and I talked to [Troopers from] different branches for help," said Hill.

Hill said the board was a relaxed but professional setting. His recommendation to others who are about to go before a board is to relax, breathe and practice facing movements on carpet.

"I will have a lot more confidence if I have to go before another board," said Hill. "I can also help others who are getting ready to go before a board."

After completing his first tour of duty at Guantanamo, Hill's orders will take him to Virginia.

"So far I plan to stay in [the Navy]," said Hill. "I've learned a lot here and the Navy has been treating me well."

According to the JTF command master chief, Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Scott Fleming, the competition was tough and all the candidates were extremely well-prepared. ☆



**JTF Guantanamo commander Navy Rear Adm. Thomas Copeman and the JTF senior enlisted leader, Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Scott Fleming, recognize Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Evan Hill with the Joint Intelligence Group for his achievement in being named Trooper of the Quarter, Aug. 4.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair



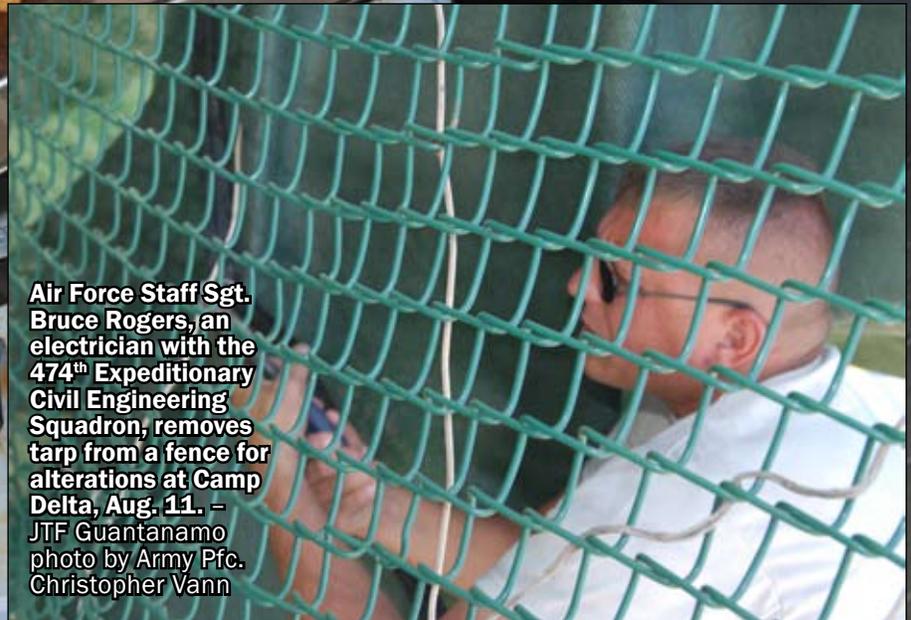
**Around the**  
  
**JTF**



**JTF Guantanamo postal clerk Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Demarious Franklin off-loads mail with Naval Station Guantanamo Bay postal clerk Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Anthony Lambert at the Camp America post office, Aug. 10.**  
 - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black



**Air Force Staff Sgt. Jeremy Hart, an engineering assistant with the 474<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, surveys a level slope needed to install a drainage pipe for a new soccer field, Aug. 11.** - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Carmen Gibson



**Air Force Staff Sgt. Bruce Rogers, an electrician with the 474<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, removes tarp from a fence for alterations at Camp Delta, Aug. 11.** - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann