

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



MCPON visits GTMO

Talks with JTF Sailors

NEX Appreciation Weekend

Showing thanks to Troopers



Row Well

**Army Master Sgt.
Sheryl Mason**
Assistant IG (JTF-IG)

“You exist to serve this ship, row well and live.” This quote was paraphrased from the movie Ben Hur, and you may think it is a bit harsh. So let me equate “live” to accomplish the mission. Reworded, the quote would read, “You exist to serve this ship, row well, the mission depends on it.”

Troopers look to your right and to your left. Take a look while you are on the job, in the galley, in your rooms, in the Exchange, in the clubs, playing sports, or on the beaches. The person you see around you is your rowing buddy. He or she was sent to Joint Task Force Guantanamo for the same reason you were, to accomplish a mission.

It does not matter what color uniform they are wearing, just know that they are a member of your team. Get to know the members of your team, because you will rely on their contribution to accomplish the mission.

You will need each one’s expertise ... You will need everyone rowing.

The team includes all ranks, so foster respect up and down the chain of command. Everyone cannot be a captain, however everyone needs to know what direction the captain is taking the ship. Every Trooper needs to know his or her roll in the mission, as the captain cannot accomplish the mission by his or herself. Once armed with information, purpose and set standards; row hard, row strong, row with purpose.

You want your teammate healthy; spiritually, mentally and physically. You want the total person ready and focused for the mission. Be a listening ear. Teach and train whenever possible. Be open to new solutions. If you are unable to help a member of the team, recommend one of the support avenues: Chaplain, Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team, Family Support, Inspector General or Staff Judge Advocate to name a few. A renewed, focused team member will support the mission and make the rowing easier for all.

It matters not what the tide brings. It matters not if the sea or the mission gets rough. All that matters is we stay focused and row. We are the guardians of freedom, justice and the American way of life. Row and respect each other. Row and be loyal to the values the military has instilled in us. Row with integrity. Row well and live. Row well and accomplish the mission. ★



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COVER:

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick D. West during his visit of a Joint Task Force Guantanamo detention facility, Oct. 16. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Shane Arrington

BACK COVER:

Photos from the Navy’s 235th Birthday Ball, Oct. 16. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins

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 regard 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.

NEX celebrates customer appreciation

(Below) Naval Station Guantanamo Bay residents start the Naval Exchange five-kilometer run. The run was the first event on Saturday, which continued with giveaways and raffles, Oct. 16. – JTF Guantanamo photos by Army Spc. Juanita Phillip



The band Augustana performs in the NEX parking lot during NEX appreciation weekend, Oct. 17. The band entertained Naval Station Guantanamo and Joint Task Force Guantanamo personnel. – JTF Guantanamo photos by Air Force Senior Airman Gino Reyes



Army Spc.
Juanita Phillip

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

second prize trip to Las Vegas, and Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class James Kelly of the Joint Detention Group who won the first prize trip to Miami.

“I did not expect to win anything,” Lambert said. “This is the first time that I won anything from the NEX.”

Several companies were on hand to educate consumers about their products, and multiple entertainers also performed for the crowds.

“We brought in Magician Ryan Oakes for several performances over the weekend to include a performance at the Tiki bar,” Good said.

Chris Jacobsen -also known as CJ- from Bravo’s Top Chef, as well as chefs from the Food Network show Diner’s, Drive-In’s and Dives also attended and signed autographs. Other events included a Humvee pull, a five-kilometer run, a Nintendo Wii bowling contest and a live performance by the band Augustana. ☆

The Guantanamo Bay Navy Exchange held its annual customer appreciation weekend with a sale and other fun events for Naval Station Guantanamo Bay residents Oct. 15-17.

The NEX thanks its customers worldwide for their patronage and honors military members and their families for their service.

“It is the NEX’s way of saying thanks to all of the Sailors, Marines, Soldiers, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen and all GTMO residents for all that they do to support the base and the NEX,” said Mark Good, the store manager.

The event drew large crowds, with more than 8,000 transactions processed on Saturday, Oct. 16.

“We saw an increase of nearly 15 percent over last year,” Good said.

The NEX gave away more than \$12,000 in contest gift cards and prizes during the weekend. It also held several raffles which awarded winners everything from vacation packages to NEX gift certificates and electronics.

The grand prize winners were Navy Boatswain’s Mate 2nd Class Leon Rogers who won the third prize trip to New York City; Navy Logistic Specialist 2nd Class Anthony Lambert who won the



(Above) Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay personnel participate in the Humvee pull, Oct. 17. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communications 1st Class David Coleman



(Left) Magician Ryan Oakes performs a magic trick with a deck of cards for Army Spc. Shalia Moolenaar while other Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay personnel look on, Oct. 16. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communications 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins

J-3 rotating units in, out



Army Staff Sgt. John Narcisse (right) of J-3 Rotations, hands bedding to Army Capt. David Rodríguez (left) of the 336th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, while Army Sgt. 1st Class David Peltier accepts his paperwork, Oct. 15. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Juanita Philip

**Army Spc.
Juanita Philip**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

When a Joint Task Force Guantanamo unit travels to or leaves Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, a lot of planning and coordination is required. The Rotations section of the J-3 directorate is tasked to ensure the smooth transition takes place.

“We are responsible for planning and coordinating JTF inbound and outbound rotational unit movements,” said Army Staff Sgt. John A. Narcisse.

The Rotations section coordinates with other JTF staff for water, buses and housing and with the Naval Station staff for meals at the Gold Hill Galley. Port Operations is also asked to provide additional ferries to transport personnel across the bay as well as Lane 1 passes.

“We supply every inbound unit with food, water, badges and transportation across the bay,” Narcisse said. “Once we get to the windward side, we take them to where they will be housed temporarily or permanently, depending on the need and space available.”

“We work closely with [other directorates] to coordinate the housing and transportation aspects of our job,” Narcisse said. “Each unit provides a list of their personnel so it can be determined where they will be housed.”

“We receive a manning roster requesting housing for inbound Troopers and assign them by rank and gender,” said Army Sgt. 1st Class David Peltier. “We also try to implement unit integrity, when availability permits.”

Peltier is responsible for assigning personnel to the Cuzco Barracks or Tierra Kay Housing.

According to Narcisse, the Rotations section does not plan movement for small groups.

“We do not provide flights for Individual Augmentees,” Narcisse said. “Although, at times we will help out IA’s at their unit’s request.”

In matters of arranging transportation off the island for units, the Rotations section usually accommodates units with seating on the rotator that leaves the island. However, larger units are validated for chartered flights.

“With [larger units], or smaller units with considerable cargo, the section sends out a request to charter a flight off the island through Southern Command,” Narcisse said.

Whenever there is a major movement to or from JTF-GTMO, the J-3 Rotations section is there to ensure all runs smoothly. ★



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick D. West talks with a Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion Sailor, Oct. 16. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Shane Arrington

MCPON visits GTMO

**Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class
Shane Arrington**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick D. West holds an all-hands call with JTF Guantanamo Sailors, Oct. 16. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Monique Hilley

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick D. West recently visited Guantanamo Bay to celebrate the Navy's 235th birthday and learn more about Joint Task Force Guantanamo's mission and Troopers.

While at Guantanamo Bay, he visited the Joint Task Force and held an all-hands call for those Sailors who support the mission of providing safe, legal, humane and transparent care and custody of detainees captured during Operation Enduring Freedom. During the all-hands call West constantly thanked the Sailors for their part in carrying out the JTF mission.

"The hard work you're doing down here is absolutely incredible," said West. "When you look at a guy like me, 29 and a half years in, I've seen quite a bit in my time, but coming here and seeing this, and seeing the Sailors doing the work you're doing, I take my hat off to you."

While praising them on their hard work, West also reminded Sailors to never forget they are in the Navy at a time filled with possibility, and that the Individual Augmentee program is a huge stepping stone in any career.

"When I came in, we didn't have this type of opportunity," said West. "I keep telling the guard force, the medical folks, the experience you're gaining here is something you'll take with you the rest of your life."

West continued to explain how the type of knowledge gained from a boots-on-ground assignment, which in the past was mostly limited to Seabees and Fleet Marine Force corpsmen, would benefit Sailors returning to the Fleet.

The mission of JTF Guantanamo is very challenging, and West was adamant in letting Sailors know they should always be proud to have served their Nation in helping to carry out this mission.

"This is a pretty big deal, and you need to know that," said West. ★



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick D. West recently visited Guantanamo Bay to celebrate the 235th birthday of the U.S. Navy. While there he toured many Joint Task Force Guantanamo facilities and held an all-hands call for the Sailors.

JTF Guantanamo photos by
Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class
Monique Hilley
and
Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class
Shane Arrington

MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE NAVY RICK D. WEST



GTMO WILDLIFE

Navy Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class

Wesley Kreiss

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Some would say that Guantanamo Bay is an ecological paradise, and its wide variety of wildlife should be “observed and enjoyed.”

GTMO is a unique ecosystem classified as a Caribbean dry tropical forest. There are 193 plant species, of which 51 are endemic. Endemic plants or animals belong exclusively or are confined to a particular place. In other words, you won’t see them anywhere else.

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay’s local instruction, NAVSTAGTMOINST 1710.10A dated July 27, 2009, applies to the entire GTMO community, whether you are military or civilian. It covers the wildlife protection guidelines of the animals and plant life. Species such as the Cuban Rock Iguana, sea turtles and the West Indian Manatee are protected by the Endangered Species Act, while the Elkhorn coral and Stag Horn coral are considered “threatened species.”

Another species common on the island is the hutia, also known as “banana rats.” Banana rats, a member of the rodent family, live in trees and around the cacti. If you listen closely you may hear their high-pitched squeaks, especially at night. Hutias are highly social animals and are usually seen looking for food along the roadside.

The local instruction has specific information about feeding most wildlife here. It states, “the feeding, keeping or breeding of iguana or other lizards, hutia (banana rats), goats, chickens, snakes, pigeons or feral cats and dogs is strictly prohibited. Additionally this prohibits the taking of iguanas, manatees, sea turtles and brown pelicans, or any part thereof, such as eggs, feathers, shells, nests, etc. The use of bird feeders for resident and migratory birds is permissible; however, the direct and deliberate feeding of chickens and pigeons by broadcasting or piling seed or bait, or otherwise attracting chickens and pigeons, is specifically prohibited.”

For most, feeding animals is a natural response. However, feeding wild animals can start a habit.

“It changes the wildlife’s natural actions when you feed them,” said Michael McCord, Base Environmental Director. “It can become a problem because the animal expects to be fed.”

This is how most animal bites occur. The animal thinks that food is being offered and instinctively reacts. Feral cats and dogs have the potential to carry rabies and other diseases that can be transmitted through bites. If bitten, service members should contact the emergency room at the base hospital and, or the Joint Trooper Clinic (JTC) to properly treat bites.

Violating NAVSTAGTMOINST 1710.10A has consequences, it can impose penalties to service members through administrative action by their chain of command.

The instruction mentions that all live native plants and trees are protected and shall not be removed from their natural habitat, damaged, sold or propagated, Bayon and Granadillo trees are examples. Several Bayon trees on island are more than 100 years old. The Granadillo tree is protected and possession of raw Granadillo wood, cut or uncut is strictly prohibited. However, the Natural Resources Manager may authorize limited plant propagation and products made from Granadillo wood.

This instruction is reviewed annually and updated as needed. It is currently in the process of review, with guidance from the Base Environmental Director and is maintained by NAVSTA Base Security.

Guantanamo Bay offers Troopers the opportunity to see a few new species. Whether running, hiking, swimming or sailing, Troopers must be aware of the environment and animals that they may encounter.

“The main take away from this is that Guantanamo Bay has a unique environment,” said McCord. “The service member should take advantage of what Guantanamo Bay wildlife has to offer in a nonintrusive way.” ☆



Typical romantic comedy

**Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class
Shane Arrington**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

There are movies you watch knowing exactly what you're going to see, "Life as We Know It" is one of those movies.

After leaving "Grey's Anatomy," Katherine Heigl has firmly cemented herself into predictable romantic comedy world. Do not get me wrong, she plays the part well, and is always entertaining, but it would be nice to see her in a role with more depth.

In "Life as We Know It" Heigl takes on the role of Holly Berenson, a culinary goddess who is cute, smart, funny and successful ... yet still is unlucky in love. Like I said, typical romantic comedy.

Through their mutual friends she meets Messer (Josh Duhamel). They don't really get along, but are there for all the big events in their friend's lives, including the birth their friend's child, Sophie.

Typically the cataclysmic event that happens in this type of movie is more humorous than not, but not this time. The untimely death of their friends make Holly and Messer legal guardians of Sophie. While both are still mourning the loss of their friends, and neither are happy about being forced to raise

Sophie together, they realize it is not about them, but about honoring the wishes of their friends.

The rest of the movie is a roller coaster of events. One second everything is going great, the next, not so much. Over time, you finally begin to see the completely opposite

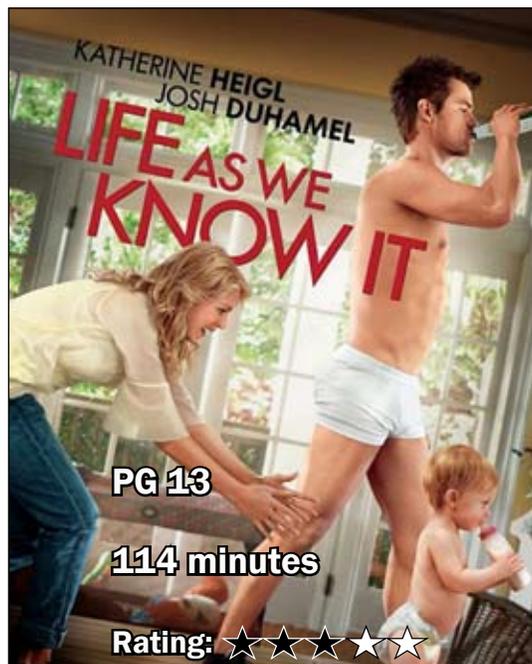
personalities of Holly and Messer come together as they start to get along.

The movie would be pretty boring though if it just ended there. Just as soon as things look as though they are moving toward happily ever after, the hammer falls.

The hammer causes things to get complicated, and other factors are introduced to stir things up even more. If it wasn't for the predictability factor of the romantic comedy you might even believe for a second that things could turn out a different way than you predicted in the first ten minutes, but of course that doesn't happen.

"Life as We Know It" is not the best movie of the year and it did not leave you in awe at the end, but it did accomplish the only thing viewers should have expected, it entertained. Many people down romantic comedies because more often than not they provide little more than a few laughs and "aww" moments ... but you know what, there's nothing wrong with that.

If you want a deep movie of epic proportions, watch "The Pianist." A terrific movie by the way. But if want an easy night at the movies, to just kick back with your popcorn and not have to think for the next couple of hours, this is your movie. ☆





Naval Exchange Customer Appreciation Week

Navy Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 2nd Class Dawayne S. Brown, participates in the Wii Bowling Competition held at the Navy Exchange as part of the NEX Appreciation Week, Oct. 17. Fifty people participated in the competition. The first place winner received a Dell Inspiron M5030 Notebook, second place won a Dell Mini 1018 notebook and third place received a \$50 NEX gift card.- JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Tiffany Addair

Boots on the Ground

by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Wesley Kreiss

What is one personal goal you hope to accomplish while in GTMO?

Army Sgt. 1st Class Alex Hedges

Navy Chief Naval Aircrewman Eddie Gomez

Air Force Maj. Colon Robles

Army Sgt. Tracey Jackson



"Finish my Bachelors of Arts degree."



"Become dive certified."



"Get in better shape and do a 5k run."



"Save some money to become a culinary chef."

MANAGING YOUR THOUGHTS

“Garbage In, Garbage Out”

Air Force Maj.
Kenneth Brown

JTF Guantanamo Deputy Command Chaplain

When I took my first computer course many years ago the teacher of the course instilled within us the acronym GIGO, “Garbage In, Garbage Out.”

Since a computer has no mind of its own, its output is determined by the instructions the human mind puts into it. Such is the case in our own lives. The actions we perform, the decisions we make, and the habits we follow are not elements of chance or fate. They are based upon the values we embrace, the quality of our inner person, and the thoughts which control our mind. Therefore managing our thought life becomes a crucial ingredient in determining the type of behavior in which we engage.

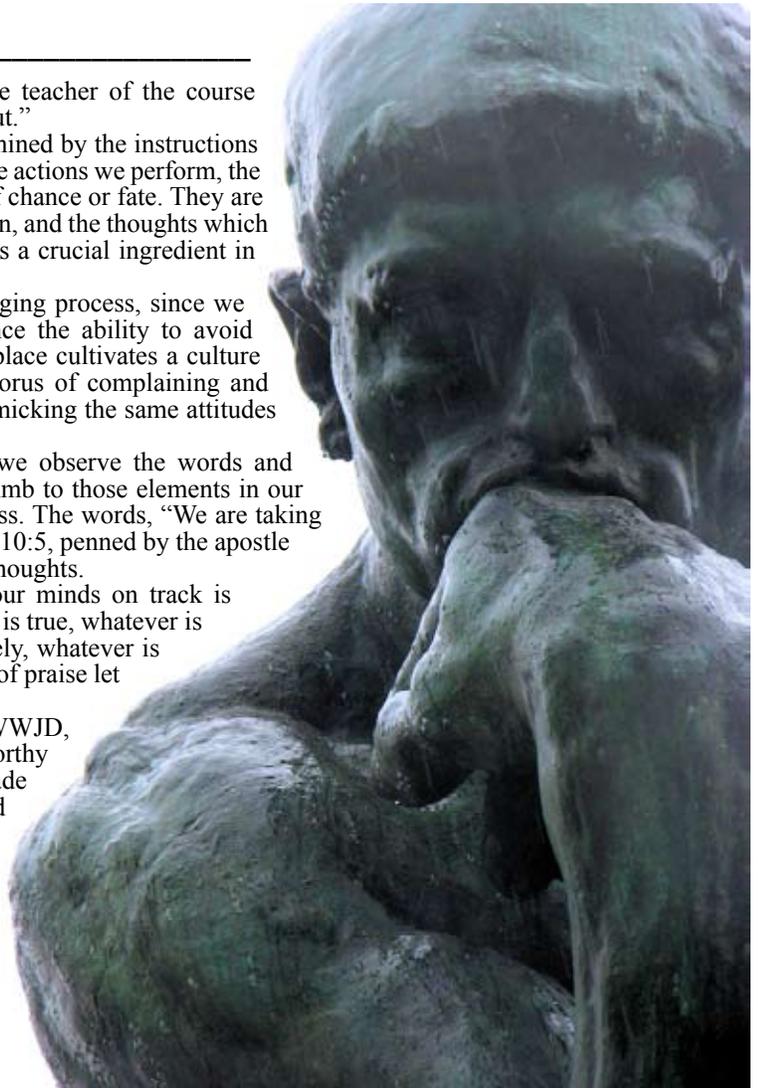
Such management of our thought life can be a very challenging process, since we cannot always control the environment around us. For instance the ability to avoid the pitfalls of corruption becomes more difficult if one’s workplace cultivates a culture of corruption. An environment characterized by a constant chorus of complaining and griping among one’s peers yields a great challenge to avoid mimicking the same attitudes ourselves.

It is easy to copy unethical and immoral behavior when we observe the words and actions of others doing the same. However, one need not succumb to those elements in our surroundings which steer us away from integrity and truthfulness. The words, “We are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,” 2 Corinthians 10:5, penned by the apostle Paul give us guidance in how we can master what controls our thoughts.

An excellent “thought” filter which can be used to keep our minds on track is found in Philippians where we read, “Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise let your mind dwell on these things.”

A few years ago a popular motto in Christian living was WWJD, “What Would Jesus Do?” This is an excellent question and a worthy criterion of proper action in any circumstance. Such a task is made much easier when we filter the thoughts which enter our mind, and ponder godly attributes. The movies and TV shows we watch, the books we read, the places we frequent, the attitudes we accept and reject in others, and the types of people we choose to associate with wield a great influence over what enters our mind.

Our reputation in the eyes of those around us is determined by our actions. However, our actions are merely the result of thoughts we have allowed to control and dominate our thinking. What are you filling your mind with? ★



GTMO Religious Services

Daily Catholic Mass
Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m.
Main Chapel
Vigil Mass
Saturday 5 p.m.
Main Chapel
Mass
Sunday 9 a.m.
Main Chapel
Catholic Mass
Saturday 7:30 p.m.
Troopers' Chapel
Sunday 7:30 a.m.
Troopers' Chapel

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m.
Troopers' Chapel
Islamic Service
Friday 1:15 p.m.
Room C
Jewish Service
FMI call 2628
LORIMI Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m.
Room D
Church of Christ
Sunday 10 a.m.
Chapel Annex
Room 17

Seventh Day Adventist
Saturday 11 a.m.
Room B
Iglesia Ni Christo
Sunday 5:30 a.m.
Room A
Pentecostal Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m.
Room D
LDS Service
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room A

Liturgical Service
Sunday 11 a.m.
Room B
General Protestant
Sunday 11 a.m.
Main Chapel
United Jamaican Fellowship
Sunday 11 a.m.
Building 1036
Gospel Service
Sunday 1 p.m.
Main Chapel

GTMO Bay Christian Fellowship
Sunday 6 p.m.
Main Chapel
Bible Study
Wednesday 7 p.m.
Troopers' Chapel
The Truth Project Bible study
Sunday 6 p.m.
Troopers' Chapel

2010 Navy 235th Birthday Ball

