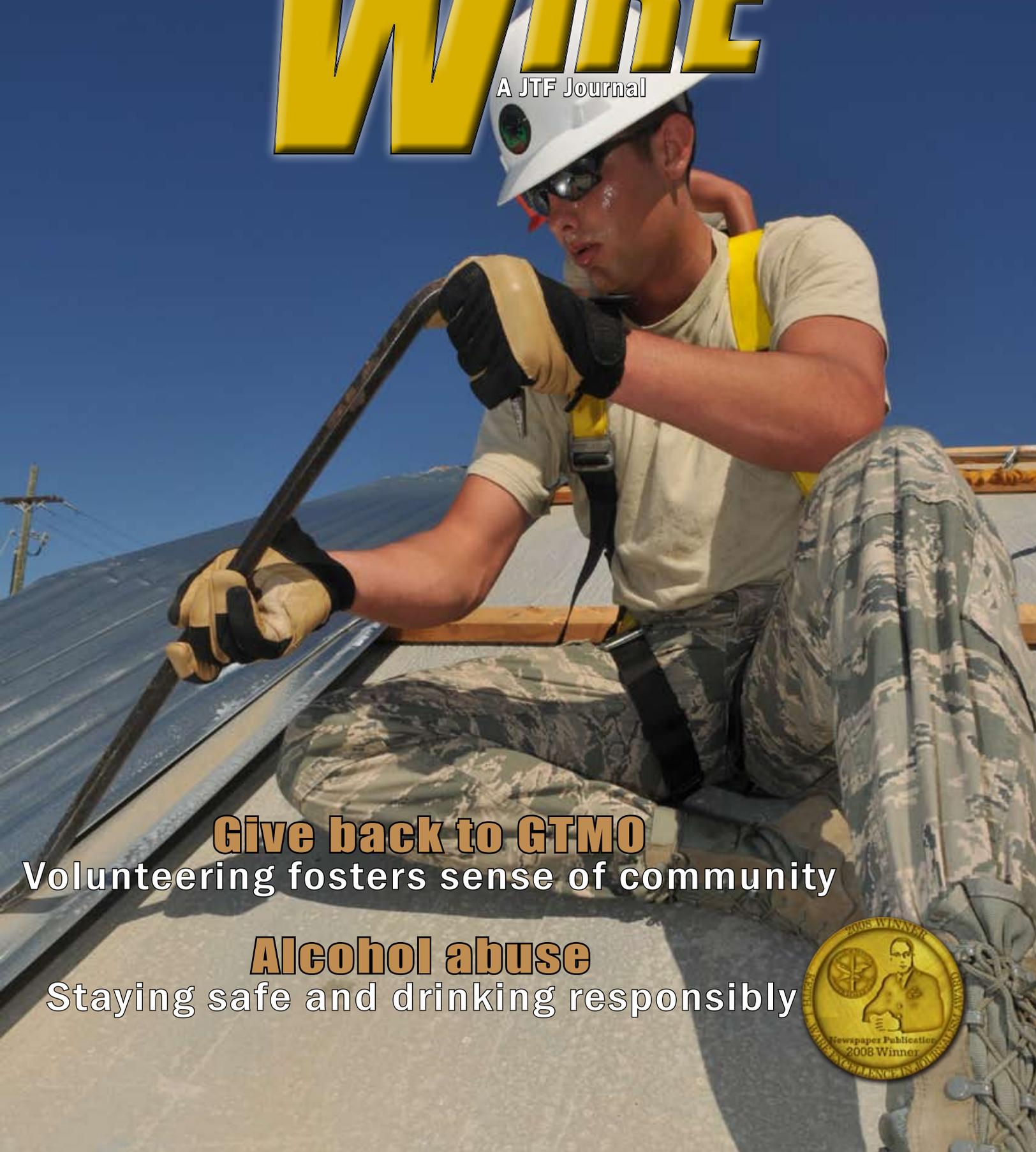


THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Give back to GTMO

Volunteering fosters sense of community

Alcohol abuse

Staying safe and drinking responsibly



Professional organizations

Air Force Chief Master Sgt.
Randy Dunham

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs Senior Enlisted Leader

As members of the military, we're used to taking charge and getting things done. That includes taking care of our quality of life and our benefits.

One of the most effective ways to stay on top of benefits and entitlements is through our professional organizations.

We're allowed to be a part of the political process by voting, writing our representatives and attending rallies, as long as we're in civilian clothes. Guard and Reserve members are also allowed to hold public office.

While we don't have the flexibility to visit our lawmakers while on duty and in uniform, we do have the right to support professional organizations who can, and do, lobby those people. Thus, the fact that we can't be official lobbyists on behalf of the military makes it even more important to support organizations that can represent us.

While I would never tell any of you which professional organization to join, I will point you to the Military Coalition – a group of 34 professional organizations representing more than 5.5 million members of the uniformed services including active, guard/reserve, retired, survivors, veterans and the oh so important families.

I am a member of no less than three professional organizations, two of which I'm a life member. I'm a past president of one organization and a past national director of another organization based in Washington, D.C. I believe each of us has an obligation to support professional organizations so we leave a legacy for this generation of military members and pave the way for the next generation.

As a member of a professional organization in 2009, here are a few of the issues you may have been involved with to ensure we're building a solid future:

- Higher pay raises (budget called for 3.4 percent for 2010 – the combined efforts of professional organizations pushed that to 3.9 percent)

- Increases in hazardous duty pay
- Holding TriCare costs flat rather than the proposed 350 percent increase
- Tax-free retirement pay in many states
- Free hunting and fishing licenses through state departments of natural resources

The selling point for the organizations is membership. When a lobbyist visits a representative on Capitol Hill, that lobbyist can say he represents the Military Coalition, which stands for 5.5 million people. Any hard-charging legislator would jump at the opportunity to represent 5.5 million people.

Some may argue we're not allowed to canvass our ranks to encourage people to join those organizations. I can't speak for the other services, but on the Air Force side, AFI 36-2618 instructs Airmen to support professional organizations. It does not say which organization, just that everyone has an obligation to support at least one organization.

I believe it is incumbent for every person in uniform to support these types of professional organizations. We have today what someone before us fought to gain. If we let the fight die, the benefits we have now will become extinct. To learn more about some of these organizations, visit the Military Coalition at www.themilitarycoalition.org. ★



JTF GUANTANAMO

Commander:

Navy Rear Adm. Tom Copeman

Command Master Chief:

Navy Master Chief Petty Officer

Scott A. Fleming

Office of Public Affairs Director:

Navy Cmdr. Brook DeWalt: 9928

Deputy Director:

Navy Lt. James Gonzales: 9927

Operations Officer:

Army Capt. Robert Settles: 3596

Supervisor:

Air Force Chief Master Sgt.

Randy Dunham: 3649

The Wire

Executive Editor, Command Information NCOIC, Photojournalist:

Navy Mass Communication Specialist

1st Class Edward Flynn: 3592

Editor, Photojournalist:

Army Spc. Tiffany Addair: 3499

Photojournalists:

Navy Mass Communication Specialist

1st Class Marcos T. Hernandez

Navy Mass Communication Specialist

2nd Class Zachary Harris

Navy Mass Communication Specialist

2nd Class Matthew Campbell

Army Sgt. Athneil Thomas

Army Sgt. Derrol Fulghum

Air Force Staff Sgt. Angela Ruiz

Army Spc. Cody Black

Army Spc. Tiffany Addair

Navy Mass Communication Specialist

3rd Class Kellie Bliss

Marine Corps Lance Cpl.

Justin R. Wheeler

Contact us

Editor's Desk: 3499 or 3594

From the continental United States:

Commercial: 011-53-99-3499

DSN: 660-3499

E-mail: thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

Online: www.jftgmo.southcom.mil

COVER:

Air Force Senior Airman Christopher S. Peek, with the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, removes a metal roof from a building in Camp America, March 10. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black

BACK COVER:

Birds sit atop buoy three in the waters of Guantanamo Bay, March 8. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black

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.

Coping with being away



Army Spc. Aaron Rogers, with the 525th Military Police Battalion, smiles at a picture of his wife and daughter, March 9. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

Marine Corps Lance Cpl.

Justin R. Wheeler

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The photos say it all – smiling faces of family and friends, and favorite places prominently displayed on desks and on walls. They’re reminders of other places and other people – all miles away from here.

Joint Task Force Troopers and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay personnel come to the island from duty stations across the world, and often leave their families and loved ones behind – sometimes on bases that are unfamiliar to them, said Lee Adelman, education services facilitator at the Fleet and Family Support Center.

In many instances, the spouse’s role – like raising children or balancing the family budget, is greatly enhanced as the service member moves out for the deployment.

“When the sponsor is deployed, inevitably the spouse takes on the role of the sponsor, and the workload and responsibilities that were once shared are now significantly increased,” said Adelman.

The geographic separation begins when the sponsor receives orders for an unaccompanied tour to one of many locations. Depending on the place and job, these tours can range from four months to two years.

Army Spc. Aaron Rogers’s wife is pregnant as she raises their 2-year-old daughter in Japan. Rogers, with the 525th Military Police Battalion, is here on a one-

year deployment away from his wife and daughter, and will return home later this year.

“When we met, I was in the Air Force and she knew what she was marrying into,” said Rogers. “It’s hard on all of us, especially with my wife being pregnant. So, we work together to do what we can to make it easier.”

Once a week, Rogers makes an international call in the morning, taking the 14-hour time-zone difference into consideration. He feels that being separated only strengthens their relationship in the long run.

“I feel that when we get back together, we will have a better appreciation of what it means to be a family,” he said.

In some cases, the family of the deployed member is left behind in a location that is remote from their original home. That can create even more stress on the marriage.

“For newly married couples apart during a deployment, it can often be a challenging time,” Adelman said. “To help couples strengthen their marriage and parenting skills, many programs and services are offered to help meet the unique challenges of the military family.”

FFSC provides essential life skills classes and counseling to military and civilian personnel. The FFSC plays a helping role within the community by providing Guantanamo Bay with family and relationship support services. These services include classes on building relationships across the miles, alternatives

to violence, loving relationships, family advocacy program, parenting and couple’s communication. In doing so, these programs enhance operational readiness and retention support services, thereby enhancing the quality of life for all station personnel.

Additional services offered for military personnel include access to liberty centers and use of their computers with Internet access and Web cams, allowing video chat with families. Programs like “United Through Reading” enable military personnel an opportunity to have a more personal moment with their children.

Other organizations that play a significant role in reducing deployment related stress throughout the naval station are the Navy Exchange and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, said Adelman.

“The NEX is committed to ensuring that the comforts from home are available on your commissary and mini-mart shelves. And recreational equipment, ranging from electronics to outdoor cooking are in ample supply,” Adelman said. “Additionally, MWR provides an exceptional variety of recreational, social and community activities and programs. These two extraordinary quality-of-life organizations are dedicated to mitigating deployment related stress.”

However, even with world-class quality-of-life support programs, sometimes life just throws you a curve ball and stress seems to control your life – if that happens, give FFSC a call at ext. 4141. ☆

Continuing support to Haiti



Various U.S. government and non-governmental agencies conduct humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations as part of Operation Unified Response, supporting the victims of the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti. – JTF Guantanamo photo illustration by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Marcos T. Hernandez

**Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class
Marcos T. Hernandez**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

After two months of ongoing relief efforts in Haiti, Operation Unified Response, coordinated through Joint Task Force Haiti, has been a defining moment for the U.S. military.

“The U.S. military was called on to support the U.S. Agency for International Development, the lead agency for our government in these relief efforts, and we responded immediately with several key tasks,” said Lt. Gen. Ken Keen, commander of JTF Haiti and deputy commander of U.S. Southern Command. The immediate mission was to save lives and provide emergency assistance to those who were struggling to meet the needs of the Haitian people, Keen said.

Since the Jan. 12, 7.0 earthquake devastated the island nation, more than 22,000 U.S. military members have supported relief operations in and around Haiti. In addition, 17 ships, 48 helicopters and 12 fixed-wing aircraft provided air and cargo support.

While the overall U.S. government response is handled by the U.S. Agency for International Development, OUR military support continues through JTF Haiti.

The combined efforts of Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and supporting personnel have delivered more than 2.6 million liters of water, 2 million meals, 17 million pounds of bulk food and 149,000 pounds of medical supplies to the people of Haiti. The U.S. military has also supported the rehabilitation of buildings and structures, and provided shelter for the Haitian population.

Many U.S. military assets have left Haiti as forces transition

humanitarian assistance efforts to non-governmental organizations and international relief agencies.

“I think we have reached the point where relief efforts have turned into sustainment efforts,” said Navy Boatswain’s Mate Chief Floyd Jennings, a member with Combined Task Force 48, providing OUR logistical support from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. “After we [U.S. military] leave Haiti, then the relief organizations and agencies would do what they do best to continue to support Haiti.”

At Guantanamo Bay, CTF 48 has started to re-deploy personnel back to their home stations, but operations continue.

“Even though some of the personnel here have gone back to their home port, we’re still supporting the mission,” said Navy Capt. Debbie Haven, CTF 48 chief of staff. “We have proven the concept of what a Joint Logistic Hub is while supporting humanitarian efforts.”

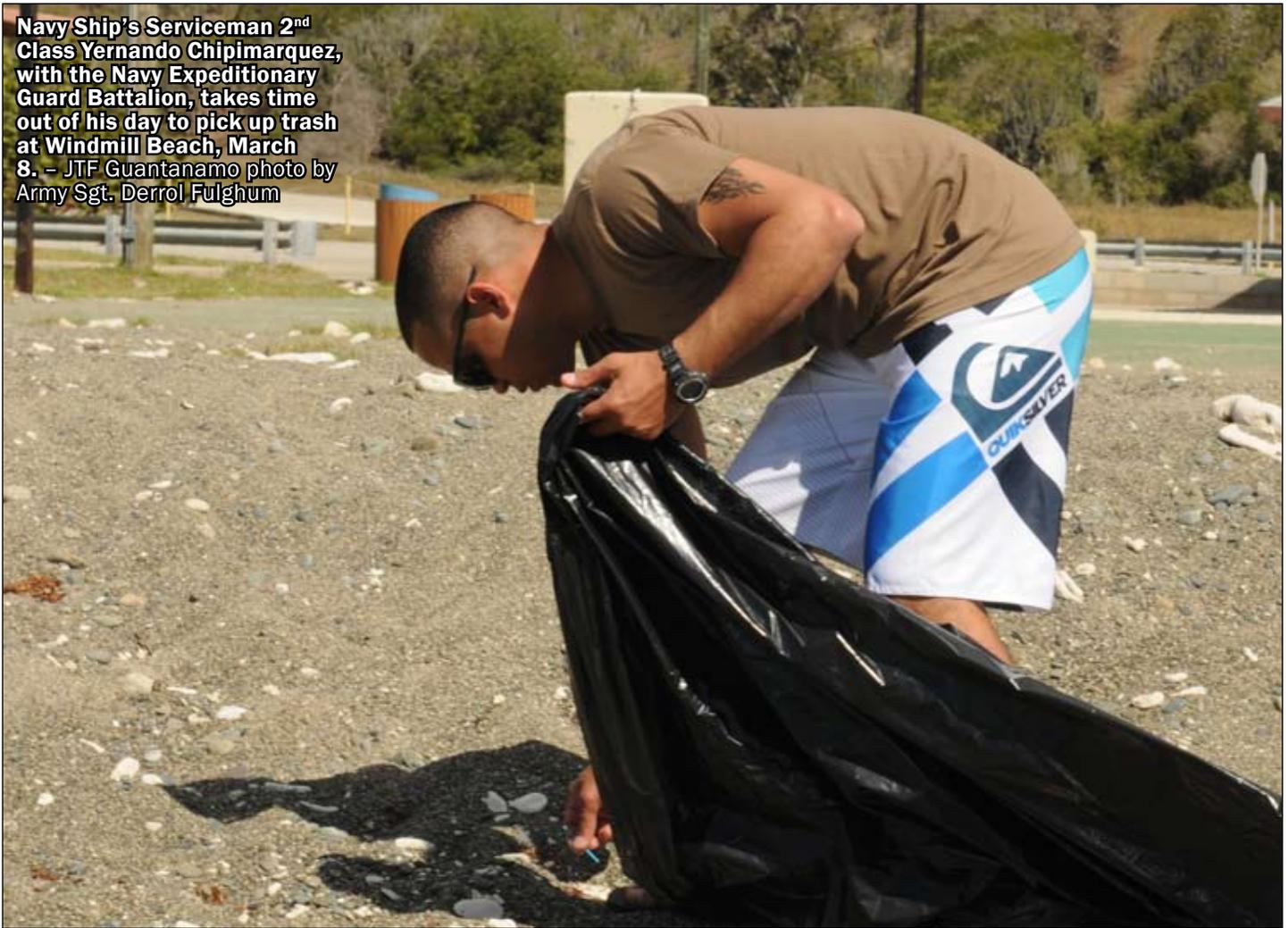
“Those [re-deploying back to their home station] feel good in their hearts,” Haven said. “Members from all branches have done our part to help a nation in crisis.”

“Those [re-deploying back to their home station] feel good in their hearts,” Haven said. “Members from all branches have done our part to help a nation in crisis.”

Air Force Gen. Douglas M. Fraser, commander of U.S. SOUTHCOM, commended service members for their valiant efforts and outstanding performance while providing support to Haiti.

“I’ve personally seen what these brave young men and women are capable of,” said Fraser, who took over the command last year. “The men and women who deployed to Haiti performed magnificently. They were outstanding representatives of our military, displaying compassion and a sense of focus.”

Navy Ship's Serviceman 2nd Class Yernando Chipimarquez, with the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, takes time out of his day to pick up trash at Windmill Beach, March 8. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Derrol Fulghum



Earning your volunteer mark

Army Sgt.

Derrol Fulghum

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Ideally, few in uniform work their magic to gain personal recognition. However, any military member will admit it's nice to get a pat on the back or another ribbon for the ribbon rack.

One of those awards that might not pop into someone's head is the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. And service is probably at the core of why many people joined the military – to give back to their community.

In that spirit, the MOVSM is not as difficult to earn as one might think. If philanthropy isn't reason enough to start volunteering, then consider the more tangible benefits: positive evaluation points and a chance to earn the MOVSM.

From the Salvation Army to the Special Olympics with thousands of charities between, volunteerism has made the world a better place. Humanitarians dedicate countless hours to helping those less fortunate.

Joint Task Force Guantanamo has several volunteer opportunities available to Troopers that fit many different schedules. By giving back to the community, Troopers enhance the quality of life for everyone around them, which positively affects the volunteers as well.

"When JTF Troopers and other personnel volunteer their time and abilities, it helps foster a sense of community," said Army Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Fowler, Joint Detention Group command sergeant major. "Everyone profits from it, whether you're assigned to the island as part of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, or a tenant unit occupying naval station space and sharing resources."

With Guantanamo Bay being 45 square miles, Troopers might find themselves looking for ways to occupy time.

"Being stationed in such an isolated duty station, volunteering is a great chance to get out," said Navy Master-at-Arms 1st Class Scott Williams, volunteer coordinator for the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion.

Williams actively coordinates events

for the local Girl Scouts, W.T. Sampson Elementary and High schools, and the local Parent Teacher Association.

Williams tries to organize at least one event every month, such as cleaning up school grounds and local beaches.

"[Volunteering] keeps us out of a 'rut' that so many of us [fall into] during long deployments," Williams said.

Each service has guidelines for earning the MOVSM. But approval authorities will ensure that the service to be honored merits the special recognition afforded by this award.

Aside from the award and recognition, volunteering is beneficial to the community around us.

Anyone interested in volunteering can e-mail Williams at scott.a.williams@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil and you will be added to the distribution list for upcoming volunteer activities.

For Troopers looking to earn the MOVSM, contact Air Force Tech. Sgt. Walter Medina with J1 at ext. 8020, or your volunteer coordinator. ☆

Army Sgt. Alexandria Savage advances through the court while getting ready to throw a basketball during the last game of the season, March 4.
 - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Marcos T. Hernandez



Go 'Getum Girls'

**Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class
 Edward Flynn**
 JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The old saying goes, you can take the dog out of the fight, but you can't take the fight out of the dog. Likewise, here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, you can take the girls out of the game, but not the game out of the girls.

Although disappointed that an all female basketball league was cancelled due to lack of participation, a determined group of Joint Task Force hoopsters decided to not quit and opted to compete as the only female team in the all-male league.

As the season was about to tip off, the players were informed by Naval Station Morale, Welfare and Recreation that there were not enough female teams to continue league play.

"Due to the lack of female teams signing up for the league, I offered the only female team the opportunity to play in the males league," said Robert Neuman, MWR sports coordinator.

The "Getum Girls," the name chosen for their fiery squad, voted unanimously to tee it up against their all-male counterparts in the men's league.

This change in plans not only affected their status on the court, it also impacted their state of readiness and preparation.

"Once we received news that we would only compete against males, we knew we had to step up our game to another level," said Army Chief Warrant Officer Jessica Joseph. "Everyone knew we had a long, hard road ahead of us but we were all up for the challenge."

For some players, this was their first time playing organized basketball, while others had extensive experience playing the

game individually and as a team, according to Joseph. Refusing to give up, the team practiced nightly to work on skills and drills. In the end, they learned a little more than just how to play basketball.

"I learned that everything is not about winning," said Army Sgt. Alexandria Savage, who served as team captain. "I'm a strong competitor and I don't like losing, but playing in this league has taught me that losing is not always a bad thing. I am very proud of our team and what we have accomplished in the league. We showed up ready and willing to play."

Although the "Getum Girls" have not enjoyed much success on the scoreboard, their accomplishments can't be measured in victories or defeats.

"This was a great learning experience because we challenged ourselves by playing in a male league," said Army Sgt. Rosalyn Anderson, human resources non-commissioned officer. "We never quit and

continued to do our best regardless of what the scoreboard read. There is no way we could have completed this season if we did not have a team of highly motivated and enthusiastic females."

While being a great experience for the "Getum Girls," other members of the male teams also thought this was a "win" for the female team.

"This was a good experience for the female team," said Army Pfc. David Alston, member of "NEGB Spartans," and guard with the 525th Military Police Battalion. "They played against tough competition, which helped them get better."

Being the only all female team in a men's league, "Getum Girls" earned the respect from the spectators as well as other teams, Joseph said.

"We had a lot of positive comments from people who came to the games," she said. "Things like 'don't give up,' and 'keep your head up.'" ☆

The "Getum Girls," an all-female basketball team comprised of JTF Troopers, pose for a group photo at G.J. Denich Gym, March 4. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Marcos T. Hernandez



An interesting twist on the end of humanity

Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class
Zachary Harris
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

“Daybreakers” follows a long line of movies in the “end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it,” genre; however, this movie provides an interesting twist on the humdrum doomsday theories and apocalyptic catastrophes that have been very popular in Hollywood in recent years.

Almost everyone on Earth has turned into vampires.

Dr. Edward Dalton (Ethan Hawke) is a hematologist at a large pharmaceutical corporation that is trying to find a substitute for human blood. Only 5 percent of the remaining population is human and they are hunted and farmed for their blood. Dalton – himself a vampire – is sympathetic to the humans, barely consuming enough blood to survive.

The effects of the spreading mass hunger manifest in the form of mutation. Vampires who go hungry begin to change into grotesque creatures resembling more of a bat than a human.

While driving home one night, Dalton takes notice of the mutation in his right ear. While analyzing the oddity in his rearview mirror, he nearly gets into a head-on-collision with an oncoming vehicle. Luckily, he escapes any major harm to himself or vehicle. Unluckily though, the other car is full of humans fleeing the city.

It is in that scene we see Hawke’s sympathy for the human race. As the police pull over to investigate the car accident, Dalton hides the humans in his car. The driver and “leader” of the group is Audrey Bennet, played by Claudia Karvan. While hiding in Dalton’s car, Bennet takes notice of his company identification card. After the authorities have left the scene, the humans escape into the night.

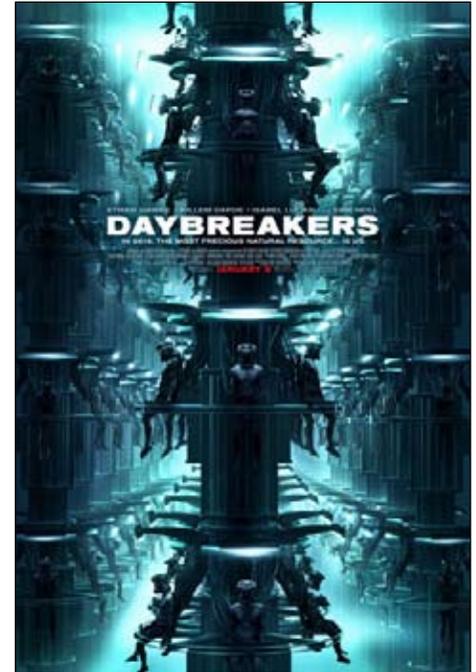
Bennet seeks out Dalton at his home to ask for his help in finding a cure. He agrees to meet with Bennet’s contact, Lionel “Elvis” Cormac. Willem Dafoe plays the part of Elvis, a tough man who holds the key to turning the tables on the vampires permanently.

The action in the film begins to escalate as Dalton, Bennet and Elvis race to a secret location to start working on the cure that will end the vampires’ reliance on humans for blood.

It is interesting to see the classic scenario of few vampires and many humans turned upside down. The adaptations to a nocturnal lifestyle that are shown in the film add the kind of detail that shows directors Michael and Peter Spierig did their homework.

The special effects and makeup were eye-catching and added to the story. The look of the mutated vampires was especially well done.

Unfortunately, the story left many questions unanswered – like how the spread of vampirism actually started. These



R
98 minutes

Rating: ★★★★★☆

omissions were quite disappointing. Hawke and Dafoe deliver impressive performances nonetheless. Sam Neil, who plays Charles Bromley, the head of the pharmaceutical company Hawke works for, played a surprisingly chilling villain.

“Daybreakers,” while entertaining with a distinct twist on the popular apocalyptic genre, leaves many holes like the ones left by the very vampires it centers on. ☆



Army Sgt. Tashaia Bedminster directs traffic during vehicle inspections.



Navy Logistics Specialist Chief Jillian Easley speaks to a service member during a JTF motor pool random inspection.

INSPECTIONS

Troopers with the J-4 motor pool conduct random vehicle inspections of all JTF vehicles, March 4. The vehicles are inspected for proper upkeep, ensuring that the vehicles are always prepared to carry out the mission.



Army Staff Sgt. Louin Chung goes over a vehicle inspection worksheet with a JTF service member.



Army Sgt. Damita Furlonge reviews a JTF service member's government driver license during the vehicle inspection.



Army Warrant Officer Diane Wescott speaks to a JTF service member after turning in their inspection worksheet.

JTF Guantanamo photos by Air Force Staff Sgt. Angela Ruiz



JTF vehicles line the road during a motor pool vehicle inspection.



Army Sgt. Damita Furlonge speaks to a service member during a random vehicle inspection.

Alcohol and its influence

**Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class
Edward Flynn**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Alcohol, illegal drug use and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs continues to wreck havoc in today's society; the U.S. military is no exception.

It is important to remember the dangers and consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. On average, someone is killed by a drunk driver every 45 minutes, according to Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Additionally, about three in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some point in their lives.

Sexual assault and domestic violence in the military frequently involve the use of alcohol and the results are devastating to the victim.

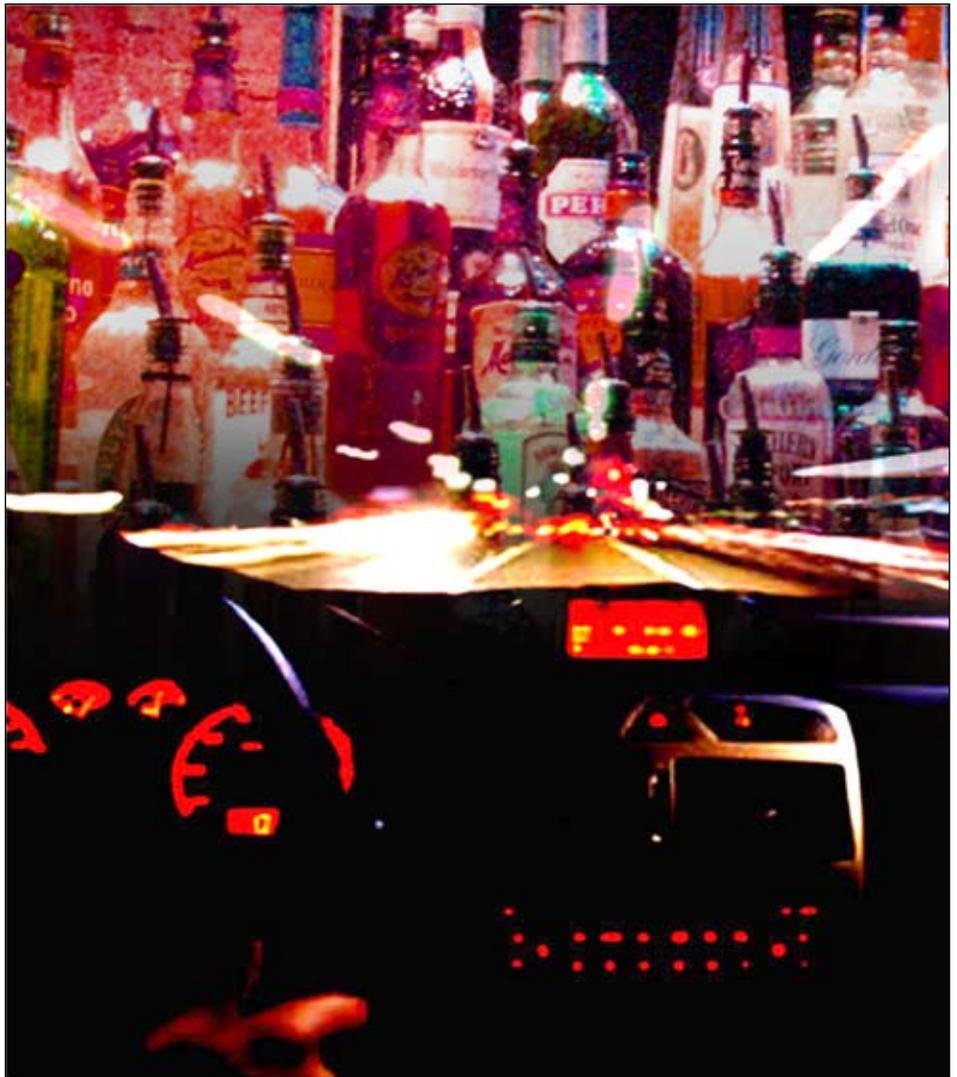
"When someone is assaulted, it changes their life all together," said Navy Master-at-Arms Chief Quincy Jackson, sexual assault victim intervention and training specialist at JTF. "Over the last two years, in almost all of sexual assaults at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, both the victims and the assailants were using alcohol."

With these eye-opening statistics, it is important to have safety measures in place. Joint Task Force Guantanamo has a strict alcohol policy for the protection of Troopers and the surrounding community.

"Drinking and driving here at JTF Guantanamo will not be tolerated," said Navy Command Master Chief Alfonso Rivera, senior enlisted advisor for the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion. "Troopers that drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs must realize that this behavior has severe legal, personal and professional implications." Drug and alcohol abuse will eventually negatively impact your future in the U.S. military, Rivera said.

Alcohol abuse does not discriminate against rank or age. Additionally, being deployed to a remote area such as Naval Station Guantanamo Bay can add extra stress. Family separation and readily available alcohol can contribute to this isolation and increase alcoholism.

"As leaders, we recognize that alcohol awareness is always a top priority," said Army Lt. Col. Alexander Conyers,



- JTF Guantanamo photo illustration by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Marcos T. Hernandez

commander of the 525th Military Police Battalion. "We must also ensure the help is always available to any Trooper in need of counseling or assistance."

Fortunately, living and working in difficult and often hazardous conditions is not something you have to experience alone. While deployed to JTF, help is available to any individual seeking alcohol counseling or just someone with whom to talk.

Providing service members with the needed support system has been the cornerstone of the Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team.

"JSMART offers counseling to service members at the JSMART office and will provide alcohol awareness assistance and help arrange counseling through the Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program," said Navy Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Frank Robinson, a member of the JSMART team. "We stress to Troopers the importance of drinking responsibly."

The Naval Station Guantanamo Bay base hospital has designed SARP to provide confidential counseling for those with substance abuse issues. Their programs provide focused education on the negative aspects of drinking and drugs. SARP is

located at the naval station hospital and can be reached at ext. 72032 or ext. 72218.

Individual counseling from JTF chaplains and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are also readily available to JTF Troopers.

"I'd encourage anyone dealing with this issue to seek professional assistance," said Air Force Lt. Col. William Ferrell, JTF command chaplain. "We are here to assist you, especially during your time of need." It is often easier to change your behavior when you have a support group to share your thoughts, according to Ferrell. Additionally, AA also has meetings in Room 4A on Chapel Hill Monday, Wednesday and Saturdays at 6:30 p.m.

Another key component to living a healthy life is through physical fitness. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's Morale, Welfare and Recreation team offers a variety of sports and recreation programs.

"Intramural sports provide healthy lifestyle alternatives to alcohol and drugs," said Robert Neuman, MWR sports coordinator.

Remember to stay safe and drink responsibly. Do not drink and drive. If you choose to drink, do so responsibly. ♡

'Honor Bound' leads the way

Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class
Matthew Campbell
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

For Navy Machinist's Mate 1st Class Steven Roberson, being recognized for outstanding accomplishments is not about an individual highlight in a military career. It is about consistently providing exceptional leadership and mentorship to fellow Troopers.

Roberson, attached to the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion and lead petty officer at several detention facilities at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, praised Troopers for instilling in him the skills and professionalism to do his job and become NEGB Sailor of the Quarter, and to receive a nomination as Navy Expeditionary Combat Command Shore Sailor of the Year.

Navy Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Brendan McAvoy, who won NEGB Junior Sailor of the Quarter, and Aviation Electronics Technician Airman Daniel Roberts, who won NEGB Blue Jacket of the Quarter, are also being recognized for outstanding leadership.

To receive the honor of being named Sailor of the Year, a Sailor must participate in a Sailor of the Quarter board. As part of this board, selected Sailors appeal to a council of Navy chiefs and officers, and respond to questions about their military knowledge, leadership skills and past performance.

If selected as Sailor of the Quarter, the Sailor is recommended to participate in the Sailor of the Year board. With fierce competition at the board, all aspects of leadership and professionalism are weighed heavily.

"They don't win, they earn this recognition," said Navy Command Master Chief Alfonso Rivera, command master chief of NEGB. "Roberson consistently brought out the best in himself and other Sailors."

Of the 40,000 Sailors, Roberson was chosen to appear before the selection board for his strong character and dedication to the mission at JTF Guantanamo, according to Rivera. Roberson distinguished himself by dealing with the stress of a difficult environment, Rivera said.

"It was an honor to come out of my job field and be named Sailor of the Quarter," said Roberson, a nuclear-trained petty officer. Roberson credited other JTF Troopers for their outstanding professionalism in carrying out the JTF mission. "Without the Troopers, there is no JTF mission. Troopers first, Troopers always," Roberson said.

Roberts, NEGB Blue Jacket of the Quarter winner, credited his command leadership and ongoing mentoring for his successful selection for the junior enlisted award.



Navy Machinist's Mate 1st Class Steven Roberson, with the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, peers into a cell of an unoccupied block in the detention facilities, March 4. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Matthew Campbell

"I am fortunate to have a strong chain of command pushing me forward to excellence," Roberts said. "The NEGB leadership deserves this recognition because of the exceptional training I received."

Roberts was noticed by his chain of command for his tireless work ethic, true professionalism and his distinctive "can do" attitude that inspires others to overcome challenges, said Rivera.

McAvoy demonstrated unparalleled

dedication to mission accomplishment and his work ethic and volunteer service helped in his selection as the Junior Sailor of the Year for NEGB, said Rivera.

"This is by far the most challenging command I have been assigned to," said McAvoy.

Providing ongoing training, mentorship and hands on leadership enabled McAvoy to excel in this high profile and demanding job, said Rivera. ✨

Camp Bulkeley Gym has new hours! The gym will now open at 8 a.m.*

**This change will be a three-month trial period to determine if enough gym-goers take advantage of the extended hours.*



NO Smoking
Smoking is
prohibited
at **ALL** movie
theaters.



Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion Chief Logistics Specialist (SW/AW) Derrick Branch peers over a group of more than 170 Navy petty officers 2nd class as he serves as a proctor for the Navy-wide Advancement Exam in the Windjammer Ballroom, March 4. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Athneil Thomas

Boots on the Ground

by Marine Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler and
Army Spc. Cody Black

With it being Women's Heritage Month, who is the most influential woman in your life?

**Air Force Senior Airman
Elizabeth Rodriguez**



"My mother, because she raised me by herself and is a very strong woman."

**Navy Boatswain's Mate 3rd
Class Allen White**



"My mom. She taught me about passion, creativity and how to be a good father to three daughters."

**Army Sgt.
John B. Sansone**



"My wife, because she is a strong woman to put up with me."

**Navy Lt.
Angela K. Kosko**



"Many women. Women before me set the example and it's my responsibility to continue for the next generation."

Choosing positive relationships



Air Force Lt. Col.

William Ferrell

JTF Command Chaplain

In the summer of 1966, the song “I Am a Rock,” by Simon and Garfunkel reached number three on the music charts in the United States.

If you look at some of the lyrics of the song; “I have no need of friendship, friendship causes pain,” or “If I never loved, I never would have cried,” and “I touch no one and no one touches me.”

You may wonder what made such a depressing song so popular. I think it was because Simon and Garfunkel were expressing something so many people could relate to – the pain of broken relationships.

Their solution was simply to not have any more. Each verse ended with the assertion, “I am a rock, I am an island,” and the song ended with the somber lines “And a rock feels no pain, and an island never cries.”

Relationships can be one of the biggest sources of pain and hurt in our lives.

The vast majority of people who come to me for counseling are in distress because of problems in some relationship. But the truth is, we can’t just cut ourselves off from any human contact and avoid the potential for pain and hurt.

Relationships pervade every aspect of our lives. But while it is true that relationships can cause problems and hurt, they can also be the biggest source of joy, comfort and peace in our lives.

In my experience, I have observed that a big factor in how someone’s life turns out is the relationships they choose.

For the past six years, my civilian job had me working with people who had addictions to alcohol or drugs. It was tragic to see the devastation that these problems caused in people’s lives. It amazed me how many times the root of their substance use goes back to the group of friends they chose

in junior high school.

It is vitally important to choose relationships that are positive and nurturing.

Long before Paul Simon wrote “I Am a Rock,” the poet John Donne wrote, “No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.”

Relationships do involve risk. We can’t control what other people do or how they behave. But we are vitally connected to the people around us and those we choose to invest our lives in.

Learning to choose positive relationships and managing our relationships well are key skills we need to develop to have a satisfying life.

If you are having problems in some relationship or would like some help in developing your relationship skills, the chaplains here would be glad to meet with you and help. ★

GTMO Religious Services

Daily Catholic Mass

Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m.

Main Chapel

Mon. - Fri. 12:30 p.m.

Troopers’ Chapel

Vigil Mass

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Main Chapel

Mass

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Main Chapel

Protestant Worship

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Troopers’ Chapel

Islamic Service

Friday 1:15 p.m.

Room C

Jewish Service

FMI call 2628

LORIMI Gospel

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Room D

Seventh Day Adventist

Saturday 11:00 a.m.

Room B

Iglesia Ni Cristo

Sunday 5:30 a.m.

Room A

Pentecostal Gospel

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Room D

LDS Service

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Room A

Liturgical Service

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Room B

General Protestant

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Main Chapel

United Jamaican

Fellowship

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Building 1036

Gospel Service

Sunday 1:00 p.m.

Main Chapel

GTMO Bay Christian

Fellowship

Sunday 6:00 p.m.

Main Chapel

Bible Study

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Troopers’ Chapel

The Truth Project

Bible study

Sunday 6:00 p.m.

Troopers’ Chapel

The Few and The Proud, at JTF-GTMO



Marine 1st Lt. Christopher Richardson, with the J-3, peers off into the distance. Richardson is one of approximately 10 Marines in the JTF. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

Marine Corps Lance Cpl.

Justin R. Wheeler

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Among the few and the proud exist an even smaller, but equally proud group; the Marine Corps officer.

The tenacity of the enlisted Marine bleeds over into that of the officer corps.

“My only answer as to why the Marines get the toughest jobs is because the average leatherneck is a much better fighter,” said former 2nd Lt. Richard Kennard during his battles in World War II. “He has far more guts, courage and better officers... These boys out here have a pride in the Marine Corps and will fight to the end no matter what the cost.”

Those values are what drove one Marine officer from the airman blue suit to that of the leatherneck.

Marine 1st Lt. Christopher Richardson, who works at Joint Task Force Guantanamo as one of approximately 10 other JTF Marines, and one of approximately five JTF Marine officers, has earned his 15 Minutes of Fame.

“While the Air National Guard does many things well, I wanted a more physical challenge and a regime of discipline I was not getting there,” Richardson said. “So, I decided to get a commission in the Corps.”

He said it’s interesting being one of the very few here at Guantanamo Bay.

“There aren’t many of us,” he said. “It’s good to see other Marines here.”

In this environment, Richardson works for J-3, operations. In that capacity, he has had to learn to speak the language of all the five services represented here.

15 Minutes of Fame

“It’s a good experience to work with other branches, to see how they operate and do business,” said Richardson.

In his nine years with the military, including four in the Air Guard, Richardson, as a Marine, has completed the 12 weeks of Marine Corps Officer Candidate School and the 26-week “Basic School” (TBS), where newly commissioned Marine second lieutenants are given extensive training on weapons, tactics, leadership and protocol.

He also went to Infantry Officers Course and Scout Sniper Platoon Commanders Course at Marine Corps Headquarters Quantico, Va., and Ground Intelligence course at Dam Neck, Va., before he arrived at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, his first Marine Corps duty station.

On Camp Lejeune, Marines are constantly being rotated through deployments to and from the Middle East, he said. There, he provided the commander’s staff with real-time ground intelligence on the area of operations.

Richardson, who became used to the fast pace of Marine Corps bases, notices a similar pace here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

“Our value of the mission here is very much like back at my active-duty base,” he said. “Everyone seems to be hitting on all cylinders all the time.”

He said despite being one of the less-

than-a-dozen Marines here, he’s very much a part of the team.

“I am glad to be contributing to mission success wherever the Joint Task Force command needs me,” Richardson said. “We’re all one team in the same fight.”

JTF Guantanamo consists of service members from the Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps. Richardson notices differences between the Marine Corps and the other branches of service.

“The Marine Corps has a distinctive culture,” he said.

Richardson considers Marines to be very disciplined and considers routine training to be very intense.

“We’re considered America’s 911, we are the first to fight,” he said.

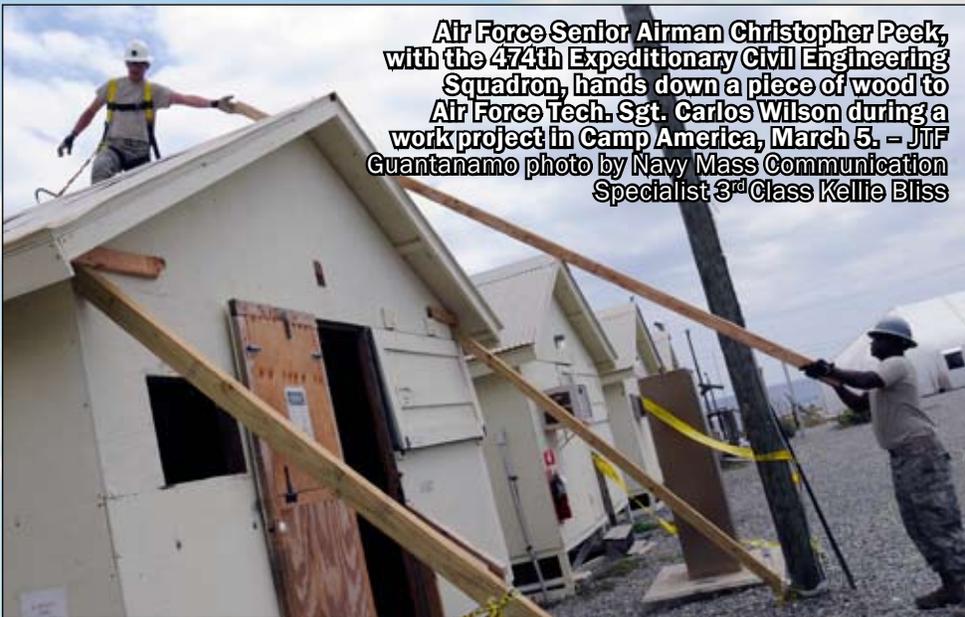
Richardson plays a part in today’s 911 force by acting as a first lieutenant, who serves as a buffer between high ranked Marines and lower ranking enlisted.

“We [lieutenants] give [lower enlisted Marines] the resources and training to accomplish the mission,” he said.

Richardson plans to continue benefitting from the Marine Corps by fulfilling his obligation of service while doing his best job wherever he is located. Now married, his long term goals are focused on his family rather than himself.

“I can’t think of what is best for me anymore, or what I would like to do,” said Richardson. “I have to think what is best for my new family.”

Richardson has defined selflessness with his actions and continues to be a hefty contributor to society and the Marine Corps. ★



Air Force Senior Airman Christopher Peek, with the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, hands down a piece of wood to Air Force Tech. Sgt. Carlos Wilson during a work project in Camp America, March 5. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kellie Bliss



Air Force Tech. Sgt. Eddie Morgan, with the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, welds a conduit box, March 3. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler



Coast Guard Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Michael A. Chapman (left) and Coast Guard Machinist's Mate 1st Class Robert J. Gasparas, with Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Maritime Safety Security Team 91103, overlook Guantanamo Bay as they conduct security operations, March 8. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black

**Around the
★
JTF**