

# W<sup>The</sup> WIRE

An award-winning  
JTF journal



# GOT HIM

What does  
this mean  
for the  
Joint Task  
Force?

Obama: bin Laden's death 'does not mark the end of our effort.'

# President Barack Obama's May 1, 2011 speech to the nation



Good evening. Tonight, I can report to the American people and to the world that the United States has conducted an operation that killed Osama bin Laden, the leader of al Qaeda, and a terrorist who's responsible for the murder of thousands of innocent men, women, and children.

It was nearly 10 years ago that a bright September day was darkened by the worst attack on the American people in our history. The images of 9/11 are seared into our national

memory -- hijacked planes cutting through a cloudless September sky; the Twin Towers collapsing to the ground; black smoke billowing up from the Pentagon; the wreckage of Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where the actions of heroic citizens saved even more heartbreak and destruction.

And yet we know that the worst images are those that were unseen to the world. The empty seat at the dinner table. Children who were forced to grow up without their mother or their father. Parents who would never know the feeling of their child's embrace. Nearly 3,000 citizens taken from us, leaving a gaping hole in our hearts.

On September 11, 2001, in our time of grief, the American people came together. We offered our neighbors a hand, and we offered the wounded our blood. We reaffirmed our ties to each other, and our love of community and country. On that day, no matter where we came from, what God we prayed to, or what race or ethnicity we were, we were united as one American family.

We were also united in our resolve to protect our nation and to bring those who committed this vicious attack to justice. We quickly learned that the 9/11 attacks were carried out by al Qaeda -- an organization headed by Osama bin Laden, which had openly declared war on the United States and was committed to killing innocents in our country and around the globe. And so we went to war against al Qaeda to protect our citizens, our friends, and our allies.

Over the last 10 years, thanks to the tireless and heroic work of our military and our counterterrorism professionals, we've made great strides in that effort. We've disrupted terrorist attacks and strengthened our homeland defense. In Afghanistan, we removed the Taliban government, which had given bin Laden and al Qaeda safe haven and support. And around the globe, we worked with our friends and allies to capture or kill scores of al Qaeda terrorists, including several who were a part of the 9/11 plot.

Yet Osama bin Laden avoided capture and escaped across the Afghan border into Pakistan. Meanwhile, al Qaeda continued to operate from along that border and operate through its affiliates across the world.

And so shortly after taking office, I directed Leon Panetta, the director of the CIA, to make the killing or capture of bin Laden the top priority of our war against al Qaeda, even as we continued our broader efforts to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat his network.

Then, last August, after years of painstaking work by our intelligence community, I was briefed on a possible lead to bin Laden. It was far from certain, and it took many months to run this thread to ground. I met repeatedly with my national security team as we developed more information about the possibility that we had located bin Laden hiding within a compound deep inside of Pakistan. And finally, last week, I determined that we had enough intelligence to take action, and authorized an operation to get Osama bin Laden and bring him to justice.

Today, at my direction, the United States launched a targeted operation against that compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. A small team of Americans carried out the operation with extraordinary courage and capability. No Americans were harmed. They took care to avoid civilian casualties. After a firefight, they killed Osama bin Laden and

took custody of his body.

For over two decades, bin Laden has been al Qaeda's leader and symbol, and has continued to plot attacks against our country and our friends and allies. The death of bin Laden marks the most significant achievement to date in our nation's effort to defeat al Qaeda.

Yet his death does not mark the end of our effort. There's no doubt that al Qaeda will continue to pursue attacks against us. We must -- and we will -- remain vigilant at home and abroad.

As we do, we must also reaffirm that the United States is not -- and never will be -- at war with Islam. I've made clear, just as President Bush did shortly after 9/11, that our war is not against Islam. Bin Laden was not a Muslim leader; he was a mass murderer of Muslims. Indeed, al Qaeda has slaughtered scores of Muslims in many countries, including our own. So his demise should be welcomed by all who believe in peace and human dignity.

Over the years, I've repeatedly made clear that we would take action within Pakistan if we knew where bin Laden was. That is what we've done. But it's important to note that our counterterrorism cooperation with Pakistan helped lead us to bin Laden and the compound where he was hiding. Indeed, bin Laden had declared war against Pakistan as well, and ordered attacks against the Pakistani people.

Tonight, I called President Zardari, and my team has also spoken with their Pakistani counterparts. They agree that this is a good and historic day for both of our nations. And going forward, it is essential that Pakistan continue to join us in the fight against al Qaeda and its affiliates.

The American people did not choose this fight. It came to our shores, and started with the senseless slaughter of our citizens. After nearly 10 years of service, struggle, and sacrifice, we know well the costs of war. These efforts weigh on me every time I, as Commander-in-Chief, have to sign a letter to a family that has lost a loved one, or look into the eyes of a service member who's been gravely wounded.

So Americans understand the costs of war. Yet as a country, we will never tolerate our security being threatened, nor stand idly by when our people have been killed. We will be relentless in defense of our citizens and our friends and allies. We will be true to the values that make us who we are. And on nights like this one, we can say to those families who have lost loved ones to al Qaeda's terror: Justice has been done.

Tonight, we give thanks to the countless intelligence and counterterrorism professionals who've worked tirelessly to achieve this outcome. The American people do not see their work, nor know their names. But tonight, they feel the satisfaction of their work and the result of their pursuit of justice.

We give thanks for the men who carried out this operation, for they exemplify the professionalism, patriotism, and unparalleled courage of those who serve our country. And they are part of a generation that has borne the heaviest share of the burden since that September day.

Finally, let me say to the families who lost loved ones on 9/11 that we have never forgotten your loss, nor wavered in our commitment to see that we do whatever it takes to prevent another attack on our shores.

And tonight, let us think back to the sense of unity that prevailed on 9/11. I know that it has, at times, frayed. Yet today's achievement is a testament to the greatness of our country and the determination of the American people.

The cause of securing our country is not complete. But tonight, we are once again reminded that America can do whatever we set our mind to. That is the story of our history, whether it's the pursuit of prosperity for our people, or the struggle for equality for all our citizens; our commitment to stand up for our values abroad, and our sacrifices to make the world a safer place.

Let us remember that we can do these things not just because of wealth or power, but because of who we are: one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Thank you. May God bless you. And may God bless the United States of America.



American-born Anwar al-Awlaki is one of the most influential terror leaders in Yemen (file photo)

## Bin Laden's legacy remains strong in Yemen

Voice of America News Service

Few places have seen Osama bin Laden's ideology take root as strongly as Yemen, the impoverished Arab nation that is the late al-Qaida leader's ancestral home.

Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula is one of the most active groups inspired by bin Laden. In recent years, it has been implicated in plots to bring down a U.S. airliner, send bombs via cargo planes, attack embassies and kill foreign nationals.

There are direct links to the main al-Qaida group, which claimed responsibility for the bombing of the American ship, USS Cole, in Yemen in 2000.

And according to Yemeni writer and political analyst Nasser Arrabyee, the local franchise may have even overtaken its predecessor.

"They have the same thought, the same

goals, the same methods. And maybe Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula is even more dangerous because of the Yemeni-American leader now - Anwar al-Awlaki."

The American-born Awlaki is seen as the face of a new generation of terrorists. The articulate English-speaker, considered an operational mastermind by the United States, is an Internet sensation, with his blog, YouTube videos and Facebook page attracting a loyal following worldwide.

That ease with social media was seen among other Yemeni extremists, who created Facebook pages honoring bin Laden just hours after his death was announced. For a while bin Laden had little to do with the local group, but he remains a powerful symbol.

Some in Yemen consider bin Laden a liberator, who lived and died a hero. The al-

Qaida leader is also thought as someone who stood against the unjust.

Right now, the unjust for al-Qaida supporters is the Yemeni government. And this is where, like many things in Yemen, the situation gets complicated.

The anti-government demonstrations that have roiled the country for months are for the most part a call for democracy and greater freedom. But they also offer al-Qaida an opening in a fragile state torn by tribal allegiances, a rebellion in the north and a secessionist movement in the south. Political analyst Arrabyee says extremists are only waiting for the right moment.

"Al-Qaida can only make a big victory when Yemen collapses into chaos and this is what al-Qaida is waiting [for] now. Al-Qaida has reduced a lot of its operations in order not to help President Saleh politically. So they are waiting for chaos, for a collapse in Yemen to grow more and more and to recruit more and more."

That puts Western countries, especially the United States, in a bind, as they try to balance popular demands against the Yemeni government's stated commitment to anti-terrorism.

Washington has made President Ali Abdullah Saleh a partner in fighting al-Qaida, and supports his government with military and financial aid. Saleh's detractors claim he overstates the terror threat - and his role in fighting it - to keep the backing of his foreign allies. Najeeb Ghanem is a member of the opposition in Yemen's parliament.

"We think the al-Qaida threat might be implemented by the Saleh regime to make some sort of intimidation of others, and using this for abusing of opposition heads and a lot of forces in Yemen."

Ghanem believes the best way out is to take the risk of political change.

"We think that the stabilizing system which is going to be alive after the success of the revolution will be able to deal with this challenge in Yemen. So we do not think we are going to face that dangerous threat by al-Qaida."

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**COVER: Late into the night of May 1, 2011, President Barack addressed the nation informing them the terrorist the country had sought for nearly a decade was killed in a U.S. Military operation in Pakistan.**

# News from the Bay

Stories and reporting by Spc. Meredith Vincent and  
Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Maddelin Angebrand

## Cardboard boat regatta sets sail this month

Get your team together, collect the cardboard and build a winning boat for this year's Cardboard Boat Regatta May 28 at Ferry Landing Beach.

Considered to be one of the most exciting events of the year, this free race is a must-see for everyone on base. There will be music, tents and drinks to keep competitors and patrons entertained and cool.

"The ideas that people come up with are amazing," said Cory Geiger, outdoor recreation director for Morale, Welfare and Recreation. "We've seen pirate ships, banana rat boats, tanks and a 40-foot paddling boat that had 20 people in it."

Waste no time – get your command together for a great team-building experience and compete against your rival commands in this year's regatta. Register at the MWR Marina and pick up the rule sheet for guidance on how to build a cardboard boat.

Awards will be given for "Best GTMO Boat," "Most Creative" and "Best Titanic." That's right – even if your team's boat sinks, it could still be a winner.

For more information, contact Geiger at x2345.

## Coffeehouse Series brews up second show

Morale, Welfare and Recreation invites Guantanamo Bay residents to wind down the week and relax with acoustic artist Shawna Sweeney and her drummer Shaen Huser. Sweeney is an accomplished performer and songwriter from Lake Worth, Fla., the second Coffeehouse Series performer to come here this year.

Three live shows are scheduled, starting May 13 from 7-10 p.m. at the Triple C Coffee Shop, May 14 from 8-11 p.m. at O'Kelly's Pub

and ending May 15 at the Bayview Club from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MWR started the Coffeehouse Series in February this year to offer a unique music experience on Guantanamo Bay.

"Due to the success of the initial show, we committed to hosting the series every quarter," shared Amiee MacDonnell, MWR community activities director.

According to her biography, Sweeney is a charismatic songstress with a gift for capturing hearts and ears everywhere she goes with her original song lyrics and rustic acoustic guitar.

Sweeney is often asked where she gets her song ideas from.

"To me it's sort of like dreaming; sometimes it's straightforward and other times, very abstract," said Sweeney. "Sometimes different elements come to mind that make you think, 'Whoa, where did that come from?'"

You can check out Sweeney's latest songs at <http://www.reverbnation.com/shaunasweeney> and come see her live this weekend!

For more information, contact MacDonnell at x4882.

## Pros tee up for GTMO's biggest golf event

Bring your "A" game to the Lateral Hazard Golf Course March 14-15 starting at 8 a.m. each day for the GTMO Open.

Price is \$30 per person and includes two rounds of golf, range balls and dinner at the Windjammer Café following the last round.

"The GTMO Open has a long history here and we're excited to really bring the event back to its glory days," said Cory Geiger Outdoor Recreation Director for MWR.

The Callaway scoring system will determine winners based on two-day cumulative scores. Over \$1000 in prizes will be awarded for men's and women's division top finishers.

"The two-day event is a great opportunity to get out and enjoy the course, friends and the challenge of playing competitive golf," said Geiger. "We hold several golf events during the

year, but this is our biggest golf event of the year."

For more information, contact Geiger at x2345.

## Troopers, spouses treated with night out

Recognizing military couples for their support, Morale Recreation and Welfare is inviting servicemembers and their spouses to treat themselves with local island band "Sounds Like Chicken," playing from 7-9 p.m., and free appetizers at the Tiki Bar May 6.

Maggie Luttrell, the event coordinator, spent 20 years in the Navy and is proud to welcome all spouses out for a night of relaxation and well-deserved enjoyment.

"I know that our military members could absolutely not do the job in defending our country and freedom without the spouses' support of taking care of their family and homes while they are away," said Luttrell.

Luttrell hopes to see you and your spouse there this Friday at 7 p.m.

"What could be better than being outside enjoying free entertainment and food with your spouse under the Caribbean sky?" Luttrell asked.

For more information, contact Luttrell at x2046.

## Trooper Chapel offers financial assistance

The 13-week Financial Peace University will commence classes, Monday, May 16, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Trooper Chapel.

"This course equips military personnel with the tools to completely pay off debt and build wealth," said Joint Task Force Guantanamo Command Chaplain, Air Force Lt. Col. Marvin Williams. "It empowers individuals to pursue financial freedom."

For more information, contact Williams at x2305.



## Don't send work-related material to personal email accounts!

Free e-mail accounts are a great thing to have when used properly. You ever wonder why they are free? If you were to compare the security that your bank uses versus what G-mail, Yahoo or Hotmail uses to protect personal information, there really wouldn't be any comparison. Banks spend millions of dollars to thwart hackers – do you think those free websites do? We don't send work-related material to personal e-mail accounts because they are not secure.

# Boots on the Ground Expanded Edition

# JTF TROOPERS REMEMBER 9/11



"I had just walked into my 7th grade science class. They had the TV on and I thought it was a movie."

Senior Airman  
Karie Quenette



"We were at a port visit in Guam and I was on the pier."

Machinist's Mate 1st Class  
Christopher Coleman



"I was building a house close to St. Louis when I found out."

Religious Programs  
Specialist 3rd Class  
Jeffery Lauber



"I was at Fort Leavenworth in the basement of the United States Disciplinary Barracks watching it on TV."

Sgt. 1st Class  
Alex Hedges



"I was in Washington D.C. at Bolling Air Force Base working out at the gym, and I was shocked. Immediately I got nervous and thought about the Troops."

Army Sgt.  
Tracy Marie Jackson



"I was in middle school in keyboarding class and I didn't understand what was going on. A lot of people were freaking out. No one knew that it was a terrorist attack at that point."

Aviation Machinist's Mate  
3rd Class Timothy Massey



"I was going onboard the USS Heron on a training day. I went into the conference room and we watched as the second plane hit the towers. We went into full lockdown."

Yeoman 1st Class  
John Palacios



"I was at a Guard Unit in Jacksonville, Florida. It was my first day and I was fixing somebody's computer in the operations center and saw it on the TV."

Air Force Captain  
Danielle Wren



"On the USS John F. Kennedy doing work-ups off the coast of North Carolina. At first we thought it was part of our training exercise."

Commander  
John Rhodes



"I was just coming on to active duty from the Reserves at Dover Air Force Base."

Air Force Staff Sgt.  
Corey Stokes



"I was in my 7th grade math class in New Jersey and I could see the smoke from my classroom."

Machinist Technician 2nd  
Class William Hernandez



"I was working in Puerto Rico. I was one of the first ones to call my unit and volunteer to help."

Army Sgt.  
Rodriguez Neftali

# TROOPER FOCUS

## Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Corey Smith

Spc. Kelly Gary

After losing all his possessions in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, hospital corpsman 2nd Class Corey Smith, was looking for a new start and soon thereafter enlisted in the Navy.

"I wanted to move toward the medical field and [the Navy] was a good opportunity to do that," said Smith.

Smith, laboratory technician for the Joint Medical Group, said healthcare is something he was always interested in but never had the opportunity to pursue.

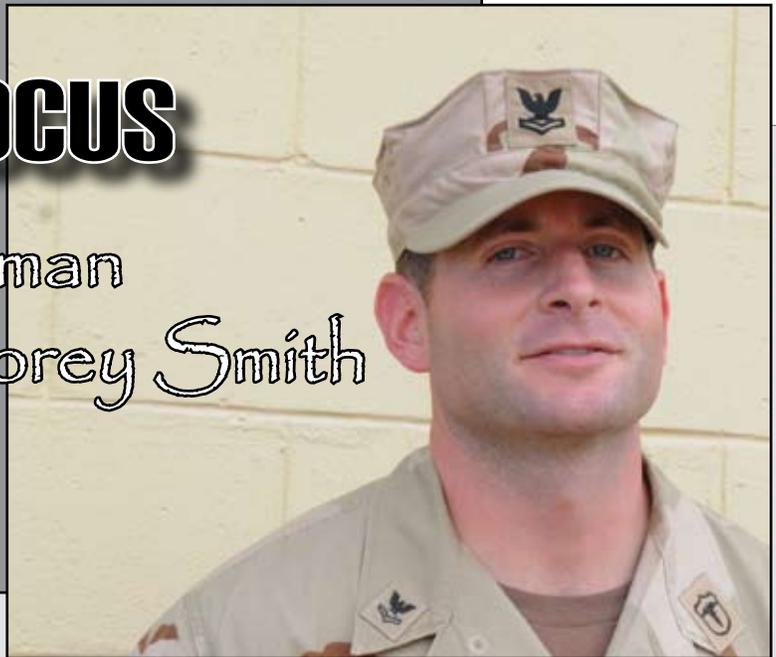
The Navy gave Smith that opportunity – he took full advantage of it and his senior leadership said it shows in his work.

"[Smith] values his job," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class James Frymire, lead petty officer for JMG supply. "He is committed to the mission, he is committed to the Navy, and he is committed to himself."

On top of his regular workload, Smith responds to after-hours calls from the camps and is ready 24-7 to get up and go. In addition, Smith is working on his masters degree in Public Administration, having already received his bachelors in Sports Administration.

When he is not working or studying for a test, Smith talks to his family back home. He also supports Morale, Welfare and Recreation events such as the numerous 5ks and the JMG flag football team. Even though he does not play himself, he offers his support. As a command fitness leader, he helps his peers and junior sailors get in shape.

"I think it helps people deal with their stress," Smith said about physical training.



"We have people who are boxers, runners and swimmers and bringing that together is cool because everyone can learn from each other."

As a CFL and a warden for Camp America, Smith makes sure he is there for his junior Sailors.

"He is a great role model," Frymire said. "The junior sailors and peers see him as a leader."

Smith said he strives to lead but follows a simple philosophy.

"I mainly just try to lead by example first," explained Smith. "Then, be a sponge and take leadership traits from everyone above me and apply them."

Soaking up a great deal of these traits and applying them, Smith is still humble in his approach.

"I just try to pass on knowledge I get through my experiences," Smith said.

Even though this is his first deployment he has already outlined his primary objective. Smith said he wants to help everyone come together, move toward the common goal and complete the mission. As for his own goals, Smith said he hopes to pick up first class soon and maybe put in an officers packet in the future.

"I think I have a little more that I could be

### Bullet Bio

**Pet peeves:** lack of punctuality

**Next goal:** get an A in current Ethics class

**Advice to junior Troopers:** "Regardless if you are going to be in for 20 [years] or plan on getting out, just keep working and moving forward."

giving," said Smith.

Frymire said he wishes to see potential leaders such as Smith move up in the ranks.

"I see him becoming an officer and excelling," he said

## JTF GTMO Troopers take Southern Enlisted Person of the Year honors

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel

Two Joint Task Force Troopers, Master-at-Arms 1st Class John Lukosus and Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Dwain Pemberton were recognized as SouthCom's Senior and Junior Enlisted person of the Year during a ceremony at SouthCom Headquarters in Florida, April 28.

"Both these Sailors demonstrated exceptional performance in the areas of leadership, job proficiency



**Master-at-Arms 1st Class  
John Lukosus**

and personal conduct," said Rear Adm. Jeffery Harbeson, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Commander in a statement.

The two MAs matched-up against servicemembers from 10 other regions within SouthCom and were awarded Joint Service Commendation Medals.

Both Sailors took part in a rigorous series of Trooper of the Quarter and Trooper of the Year boards to earn the right to compete at the SouthCom level.



**Master-at-Arms 2nd Class  
Dwain Pemberton**



**Dr. J – aka Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Justin Ailes – chuckles at a listener request alongside DJ Funkenstein (Landon Rosenthal) Monday during Radio GTMO's RadioThon.**

## Seventh annual RadioThon rocks airwaves

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel

Don't touch that dial. We interrupt your regularly-scheduled programming to bring you the 2011 Radio GTMO RadioThon. The annual, week-long rock for relief event raises money and awareness for the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society by allowing listeners an opportunity to play program director from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. - for a fee.

Founded in 1904, NMCRS is a private, non-profit charitable organization dedicated to helping servicemembers in times of

financial need. Through its 250 offices ashore and afloat, NMCRS offers interest-free loans to Sailors and Marines in financial distress as well as financial counseling, thrift shops and other educational services around the world.

"Our goal is to raise \$38,000 this year," said Intelligence Analyst First Class Jonathan Murray, this year's fund-raising coordinator.

Through efforts such as the RadioThon and other fund-raising events, Naval Station Guantanamo took top honors in the Southeast Region last year, raising just over \$42,000. "With the reduction in numbers of servicemembers around the base, we set our

goal a little lower this year but feel we can reach that."

"This is an organization that is all about helping Sailors and Marines, especially younger servicemembers who find themselves in some sort of financial trouble," Murray elaborated. "And 100 percent of the funds raised during this campaign goes directly to the society -- there is no administrative fees or other overhead."

Doing their part to help in the effort is the staff of Radio GTMO who, starting Monday, manned the mikes for eight hours a day playing listener requests \$1 at a time. With just over \$4,000 raised during last year's RadioThon, the yearly event represents a significant chunk of the total fund-raising dollars.

"For a dollar, listeners can call in and request a song," said station officer in charge Norman Corliss, a first class interior communications electrician.

But, as Corliss explained, the dollar a hit was just one of several options available.

"Say someone plays a song you want off the air," he continued. "For an additional dollar you can have that song bumped."

As if on queue, a voice goes out across the airwaves noting the previously playing track, Culture Club's "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me" was just knocked off the air and Blondie's "One Way or Another" launches with its you-know-it-the-minute-you-hear-it guitar intro.

The real money makers however, Corliss said, are the repeater songs – songs played

**see RADIO, page 23**

## Ongoing Camp America renovation keeps Seabees busy building, bonding

Story and photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Maddelin Angebrand

Forklifts, hammers and nails are a few of the many tools used by Navy Seabees to create the very structures we work and live in here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Without the sweat, strength and determination of these professionals we could be living and working in tents. And guess what – the Seabees build those, too!

From building schools in third-world countries to designing bases on the war fronts of Iraq and Afghanistan, Seabees do a wide array of construction projects. Navy Mobile Construction Battalion

28 is JTF's powerhouse of builders, equipment operators, electricians and utilitiesman. Right now, this group is working hard clearing out old sea huts and making room for newer facilities, such as the new Club Survivor located inside Camp America.

NMCB 28 Seabees are breaking a sweat day-in and day-out tearing down the old weather-beaten buildings that are not only in the way of new construction projects, but also pose a hazard.

"These huts are not hurricane worthy – we've got to get them out of here," said Equipment Operator 1st Class Robin Staser, a NMCB 28 supervisor. "Although we haven't had a hurricane here in about 10 years, we want to get

this done as quickly as we can before hurricane season."

Staser has been a Seabee with NMCB 28 for 15 years and said the camaraderie of her unit

is what makes these projects successful.

**see SEABEES page 23**



**Equipment Operator 1st Class Robin Staser operates a forklift to move scrap pieces of sheet metal during a demolition project at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, April 26.**



*April Peter* is among many military spouses often looking for ways to stay connected with their loved ones during deployment. Her husband, Master-at-Arms 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Matthew Peter, is a Naval Station security member has been stationed on Guantanamo Bay for over a year now.

“My little motto is ‘keep your hero close,’” said April. “So, no matter where they are, you can keep a piece of them with you.”

A few years ago, that philosophy combined with inspiration when April saw a girl wearing a bracelet made out of a military nametape. This was all it took for April to start making accessories out of her husband’s old uniform material. She created a Facebook page and called the burgeoning young business “Keep Your Hero Close.”

Soon people began requesting personalized orders and April found herself at the busy end of a needle and thread. Elated at the overwhelming interest, she started sewing right away - all by hand.

“I learned really quickly how much pride spouses have for the military when these bracelets came out,” said Matthew. “She was sending out 15 bracelets every week!”

Within the first month, April had 75 orders to fill and was still sewing by hand. Purchasing a sewing machine was a logical next step.

“I took half the donations people had given me for the bracelets and saved up the other half of the money,” said April. “Now, things have really taken off.”

With the sewing machine set up in her dining room, April can be more creative. She now ventures out by designing customized handbags, wallets, tissue holders and key chains, all made of unwanted military uniform material.

Knowing his wife is always looking for more material, Matthew must keep a close eye on his uniforms.

“You gotta be careful,” Matthew laughed. “You’ll come in the house with a blouse and leave with a purse! I bought some used BDUs the other day and the top has mysteriously disappeared - I think I saw it on her arm yesterday.”

Not all the fabrics April uses are from uniform items. She adds a little edge to her designs by using old sheets, shirts and on-sale fabrics as lining and decoration to her self-made accessories. She also keeps drawers full of buttons, which are used on many bracelets as closure pieces.

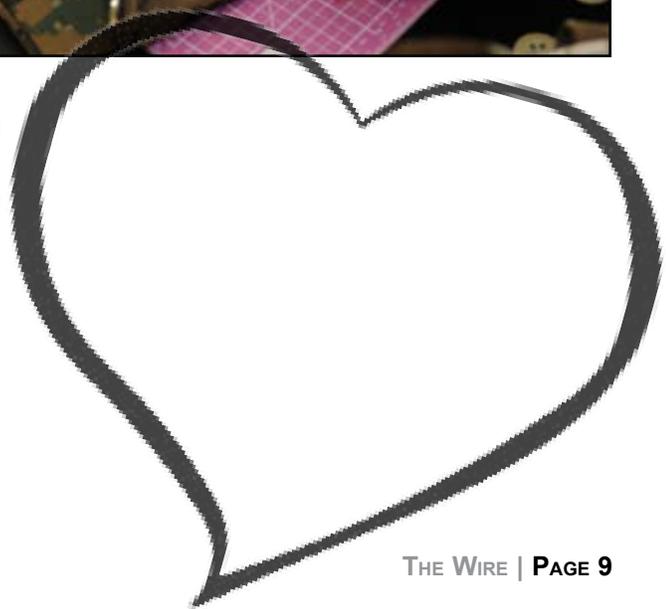
April’s passion for sewing put her husband’s old BDUs to good use when the Navy switched to Navy Working Uniforms. She explained the cargo pockets remain functional when needed, and she never throws away a sliver of fabric.

“Instead of collecting dust in a closet, why not make good use out of the fabric?” she asked. “And at the same time put a smile on someone’s face!”

To donate old uniforms to “Keep Your Hero Close” or to see April’s latest military inspired creations, visit her website [mymilitaryheart.com](http://mymilitaryheart.com).



**(top) April Peter sews pieces of military uniforms together to create her latest design, April 28. April works out of her home, sewing and stitching a variety of accessories (bottom) for military spouses and families.**



**T**he weather was decidedly cooperative Saturday as servicemembers, residents and families gathered at Ferry Landing Beach for Morale, Recreation and Welfare's Day at the Bay to celebrate the Month of the Military Child.

"We really wanted to celebrate the military child because they serve, too," said Chris Dickson, school liaison officer for the Child and Youth Program. "It's important to remember your military family and support them."

Booths sporting T-shirts, wristbands, frisbees, beach balls and other giveaways beckoned attendees. Miami's Maritime Safety Security Team 91114 displayed one of their Coast Guard boat crafts, inviting admirers onboard to inspect the vessel while kayaks, paddle boats and other water activities were available to participants free of charge for

the day. In all, more than a dozen vendors and groups donated their time, goods and services for the event.

"There were many departments involved across the base that pulled together to make this event a success," said MWR Community Activities Director Amiee MacDonnell.

MacDonnell said she estimated more than 500 people stopped by Ferry Landing throughout the day.

"We were quite pleased with the attendance," she said. "We heard positive feedback all day ... and [about] the desire for more family-friendly events in the community."

Dickson said cooperation and teamwork played an essential part in making the day happen.

"Like with most things that are a success it's collaboration," he acknowledged. "It's working together and [providing] a sense

of community. Everyone has brought something to make this possible."

Two main draws for crowds were the appearance of "Reptile Man" Dr. Peter Tolson, who showed off plenty of creepy, crawly and furry critters (see sidebar); and the Caribbean Chillers, a Jimmy Buffett tribute band visiting from Florida.

"The Caribbean Chillers were very honored to be here in GTMO to play for the Troopers," Amiee said. "[They] asked to return and play again in the future."

Seeing the results after weeks of preparation was a relief to Dickson and his team.

"It's one thing to have a plan on a piece of paper, but to see it fleshed out and manifest itself and become real, that's the cool part," he said. "I keep on hearing people say 'hey, by the way - great day, it was a lot of fun!' That makes you feel like it was worth it."

# DAY AT THE BAY



A toddler meets her match against a beach ball during the Day at the Bay event celebrating the Month of the Military Child, held Saturday at Ferry Landing Beach. - photo by Spc. Meredith Vincent



Pebbles and sand announce MWR's Day at the Bay celebration at Ferry Landing Beach, Saturday. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Maddelin Angebrand



Participants find a beat on the beach at Ferry Landing. Jimmy Buffett tribute band the Caribbean Chillers also provided musical entertainment. - photo by Spc. Meredith Vincent



Two young boys inspect the inside of a Coast Guard vessel. Members of Miami's Maritime Safety Security Team 91114 were on hand to guide onlookers around the water craft and answer any questions. - photo by Spc. Meredith Vincent

## ‘Reptile Man’ shows off slimy, slithery friends

Story and photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Maddelin Angebrand

A team of visiting biologists showcased a variety of Cuban wildlife for servicemembers and their families, Saturday, during Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Day at the Bay Celebration on Ferry Landing Beach.

During the presentation Dr. Peter Tolson, director of conservation and research at the Toledo Zoo in Toledo, Ohio, allowed audience members to get up close and personal with different critters found here on Guantanamo Bay, ranging from a tarantula spider to a ten-foot Cuban boa constrictor.

"I was surprised at how much time they took to show us each

animal," said Yeoman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Denise Dalton, attached to Joint Task Force Guantanamo. "It was neat to pet the snake in a controlled setting, otherwise I would run!"

The Toledo Zoo has two co-operative projects with the Navy; one is a study of habitat selection and life history for the Cuban boa while the other monitors the population of Cuban ground iguanas.

"These species are very common on base and we have more here than anywhere else on the island," said Tolson. "Elsewhere, many are killed and eaten."

Tolson brings his team of biologists to Guantanamo Bay twice a year to conduct research. He attributes the large boa and iguana populations to the Navy's dedicated preservation of wildlife inside the fence line.

"The Navy has shown to be wonderful hosts to the wildlife that inhabit a DOD installation like GTMO," shared Tolson. "They take our research and use it to protect the animals that live on the base with you guys."

Tolson said snakes are very secretive and usually only come out at night, making them difficult to study. The Army veterinarian staff on base helps with the data collection.

"We work with the Army vets to insert radio transmitters into the snakes," said Tolson. "It gives each one its own frequency like a radio station."

By using a directional antenna, Tolson and his team follow the snakes on a daily basis to see what kinds of habitats they live in. They can also determine which boas are chosen as mates and where they go to deliver their offspring.

This extensive research not only helps the Navy protect the animals, but is also used by different agencies to aide studies of other endangered snake species.



Dr. Peter Tolson presents a Cuban boa constrictor to the crowd, Saturday, during MWR's Day at the Bay.

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers watch as President Barack Obama announces the death of Al-Qaida chieftain, Osama bin Laden, May 1 after an operation conducted by U.S. Special Operations Forces.



# Justice has b

## Intelligence, operations team up for bin Laden kill

Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press

The plan to attack the compound of 9/11 mastermind Osama bin Laden was the result of relentless intelligence work and

operational professionalism, White House officials, speaking on background, said Monday morning.

The operation was the culmination of years of careful and highly advanced intelligence work, officials said, as officers from the CIA, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency worked as a team to analyze and pinpoint the Pakistani compound where bin Laden was killed.

Once the intelligence pointed precisely to the compound in Abbottabad — a town 35 miles north of Pakistan's capital of Islamabad — the work on the mission began between the intelligence and military communities.

“In the end, it was the matchless skill and courage of these

Americans that secured this triumph for our country and the world,” one official said.

A small team conducted the helicopter raid on the compound. An official called it a complex operation, noting that the compound was a virtual fortress — built in 2006 with high walls, razor wire and other defense features. Its suburban location and proximity to Islamabad complicated the operation, the official said.

“The men who executed this mission accepted this risk, practiced to minimize those risks, and understood the importance of the target to the national security of the United States,” he said. “This operation was a surgical raid by a small team designed to minimize collateral damage and to pose as little risk as possible to noncombatants on the compound or to Pakistani civilians in the neighborhood.”

U.S. helicopters delivered the team to the compound, and the team was on the ground for less than 40 minutes, an official said. They did not encounter any local authorities. In addition to bin Laden, three adult males were killed in the raid.

One of the U.S. helicopters was lost at the compound due to mechanical failure. The crew destroyed it on the ground, and the assault force and crew members boarded the remaining aircraft to



Thousands of revelers descended upon ground zero in New York City, May 1 after learning the mastermind of the 9-11 attacks was killed earlier that day in a military operation.



# been done.

leave, an official said.

“There’s also no doubt that the death of Osama bin Laden marks the single greatest victory in the U.S.-led campaign to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al-Qaida,” the official said. “It is a major and essential step in bringing about al-Qaida’s eventual destruction.”

Though the organization’s terrorists still are dangerous and al-Qaida may not fragment immediately, an official said, “the loss of bin Laden puts the group on a path of decline that will be difficult to reverse.”

The United States did not share any intelligence on the raid with any other country, the official said.

“We believed it was essential to the security of the operation and our personnel,” he said. “In fact, only a very small group of people inside our own government knew of this operation in advance.” Shortly after the raid, he added, U.S. officials contacted senior Pakistani leaders and told them about the raid and its results.

“Since 9/11, the United States has made it clear to Pakistan that we would pursue bin Laden wherever he might be,” the official said. “Pakistan has long understood that we are at war with al-Qaida. The United States had a legal and moral obligation to act on the information it had.”



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO  
U.S. NAVAL BASE, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA  
APO AE 09360

JTF-GTMO-CDR

2 May 2011

## MEMORANDUM FOR JTF-GTMO

Our nation felt a tremendous sense of accomplishment this week when President Obama told the world that after years of painstaking effort, the United States had located Osama bin Laden and brought him to justice. The leader of some of the most vicious terrorist attacks in history will never again plot harm for the United States or our allies.

This has been a difficult decade. Some of you in the Task Force were still in grade school on that terrible day in 2001. Others of you were just starting your military service, not realizing the threat or challenges you would face. We were cautioned in the days after the 9/11 attacks that this was a war like no other. It would not end with a formal surrender or a signed document.

It’s very tempting to see the death of bin Laden as an endpoint.

It is not.

Our job is not done. There are ongoing combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and we still hold 172 detainees and convicted prisoners. As our nation continues in our efforts to combat and eliminate violent extremism, we must always remain vigilant. We will also continue to provide the highest standards of safe, humane, legal and transparent care for detainees in our custody.

This recent success was accomplished due to the dedicated efforts of many Americans, both military and civilian. Most of them, the public will never recognize by name. In the same way, each of you quietly and professionally performs a vital mission under equally challenging circumstances.

I thank each of you for your efforts, here and in other commands where you may have served. Our achievements to date are because of the dedication of hundreds of thousands of men and women like you, who answered the nation’s call to duty and serve with the highest standards of pride and professionalism. May that dedication continue to carry us forward until violent extremism and all that it represents is merely an ugly footnote in history, and our nation knows peace once more.

JEFFREY HARBESON  
RDML U.S. Navy  
Commander



U.S. service members watch President Barack Obama talk on television about the details of the death of 9/11 mastermind, Osama bin Laden on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, May 2.  
-Photo by U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Schester



# MAY 1, 2011: A CHAPTER CL

**“Today we are reminded that as a nation, there's nothing we can't do when we put our shoulders to the wheel, when we work together. And we remember the sense of unity that defines us as Americans.”**

-President Barack Obama





President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and members of the national security team, including Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, far right, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, standing, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, receive an update on the mission against Osama bin Laden in the Situation Room of the White House, May 1. A classified document seen in this photograph has been obscured. White House photo by Pete Souza

# OPERATIONS, AN EFFORT CONTINUES



A crowd gathers in Times Square as news of the death of Osama bin Laden reached the nation, May 1.

# 3,000 Guard members respond to disasters

Rob McIlvaine  
Armed Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va., – About 3,000 National Guard members were responding to weather-related domestic disasters in 11 states on Friday, many in tornado-ravaged Alabama, while hundreds still tackled rising waters in North Dakota, the epicenter of flooding now challenging seven states.

In Alabama, Arkansas and Mississippi, tornadoes killed and injured people and destroyed property; in Texas, drought fueled wildland fires; in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota and Tennessee, swollen rivers either escaped their banks or threatened to do so.

The rash of domestic weather-related responses seemed unlikely to abate any time soon: Officials are watching the Mississippi River and Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour warned of potential major flooding.

More than 300 people are dead after more than 160 tornadoes swept through seven Southern states midweek in the worst natural disaster to hit the nation since Hurricane Katrina.

Thousands of people were injured, many more rendered homeless and at one point at least 1 million people were without power after the tornado swarm inflicted damages estimated in the billions of dollars, according to news reports.

It was the deadliest tornado swarm since 310 people were killed in 1974.

About 1,100 Guard members were on duty in Alabama today, and the governor has authorized up to 2,000. President Barack Obama, who on Friday declared a major disaster in Alabama, was visiting damaged areas today. Guard missions included search and rescue, security, transportation and road clearing, National Guard Bureau officials reported.

The National Weather Service today reported that it rated one 205-mph, half-mile-wide tornado that struck Mississippi on Wednesday that state's first EF-5 tornado since 1966 and predicted more of the tornadoes that struck the South will receive the same damage rating -- the highest.

About 40 Guard members were providing traffic control points, security assistance and communications support in Mississippi.

More than 50 Airmen were among the 72 Guard members helping Arkansas residents recovering from tornado damage, providing security, patrolling roads, delivering water and performing search and rescue functions.

"We're doing all of this while we're also deploying Airmen to support the overseas war effort, while our day-to-day mission continues uninterrupted," said Air Force Col. Jim Summers, 189th Airlift Wing commander.

"This is a prime example of how flexible our Air National Guard is, but it takes the support of employers and a Guardsman's family for it to continue to work. I can't say enough about how employers and families have stepped up."

A handful of Tennessee Guard members were providing aerial damage reconnaissance. In that state, Guard officials said the tornadoes had contributed to Mississippi River flooding. Tennessee Air National Guard aircraft were damaged by hail and wind Thursday, Guard officials reported.

High Red River levels affected North Dakota, where some Guard members have been on duty for more than three weeks and 311 remained on duty today.

North Dakota Guard quick reaction forces placed thousands of sandbags to protect homes. Guard members also patrolled dikes and staffed traffic control points.

Working with the Guard "has been nothing but positive," Rick Schock, a city contractor, told a North Dakota Guard member. "They've been a great assistance to us."

Some 680 Guard members were on duty in Missouri, including 563 sandbagging, monitoring levees and roads, assisting evacuees and supporting law enforcement and 115 responding to damage that hit especially close to Guard members: An estimated \$10 million

or more in tornado damage to Missouri Air National Guard facilities at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport.

About 377 Illinois Guard members were assisting civilian authorities with route reconnaissance, levee surveillance, water deliveries and maintenance.

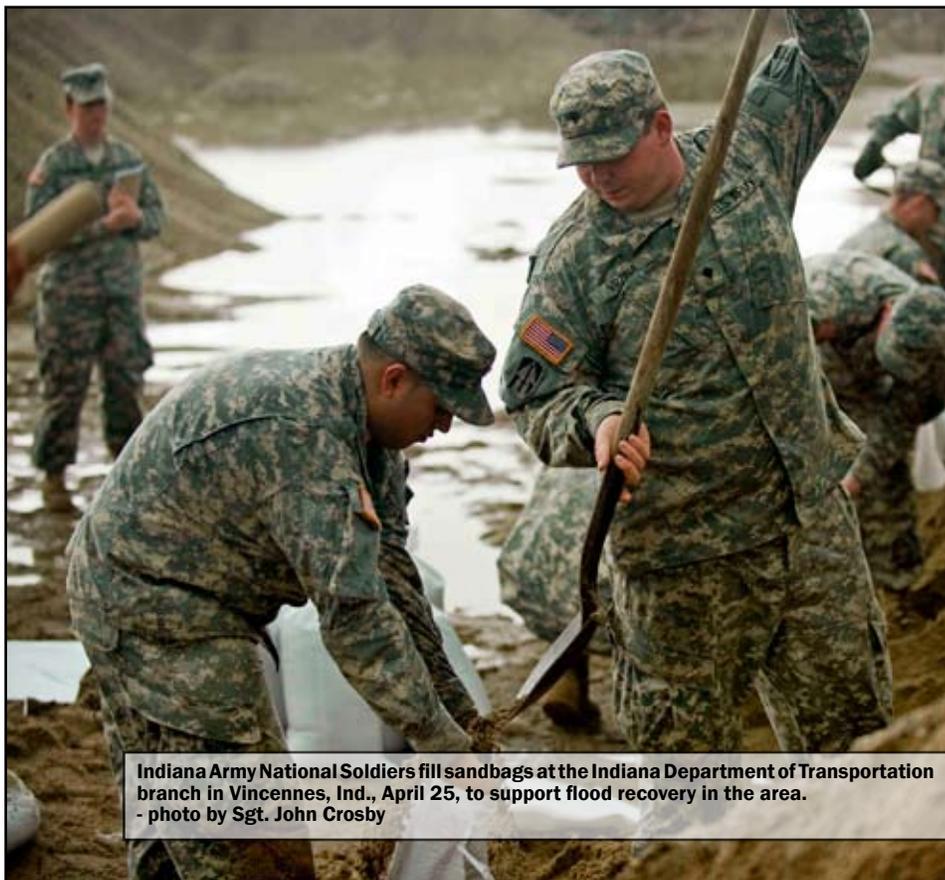
"In addition to their military responsibilities, our Soldiers and Airmen are also committed to their careers and families, so I am impressed with their rapid response to the governor's call," said Maj. Gen. William Enyart, Illinois' adjutant general.

Another 213 were on duty in flood-related operations in Indiana and 15 in Minnesota.

About 128 Kentucky Guard members tackled Ohio River flooding -- building barriers, filling sandbags and supporting civilian law enforcement authorities.

"I want to express my appreciation for what the Guard does," farmer Mike Gustafson told a North Dakota Guard member. "The effort makes it comfortable for people who are dealing with the stress and the issues that could result from a catastrophic problem."

"It's sometimes so easy to take for granted what they do, not only throughout the world for security, freedom of the lifestyle we live, but those things they do at the community level and the presence of them here is extremely appreciated."



Indiana Army National Soldiers fill sandbags at the Indiana Department of Transportation branch in Vincennes, Ind., April 25, to support flood recovery in the area. - photo by Sgt. John Crosby



# Navy to christen guided-missile destroyer Michael Murphy

Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – The Navy will christen the newest guided-missile destroyer, Michael Murphy, Saturday, during a 10 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time ceremony at General Dynamics Bath Iron Works, Bath, Maine.

The new destroyer honors Navy SEAL (Sea, Air, Land) Lt. Michael P. Murphy who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during Operation Red Wings in Afghanistan June 28, 2005.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead will deliver the ceremony’s principal address. Maureen Murphy will serve as sponsor of the ship named for her late son. In accordance with Navy tradition, she will break a bottle of champagne across the ship’s bow to formally christen the ship.

Murphy led a four-man team tasked with finding a key Taliban leader in the mountainous terrain near Asadabad, Afghanistan, when they came under fire from a much larger enemy force with superior tactical position. Mortally wounded while exposing himself to enemy fire, Murphy knowingly left his position of cover to get a clear signal in order to communicate with his headquarters. While being shot at repeatedly, Murphy calmly provided his unit’s location and requested immediate support for his element. He returned to his cover position to continue the fight until finally succumbing to his wounds.

Designated DDG 112, Michael Murphy,



the 62nd Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, will be able to conduct a variety of operations, from

peacetime presence and crisis management to sea control and power projection. Michael Murphy will be capable of fighting air, surface and subsurface battles simultaneously and will contain a myriad of offensive and defensive weapons designed to support maritime warfare in keeping with “A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower.”

Cmdr. Thomas E. Shultz, a native of El Cajon, Calif., is the prospective commanding officer of the ship and will lead the crew of 279 officers and enlisted personnel. The 9,200-ton Michael Murphy is being built by General Dynamics Bath Iron Works. The ship is 509 feet in length, has a waterline beam of 59 feet, and a navigational draft of 31 feet. Four gas turbine engines will power the ship to speeds in excess of 30 knots.

For more information on Michael Murphy, visit <http://www.facebook.com/USSMichaelMurphy/>.

Media may direct queries to the Navy Office of Information at 703-697-5342. Additional information on Arleigh Burke class destroyers is available online [http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact\\_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=900&ct=4](http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=900&ct=4).

## Osama Bin Laden Buried at Sea

Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Osama bin Laden received a Muslim ceremony as he was buried at sea, a senior defense official said in Washington, D.C., Monday.

The religious rites were performed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) in the North Arabian Sea and occurred within 24 hours of the terrorist leader’s death, said the official.

“Preparations for at-sea [burial] began at 1:10 a.m. Eastern Standard Time and were completed at 2 a.m.,” said the official.

The burial followed traditional Muslim burial customs, and bin Laden’s body was washed and placed in a white sheet, said the official.

“The body was placed in a weighted bag. A military officer read prepared religious remarks, which were translated into Arabic by a native speaker,” the official added.

Afterward, bin Laden’s body was placed onto a flat board, which was then elevated upward on one side and the body slid off into the sea.

The deceased terrorist was buried at sea because no country would accept bin Laden’s remains, a senior defense official said.

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Defense Department officials are sure it was the body of bin Laden. CIA specialists compared photos of the body with known photos of bin Laden and said with 95-percent certainty it was the terrorist leader, a senior intelligence official said.

In addition, bin Laden’s wife identified the al-Qaida leader by name while the strike team was still in the compound, said the intelligence official.

CIA and other specialists in the intelligence community “performed the initial DNA analysis matching a virtually 100-percent DNA match of the body against the DNA of several of bin Laden’s family members,” the official added.



## INSIDE THE JAR

# Marines with concussion, MTBI may qualify for Purple Heart

Capt. Patrick Boyce  
Manpower & Reserve Affairs

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — No one steps foot into the combat zone in hopes to be wounded. But it's a fact that some Marines in combat will be wounded or injured as a result of enemy action, with many of the Marines being eligible for award of the Purple Heart.

A recent decision by the commandant of the Marine Corps has expanded the number of Marines who will now be eligible for the Purple Heart when they suffer a mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) or concussion caused by enemy action.

Mild traumatic brain injuries, which can be caused by a blast or blow to the head, will now qualify for the Purple Heart if a medical officer makes a disposition that the Marine is not fit for full duty for more than 48 hours due to the persistent signs, symptoms, or findings of impairment from the concussion, provided the disposition was made within seven days of the event.

Under the Marine Corps' revised criteria announced in Marine Administrative Message 245/11 on April 15, the Marine Corps will no longer limit award of the Purple Heart for mild traumatic

brain injury or concussions solely to those cases where the Marine lost consciousness.

This change is retroactive to the start of the Global War On Terrorism, which began Sept. 11, 2001.

The two basic eligibility requirements for award of the Purple Heart established in executive order and Department of Defense regulations remain unchanged: the wound or injury must be the result of direct or indirect enemy action and must have required treatment by a medical officer at the time of the wound or injury.

However, MARADMIN 245/11 provides revised criteria by which Marine commanders will apply the second of these eligibility requirements to cases of mild traumatic brain injury where the visible signs and symptoms of the severity of the injury may not be apparent.

Mild traumatic brain injury is a physical injury, caused by the inflammation of brain tissue that can have long-lasting effects if not diagnosed and managed properly.

According to Navy Cmdr. Dave Tarantino, director for clinical programs for Marine headquarters' health services, traumatic brain injury is divided

into three categories from most to least severe: severe or penetrating, moderate and mild. Severe or penetrating traumatic brain injury and moderate traumatic brain injury have previously qualified for the Purple Heart because those injuries require evacuation to a medical treatment facility where the injury can be treated by a medical officer. However, there are no definitive medical tests to diagnose mild traumatic brain injury or determine its severity.

"In order to assess mild traumatic brain injury and concussions, corpsmen and medical officers rely on a combination of history, physical examination, clinical signs and symptoms, and other findings," said Tarantino.

DoD guidelines in effect in the combat theater for the last year require that any service member who is involved in a potentially concussive event must be placed under a 24-hour period of observation to determine if they have suffered a mild traumatic brain injury. That period of observation does not provide justification for the Purple Heart and can be extended if the member exhibits signs or symptoms of a mild traumatic brain injury.

If a medical officer determines

that the Marine is not fit for full duty for a period greater than 48 hours due to signs, symptoms, or findings of impairment from the mild traumatic brain injury caused by enemy action, then the injured Marine's command will indicate that information in the remarks section of the Marine's Personnel Casualty Report.

Given the natural resilience of the brain, combined with proper diagnosis and management, most Marines who have suffered from mild traumatic brain injury recover fully and experience a very high return to duty rate, explained Tarantino.

Marines, to include veteran Marines, whose medical record contains documentation that a prior mild traumatic brain injury was caused by enemy action since Sept. 11, 2001 — meeting the revised criteria — may submit a reclama through their original chain of command at the time of injury.

"The Marine Corps will continue to maintain the importance of the Purple Heart Medal at the same level as when it was first approved for combat wounded Marines during World War II," said Lee Freund, head of Military Awards Branch at Headquarters Marine Corps.

## Commandant touts Marine Corps reserve law enforcement unit

James K. Sanborn  
Marines.com

The Marine Corps plans to stand up specialty Reserve battalions including one dedicated to law enforcement, said Commandant Gen. Jim Amos during a speech Friday in downtown Washington.

These units would help the Corps maintain a cadre of Marines with specialized skills that can be called upon in a time of crisis, Amos told guests at the 39th IFPA-Fletcher Conference on National Security Strategy and Policy.

As an example, he cited the need for police investigative skills, like those used in Anbar province, Iraq, beginning in 2003, to disband insurgent cells.

"We were trying to find who the bomb makers were. We were trying to find who the people were funneling people in ... across the borders and into Anbar province to cause trouble," he said. "We didn't have the investigative kind of forensic skills sets in the Marine Corps to do that."

Non-traditional fights against criminals and

insurgents require a set of skills akin to those used by civilian officers fighting narcotics organizations in America's largest cities, he said.

"We went out to a major metropolitan police department and said, can you help us?" Amos said. "Can you bring in some skills sets to help us do some investigation, networking? The kind of stuff you are doing if you are dealing in counter narcotics investigations. Who's the kingpin and how's the network built?"

The program was a wild success, Amos said. But Marine officials, who sought the help of private consultants the Los Angeles Police Department, began looking for an alternative. They found an answer in the Reserve.

"We began to realize we have 39,600 reservists. Out of that, there are a lot of policemen, and there are a lot of cops that are investigators," Amos said. "... Now we are building in this Marine Corps ... a law enforcement battalion," Amos said. "Notice I didn't call it a military police battalion — a law enforcement battalion. And it's going to be made up of Reserve police officers and investigators, and we are going to

have that as part of our Reserve force."

Other niche ideas for reservists are also being kicked around, said Maj. Gen. Darrell Moore, director of the Marine Corps Reserve Division at Manpower and Reserve Affairs in Quantico, Va.

Language skills and other specialties, such as explosive ordnance disposal, will continue to be part of the active-duty force. But the Reserve could play an increasingly important role in these areas, precisely because they are able to bring unique skill sets to the Corps that they learn and hone in their civilian jobs.

As Marines pull out of Afghanistan, the need for EOD techs will likely diminish, Amos said, but the skill will remain critical. The EOD community grew from about 400 in 2001 to about 750 today. With cost-cutting measures around the corner and a likely drawdown in Afghanistan, the active-duty community might take a cut, but a Reserve EOD battalion would allow the Marine Corps to maintain a large cadre of EOD techs that could be activated when needed.



# AF identifies casualties of Kabul attack

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – Officials announced April 29 the names of eight Airmen killed April 27 at the Kabul International Airport in Afghanistan.

Each died of gunfire wounds.

Killed were:

Maj. Philip D. Ambard, 44, of Edmonds, Wash. He was assigned to the 460th Space Communications Squadron, Buckley Air Force Base, Colo.

Maj. Jeffrey O. Ausborn, 41, of Gadsden, Ala. He was assigned to the 99th Flying Training Squadron, Randolph AFB, Texas.

Maj. David L. Brodeur, 34, of Auburn, Mass. He was assigned to the 11th Air Force, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

Master Sgt. Tara R. Brown, 33, of Deltona, Fla. She was assigned to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Joint Base Andrews, Md.

Lt. Col. Frank D. Bryant Jr., 37, of Knoxville, Tenn. He was assigned to the 56th Operations Group, Luke AFB, Ariz.

Maj. Raymond G. Estelle II, 40, of New Haven, Conn. He was assigned to Headquarters Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

Capt. Nathan J. Nylander, 35, of Hockley, Texas. He was assigned to the 25th Operational Weather Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

Capt. Charles A. Ransom, 31, of Midlothian, Va. He was assigned to the 83rd Network Operations Squadron, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy released the following statement:

“The entire Air Force family is saddened by this loss and our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of these brave Airmen. (They) personified the Air Force’s core values of integrity, service and excellence. We honor the service and dedication of these brave Airmen and remain firm in our resolve to carry on our mission.”



**Dress rehearsal**

**Maj. Jesse Peterson and Tech. Sgt. Shane Hargis, 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, practice a hoist mission April 22, the day before they were called upon to recover the pilots of a downed Army helicopter. - photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Cenna**

# Fewer officers face RIF board this fall

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) – Previously identified competitive categories for chaplains, medical service corps and 1999 and 2000 judge advocate general year groups will no longer meet September’s reduction in force board, the Air Force announced Monday.

The RIF board will now only consider officers in the grade of captain and major in the following year groups and competitive categories:

Captains: line of the Air Force: 2000, and 2003 through 2005 only.

Majors: line of the Air Force: 2000; judge advocate general: 2001 through 2003; and biomedical service corps: 2000 and 2001.

According to Air Force personnel officials, the board will consider approximately 9,000 officers to retain at least 95 percent in the year groups and competitive categories listed above.

Answers to specific RIF and voluntary separation pay questions are available at the FY11/12 Force Management Programs section on the Air Force Personnel Services website. Type “15766” in the search by keyword box to access frequently asked questions.

# Air Guard, CAP provide tornado response

More than 50 Airmen from the Arkansas Air National Guard 189th Airlift Wing Rapid Augmentation Team Charlie deployed to Vilonia, Ark., April 26 to help residents recover from tornado damage.

RAT Charlie is one of three 50-person teams composed of drill-status guardsmen. It’s a volunteer force wing officials developed to more efficiently respond to state natural disasters.

“We’re doing all of this while we’re also deploying Airmen to support the overseas war effort, while our day-to-day C-130 (Hercules) training mission continues uninterrupted,” said Col. Jim Summers, the 189th Airlift Wing commander.

“This is a prime example of how flexible our Air National Guard is, but it takes the support of those external influencers -- employers and a guardsman’s family -- for it to continue to work. I can’t say enough about how employers and families have stepped up to the plate to support their guardsmen when they’re needed most.”

Traditionally, the Arkansas Army National Guard has deployed first responders for natural disasters, officials said. Now, the Air National Guard also has the opportunity to help Arkansans in their time of need.

“We’re going door to door to make sure everyone is ok and accounted for,” said Lt. Col. Dean B. Martin, the 189th Airlift Wing RAT domestic operations chief. “We are all

members of this Arkansas community, and it is so great to be able to provide help to our fellow neighbors.”

At the same time, the Civil Air Patrol -- the Air Force Auxiliary -- is flying over areas with major devastation to assist first responders and state and local officials as they assess the damage to the region.

CAP pilots from Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Virginia have volunteered their time and aircraft to capture aerial photographs of the affected towns and villages, while also providing airborne communication support as needed.

As of April 29, CAP pilots have flown 20 sorties, shot more than 2,000 photos, and provided nine aircraft, each with a pilot, observer and scanner aboard.

“It’s important to remember that Civil Air Patrol pilots participate in Air Force missions strictly on a voluntary basis,” said Mark Obrien, the CAP liaison officer for Air Forces Northern at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

“In instances like these, when people’s lives and homes are at stake, it goes without saying that the generous and selfless nature of our CAP pilots comes immediately to the forefront, and we often find ourselves with more volunteers than actual assigned missions. It’s a clear example of the caliber of people who volunteer their time and energy to the Air Force Auxiliary.”



## Boston-based security team departs for Guantanamo Bay

BOSTON — A Boston-based maritime anti-terrorism unit deployed Monday in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Members of U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSST) Boston (91110) departed Hanscom Air Force Base for Cuba.

“As a unit, we hope to continue the tradition of excellence that the Coast Guard has established with other federal services and agencies throughout its tenure working under the SOUTHCOM area of responsibility,” said Lt. j.g. Thomas Wieland, MSST Boston’s public affairs officer.

Prior to deploying, unit members completed two months of training that included boat and weapon qualifications, team coordination training and CPR certification.

“We worked rigorously to improve our proficiency with the rules and regulations that govern the area and our mission down there,” Wieland said.

To augment the MSST’s active-duty component, reservists from across the nation were hand-selected for the upcoming deployment.

“We have added a great mixture of individuals from across the country to our team. They have already made a great impact within the unit,” said Lt. Kevin Duffy, MSST Boston’s executive officer.

The reservist members’ civilian occupations include everything from undergraduate students to emergency service personnel and retail employees. Each volunteered for the deployment, excited to join the unit and serve their country.

“My Dad was called up for service for Vietnam with the New Hampshire National Guard as was Grandfather in the Army Air Force for WWII before him,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Jeremy Wyskiel, a New England native and Chittenden County, Colchester Police Officer. “I have been waiting for the call to do my part for five years in the Coast Guard Reserves and now finally have my chance to deploy with a great unit.”

MSST Boston was created under the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (MTSA) in direct response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and are a part of the Department of Homeland Security’s layered strategy directed at protecting seaports and waterways.

MSSTs provide waterborne and a shore-side antiterrorism force protection for strategic shipping, high-interest vessels and critical infrastructure.



## Injured boaters rescued from NYC’s East River

NEW YORK – The U.S. Coast Guard medevaced two people from a boat, which reportedly struck a submerged object at about 6:45 p.m., near the Throgs Neck Bridge, N.Y., May 3, 2011.

The Coast Guard received the initial radio distress call from the operator, stating their 57-foot pleasure craft was taking on water.

Coast Guard Sector New York search and rescue watchstanders contacted harbor units from the New York Police Department and the New York Fire Department who responded and

were on scene shortly after. Crewmembers from Towboat U.S. were also on scene shortly after the initial call and began to dewater the boat.

Sector New York watchstanders were notified by the first responders that two of the three people aboard suffered injuries upon impact.

Coast Guard Station Kings Point, N.Y., launched a 25-foot rescue boat crew, who arrived on scene shortly after 7 p.m. The rescue crew brought the two individuals to City Island where they were transferred to awaiting emergency medical personnel.

## Memorial service held to remember fallen heroes

MANAMA, Bahrain – Members of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard joined together for a memorial service held onboard Naval Support Activity, Bahrain to continue to honor the lives of three fallen U.S. service members, April 26.

Coast Guard Damage Controlman 3rd Class Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Smithtown, N.Y., Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class Michael J. Pernaselli, 27, of Monroe, N.Y., Signalman 2nd Class Christopher E. Watts, 28, of Knoxville, Tenn., and were serving aboard USS Firebolt (PC 10) when they lost their lives after an unidentified dhow exploded during a maritime interdiction operation (MIO), in the Northern Arabian Gulf, April 24, 2004.

Vice Adm. Mark Fox, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, spoke during the event to more than 100 Sailors and Coast Guardsmen in attendance.

“It is appropriate for us to take this time to reflect on the loss of three shipmates who walked the deckplates of some of the very same vessels we walk on today,” said Fox. “Seven years ago, on April 24, 2004, right after dusk, USS Firebolt was conducting routine patrol duties northwest of Khor Al Amaya Oil Terminal (KAAOT) when two dhows were

spotted near the platform. Firebolt, conducting what was a routine mission, sent a RHIB [rigid hull inflatable boat] manned by a crew of seven out to investigate. However, as the RHIB approached the dhow, it exploded, killing three and injuring the other four.”

Fox closed out the ceremony by reminding everyone of how important it is to continue the legacy of those who have gone before them. “None of us get to choose the environment in which we operate, that’s chosen for us; however, we do choose how we operate and carry ourselves,” said Fox. “I think it’s important for us to remember what it means to be a shipmate. We take care of one another, we train together, we build trust and these are the kinds of bonds that only come from Sailors serving in difficult environments together, working toward a common mission.”

U.S. Naval Forces Central Command’s mission is to conduct persistent maritime operations to forward U.S. interests, deter and counter disruptive countries, defeat violent extremism and strengthen partner nations’ maritime capabilities in order to promote a secure maritime environment in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

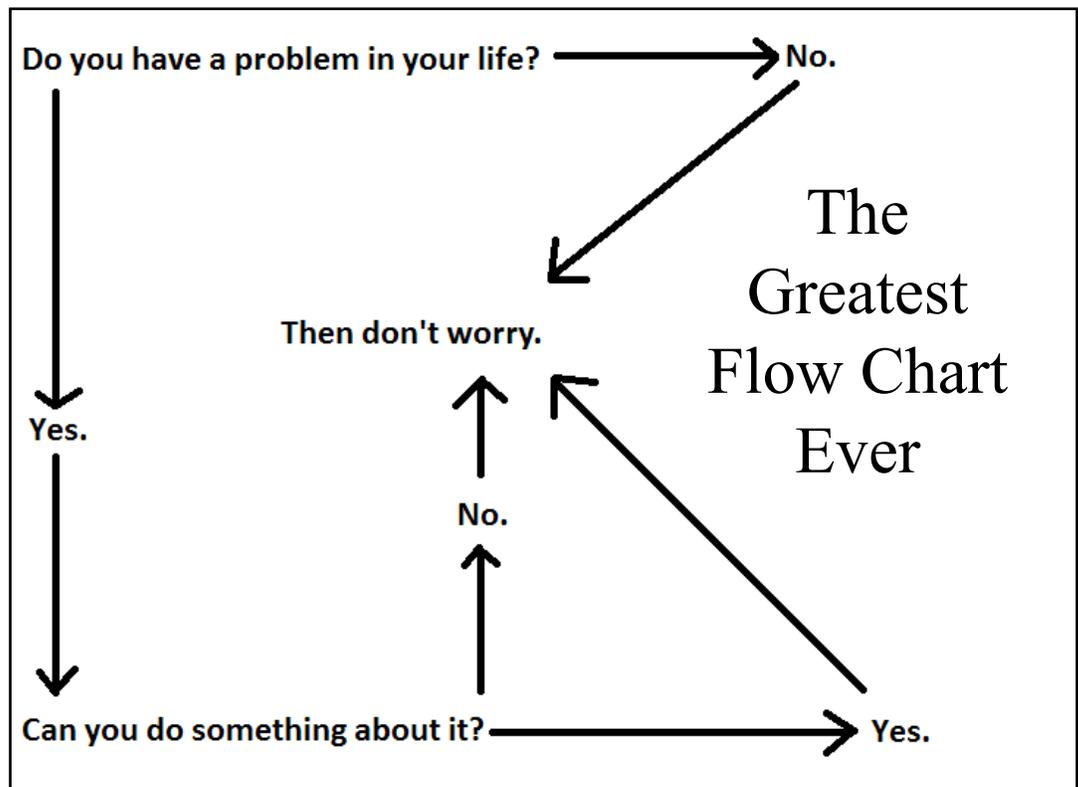
# Stress: Unavoidable yet manageable

Hospital Corpsman  
3rd Class Franklin Alexander

Austrian endocrinologist Dr. Hans Selye defined stress as, "the non-specific response of the body to any demand for change." That change is a byproduct of environmental, social, organizational or even emotional stimuli.

Stress is unavoidable and refuses to discriminate against ethnicity, religion, sex or political affiliation. However, just because stress is unavoidable does not mean all stress is bad stress; good stress is not a myth!

Stress can, in fact, be beneficial. Good stress, also called eustress, allows a person to remain alert and provides needed energy. Stress can provide an athlete the edge they need to persevere during a triathlon, for example. Unfortunately, stress can be harmful if not managed effectively. Bad stress, or distress, can increase the risk of developing health problems, such as cardiovascular disease and anxiety disorders. A convenient way to think about stress is in terms of stressors and stress responses. Stressors are characterized as events that pressure or threaten people. Making a difficult decision, getting married or divorced or being victimized by a natural disaster are examples of stressors.



Stress responses are psychological, physiological and behavioral reactions; they are how we react to our stressors. Depression, anxiety, muscle tension and anger are all examples of stress responses.

Stress is managed differently by everybody. On Guantanamo Bay there are numerous stressors: isolation, work, the environment, traffic-stopping iguanas and, of course, leftover

banana rat buffets. There are also numerous ways to relieve stress: hiking, boating, swimming, exercise and, naturally, karaoke. Regardless of what your stressors might be, learning effective coping/ stress management skills is necessary to avoid long-term physical or psychological issues. Minimally, it's important to maintain a healthy diet, practice good sleep hygiene

and keep a positive outlook. Selye may have added a pertinent piece to the stress puzzle for the world, but JSMART maintains the piece for Joint Task Force Guantanamo. If you or someone you know is interested in stress management or information about stress, feel free to visit JSMART or give us a call at x3566. Thank you and have a JSMART day!

## 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**  
Friday 7 p.m.  
Chapel Annex  
**LORIMI Gospel**  
Sunday 8 a.m.  
Room D  
**LDS Service**  
Sunday 10 a.m.  
Room A

**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

**Liturgical Service**  
Sunday 10 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

# THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU

PG-13  
106 min.



Spc. Meredith Vincent

Fate is tricky business. Rely on it too much and you quickly stop taking responsibility for your life choices. Don't believe in it at all and you dismiss the possibility of a higher power or a greater plan. Can there be a delicate balance between the two, between choosing your path and accepting your destiny?

These and many other "deep-thinking" questions are tackled in "The Adjustment Bureau," a sweet, sleek supernatural thriller that confounds the brain but warms the heart.

Matt Damon is David Norris, an up-and-coming politician who, on the eve of a difficult loss for a senate seat, meets ballerina Elise in a men's bathroom. After a few adorable minutes of googly-eyes, witty banter and other forms of shameless flirting, David must leave to make his concession speech. But, in those short moments, the bewitching Elise leaves her mark and he ends up tossing out the rule book and giving a speech that revitalizes and rejuvenates his career.

Sounds pretty normal so far, right? Boy meets girl, girl befuddles boy, inspired by girl, boy does seemingly retarded and/or fearless stunt.

What about, boy is blocked from finding girl again by angels/guardians/higher power/the man upstairs-type people with awesome headgear because, according to them, "it's not part of the plan."

Ah ha! Didn't see that coming, did ya?

"The Adjustment Bureau" aims high in concept and mostly hits the mark. The



storytelling is a little sloppy, with several plot holes I'm certain the writers noticed but didn't feel like fixing.

Thankfully, the centerpiece is Damon and Blunt. The key to the film is believing in their bond before even they do, and the two actors pull it off beautifully. Damon has a boyish charm working for him that I haven't seen in a while, but as David the Politician, he also comes across as a thoroughly good man (something lacking in today's society – did I mention I was single?).

Blunt, meanwhile, is a showstopper. She has to be – the story hinges on Elise's ability to make David re-evaluate his entire existence. She's graceful and quirky, gentle but resolved.

Blunt is by far the lesser-known name out of the two stars, but she acts with such a mischievous quietness that it's impossible to see David falling for anyone else.

After almost a month of sub-par and no-par-at-all movies, I'm very pleased with the last two week's offerings. "The Adjustment Bureau" is a thoughtful, genre-busting cutlet that harkens back to classics like "North By Northwest" and "Casablanca." It may not be as timeless, but there is an urgency to David and Elise's chemistry that makes you root for them, and isn't that what any good love story is supposed to do? The closet romantic in me can't help but give it four banana rats.

Gross, I feel like such a girl now...

	6 FRI.	7 SAT.	8 SUN.	9 MON.	10 TUES.	11 WED.	12 THURS.
Downtown Lyceum	Rio (G) 8 p.m.	Red Riding Hood (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Big Momma's: Like Father, Like Son (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Hall Pass (R) 8 p.m. *last showing*	Mars Needs Moms (PG) 8 p.m.	Beastly (PG-13) 8 p.m. *last showing*	Fast Five (PG-13) 8 p.m.
	Fast Five (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Battle: Los Angeles (PG-13) 10 p.m.					
Camp Bulkeley	Red Riding Hood (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Fast Five (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Hall Pass (R) 8 p.m. *last showing*	Mars Needs Moms (PG) 8 p.m.	Fast Five (PG-13) 8 p.m.	The Adjustment Bureau (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Rio (G) 8 p.m.
	Battle: Los Angeles (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Take Me Home Tonight (R) 10 p.m.					

Call MWR at ext. 2010 for more information.

Movie Hotline - call 4880.



Now



**SEABEES cont.**

“It’s more like a family,” she shared. “These guys are like my brothers. I’ve known some of them the whole time I’ve been in and it makes the work more enjoyable.”

Seabees are required to work outside in the heat and humidity, which means they must stay hydrated and on the look-out for their fellow “Bees.”

“We go through a lot of water,” said Builder 2nd Class

Marie Cope, attached to NMCB 28. “You sit down, get a drink, get back to work and sweat it out almost immediately... it’s a good workout, though!”

Cope, who is here for two weeks with the NMCB 28 Reservists doing their annual active-duty training, said she is getting valuable hands-on training and developing closeness with her unit.

“Seabees are a small group with

a lot of camaraderie as opposed to being on an aircraft carrier,” Cope explained. “It’s a diverse group and everyone is like family, which makes it nice to enjoy our off time at the beaches with each other.”

Before going out to enjoy their hard-earned time off around the island, though, Seabees must first get the project site ready for the next day’s work. All materials from the tear down – including metal, lumber and nails – are separated,

placed in separate containers and recycled for future projects. Once the area is completely cleared, new construction will begin.

NMCB 28 continues to rotate unit members through on two-week orders not only to fulfill their yearly active-duty requirement, but also to augment NMCB 28 Seabees who are mobilized here for a full year in support of JTF Guantanamo.

**RADIO cont.**

the top and bottom of the hour.

For a price, Radio GTMO fans can have their song played every hour at either the double-zero or 30-minute mark.

“Last year the Marines coughed up a considerable amount of money to have a certain hymn played at the top of the hour,” Corliss chuckled. “Folks from the Navy then got together and finally managed to replace one service hymn with the other – had a little service war going on there.”

Kicking off the event, personalities DJ Funkenstein and Dr. J were behind the control booth Monday morning and already the repeater song of the moment was getting to them.

“Someone please get this song off the air,” an exasperated Justin “Dr. J” Ailes, mass communication specialist second class cried to

Landon “DJ Funkenstien” Rosenthal as the theme song from circa 1980’s cartoon, “The Smurfs” filled the room.

“Sixty-one bucks, someone, please give the sixty-one bones to make this go away,” Ailes pleaded.

Even with the groan inducing tune-age, those working the shifts move about their work with a light step and a smile on their face. This is a group not only helping with the fund-raising effort but having a lot of fun doing it.

“I regularly donate to things like the relief society and CFC (Combined Federal Campaign),” said Corliss. “But to be able to participate in something of this scale and make a large contribution is really satisfying.”

In addition to the money raised through the radio-thon, all proceeds from sales of Radio GTMO merchandise will also go to the relief

society.

“We’re hoping to raise an additional three to five thousand dollars from sales alone,” Corliss said, throwing in a sales pitch. “So if you’re looking for Radio GTMO gear, now is the time to come get it.”

The only thing missing to make the event a larger success, Corliss said, is more volunteers helping to answer the phones, run requests back to the DJs and other odds and ends.

“The volunteers we have are doing an outstanding job,” he said. “But we could certainly use more help.”

Radio GTMO will bring their efforts to a close Friday while the NMCRS fund-raising campaign continues through May 15. Individual contributions are always welcome.

To request a song or find out about volunteer opportunities, call the station at x2300.

A nighttime photograph of the New York City skyline, viewed from across the water. The Freedom Tower is the central focus, with a large, vertical blue light beam emanating from its top. Other skyscrapers are illuminated with warm yellow and white lights. The sky is dark blue.

Since September 11,  
an entire generation of young Americans  
has gained a new understanding  
of the value of freedom  
and its cost in duty and in sacrifice.

The battle is now joined on many fronts.  
We will not waiver, we will not tire,  
we will not falter, and we will not fail.

Peace and freedom will prevail.

*President George W. Bush*  
*Oct. 7, 2001*