

# The WIRED

An award-winning  
JTF journal

**Saving Abel  
thanks Troopers**  
(from the bottom of their hearts)

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**The very first  
\$ banana rat movie!**

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**Upcoming improvements  
to housing facilities**

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# Trooper to Trooper

*featuring*

## Senior Chief Petty Officer Robin Guy

Senior Enlisted Leader, J2

Since I have been on Guantanamo Bay, people ask why I focus so much time and effort on physical training. My answer is usually simple: I love to eat junk food but don't want to gain weight! Of course, there are many more answers to that question. Let's start with the fact that every Trooper is required by their service instruction/regulation to spend time every week working out. PT is a basic skill that each branch of the military requires in order to continue military service. PT provides mental and physical health benefits that last a lifetime. Also, PT on GTMO can be a great social event.

Military servicemembers PT in boot camp as a way to develop discipline and bonding. Someone who consistently trains will develop the commitment and discipline that pushes him or her to get out and train, no matter what else is going on. We continue to require PT as we move forward in the military in an effort to ensure we are prepared for real world military situations. We must meet the basic PT requirements that will help keep us all alive in combat or risk becoming combat ineffective and sent home.

Many resources show regular exercise and physical activity are extremely important and beneficial for long-term health and well-being. Below is a list with some of the health benefits of exercise and physical activity as focused on in the report, "Physical Activity and Health: A Report of the Surgeon General."

- Reduce the risk of high blood pressure and high cholesterol
- Reduce the risk of heart disease, developing cancers, diabetes and premature death
- Reduce or maintain body weight/body fat
- Build and maintain healthy muscles, bones and joints
- Reduce depression and anxiety, improving psychological well-being
- Enhanced work, recreation and sport performance

On any given day here, you will notice people out running, walking, biking or swimming. You can find people at the gym or in the ocean snorkeling and diving. MWR sponsors events encouraging military members and families to get out and join in the fun of sports



activities. The MWR events provide something for everyone – if you are interested in team sports they have softball, football and soccer leagues, to name a few. If you are more interested in individual events, they also sponsor monthly races, bike rides or hikes for runners and walkers. The weather and environment make it easy to get out and make new friends while exercising.

I understand everyone has different abilities and expectations when it comes to physical training, but every military member should set a goal to meet some type of PT standard. As you reach your goal, it will give you a sense of accomplishment, confidence and pride. Meeting one goal will help you move forward to setting and reaching new goals for yourself in other aspects of your life. PT can be a rewarding part of your life. I hope to see you all at the next MWR sponsored 5K!

### JTF Guantanamo

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Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel: 3499

**COVER:** Jared Weeks, lead singer for the rock band Saving Abel, performs at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's Downtown Lyceum, Friday. -photo by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel

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Smoke and flames light up the night from a blaze at the Intercontinental hotel after an attack on the hotel by Taliban fighters and a response by Afghan security forces backed by NATO helicopters in Kabul, June 29. - photo by AFP.



## Kabul hotel attack will not affect security transition

Voice of America News

The Taliban assault on the Inter-Continental Hotel in Kabul, which left 11 civilians and police dead in addition to the attackers, comes as NATO forces are beginning a process of handing over security to local authorities. Afghan officials say despite the attack, that handover will continue.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai says the attack in the nation's capital will not deter Afghanistan's forces from taking over their security role as planned.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the highly coordinated attack on the landmark Inter-Continental Hotel in an apparent attempt to show they are still able to carry out such assaults - despite months of heavy attacks by NATO and Afghan forces.

Afghan National Security Directorate spokesman Luftullah Mashal says the insurgents may have taken advantage of a gap in security caused by renovations to the hotel.

The Inter-Continental, built on a hill overlooking Kabul in the 1960s, was once the premier hotel in the Afghan capital - hosting conferences and many foreigners. Visitors must cross through several checkpoints along a winding road to reach the hotel.

"There was a loophole in the security, definitely. Investigation will definitely take place. There was reconstruction and renovation work also going on in a part of the hotel," said Marshal. "The insurgents are using every means to infiltrate into tight security areas."

Initial reports indicate that a small group of heavily armed men stormed into the hotel late Tuesday with automatic weapons, grenade launchers and suicide belts. The

ensuing gun battle lasted more than five hours.

Afghan police initially cordoned off the area. An Afghan special commando unit arrived later, and NATO helicopters provided assistance.

According to NATO spokesman Master Sergeant Jason Haag, coalition forces mobilized at the request of the Afghan Ministry of the Interior, but the response was conducted primarily by the Afghan security forces.

"We were called in, specifically for air asset. We also had some ISAF embedded-mentors that were part of the Afghan unit that was involved in the response," said Haag. "We did put some assets on standby as well, just in case. Medevac and some explosives folks were on standby but they did not actually respond."

Haag went on to say that this was mostly "an Afghan-led operation and we just provided those couple of supporting roles."

The spokesman added that the NATO helicopters did fire at insurgents who had taken positions on the hotel's roof.

The fighting ended early Wednesday with all the insurgents killed.

Key installations in Kabul and around the country remain on high alert as a result of the assault on the hotel.

The last major attack on a Kabul hotel was in 2008, when militants stormed the luxury Serena Hotel in the center of the city, killing eight people in a coordinated assault.

A summit on the security transition was supposed to take place at the Inter-Continental on Wednesday, and many Afghan provincial officials who are taking part were staying at the hotel.

The transition commission was set

## Obama Defends US Involvement in Libyan Conflict

Voice of America News

President Obama has defended U.S. involvement in Libya, saying the international operation has protected thousands of people in the North African country.

Obama said he did not violate the War Powers Resolution, a U.S. law that requires congressional approval within 60 days if U.S. forces are involved in hostilities.

He said Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi was threatening to massacre his people, and the United States, as part of an international coalition, took out Libyan air defense systems so humanitarian assistance could be provided. He said pressure is increasing on the Libyan leader, or as he put it, "the noose is tightening."

He said he addressed the American people on Libya and briefed members of Congress and has done "exactly" what he said he would. He said the operation is limited in time and scope, and there have been no U.S. casualties and no risk of additional escalation.

He said the narrow mission has been carried out in "exemplary fashion." But he said questioning whether he needs congressional approval for the mission has become a popular topic among some lawmakers.

## Report: Iraq, Afghanistan wars cost U.S. nearly \$4 trillion

Voice of America News

A new report issued by Brown University says the cost of America's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan - and operations in Pakistan - will cost the country nearly \$4 trillion. The report's total is more than three times higher than U.S. President Barack Obama's estimate in a recent speech.

When Obama recently announced a drawdown of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, he said America's wars have cost the country \$1 trillion dollars.

But a report by Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies estimates the total cost at \$3.7 trillion.

to discuss Afghan preparations for the international troop withdrawal.

Security control of seven areas in Afghanistan are set to be handed over to Afghan forces next month, with all foreign combat troops expected to leave Afghanistan by the end of 2014.

# News from the Bay

Stories and reporting by Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class Maddelin Angebrand

## Something Distant to perform at Tiki Bar

Free concert! Come sing your heart out with rock group Something Distant, in concert Friday and Saturday at the Tiki Bar from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Something Distant gives audiences a mix of originals, modern alternative and new rock. The Jacksonville, Fla.- based band performs with high energy, sure to keep a crowd entertained.

Something Distant was formed in 2005 by vocalist/songwriter Jeff Congo. Congo discovered his love for music and singing at a very young age. Bad weather cancelled their initial show, but the four-member band was rescheduled and are ready to perform.

According to the band's website, "We're proud to kick off the July 4th weekend with our Troops serving abroad."

[www.somethingdistant.com](http://www.somethingdistant.com).

For more information, contact x4882.

## Food, fireworks for Independence Day

Morale, Welfare and Recreation is hosting an Independence Day celebration, Monday from 5:30 p.m. to 12 a.m. at the Tiki Bar.

There will be live music by Carbon Leaf at 5:30 p.m. and Airlie Down at 7:30 p.m.

The fireworks display will begin at 9 p.m. Hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad and more will be available for purchase at 5:30 p.m.

"The community can expect great music, food and a spectacular fireworks show," said Amice MacDonnell, MWR community activities director. "We partnered with Navy Entertainment to bring Carbon Leaf and Armed Forces Entertainment to bring Airlie Down for this year's Independence Day festivities."

The event is open to all ages and residents are encouraged to come out and celebrate Independence Day as a community.

For more information call x4882.

## Independence Day 10K run offers T-shirts

To celebrate our independence, Morale, Welfare and Recreation is hosting a 10K run. Show up to Denich Gym Saturday at 6:30 a.m. to participate.

If pre-registered by June 29, runners will receive a guaranteed free T-shirt.

"This will be a fun event," said Tanya Henigman, MWR fitness coordinator. "If we don't have their T-shirt size available, we will have one made."

Same-day registration participants will not be guaranteed a T-shirt, but will have the opportunity to receive a medal if they place 1st or 2nd in their age category.

Be sure to wear reflective gear and bring a water bottle.

For more information about the 10K run or any other sports activities and tournaments, call Henigman at x2113 or x77262.

## If you only had one window what would you choose to see through it?



"The ocean anywhere makes me feel peaceful."

Navy Chief Petty Officer  
Marian Precht



"The Adirondack Mountains because it's home."

Hospital Corpsman  
2nd Class Dustin Johnson



"I want to see sunshine and sky...in Puerto Rico."

Army Staff Sgt.  
David Mercado



"A real golf course."

Army Staff Sgt.  
Luis Torres

## Boots on the Ground

# TROOPER FOCUS

## Intelligence Specialist 3rd Class Valli Doiron



Spc. Kelly Gary

As a small town girl, Intelligence Specialist 3rd Class Valli Doiron dreamt of seeing new places and traveling the world. At the same time, she wanted the opportunity to serve the military and her country. Two years after enlisting in the Navy, Doiron traveled to Guantanamo Bay as an Individual Augmentee and immediately impressed her superiors with her hard work and positive attitude.

IS1 Sharron Carter, Doiron's lead petty officer, noted how quickly she adapted and what an asset she proved to be.

"When she got here she hit the ground running," he said. "She did way more than anyone expected," he remembered.

Doiron does her best with everything she is tasked with but, she said being low on the totem poll can be a challenge. Being lower-enlisted is a difficult time for anyone in their career but Doiron hopes she can excel in ranks so as to accomplish more.

"She works hard, from the time she gets there to the time she leaves," said Carter.

Doiron ties her accomplishments and motivation to her sense of honor. Honor is one of the three Navy core values and, for Doiron, it is the basis for courage and commitment.

"If you don't have honor for yourself

or for your country you are not going to have the courage to move forward," said Doiron. "If you don't have honor, you are not going to be committed."

Doiron has shown that she is dedicated to the Navy and her job here, but also to the community as well. She serves as a Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention representative.

"She is not only an asset to me but also to Guantanamo Bay as a whole," said Carter.

When not working, Doiron enjoys reading and spending time outdoors. She dreams of traveling the world and excelling at whatever career path she may follow. Doiron said she is planning on reenlisting and would like to eventually make chief petty officer. Her boss believes no matter what course Doiron takes it will be one of success.

"I see her going wherever she wants to go," said Carter. "She has the potential and drive to be whatever she wants to be in life, be it here in the military world or the civilian world."

## Bullet Bio

**Time in service:** 2 years

**Hobbies:** reading, playing golf, the outdoors

**Pet peeves:** stupid questions

**Next goal:** move up in rank and to stand out among my fellow Sailors

**Advice to junior Troopers:** "Learn from those above you."



TALK TO YOUR FAMILY ABOUT OPSEC!

## OPSEC ALERT

### Does your family know about OPSEC?

Have you talked to your family about OPSEC? Do they know how to protect their information? Tell them to check their privacy settings and make sure that they know that some things just shouldn't be put online. Make sure they don't inadvertently give away information about you or your unit that could harm the mission. Keep your family and friends aware of OPSEC requirements. Protect yourself, your family and the mission, use OPSEC!

# Quality of Life *Update:* Home Improvement

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel

Getting laundry done at the Cuzco barracks just got a little easier thanks to the efforts of Troopers working in Joint Task Force Guantanamo's housing office. In addition to new washers and dryers, several endeavors are currently underway in most of Joint Task Force Guantanamo living areas, developments all driven to improve the quality of Trooper living.

"We currently have four major projects that are ongoing," said Sgt. Maj. Rivers Jacques, J4 senior enlisted leader.

Jacques said along with new laundry facilities, repairs to leaking roofs, addressing lighting issues and replacing worn out tarps are all improvements currently in the works at the Cuzcos.

In the Tierra Kay, a \$2.3 million plan to update fire suppression systems is moving forward, along with termite abatement.

"Basically, this will bring those particular housing units up to code," Jacques said, explaining the Tierra Kay buildings were constructed in the early 1970s.

The upgraded fire suppression system will include an integrated sprinkler system, new smoke alarms and smoke detectors. Jacques said the project should be complete sometime in October.

Outside Tierra Kay, work tree removal continues as part of the termite abatement program. The abatement program is also being conducted in the Windward Loop area.

"We were out there (Tierra Kay) and one of the things we were also looking at was the problems with mold, mildew and ventilation systems," Jacques added. "So that is another project we're actually going to be working to get implemented. Obviously it comes down to funding and everything else, but that is on the horizon."

Looking to Camp America, Jacques said his team is currently in the planning phase for upgrades to windows, doors and other elements geared toward energy efficiency and giving the housing unit a much needed facelift.

Jacques said across the board, his team is always looking for ways to reduce the JTF's energy footprint.

"We're looking at some efficiencies improvement in terms of electricity, water usage and all those other things," Jacques explained. "Everything from the type of faucet or shower head we install to windows ... if the window is a single pane, maybe go to a double pane to help reduce our costs in energy."

Helping Jacques keep the "i's" dotted and the "t's" crossed is Air Force Capt. Coulette Swiggett, the J4 housing officer. Swiggett recently arrived to the JTF and hit the ground running.

"We are aware that we have room for improvement with some of the housing areas," she said. "But the leadership here from the top down is focused on improving Trooper living conditions, as evidenced by all the quality of life initiatives that have occurred over the last year."

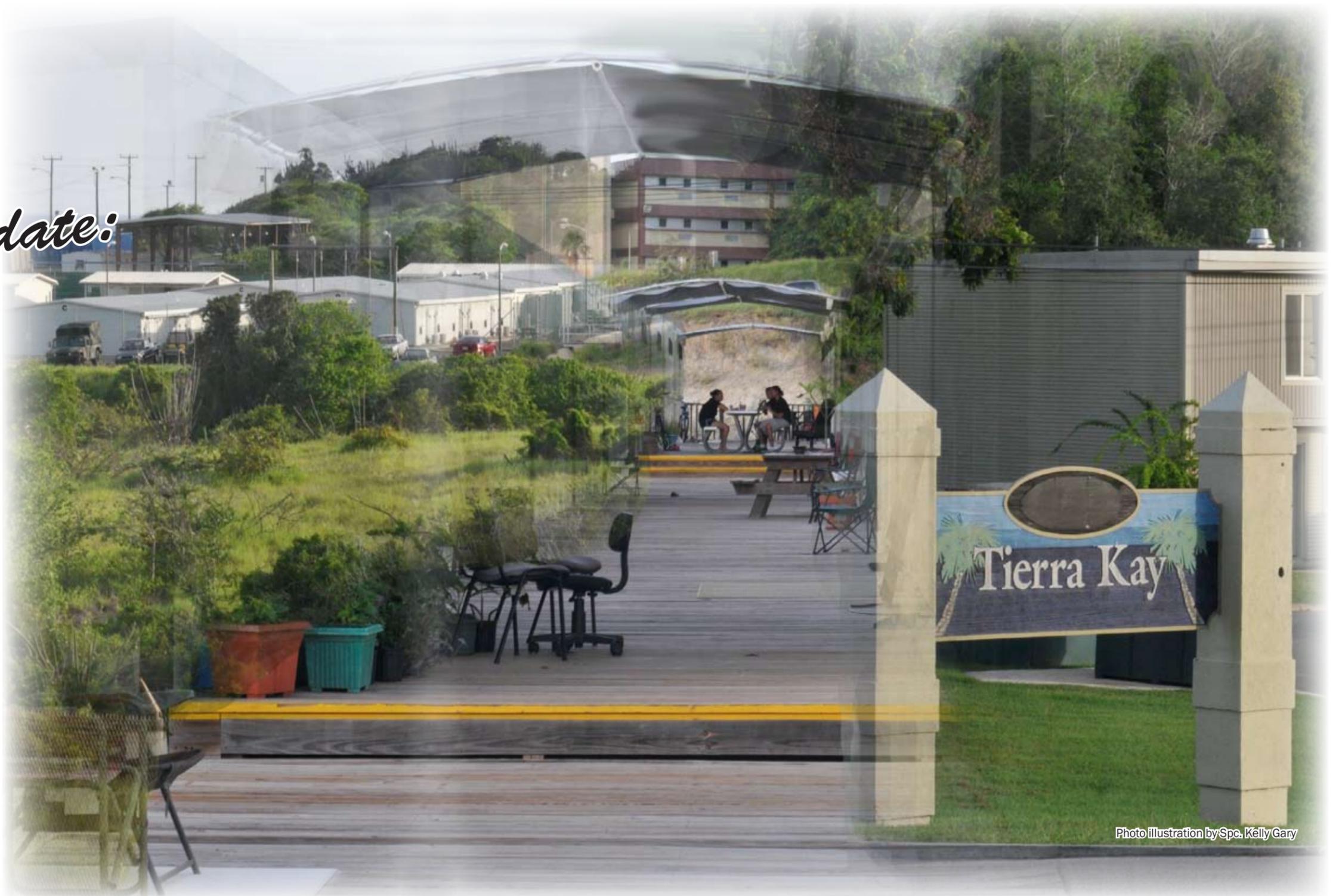


Photo illustration by Spc. Kelly Gary

To help the J4 housing team identify potential issues, Swiggett said come August, a Department of Defense Residential Satisfaction Survey will be made available to all Troopers and she highly encourages maximum participation.

"Information received during the survey will be addressed by NAVSTA (if within their realm) and could result in money being given to the base for housing improvements," she explained.

Both Jacques and Swiggett stressed Troopers take an active role in their living conditions.

"We can't make corrections if we don't hear about issues," Swiggett said. "So continue to pass information through leadership so we can address it."

"Sometimes we wait for a problem to become a bigger problem before we address it," Jacques added. "Now it's a bigger problem and it costs more to fix. I think the Troopers have to be more proactive in their approach to their living conditions."

Both agreed, at the end of the day, their job is to make sure those turning the wheels around the JTF have the things they need to complete their job.

"Regardless of the mission ... our most important assets are the people accomplishing the mission," said Jacques. "In order to execute the mission, you've got to have people who are well rested, well feed, properly trained, etc. Part of that is quality of living and that's what we do."

Story and photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Maddein Angebrand



# MAN OF LEATHER

**JTF Trooper shows off the hard work and craftsmanship that goes into his unique hobby: leatherworking.**



Army Staff Sgt. Aaron Heizer, a corrections specialist assigned to the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, (left) sews a piece of leather being clamped tightly by a sewing bench. Heizer (upper left) pounds a tool head to depress parts of a flower design on his latest leather project and (lower left) later makes indentions with another tool to depict the flower's detail.



“Alright, this is where the fun begins,” Aaron Heizer narrates as he picks up a spray bottle and dampens a smooth, fresh piece of genuine cattle hide.

His lips clench together and his bright, blue eyes widen in anticipation. Extending his left, patriotically-tattooed arm toward the tool block, Heizer grasps for a particular utensil.

“This right here is the center shader,” he explains. “It depresses the leather around the lines to make the flower have depth.”

He squints and furrows his brow while eagerly carving away. With a push here and a nudge there, the center shader is powered by Heizer’s creativity, performing beautifully at his will.

“It’s carved in,” he exclaims, as his tool-gripping hand pulls away from the crafted canvas. “Now, we get to beat on it!”

“When it dries, it will be a bit more firm,” Heizer explains as he tactfully reaches for another tool.

His canvas now bears a striking array of deep and smooth lines, exquisitely carved to display a blossomed flower, its pedals brought to life at the work of Heizer’s hand.

Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Heizer was a corrections specialist at Ft. Leavenworth Kan., when he was introduced to what became a passion in leatherworking.

“I started doing leatherwork because of an inmate... who inspired me. He had been there for a long time,” Heizer shares. “He went to the prison craft shop for an hour a day and in that time he made some really neat stuff.”

Heizer wondered, if the inmate could do that in an hour each day, what could he do with his spare time? After a few years of learning the trade, he decided to take on a particularly challenging project: a riding saddle.

“I made it entirely [from] a book,” recalls Heizer, who now works as a corrections specialist assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

“I don’t ride horses nor have I rode one in probably 25 years. So, I don’t know anything about saddles, you know? I just picked up the book and read it until I figured out how to make a saddle.”

Heizer specializes in western style leather work, to include detailed and often intricate designs which are traced onto the leather, then carved. Heizer said the tracing is a boring but important step to getting started.

“Leather is anywhere from seven to 10 dollars per square foot,” Heizer noted. “On top of that, the carvings on that photo album took me about six or seven hours and it was hand sewn.” He points to a large portfolio with the words ‘Heizer’s Leather and Saddle’ stamped on the front.

Heizer said a lot of effort goes into his work, more than people think.

“You tear your hands up pretty good most of the time,” he said, looking down at his callused hands. “Working with the needles for hand sewing will just rub your fingers raw.”

Heizer’s portfolio includes everything from handbags and wallets to holster gun belts. Each requires sewing, which Heizer emphasizes is not like regular needle-and-thread sewing.

“To sew leather, it takes two needles and each goes into the same hole in opposite ways,” Heizer describes. “That’s why it never looks like it was hand sewn.”

Heizer begins threading a needle, while holding the second needle in his mouth. He is about to sew the piece of leather he carved earlier.

“Everybody always wonders how I don’t stab myself”, Heizer laughs. “Honest answer is, I stab myself all the time.”

Heizer’s saddle project took multiple sewing techniques, a fierce

see LEATHER, page 19

# 'Addicted' to SAVIN ABEL

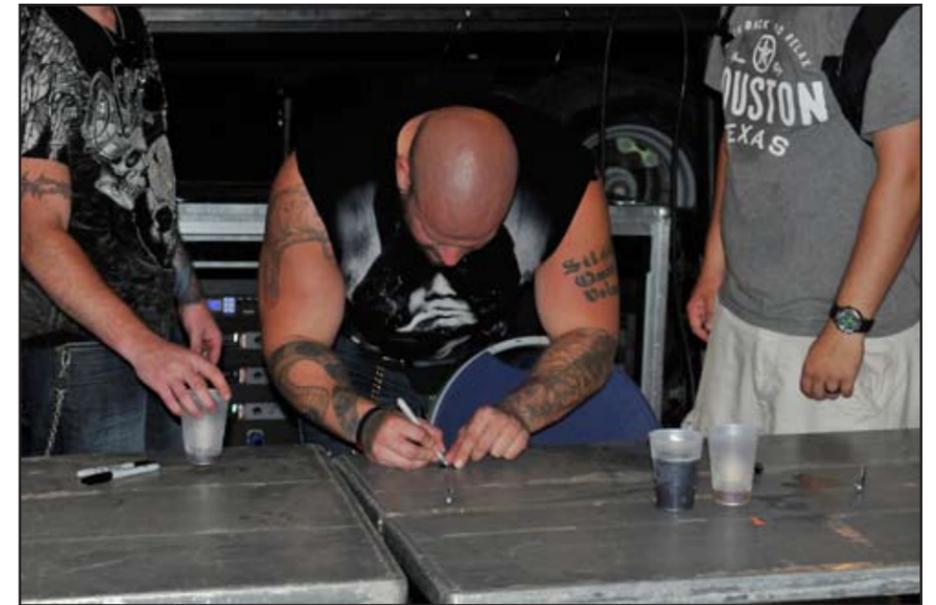
Until Every One Comes Home.

**“It’s so much better coming to a place like this because you know that these guys deserve rock and roll more than anybody else in the world.”**





Jared Weeks, lead singer for the rock band Saving Abel, performs at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's Downtown Lyceum, Friday. The band was on station to perform two shows sponsored by the USO for residents of the base. Following their performance, members of the band stopped to sign autographs (top right) and take pictures with their fans of the base. Drummer Blake Dixon (bottom right) thrashes the drums during Saving Abel's set.



Story by Army Sgt. Mathieu Perry  
Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel

**M**ore than 700 music fans from Joint Task Force and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay turned out at the Downtown Lyceum Friday for the first of two concerts by the rock group Saving Abel as part of a tour with the USO.

The concert was a way for the band to thank servicemembers for their contributions and also helped Guantanamo Bay residents socialize, relax and blow off steam.

"It's important to host a variety of recreational opportunities on base so our troops have an outlet to enjoy themselves, meet new people and relieve stress," said

Aimee MacDonnell, Morale, Welfare and Recreation community activities director.

Jared Weeks, lead vocalist for Saving Abel, said he loves playing for the military because they are always the band's best audience.

"The crowd participation is so much better over here," said Weeks.

The band is thankful for the opportunity

to perform in front of Troops and enjoys the diversity rather than the grind of a routine.

"It's so much better coming to a place like this because you know that these guys do so much for us every single day, said Weeks. "They deserve rock and roll more than anybody else in the world."

In addition to performing for USO tours, Weeks has a close connection with the armed forces through several family members.

"I have six uncles who have been in the military," said Weeks. "Two of them were Marines, the others were in the Army and both of my brothers have been in Afghanistan. My Grandpa fought in the Korean War, so the military is in my blood

and my family."

Weeks' diabetes prevents him from following in the footsteps of his brothers and uncles. Touring with the USO is his way of serving the military.

"The opportunity to be here and play for you guys makes me feel like I have done something in my life," said Weeks. "It doesn't matter if I was playing music or not, I would want to walk out here and shake your hand and say 'thank you.'"

Weeks said being at Guantanamo Bay helps the band pay forward and contribute to a greater cycle of gratitude.

"Being here makes it all worth it," said Weeks. "It's about being a part of something bigger than each of us or the group as a whole."

## Survey suggests Army focus on improving leader development

Rob McIlvaine

ARLINGTON, Va. – The results of a recent survey indicate Army leaders are seen as effective on a wide range of criteria, but leadership development has not been receiving the attention it once did at the unit level.

“Unit leader development appears to be less of a priority,” said John Steele at the Center for Army Leadership, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Steele is the project lead for CAL’s Annual Survey of Army Leadership, known as CASAL.

The latest CASAL, completed during November and December, had more than 22,000 Army leaders respond – sergeants to colonels – from both the active and reserve components.

Army leaders who reported their unit/organization placed a high priority on leader development was at an all-time low of 46 percent (compared to 53 percent in 2009 and 55 percent in 2008).

“If an individual is not getting leader development in the field, not seeing it as a priority, and the classroom is not effective in teaching leaders how to develop subordinates, then we need to figure out how to improve this,” Steele said, adding that the current operations tempo has affected the time and attention that can be devoted to professional development.

Only 57 percent of Army leaders reported they have time to carry out the duties and responsibilities for developing subordinates. This was down from 63 percent in 2009.

“A real value of CASAL is the detection of shifts or changes over time, since it is often the changes that occur gradually that can end up being the really big problem,” Steele said.

This latest CASAL is an on-going effort by the Center for Army Leadership and the Combined Arms Center to assess Army leader attitudes on leader development, the quality of leadership, and the contribution of leadership to mission accomplishment.

“These perceptions not only affect behavior, learning processes, and learning outcomes, but ultimately and most importantly, mission accomplishment. We are constantly updating, changing, and utilizing what we learn about leader attitudes to maintain an accurate pulse of how leaders see their Army,” said Steele.

From year to year the survey responses overall are more positive than

negative, yet the Army desires to detect and act on initial signs of issues.

Only 38 percent of respondents of the latest survey agreed that, “The Army is headed in the right direction to prepare for the challenges of the next 10 years.” The number one explanation was a perception of a “lack of discipline” or that the “Army is too soft.”

While 74 percent of junior noncommissioned officers selected lack of discipline as a reason, only 35 percent of company-grade officers did. Members of deployable units selected lack of discipline more often than leaders serving in the generating force.

About one-fourth of Army leaders responding to the survey said they believe that honest mistakes are held against them in their unit/organization. Nearly one-third believed that their unit/organization promotes a zero-defect mentality.

About one in five Army leaders reported that their immediate superior demonstrates some negative leadership behavior. Four out of five Army leaders reported they observed a leader who demonstrated toxic leadership behavior in the past year.

However, almost all also reported that they observed an extraordinary leader in the past year.

Information collected in the CASAL provides research guidance for policy decisions and program development, Steele said.

The bottom line, he said, is that CASAL findings inform diverse groups or consumers of information and are applied to a wide range of products, such as informing the Army Influence Trainer, FM 6-22, and various handbooks and training packages, as well as connections to areas with a broader focus, such as human dimension and providing baseline information for Comprehensive Soldier Fitness.

“CASAL allows us to see how the Army is doing in leader development, is a tracking and management tool to know what the field thinks, and empowers the field by providing opportunity for direct feedback,” Steele said.

“It is a best business practice, and results in a database used for senior leader queries, such as broadening task force, effectiveness of Captains Career Course and MSAF,” explained Steele, adding that the Multi-Source Assessment and Feedback, or MSAF, Army 360-degree program is widely used, has been well-received and is showing positive results.

## Tell your story: center seeks input from Airmen for Cultural Studies Project

Air Force Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – For many Airmen, working across other cultures provides some of the most memorable stories of their careers. A two-year research study began this month that will collect those stories to help Air Force educators provide better cross-cultural competence education and training to warfighters.

Officials at the Air Force Culture and Language Center at Air University on Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., launched the Cultural Studies Project survey site June 3 to gather information from Airmen about their experiences working across other cultures. The survey is located at [www.culture.af.mil/csp](http://www.culture.af.mil/csp), and all Airmen are encouraged to volunteer to participate.

Responding to the survey will only take minutes, but it will have a lasting impact on how Air Force instructors teach the skills and knowledge required for cross-cultural competence, according to Tricia Fogarty, the ethnographer at the AFCLC.

“We hope to survey more than 30,000 people over the next two years, and we can use that information to enhance our materials to target specific educational and training needs,” Fogarty said.

Some Airmen also may have the opportunity to participate in more extensive research. Of those surveyed, about 3,000 volunteers will be selected for phone or in-person interviews to elaborate on their experiences.

“From those 3,000, about 50 volunteers will be selected for taped interviews that will serve as specific case studies of Airmen’s cross-cultural encounters and the knowledge they’ve gained,” Fogarty said.

The survey differs from traditional “lessons learned” events due to the depth and specificity of the research.

“We’ll really have a detailed picture of their experiences,” said Dr. Kimberly Hudson, who leads the AFCLC’s Culture Department. “We can take that picture, and provide better opportunities for our Airmen to become cross-culturally competent, which will directly impact their ability to perform their missions globally.”

For more information on the survey, or on the AFCLC, see their website at [www.culture.af.mil](http://www.culture.af.mil), e-mail [afclc.pa@maxwell.af.mil](mailto:afclc.pa@maxwell.af.mil), or call to 334-953-7729. The protocol number of the survey is FAC20110023H. The study and ICD were approved Feb. 25. The expiration date is Feb. 24, 2012.



## Navy’s newest Destroyer to arrive in San Diego

From Naval Surface Forces,  
U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO – Sailors on the Navy’s newest destroyer are scheduled to arrive with their ship at Naval Base San Diego, Friday.

The guided-missile destroyer USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110), the 60th Arleigh Burke class destroyer, was built in Pascagoula, Miss. and commissioned during a ceremony at the Alabama State Docks in Mobile, Ala. June 4.

After commissioning, the ship departed Mobile and sailed through the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea and Panama Canal into the Pacific Ocean on its voyage to its homeport of San Diego.

Cmdr. Thomas R. Williams II is the first commanding officer of the 9,200-ton warship’s 280-person crew.

“It is wonderful to celebrate our homecoming on the 4th of July weekend

with our families,” said Williams. “Our goal as a command for the past year was to make it home by the 4th, and I’m very proud of the Lawrence warriors who worked so hard to make it possible.”

The new destroyer honors the late Vice Adm. William P. Lawrence, an accomplished leader and the first naval aviator to fly twice the speed of sound. During the Vietnam War, as commanding officer of Fighter Squadron 143, Lawrence was awarded the Silver Star for a strike against a heavily defended target in North Vietnam. He completed his mission, but was captured after his aircraft went down in June 1967 and remained a prisoner of war (POW) until March 1973. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his leadership to fellow POWs.

While a POW, Vice Adm. Lawrence composed a poem entitled “Oh Tennessee, My Tennessee,” which was subsequently designated

as the official poem of the State of Tennessee by the state legislature.

The ship is capable of carrying Tomahawk missiles, anti-submarine torpedoes, surface-to-air missiles, as well as a five-inch gun and two SH-60 helicopters.

William P. Lawrence helps provide deterrence, promote peace and security, preserve freedom of the sea and humanitarian/disaster response within 3rd Fleet’s 50-million square mile area of responsibility in the Eastern Pacific, as well as supporting the Navy’s Maritime Strategy when forward deployed.

For more information on the USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110) visit

<http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/ddg110/Pages/default.aspx> and for more information on Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, visit [www.surfaceforces.surfor.navy.mil](http://www.surfaceforces.surfor.navy.mil) or follow the Surface Force at [www.facebook.com/SurfaceWarriors](http://www.facebook.com/SurfaceWarriors).

## 31st MEU Departs Okinawa headed to Australia

WHITE BEACH, OKINAWA, Japan – More than 1,800 Marines and Sailors with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit embarked the USS Essex (LHD 2), and USS Germantown (LSD 42), Tuesday, in preparation for exercise Talisman Sabre 2011 to be held in Australia.

The Marines and Sailors loaded about 90 vehicles and more than 120 containers and pallets of gear onto the ships. This was done within 48 hours to ensure the ships left on schedule.

“The hardest part about the MEU on-load is ensuring that we have the proper gear packed in the appropriate location,” said Capt. Robert Schwaab, the assistant logistics chief for the 31st MEU. “This has to be done so that regardless of what mission or task we are given, we can respond in the best manner possible.”

That capability has proven necessary, as the MEU has participated in five humanitarian aid missions over the last three years, including involvement in

Operation Tomodachi after a the recent earthquake and tsunami struck Northeast Japan in March.

During this patrol, the 31st MEU is scheduled to participate in exercise Talisman Sabre 2011.

“The 31st MEU looks forward to the partnership with Australia and their military forces,” said Col. Andrew MacMannis, the commanding officer of the 31st MEU. “This exercise increases our readiness and advances regional security in the Pacific. We look forward to validating our combat readiness and interoperability as part of a combined joint task force.”

Marines from the Command Element; Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines; Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 (Reinforced) with attached Marine Attack Squadron 214 and Combat Logistics Regiment 31 will participate in the exercise.

Talisman Sabre is a biennial exercise, so this will be the first time most Marines with the MEU will participate in it.



Marines and Sailors with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, board USS Essex (LHD 2), Monday. - photo by Lance Cpl. Garry Welch

# SUPER 8

Sp. Meredith Vincent

The sleeper hit of the summer, "Super 8" is the lovechild of director JJ. Abrams and producer Steven Spielberg. The latter should need no introduction; for those unfamiliar with Abrams, he is the mastermind behind the new "Star Trek" reboot, frenzied monster movie "Cloverfield," as well as TV's landmark brain twister "Lost" and similarly spooky "Fringe." In short, the dude knows his sci-fi.

So what do you get when you mix Abrams' geekishness with the nostalgia of Spielberg's early 80's films like "E.T." and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind?" One hell of a good flick.

"Super 8" is everything a summer movie should be: intriguing, unexpected and above all else, fun. The story of five pals who set out to make a homemade zombie movie over their break and end up witnessing one of the most explosive train wrecks in cinematic history is reminiscent of 80s classic "Stand By Me," if River Phoenix and company had battled aliens and menacing Air Force-types. The children are wonderful to watch. All of them newcomers, the boys exhibit a chemistry few film veterans could match. Central to the story is Joe, (the stellar Joel Courtney) a sweetie of a kid recovering from the sudden loss of his mother by bonding with the equally sweet, equally tortured Alice. Joe's best friend, wingman and amateur director is Charles (Riley Griffiths, who's like a lovable mix between "The Goonies" Chunk and Mouth). Assisting in special effects, bit acting and overall hilariousness are Martin (Gabriel Basso), Preston (Zach Mills) and pyro-obsessed Cary (impossible-to-forget Ryan Lee.) The one-



liners happen so fast and the actors are so deft in not only delivery but also pace that the challenge for the audience is just keeping up with them.

The boys need a wife for their movie – enter Alice. As the singular girl amid this boys' club, Elle Fanning manages to balance tender vulnerability with candid goofiness, making her a dream girl for more than one member of the movie crew. Fanning, thankfully, is not nearly as creepy as her sister, Dakota. In fact, she's quite lovely and we fall for her just as easily as Joe.

Not to worry, there's some stuff that blows up, too. There's gunplay, car chases, townspeople being snatched up in true, startling fashion and, unlike Abrams' "Cloverfield" creature, we get a nice close-up of the misunderstood monster that is terrorizing the small town. There are conspiracies (the government is hiding

PG-13  
112 min.

something – shocking!), betrayals, cathartic revelations and a tongue-in-cheek moment with a Walkman.

To be sure, the movie has its flaws. With Spielberg's guiding presence, things toward the end can get a little overly sappy. And Abrams tends to get too excited and forgets to lock up all his story lines. (I still don't understand the spaceship part.)

But what it lacks in clarity, "Super 8" makes up for with sheer joy. For so long, movies have lacked that spark – that indescribable, gut-tling feeling of awe and wonderment. It's what we felt when we watched "E.T." for the first time. It's what we feel when we watch "The Goonies" for the dozenth time. It's rare and fleeting, but worth every minute. It's also worth my very first five banana rat rating. Enjoy!

## High schoolers teach grownups a lesson in Ultimate Frisbee

### W.T. Sampson students defeat NEGB team 8-7 in nail-biter

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

The Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay Frisbee team, Prestige, lost in overtime to W.T. Sampson High School team, the Tortugas, who inched their way to a winning score of 8 to 7, at Cooper Field and Sports Complex, Saturday.

Initially, the Prestige carried an expected lead heading into halftime, 4-1. The team seemed to lose momentum, however, going into the second half.

"We were out here warming up forever, because we thought the game was at 7 p.m. and it ended up being at 8 p.m.," said Bill Niemi, Prestige team member. "So, I guess we kind of burned ourselves out."

Prestige accepted their shortcomings for the loss and acknowledged the Tortuga's fierce determination going into the second half.

"I will say, they are fast, can catch and they know the game," Niemi said wearily.

Even the referee was surprised at the level of challenge brought on by the tenacious Tortugas even after their team lost a player to an injury in the last minute of the game.

"Prestige was about to lose to the Tortugas and I was like 'Oh my gosh, these guys [Tortugas] only have, like, five players,'" said Murray Mckeithan, a volunteer referee attached to JTF. "Seeing the older guys looking like 'Uh, wait a minute, we better take these guys seriously!' was fun."

Tortuga team member Tim Devepentigny said although they started the game with a few dropped plays and scattered defensive tactics, they managed to outlast team Prestige.

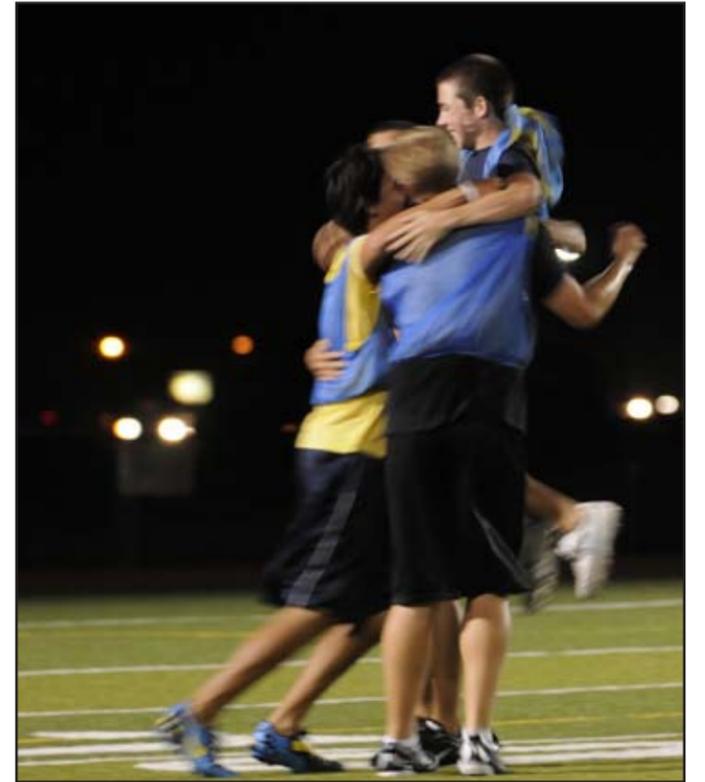
"We ended up tying the game after half time," said Devepentigny. "Then, we dropped one in the end zone in the last few seconds of the game,

which took us into overtime."

After a few back and forth possessions in what ended up being a short-lived overtime segment, the Tortugas managed to toss a quick pass to the end zone, ending the sudden death style overtime and adding a win to their record.

"This was our best game yet," claimed Devepentigny. "Because we're young, we generally have more endurance and speed – we just kind of outlasted them!"

(right) Team Tortuga players jump into a celebration huddle after defeating NEGB team Prestige in overtime, Saturday. The Tortugas lost a teammate to an injury in the last minute of the game and still managed to steal the win. (below) A Team Tortuga player (right) sends the Frisbee sailing to a teammate as an NEGB player attempts to block the throw.



	1 FRI.	2 SAT.	3 SUN.	4 MON.	5 TUES.	6 WED.	7 THURS.
<b>Downtown Lyceum</b>	Soul Surfer (G) 8 p.m. (last showing)	Prom (PG) 8 p.m.	Cars 2 (G) 8 p.m.	NO MOVIE 4th of July Fireworks Show! (at the Tiki Bar) 9 p.m.	Madea's Big Happy Family (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Something Borrowed (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Green Lantern (PG-13) 8 p.m.
	Water for Elephants (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Scream 4 (R) 10 p.m.	X-Men: First Class (PG-13) 10 p.m.				
<b>Camp Bulkeley</b>	Cars 2 (G) 8 p.m.	Something Borrowed (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Soul Surfer (G) 8 p.m. (last showing)	NO MOVIE 4th of July Fireworks Show! (at the Tiki Bar) 9 p.m.	Green Lantern (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Prom (PG) 8 p.m.	Madea's Big Happy Family (PG-13) 8 p.m.
	Scream 4 (R) 10 p.m.	X-Men: First Class (PG-13) 10 p.m.					

Call MWR at ext. 2010 for more information.

Movie Hotline - call 4880.

# Taking time to reflect: Don't miss your pattern

Command Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Gary Bertsch

I like stories and this one I think will ring true for most of us as we consider God's will for our lives.

There once was an honest jeweler who was imprisoned falsely of a crime he didn't commit. While in prison he quickly became bored and asked the guards if he could have simple jeweler tools. He said if they brought him bits of silver or gold he would make jewelry for them which they could then sell to augment their meager salaries. This would give him something to do and his skills would remain sharp. They agreed and brought him scraps of silver and gold.

One day his wife brought a prayer rug to the prison for him. She pleaded that her husband was a devout man and there could be no harm in him having it. The guards conceded and allowed him to have the rug.

One morning the guards came to the cell – it was empty. The door was locked, but no evidence of the jeweler. He had vanished.

Some time later, one of the guards saw the jeweler at a bazaar in the city. The man tried to run but the guard shouted he meant no harm. The real thief had been captured and confessed to the



crime. The jeweler was a free man.

The guard asked how he managed to escape. The jeweler said after he got his rug, he performed his prayers as usual. After a while, as he bowed his head in prayer, he noticed a pattern in the rug, then another pattern and

another. He realized the patterns were of the locks on the door and a map of the prison. His wife had somehow acquired the blueprints and wove them into the rug. So one night he picked the lock and escaped.

Seeing God's purpose for our lives is sometimes like the jeweler

– the pattern is right before our eyes, but because of how busy and distracted we become, we don't notice it until we pause to find quiet time to reflect, pray or worship. It's then that the picture God has for us becomes clear. Take time to find God's pattern in your life.

## GTMO Religious Services

**Daily Catholic Mass**  
Tues. - 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 5:30 p.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  
**LDS Service**  
Sunday 10 a.m.  
Room A

**Seventh Day Adventist**  
Saturday 11 a.m.  
Room B  
**Iglesia Ni Cristo**  
Sunday 5:30 a.m.  
Room A  
**Pentecostal Gospel**  
Sunday 8 a.m. & 5 p.m.  
Room D  
**Liturgical Service**  
Sunday 10 a.m.  
Room B  
**Church of the Sacred Well**  
Call 2323 for information

**General Protestant**  
Sunday 11 a.m.  
Main Chapel  
**United Jamaican Fellowship**  
Sunday 11 a.m.  
Sanctuary B  
**Gospel Service**  
Sunday 1 p.m.  
Main Chapel  
**GTMO Bay Christian Fellowship**  
Sunday 6 p.m.  
Main Chapel

## LEATHER cont.

determination and more than a month to complete. His dedication earned him a third place finish in the Witchata, Kan. Leatherworker's Tradeshow.

Nine years after starting his trade, Heizer now plans to share his talent with others - he was asked to teach a class on leather-working for Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"I have to charge [for classes] just because I'm providing the leather for it," said Heizer. "We are trying to make it cheap so people are still interested, at the same time, I can't give away expensive leather."

Heizer's longtime friend, Sgt. 1st Class Eb Nordman, a corrections specialist also assigned to JTF, praised Heizer's work and believes he would make a great instructor.

"He's a character," said

Nordman, who has known Heizer since basic training. "He does phenomenal work - he's very detail-oriented, patient and methodical."

Nordman said Heizer's trade is particularly interesting because it relates to his job as a corrections specialist.

"Patience," Nordman said. "You have to have it when dealing with detainees and it can be frustrating. You have to be aware of your surroundings at all times."

Heizer thinks of his hobby as not only a good use of his free time, but also as a way to vent his frustrations.

"You know people don't realize how much pounding goes into it," Heizer laughs. "I tell them it's my stress relief from the Army."

For Heizer, the hobby has

## Information Assurance Tip of the Week

Your Common Access Card (CAC) is a controlled item. Do not leave it in your card reader or leave it un-attended. Remember you are responsible for your CAC.

nothing to do with him and everything to do with the end result.

"I love seeing the face of somebody I've done work for that is just absolutely satisfied with it," he grins. "I mean, that's what it's all about!"

Heizer plans to one day open a leather-working shop in his home state of Texas. His first saddle will be on display, but will not be for sale.

To learn more about Heizer's leatherworking, visit his website [www.heizersleather.com](http://www.heizersleather.com).



# The JTF At Shutter Speed



## STOCKING UP

Sgt. Shawn Khirk, Joint Task Force J-4 warehouse Non-commissioned officer in charge, stocks supplies at the J-4 warehouse, Monday. Restock and inventory are just a few of the duties in the property book office.

-photo by Sgt. Mathieu Perry



## RAISING FUNDS

Chief Navy Career Counselor Robert Pagtakhan (left), a Naval Station Guantanamo Command Career Counselor, hands Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Eric Ortiz his change in the Navy Exchange atrium following a donut pre-sale purchase, Friday. - photo by Sgt. Mathieu Perry



## BE PREPARED

Hospitalman Justin Montgomery (left) and Spe. Brian Mikalinis attached to Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Joint troop Clinic, double check the inventory records in the patients waiting room, June 22.

- photo by Sgt. Mathieu Perry



## AT THE THEATER

Air Force Gen. Douglas M. Fraser, Commander, U.S. Southern Command and Joint Task Force Guantanamo Commander, Navy Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harbeson were on hand during a town hall discussion about the challenges of war following the dramatic reading of "Prometheus in Prison" by actors with Theater of War at the Naval Station Guantanamo Bulkeley Hall Auditorium June 24. -photo by Army Sgt. Mathieu Perry