

# The WIRE

An award-winning  
JTF journal

# FOOD WARS

**PLUS:**

**What's up, New York?**  
The 107th takes charge

**Tragedy in Afghanistan:**  
Navy heroes remembered

# COMMAND CORNER

I spent the first 18 years of my life in Farmerville, La., and have many close, old friends, almost all of whom never served in the military. They've often told me they didn't join the military because "they don't like being told what to do." I'll admit there is a perception (both outside and inside the military) that we who serve give up our ability to choose, but I believe servicemembers have more freedom of choice than we realize.

However, as part of a team, we sometimes have to accept a team or command decision, instead of each of us pursuing what we individually think is best. I'll amplify this point using a football analogy (especially since football season is just around the corner – geaux LSU!).

Let's assume we are players on a good football team (i.e. not Miss. St.). There are only five minutes left in the game, and we are behind by four points (that's bad). But we also have the ball on the opponent's 25-yard-line (that's good). Unfortunately, it's 4th down, with two yards to go. Should we attempt a field goal? Or should we go for the 1st down? Or maybe, surprise them by going deep for a touchdown?

I know, I know – the best course of action depends on many factors (is our kicking team reliable? Is our team getting tired? Is their team getting tired? How good are our special teams?). Even if we each knew all those answers, it's very unlikely we'd all choose the same play. But as a team, it's vital that we try our best to execute whichever play is called. If some of us put forth a halfhearted effort because we didn't agree with the play call, our team is likely to fail. It's possible that the coach, offensive coordinator or QB made the call based on info we didn't know. By signing on to be part of the team, we chose to commit ourselves to playing as a team.

Yet we still have the freedom to make many choices concerning our individual involvement on the team. *We can choose our attitude.* We get to choose how we interact with each of our teammates. We get to choose what we do and where we go when we don't have practice or a game to be at. We even get to choose whether or not to join the team next year. Being part of a team still leaves you with many choices.

So what choices can we make while here as part of the GTMO



team? Lots! Rather than using your GTMO tour as an excuse for what you can't do, I encourage you to focus on what you can choose to do. Choose to improve yourself while you're here. Improve your physical fitness; continue your education; enhance your skills at some

see **COMMAND**, pg. 19

## JTF Guantanamo

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**COVER: Gunner's Mate 2nd Class William Neimi and Aviation Maintainenceman 2nd Class Mark Scarpo face off in a cooking showdown, highlighting their culinary skills and prowess. - photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Maddelin Angebrand, photo illustration by Spc. Kelly Gary**

# Trooper to Trooper

*featuring*

## Master Chief Jason Wallis

Command Master Chief, NEGB



### What is Professionalism?

Professionalism is the expertise an individual has in a certain field. In the workplace, professionalism refers to an individual doing their job, with sincerity and genuineness. Professionalism leads to logical and unbiased decisions. In the absence of professionalism, the concepts of “politics” and “mind games” find room to breed. Unfortunately, this explanation is not enough to understand the concept of professionalism.

### Professionalism in the Workplace:

These days, everyone considers themselves a professional. If that fact was worth any salt, professionalism would not be hard to find and tough to keep, right? Well, then how do we understand professionalism in the workplace? Professionalism at work requires an individual to possess these characteristics.

- Knowing oneself and being in control of one’s reactions and work-related antics. Losing control over one’s temper is not considered professional at a work place.
- Handling constructive criticism. Constructive or not, criticism is a part of any working experience. As such, as a part of professionalism at work, one needs to be receptive of criticism. Be prepared to give criticism proper thought if it is constructive and ignored it if not.
- One has to be aware that workplace conflicts are natural and hence inevitable. It is not in human nature to be around so many people for so much time on a regular basis, under occasional stress and yet manage to be conflict-free. The point is to harness that conflict into positive productivity and leave it at that.

### Importance of Professionalism at Workplace

- Being a team player. This is a very well known

requirement for professionalism at work. A team spirit allows people to have their differences, yet follow the same goal. It requires an individual to give consideration to others, take suggestions and share credits.

- Having a pleasing personality. Besides work, professionalism at work requires one to have a pleasing personality. This helps keep the environment in the workplace favorable and conducive. Let’s face it – regularly seeing a person come shabbily to work will foster a very unprofessional atmosphere.
- Maintaining appropriate communication. Free communication and open door policies are all very conducive and welcoming at every workplace. However, this “freedom” has to be kept to a limit. Too much prying into personal life and friendships beyond the workplace as well as fraternization are completely against professionalism.



BE AWARE OF PHISHING ATTACKS!

**OPSEC ALERT**

### Gone Phishing?

Phishing is a way of trying to get sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card or bank details by using a fake website. You will get an email asking you to the fake website and enter your information. There might even be a link to the website in the email. The fake website will look almost identical to the legitimate one. Phishing is an example of a social engineering technique used to fool people. Targeted versions of phishing have been termed spear phishing. Several recent phishing attacks have been directed specifically at senior executives and other high profile targets. Don’t go to a linked website unless you know for sure it is legitimate! Be aware of phishing attacks, protect your information, use OPSEC!

# News from the Bay .....

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

## Military children no longer miss out in school

Now adopted by 39 states, the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children is great news for you and your family.

The Defense Department developed the compact in coordination with the Council of State Governments' National Center for Interstate Compacts in an attempt to counter many of the common education challenges military families face.

The compact requires schools to waive sports and other extracurricular activity deadlines, or offer alternative ways to audition (send recording, etc.) for military children. It helps with graduation requirements, honors classes, extracurricular opportunities, etc.

Students will no longer get behind in activities that help their educational development and well-being just because they are the children of the men and women serving and protecting our country.

## Number one comic to entertain and offer advice

Bernie McGrenahan is taking military bases across the globe by storm with his Happy Hour comedy show. Check it out Wednesday, 10 a.m. at the Windjammer or later at 7:30 p.m. at the Joint Task Force Trooper Chapel.

Opening the program with a 30-minute stand-up comedy show, McGrenahan then crosses into the dangers and risks of alcohol, drug abuse and sexual assault to inspire military personnel to make smart, safe decisions and better prepare each unit for mission success.

The Fleet and Family Support Center is hosting the comedian and also coordinating busses to pick up Troopers and take them to the show.

"I think it's so important to get the word out," said Jennifer Galka, FFSC sexual response victim coordinator. "This is a different avenue to talk about these issues and he uses life experiences to tie in the meaning behind awareness."

For more information, visit [comedyisthecure.com](http://comedyisthecure.com) or call FFSC at x4141.

## Sign up now for Labor Day softball tournament

Sign up by August 30 for the September 2nd Labor Day weekend one-pitch, all-night Softball Tournament. Space is limited to 12 teams and rosters are open to ages 16 and up.

"This one-pitch, all-night tournament is a great opportunity for those Troopers that are usually up all night on shift work to relax and have some fun," said Morale, Welfare and Recreation Sports Coordinator Alana Morrison. "If a Trooper does not have a team, they are more than welcome to sign up on our players' pool and we will place them on a team for the tournament."

Softball is one of the most popular sports on the island, Morrison added.

"Softball is a great sport to have in GTMO, because it is not only fun but it is a great way to socialize with your teammates and also get to know new people here on base. If you have wanted a more competitive softball game, this tournament is a great opportunity since it is only one-pitch and you either hit or you are out!"

Morrison, who has been involved with softball and baseball since she can remember, also shared her personal feelings toward the sport.

"I love this sport because it is a little slower pace and it gives me a chance to get my mind off all the behind-the-scenes work it takes to put a sporting program on. I really get the chance to hear from, not only my team but from other teams, what they like and what they don't like about the sport."

For more information, call x4113.

## Muslim chaplain to offer services on NAVSTA side

Chaplain Air Force Capt. Rashad El-Saddiq will provide Muslim religious prayer services Sunday and Monday at the Naval Station Chapel (sanctuary C).

The daily Dhuhr prayer will start at 1:06 p.m., the daily Asr prayer will start at 4:25 p.m. and the daily Isha prayer will begin at 8:44 p.m.

For more information, call x2305 or 3203.

**THE OCEAN ENTERPRISES**  
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The Monthly Newsletter and Events Calendar of Guantanamo Bay's Premiere Dive Center

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**AUGUST**  
**MARES AS OUR SPECIAL GUEST**  
**FREE Mares Seminars: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 6pm @**  
**Reef Raiders.**

For all that ATTEND you will have 2 chances to win  
**FREE MARES SCUBA GEAR!!!**

We will be providing refreshments & A LOT of great information!  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> @ Dive Shop 9am: Join us for**  
**ONE DAY UNDER THE TENT EVENT!!**

Meet & greet MARES REPS., play on the bouncer, &  
have a chance to **WIN FREE MARES SCUBA GEAR!**

[jessie@oceanenterprises.com](mailto:jessie@oceanenterprises.com)

# TROOPER FOCUS

## Army Sgt. Matthew Muntzer



Spc. Kelly Gary

After six years in the Marine Corps. as an avionics technician, Army Sgt. Matthew Muntzer left with an honorable discharge. Fourteen years later he joined the Wyoming National Guard. No matter the branch or the trade, for Muntzer, the ability to serve his country is what counts.

“Wearing the uniform is by far the best part of my job,” said Muntzer, administration noncommissioned officer for Joint Task Force Guantanamo Public Affairs. “I have worn two now and know that, for some, it’s not easy to make the choice to serve. Everyone who puts on a uniform has made a choice to serve others and knows it is more than just a job.”

Muntzer’s father served as a Navy photographer, so it came as no surprise when he chose the same job as his Army specialty. The newly promoted sergeant and his wife are the proud parents of nine children, ages ranging from 19-years-old to newborn. It is clear family is an integral part of their lives. Although challenging being away from his family, Muntzer believes this deployment has

served as a good experience and opportunity to practice various aspects of his job.

“I would like to see what servicemembers are doing throughout the world,” said Muntzer. “Hopefully I can get the story, whether it be next door or in another country.”

His title may read photojournalist but Muntzer has shown his peers, command and numerous people across JTF that he is much more. Occasionally, his pictures and stories appear in the JTF’s newsletter, *The Wire*, but it is his behind-the-scenes work that is essential for the public affairs office to run smoothly.

“[Muntzer] is the cog within the PAO,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott Chapman, JTF Public Affairs operations officer. “He is my right-hand man; he helps me out with supply

see FOCUS, page 19

### Bullet Bio

**Time in service:** 9 years

**Hobbies:** scuba diving

**Pet peeves:** disorder

**Next goal:** advance in Army career

**Advice to junior Troopers:** “Listen to what is passed down and never be afraid of being wrong.”

### If you could bring one restaurant chain to the island, which would it be?



“I would bring Popeye’s. It makes me miss home. I just love it.”

Yeoman 1st Class  
Jyl Bucano



“I would pick Chipotle. I was recently in Ft. Lewis and I had it for the first time – it was amazing.”

Spc.  
Bennie Web



“I love Wendy’s because it’s not McDonalds and it’s healthier. There’s more of a variety, too. I would eat there twice a week.”

Army Sgt.  
James Vincent



“I would choose Olive Garden. I love that place. I live in Hawaii now and we don’t have it there either. I really miss it.”

Tech Sgt.  
Jamie Hedrick

## Boots on the Ground



(left) Paintball teams await the starting siren before advancing on opposition in a speedball paintball scenario, Saturday. The GTMO Slayers, Guantanamo Bay's paintball group, held the event followed by a cookout to promote paintball amongst military personnel stationed on Guantanamo Bay.

(below) A Trooper secures high ground during paintball games sponsored by the GTMO Slayers, Saturday.



## Paintballers host BBQ to promote interest in messy sport

Story and photos by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Marquis Whitehead

In an effort to promote their sport, Guantanamo Bay-based paintball team, the GTMO Slayers hosted a potluck BBQ Saturday afternoon at the paintball field.

Brought together by a life-long passion of playing paintball, the team was co-founded by Wayne Whitley and Justin Olsen. Whitley started playing paintball with his older brother when he was 13 years old and Olsen at 17. They said the GTMO Slayers are more of a

fraternity than a paintball team.

"We don't have tournaments or anything but if you become a Slayer, it's like you're part of a brotherhood," said Olson.

Whitley and Olson began orchestrating the cookout a month in advance, reaching out to their chain of command as well as Cory Geiger, Morale, Welfare and Recreation's outdoor recreation coordinator.

During the cookout, there were multiple paintball games played: speed ball, consisting of at least

three players on each team where any type of dye contact from an opponent excludes you from the game; capture the flag; and castle siege and high side-low side, games played on a much bigger, more natural terrain where only hits to vital areas such as head, chest, stomach and back, remove you from the game.

"Paintball is like a living video game," said Whitley "Once you play, you're hooked."

Through the funding of their chain of command, the GTMO

Slayers grilled burgers, and provided water and Gatorade for all who participated. For the event, MWR waived the paintball gun rental fee.

The GTMO Slayers are planning more cookouts and other future events to promote the fun, fitness and camaraderie of paintball to fans throughout Guantanamo Bay.

"It's an adrenaline rush that gives you a workout, helps build teamwork and communication skills," said Whitley.

## West Point Academy cadets visit GTMO, commission lessons from JTF officers

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Maddelin Angebrand

Four cadets from West Point Academy spent the last three weeks immersed in Joint Task Force Guantanamo's 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion as part of the school's Continuing Leadership Program.

The program requires each student take a trip to experience one of the Army's 18 different branches, to include infantry, military intelligence and, in this case, military police.

The cadets began the training with a

group of new Soldiers who just arrived on the island and were required to take the Army's Pre-service course. The 80-hour class introduces Guantanamo Bay, the Joint Task Force mission and some behavioral science.

"Obviously with the mission here on Guantanamo Bay and the military police battalion and their unique mission, it affords the cadets a very unique opportunity to see the military police branch and detainee operations," said Army 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Shawn Pierce. "It's unlike any other place that the MPs would operate."

This is the second group of cadets Pierce has worked with during his time here and he said the training is a crucial part of any cadet's commitment to the Army.

"When they leave here," explained Pierce, "they have to go back and make a decision that will change the rest of their lives - signing their contract."

Of the four cadets, three are going into their senior year and have already signed contracts. One still has a big decision ahead of him. Cadet Sgt. Tom Dickson is going into his junior year at the academy and will use his time on Guantanamo Bay to help with his decision.

see CADETS, page 19

## Commissions part of JTF's trifecta mission

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel

Around the task force, everyone knows the primary mission – the safe, transparent, humane and legal custody and care of enemy combatants. But the mission of Joint Task Force Guantanamo is three-fold, along with detainee care is also intelligence gathering – an on-going operation – and support of military commissions.

The first two pieces of the trifecta puzzle are constantly in motion. It is the last piece – support to the Office of Military Commissions that ebbs and flows as lawyers prepare evidence, charges are brought forth and the commissions process begins.

High tide is about to wash over JTF Guantanamo with the start of many high profile cases – including alleged 9/11 mastermind, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed – currently making their way through the legal process. And in the eyes of JTF Guantanamo commander, Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harbeson, the upcoming surge will require the efforts of every JTF Trooper.

“This really touches every area of the JTF,” Harbeson said.

Harbeson explained with the pending process, he expects a large influx of lawyers, media, support personnel and potentially family members of those killed during the attacks of 9/11.

“I’m looking at this as an all-hands evolution,” Harbeson said, noting even Naval Station Guantanamo will be involved with the trying of the high-value detainees.

“We all contribute to this from PAO to J6 (communications), logistics – everyone has a part.”

It’s important for Troopers to be flexible during the commission process, Harbeson said, as individuals could be tasked to perform duties not normally associated with their day-to-day jobs. The only Troopers who won’t be impacted with commissions are the guard force serving the JTF.

“I don’t think the guards’ functions will really change,” Harbeson said. “They’ll continue to carry their missions – the safe, humane, legal, transparent care and custody doesn’t really change. It may be some other folks augmenting the security details and guard force requirements over at Camp Justice.”

While the exact kick-off of the

see **COMMISSIONS**, pg. 19



Nelly's Echo performs at O'Kelly's Irish Pub, Friday evening as part of MWR Coffeehouse series.

## Coffeehouse series continues with Nelly's Echo

Story and photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Sally Hendricks

Nelly's Echo performed at O'Kelly's Irish Pub and the Bayview over the weekend as part of Morale, Welfare and Recreation's continuing Coffeehouse series.

Nelly's Echo is actually singer/songwriter Nelson Emokpae, a one-man band based out of Baltimore, Md. Singing since he was eight years old, Emokpae began playing shows his last year of college.

“One show led to another and another and another,” said Emokpae. “My shows led to making a CD and then a second and now here I am.”

Emokpae said he did not choose to name his band “Nelly's Echo.”

“It chose me,” he explained. “I chose Nelly, representing me, but Echo is for the people.”

While performing, Emokpae creates a relationship with his audience that is engaging and inviting. He said he wants nothing more than to spread love, hope and positivity.

“I want to be an avenue that goes against the norm of negativity,” he shared.

MWR introduced the Coffeehouse series in May of this year. Emokpae's relaxed vibe seemed a natural choice for their next featured artist.

“Nelly's Echo had played at several colleges so we thought he would be a good fit,” said Eboni Harris, community activities intern at MWR.

MWR's effort to bring diverse and talented musicians to the island is appreciated.

“It's a great place to go where you can eat, listen to music and relax,” said Ramak Sydlo, a Guantanamo Bay resident.

Originally born in Nigeria, Emokpae, his three brothers and his mother all came to the United States as refugees in 1996.

“I love how much the military has sacrificed for their country and I want to show my appreciation to them through my music,” said Emokpae. “This country has afforded me many opportunities that I wouldn't have had otherwise. I am very grateful.”

# NEW YORK, NEW YORK!

Story and photos by  
Spc. Kelly Gary

The 107th Military Police Company from Unica, N.Y is one of the oldest military units in the United States. For more than two centuries the unit has served the community, state and nation, from the War of 1812 to their current mission, Operation Enduring Freedom. Now, the 107th is here to support OEF ten years after the historical attacks of 9/11, which took place right outside their back door.

After conducting mobilization training in Ft. Bliss, Texas, the 170 Soldiers arrived on Guantanamo Bay to replace the 296<sup>th</sup> Military Company from the Puerto Rican National Guard. They now conduct all external security

for Joint Task Force Guantanamo, in addition to supporting military commissions. The Soldiers man the gates, sally ports and towers and also comprise the quick reaction force teams.

"We are here to support the battalion and its mission," said Army Capt. Christopher Marion, 107th MP Co. commander. "We are here to do our job the best we can."

The unit is comprised of Soldiers from all over New York. The majority of them are young Troopers who have supported missions all throughout the state for homeland security, but have never deployed overseas, let alone to support a high-profile mission such as JTF

Guantanamo, Marion explained.

Cpl. Cody Duger, a team leader for the 107th, said this is his first deployment overseas and he is ready to carry out the mission and learn more about his job.

"We aim to do as well or better than the unit we are replacing," Duger said. "I hope we can learn from what they have done and still do better."

The new unit finished their initial preparation and is beginning their tour here on Guantanamo Bay on the right foot.

"[The Soldiers] have already learned a lot," said Marion. "They have learned about what it



Private 2nd Class Stephen Daley and Sgt. John Daley rove around the Joint Task Force area, Tuesday, ensuring all is secure.

is to be in the real Army, outside of the training environment.”

The 107th is now solely carrying out their mission as part of the JTF team.

Next month, the tenth anniversary of 9/11 will arrive. The military – as well as the country it protects – has changed drastically in the past decade. There is little doubt the day will cause much sorrow and grief to resurface. For the 107th, the attacks struck close to home. The unit actually stood at Ground Zero on that fateful day a mere ten years ago.

“To be here for the tenth anniversary and in anticipation of the commissions for the 9/11 conspirators,” said Marion, “it means something very personal to everyone.”

Even with all the close ties to the mission, Duger said there will be no interference with operations– they will all carry out procedures properly and professionally.

“We will all take it pretty seriously,” said Duger. “We take it to heart.”

On each of the Soldier’s left sleeve is a patch emblazoned with Lady Liberty’s crown intersected with a sword. The crown not only represents New York, but also what each Soldier is defending and fighting for – freedom. The 107th has moved from defending their hometown to protecting Guantanamo Bay.

Duger is looking forward to working in a diverse setting.

“It will be constructive working in a joint environment,” Duger said. “Learning about other services and what other people do in the military.”

The men and women of the 107th are confident they will positively represent their unit, state and country with dedication and determination.

“Our motto is to protect and defend,” said Duger. “Now, we will be adopting the ‘honor bound’ motto and the ‘honor bound’ mission.”



**Spc. David Simmons waves to a vehicle to approach, Tuesday, at Roosevelt Gate.**



**Sgt. Charley Moyer greets Joint Task Force Deputy Commander Brig. Gen. Samuel Nichols as he passes through the Sally port of Camp Delta, Tuesday.**





Story and photo by  
Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kilho Park

A United States Coast Guard search-and-rescue helicopter from Clearwater, Fla. made an unscheduled stop in Puerto Rico last week due to inclement weather from Trujillo. The team of six – two pilots, one search-and-rescue technician and two grounds crew personnel – landed in Puerto Rico and stayed home until Saturday.

“When it’s hurricane season, it’s not uncommon for us to be grounded much,” said Lt. Jon Lee, secondary pilot for the crew. For their four days on Guantanamo Bay, it was not just about conducting training evolutions, supporting Naval Air Station operations. “While we’re seeking shelter from the storm, we’re still doing our work in,” said Aviation Survival Technician 3rd Class Andrew Ruga. Although not completely unfamiliar with the island, the team’s Unified Response with humanitarian and rescue operations. “It’s my first time out here, it’s kind of exciting,” said Ruga. “Not every one gets to come to Guantanamo Bay.” On Saturday, the team, packed their gear and were lifted off the flight line, heading back to Puerto Rico and the Caicos.

OPBAT is a combined Coast Guard and U.S. Coast Guard of Bahamas partnership to combat human trafficking, as well as immigrant mitigation. The team is responsible for initiating and responding to cases in the Bahamian Air Operations. The assets regularly assist with search and rescue cases throughout the region.

United States Coast Guardsmen Aviation Maintenance Technician 2nd Class Justin Gozzard and Aviation Survival Technician 3rd Class Andrew Ruga relay information to one another during a pre-flight check on their MH-60(J) search and rescue helicopter, Saturday.

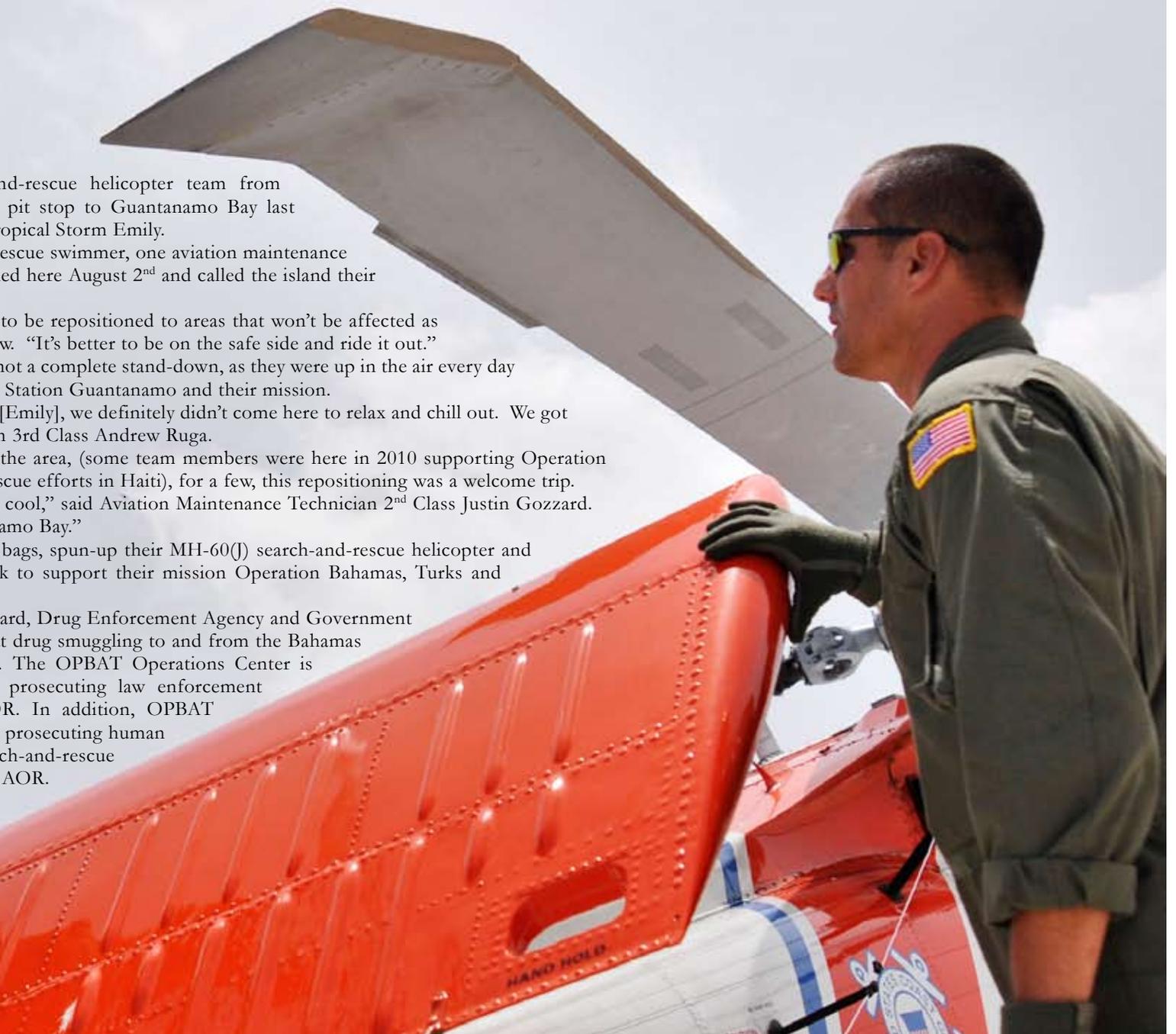
# Florida coasties make a pit stop in GTMO

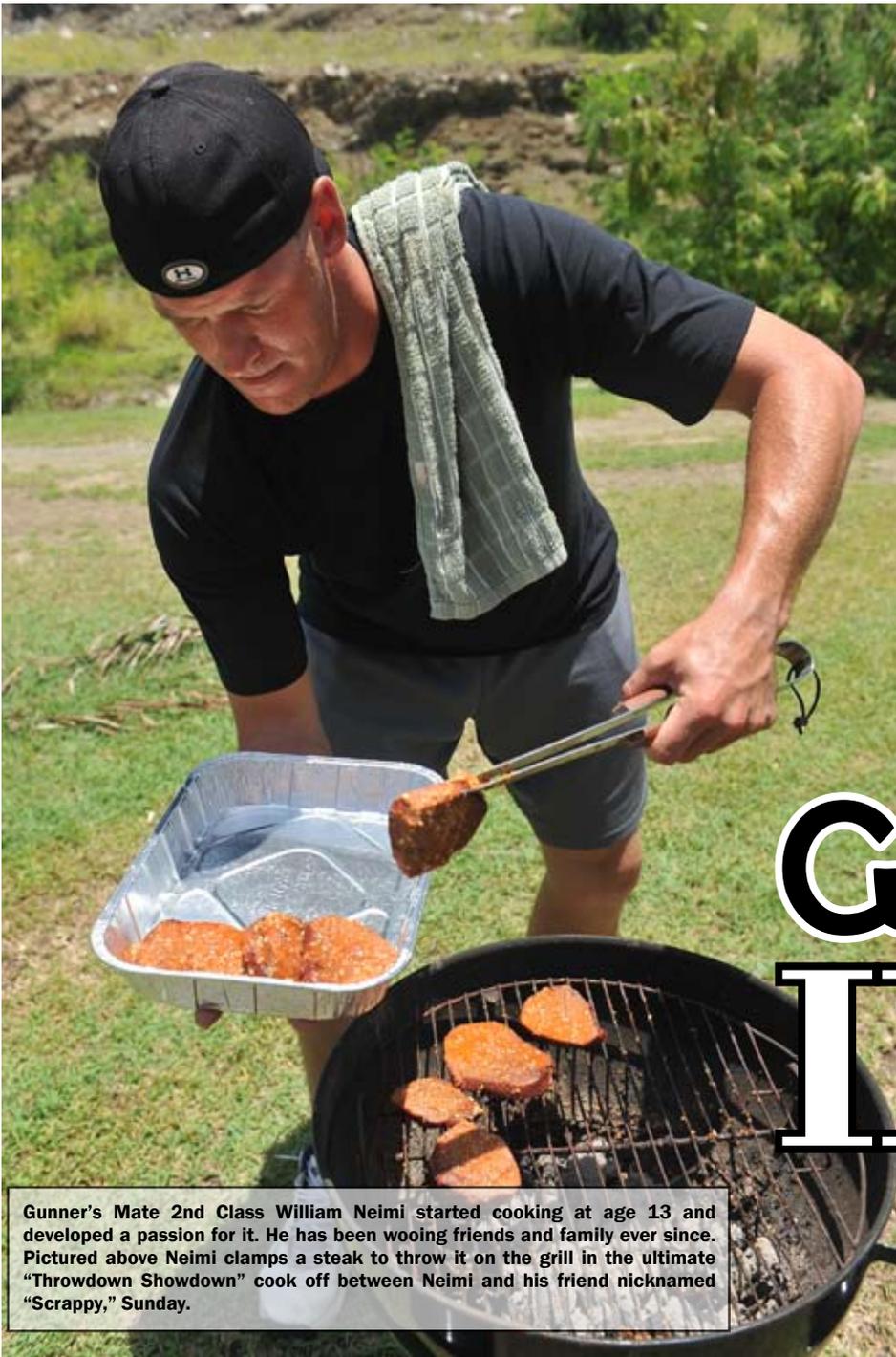
and-rescue helicopter team from  
pit stop to Guantanamo Bay last  
tropical Storm Emily.  
rescue swimmer, one aviation maintenance  
ed here August 2<sup>nd</sup> and called the island their

to be repositioned to areas that won't be affected as  
w. "It's better to be on the safe side and ride it out."  
not a complete stand-down, as they were up in the air every day  
Station Guantanamo and their mission.  
[Emily], we definitely didn't come here to relax and chill out. We got  
n 3rd Class Andrew Ruga.  
the area, (some team members were here in 2010 supporting Operation  
rescue efforts in Haiti), for a few, this repositioning was a welcome trip.  
cool," said Aviation Maintenance Technician 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Justin Gozzard.  
amo Bay."

bags, spun-up their MH-60(J) search-and-rescue helicopter and  
k to support their mission Operation Bahamas, Turks and

ard, Drug Enforcement Agency and Government  
t drug smuggling to and from the Bahamas  
. The OPBAT Operations Center is  
prosecuting law enforcement  
R. In addition, OPBAT  
prosecuting human  
ch-and-rescue  
AOR.





# GTMO's IRON

**Gunner's Mate 2nd Class William Neimi started cooking at age 13 and developed a passion for it. He has been wooing friends and family ever since. Pictured above Neimi clamps a steak to throw it on the grill in the ultimate "Throwdown Showdown" cook off between Neimi and his friend nicknamed "Scrappy," Sunday.**

Story and photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Maddelin Angebrand  
Additional photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Carlos Cepeda

When Gunner's Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> Class William Neimi and Aviation Maintaineceman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Mark Scarpo arrived on Guantanamo Bay 11 months ago, they had two things in common – they both worked in the camps and both loved to cook.

United by their passion for food, Neimi and Scarpo started taking turns cooking for their group of friends each weekend.

"He's cooked for a bunch of us, I've cooked for a bunch of us," said Neimi, "And it kind of just went back and fourth - I'm a better cook, no, I'm a better cook!"

It's been a year in the making, and finally two great Guantanamo Bay chefs face off in an epic showdown of flame-broiled, mouthwatering food extravagance. To each his own flavor, style and spice – there are no rules, just cook.

"You know that saying, 'go big or go home?'" Neimi asks as he flips a piece of battered chicken over in a pan of bubbling peanut oil. "Well, we decided to go big before we go home!"

With only a few weeks left on the island, the two friends decided to have one last barbeque - a "Throw Down, Showdown" - complete with every kind of meat the commissary had to offer.

"We went to the NEX and just started filling the cart," said Scarpo, also known as Chef Scrappy. "We wanted this one to be huge."

Jerk shrimp, BBQ steak kabobs, bacon wrapped tenderloin, meatloaf, vodka marinated chicken... the list goes on.

"This is a serious spread of food," Neimi laughs as he moves from the stove-top chicken to the four fired-up grills outside. "There are two things I don't mess around with - guns and food!"

With more than eight hours of preparation and four hundred dollars spent, Neimi is not kidding - he and Scrappy love to cook.

"I think I started at 13," Neimi shares. "You know, helping Nana in



# CHEFS

Aviation Maintainenceman 2nd Class Mark Scarpo taught himself how to cook years ago after being sick of eating fast food. Since then, he has loved sharing his passion for food with others. Pictured above, Scarpo throws some shrimp kabobs on the grill during the ultimate "Throwdown Showdown" cook off between he and his friend Gunner's Mate 2nd Class William Neimi, Sunday.

the kitchen and what not. My Nana, my pops and my uncle can all take equal blame for the monster I have become in the kitchen!"

Scarpo, too, shares the passion, not just for cooking, but for bringing people together by way of food.

"If it wasn't for these BBQs," Scrappy says, pinching a kabob off of the grill, "I would have gone crazy months ago – this is what it's all about."

Both chefs say there are no secret ingredients except for cheese and bacon, which Neimi says makes everything taste better, and neither of them cook by recipe.

"I could never become a [professional] chef," Neimi admits, tossing some steaks on the grill. "I am too passionate about food. Once it becomes a job, the passion becomes more of a burden and a necessity - a means of making money. I enjoy cooking way too much, I like to have fun with it."

Yeoman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Kevin Clute has known Neimi and Scarpo since

the beginning of their deployment and says they tend to get carried away and need a little help at times. That's where Clute comes in, aside from being their best customer.

"Sometimes the next thing just needs to be prepared so I get [it] going," Clute explains as he smashes a bag of Saltine crackers for Neimi's latest chicken marinade. "It's just attention to detail and doing what they say, it's not like I take the blame if anything gets messed up."

Being a friend of Scarpo and Neimi comes with one requirement – an appetite.

"Everybody loves a full belly," Clute mumbles, chewing on a whiskey-marinated chicken wing. "We all started out working in camps and to tell you the truth, on your two days off you just want to relax as much as you can and there's no better way to do so than sitting around a table with some friends with some good food. It really helps you unwind."

# *“Their loss is a stark reminder of the risks that our men and women take every single day on behalf of their country” - President Barack Obama*

By Jim Garamone,  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The five aircrew members and 25 special operations personnel killed in a Chinook helicopter crash in Afghanistan on Saturday – and their fellow U.S. service members -- embody the qualities America needs most for its future, President Barack Obama said Monday.

“What sets us apart is that we’ve always not just had the capacity, but also the will to act, the determination to shape our future,

the willingness in our democracy to work out our differences in a sensible way and to move forward not just for this generation, but for the next generation,” Obama said during a news conference dedicated mostly to the latest downturn in the U.S. economy and the national political stalemates that have accompanied it.

Americans “need to summon that spirit today,” Obama said, adding that he is hopeful for the future because of Americans’ perseverance, courage and “willingness to shoulder the burdens we face together, as

one nation.”

“There is no one who embodies the qualities that I mentioned more than the men and women of the United States armed forces,” the president said, evoking those lost on the helicopter.

“Their loss is a stark reminder of the risks that our men and women in uniform take every single day on behalf of their country,” he said. “Day after day, night after night, they carry out missions like this in the face of enemy fire and grave danger.”

Obama noted that Afghan commandos



also were killed in the crash, and said that after speaking with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and U.S. commanders there, “I know that our troops will continue the hard work of transitioning to a stronger Afghan government and ensuring that Afghanistan is not a safe haven for terrorists.

“We will press on and we will succeed,” the president added.

Reflecting on the lost service members, and all U.S. service members and their families, Obama said, “These men and women put their lives on the line for the values that bind us together as a nation. They come from different places, and their backgrounds and beliefs reflect the rich diversity of America.

“But no matter what differences they might have as individuals, they serve this nation as a team,” he continued. “They meet their responsibilities together. And some of them, like the 30 Americans who were lost this weekend, give their lives for their country.

“Our responsibility is to ensure that their legacy is an America that reflects their courage, their commitment and their sense of common purpose.”



**Movie Review**  
**COWBOYS**  
 &  
**ALIENS**

**PG-13**  
**118 min.**



Sp. Meredith Vincent

You know what I like most about Westerns? Everybody's always in a hat. True story.

Really, what can you expect from a movie called, "Cowboys & Aliens?" You should already know what you're in store for. The film's biggest draw is, of course, the spectacle of James Bond sharing the screen with fellow cinematic legend Indiana Jones. What possessed both Harrison Ford and Daniel Craig to star in a movie called "Cowboys & Aliens" is beyond me, as neither of their careers are fledging. Ford may be getting up in years, but he's usually pretty deft and choosy about his projects ("Hollywood Homicide" notwithstanding). Daniel Craig's career is seemingly on fire – his Bond reenergized the genre (Sean Connery who?) and now he's set to take on another franchise, the much-anticipated "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo."

We'll never know exactly how director Jon Favreau, who also directed the two "Iron Man" films, shanghai'd his leads into appearing in his unexpected sci-fi western, but we can be glad he did. Their combined growling, menacing and overall brooding is integral to, if not the plot, than at least the health of the movie.

Craig is Jake Lonergan, who wakes up, beaten and bloody, in the middle of the desert with a heavy piece of wrist jewelry, no shoes and no memory. There's an element of Jason Bourne in Jake's story as he tries to recover his memory. Is he a good man or a criminal? Is it possible to be both? Craig admittedly has very few lines – but with a glance, a stare or a pursing of his lips, he speaks volumes. Plus, how embarrassing would it be if his British accent crept out while he was trying to be an All-American cowboy? I think Britain has enough problems right now.

Upon his arrival to a dusty Western town, Jake quickly tussles with the spoiled, sniveling



son of Col. Woodrow Dolarhyde (best Western name, EVER!), played by Ford. After decades of playing the wholesome American hero, Ford looks positively gleeful as he scowls, rants, threatens and snarls vaguely racist things about Native Americans. I, for one, am perfectly OK with this. Ford's had a long and respectable career and he deserves a little fun.

The movie spends the first half hour introducing Jake – and us – to the likeable townspeople, mostly so when they end up being snatched up by nasty spaceship lassos, we care. Such is the way with witty sheriff Taggart (Keith Carradine), forlorn Spanish wife Alice and Woodrow's aforementioned son, Percy (ironically, the most interesting character to watch). After the initial invasion, Woodrow gathers a posse to track the aliens and hunt down the missing folk.

And after that, we get revelations about Jake, lessons in tolerance and humanity and the ridiculous sight of a man on a horse trying to

chase a spaceship.

The most glaring problem with "Cowboys & Aliens" is its lack of guts. There was promise here, for sure. It could have been a fun, winking flick, in on its own joke. Or it could have been a massive action-palooza, much like the "Transformers" films but with grit and style. Instead, it chose to be a limp noodle, keeping with traditional movie drivel and offering nothing new or innovative.

I don't blame the actors – Ford does what he can acting opposite a cute little boy, teaching him about being a man and other life lessons. And Craig oozes chemistry, both with his fellow gunslingers and the mysterious woman who takes a shine to him early on (Olivia Wilde, we know your eyes are pretty but you need to blink once in a while). I mostly blame Favreau, who broke the movie mold when he did the first "Iron Man," but now seems to have retreated back into bland, standardized filmmaking. Indy and 007 deserve better.

	<b>12 FRI.</b>	<b>13 SAT.</b>	<b>14 SUN.</b>	<b>15 MON.</b>	<b>16 TUES.</b>	<b>17 WED.</b>	<b>18 THURS.</b>
<b>Downtown Lyceum</b>	<b>Kung Fu Panda 2</b> (PG) 8 p.m.	<b>Cars 2</b> (G) 8 p.m.	<b>Captain America</b> (PG-13) 8 p.m.	<b>Green Lantern</b> (PG-13) 8 p.m.	<b>Mr. Popper's Penguins</b> (PG) 8 p.m.	<b>The Hangover 2</b> <i>(last showing)</i> (PG-13) 8 p.m.	<b>Super 8</b> (PG-13) 8 p.m.
	<b>Bad Teacher</b> (R) 10 p.m.	<b>Cowboys &amp; aliens</b> (PG-13) 10 p.m.					
<b>Camp Bulkeley</b>	<b>Cowboys &amp; Aliens</b> (PG-13) 8 p.m.	<b>Super 8</b> (PG-13) 8 p.m.	<b>Green Lantern</b> (PG-13) 8 p.m.	<b>X-Men: First Class</b> (PG-13) 8 p.m.	<b>Cars 2</b> (G) 8 p.m.	<b>The Conspirator</b> (PG-13) 8 p.m.	<b>Captain America</b> (PG-13) 8 p.m.
	<b>The Hangover 2</b> <i>(last showing)</i> (R) 10 p.m.	<b>Bad Teacher</b> (R) 10 p.m.					

Call MWR at ext. 2010 for more information.

Movie Hotline - call 4880.



Virginia Beach residents watch as news of the downed Chinook and its occupants unfold on a television at a local bar, Saturday.

## NATO airstrike kills insurgents who caused helicopter crash

By Cheryl Pellerin  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Coalition forces used a precision airstrike to kill Taliban insurgents involved in the Aug. 6 downing of the helicopter carrying 30 U.S. servicemembers and eight Afghans, the commander of U.S. and coalition forces in Afghanistan said yesterday.

In a briefing from his headquarters in the Afghan capital of Kabul, Marine Corps Gen. John R. Allen told Pentagon reporters the action was a continuation of the original mission to dismantle the leadership of an enemy network in Wardak province's Tangi Valley.

"This does not ease our loss," Allen said. "But we must and we will continue to relentlessly pursue the enemy."

Near midnight on Aug. 8, the general said, coalition forces called in a precision airstrike with F-16s over the Chak district of Wardak province. According to details International Security Assistance Force officials released yesterday, the strike killed Taliban leader Mullah Mohibullah and the insurgent who fired the shot -- which ISAF assessed to be a rocket-propelled grenade, Allen said -- associated with the Aug. 6 helicopter crash.

Mohibullah was a key facilitator in an insurgent attack cell led by Din Mohammad, a Taliban leader killed in a previous special operations mission, ISAF officials said. As a leader in Mohammad's network in the Tangi Valley, Mohibullah had as many as 12 Taliban fighters under his command, including potential suicide bombers.

Special operations forces received several intelligence leads and tips from local civilians and after an exhaustive manhunt, ISAF officials said, they located Mohibullah and the shooter as they were trying to flee the country.

The security force located and followed the insurgents to a wooded area in the Chak district. After making sure no civilians were in the area, the force called for the airstrike that killed Mohibullah, the shooter and several Taliban associates.

On the night of the deadly helicopter crash, the inbound CH-47 carried special operations forces in pursuit of insurgents from Mohammad's network who were fleeing from an engagement in which six militants already had been killed, ISAF officials said.

Allen said ISAF does not yet know if enemy fire was the sole reason for the helicopter crash, but on its approach, the aircraft encountered small-arms fire from several insurgent locations. An investigation into the crash and its causes began yesterday when Marine Corps Gen. James N. Mattis, commander of U.S. Central Command, appointed Army Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Colt as lead investigator.

Questions to be asked, Allen said, will include "What was the cause of the crash?" and "What lessons can be learned as a result of that cause?"

The answers, he said, ultimately will feed back into the mission evaluation process to improve future missions.

The crash was a tragic incident in a very difficult military campaign, Allen said. "However," he added, "it was a singular incident in a broader conflict in which we are making important strides and considerable progress."

Coalition forces face challenges ahead and tough fights in the days to come, the general said, but all across Afghanistan the insurgents are losing.

"They're losing territory. They're losing leadership. They're losing weapons and supplies. They're losing public support," Allen said.

Villages that seek to embrace Afghan local police in the Village Stability Operations program are mobilizing their communities for their own security, he added.

"That's not widely understood [or] ... widely covered," Allen said. "But that's a great example of where the Taliban are losing ground and ... influence because they can no longer get inside the population of these areas."

Across Afghanistan, he added, the insurgents are losing resolve and the will to fight.

"They face relentless pressure from coalition and, increasingly, Afghan forces," he said.

Reintegration of former insurgents into Afghan society also is succeeding, Allen said. The effort is an Afghan program supported by coalition forces that across Afghanistan is beginning to see Taliban foot soldiers ultimately come forward and seek to rejoin society, becoming members of their villages, he said.

Allen said more than 2,300 people have reintegrated so far.

Success, the general said, "is a function of security operations. It's a function of the establishment of Afghan local police. It's a function of the establishment of credible governance [and] economic opportunity."

The numbers of former Taliban fighters rejoining society is an indication that the insurgents are losing, Allen added. "We're not declaring victory, certainly," the general said. "We recognize that there are going to be long days ahead and some pretty heavy lifts."

But progress also is visible in other areas, Allen said. In July, he noted, the transition of security responsibility began to the Afghan government and Afghan forces.

"Our military is working hand in hand with our civilian partners to secure the gains we have made by strengthening the Afghan government and by advancing economic opportunity," Allen added.

Afghan forces have made immense strides in increasing their professionalism and effectiveness, he said.

"By the time our additional 23,000 troops come out [of Afghanistan] by the end of September of next year, we'll have seen on the order of 70,000 Afghan national security forces come onto the field," Allen said. "So it's a trade-off in terms of the Afghans who are joining us in the battle space with the forces that will be coming down."

Allen said the Afghan forces are increasingly out in front, securing territory, safeguarding populations and, when necessary, fighting and dying for their country and their countrymen.

"We lost eight Afghans in this crash -- brave Afghans -- and we pay tribute as well to their service and to their sacrifice," the general said.

# Birds of a feather: Don't give in to easy gratifications

Lt. Col. Gary Bertsch, Command Chaplain

A fox said he would provide worms to any bird that would share its feathers. One bird thought it was a good idea so it pulled out a feather from one of its wings and gave it to the fox. The bird received a worm in return. This was wonderful! The bird decided this was a good way to get worms easy – it wouldn't have to work at hunting worms any more. But after a while, the bird had plucked so many feathers it could no longer fly away. The fox jumped on the bird and ate it.

On deployments we can be tempted to pluck a feather for a seemingly easy, and at the time perhaps even innocent, "reward." It might be that extra "one for the road" at the club. It could be a relationship, or might even be cutting corners at work. It's not living up to our responsibilities as members assigned here.

The fact is, our "feathers" are our esteem, our pride and our self worth – our worth as children of God. Don't let this be a time in which we give in to easy gratifications or rewards, but rather a time when we build up ourselves and our relationships to friends, loved ones, family and God, so that we can soar when we return home!



## 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 x2323 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

## CADETS cont.

“It was great because it showed us a bigger picture of the Army,” Dickson shared. “The point of the program is to have us shadow a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., but we really got an in-depth look at how everything within the battalion works, including inside the camps and the administration side of things.”

Dickson said he applied to the academy to fuel the curious nature and drive he’s had since high school.

“When I was younger, I was very sports-driven and competitive. I loved being on teams,” said Dickson. “Though in the Army you’re not necessarily competing, I think it will be a good fit for me.”

The group also had the opportunity to sit down with both officers and enlisted members and soak in years of experience and advice. Cadet Lt. Jodi Devine spoke with one Soldier who offered a small yet meaningful thought.

“One Soldier came straight from one deployment, saw his wife for 90 days and then went to another deployment and now he’s here,” said Devine. “That was an eye opener and he said to me, ‘No matter what, be where you are.’”

Pierce, who became an officer through the Officer Candidate School, hopes the cadets take a newfound sense of leadership and duty with them after departing the island.

“One of the biggest takeaways I hope they get is that officers lead from the front,” advised Pierce. “I hope when they are interacting with Soldiers that they are good listeners and are able to understand where their Soldiers are coming from.”

One overall theme the cadets learned is something Rulison said he will carry with him forever.

“We got to see the difference between officers that had been here nine months as opposed to others with only four months and some that just got here,” Rulison explained. “You would think there wouldn’t be many differences since everything has a certain procedure to follow, but I could see how each person handled things in their own way. The key to each officer’s success, as they tell it, is to ‘know your Soldiers and trust your NCOs!’”

## FOCUS cont.

and runs administration.”

Muntzer keeps PAO’s assets and personnel management in order and assists his peers and junior Troopers as well. His method is to be a role model others can look up to.

“He sets the example for other people to emulate,” said Chapman. “He does the best that he can, you can’t ask for much more.”

Even with all the time he spends at work, Muntzer always finds time to squeeze in at least a few dives every week.

## COMMISSIONS cont.

commissions is still unknown – best estimates place the beginning sometime in the fall of 2011 – Harbeson said the task force is already preparing for the large-scale operation.

“We did something called a fast cruise – I think in the Army they call it a rock drill,” Harbeson explained. “We stepped through the scenarios, trying to look at all the different things that could happen or arise.”

Involved in the fast cruise exercise were representatives from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Office of Military Commissions, U.S. Southern Command, Navy South and other interested organizations.

“We’ll have some lessons learned from that and we’ll go back and refine the process some more,” the admiral said. “Make sure we can address any issues now, before it comes up to an actual trial.”

Harbeson said he was pleased with the outcome of the exercise and looked forward to seeing the final analysis.

“It’s just prudent planning to challenge ourselves, to see what else we could do just to make sure we’ve covered everything,” he said with the ultimate goal of making the whole process smoother and better.

Acknowledging the commissions process is not normally on the mind of the average Trooper, Harbeson said he’s been proud of the job of his Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Coasties and Marines have done performing their mission and expects that level of professionalism to carry over.

“There’s nothing different I would recommend to the Trooper,” Harbeson said, pointing out since the beginning of his tenure there have been four commissions processes completed. “Just maintain their high standard of professionalism in executing their duties they exhibit every day.”

Military commissions have been used to try enemy combatants since World War II. According to frequently asked questions prepared by the Department of Defense in 2007, the specific language authorizing the use of commissions to try detainees held in Guantanamo was established with the Military Commissions Act of 2006.

“I had never been diving before,” said Muntzer. “I think diving here is an experience everyone should try, even if all you do is get certified.”

Out of the water, he takes every opportunity to help others and better himself personally and professionally.

“I am working to attain knowledge and experience for my future career in the Army, whether it is with this MOS or another,” said Muntzer.

## COMMAND cont.

hobby; strive to become more spiritual; read more books; anything. YOU choose.

And don’t become discouraged by the things you can’t choose. I sure wouldn’t have chosen a 25 mph speed limit on most GTMO roads, but I don’t let that ruin my attitude every time I get in a vehicle. Most of us would prefer better living or working conditions. Yet while those choices are limited, we are much better off than many of our military kin. We can choose to improve our spaces. Accept the things you cannot change, while working to improve what you can.

Some people are successful because they got lucky in some way. But most are successful because of a series of *choices* they made. So what will you choose? How will you use your time at GTMO? What habits will you break or establish? Your future life will be a result of choices you make today. YOU CHOOSE.

## FOOD cont.

Neimi agrees his hobby is one of his favorite stress relievers and says there’s never a dull moment with food.

“There are so many different avenues and different recipes – in all honesty, the possibilities are endless,” he admits.

“There are always new flavors – some are delicious and some you never want to use again,” he adds, laughing. “Everybody needs to eat, right?”

Although both Neimi and Scarpo don’t plan on becoming professional chefs, they throw around the possibilities of continuing their legacy.

“My goal when I retire is to open a bar and grill,” Scarpo shares. “You never know, our paths could cross again. The Navy is so diverse we might not see each other for years then run into each other some 15 years down the road.”

They have yet to name their future restaurant, but Scappy already answers his phone with “Scappy’s BBQ, how can I help you?”

Muntzer’s leadership skills will be an asset to any command he may fall under. Even though he is at the beginning of the noncommissioned officer ladder, he has a good start.

“He represents the rank of sergeant very well,” said Chapman. “Even though he is only wearing sergeant, other E5s look up to him.”

“I think he will do well in the future,” continued Chapman. “I could eventually see him as a sergeant major.”

# The JTF At Shutter Speed



## STUDY TIME

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Alexander Bates, Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion Volunteer Coordinator (left), asks a fellow volunteer for assistance during a Navy Advancement Volunteer Study Course at the Trooper Chapel, August 1. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joe Ebaló



## SERVE IT UP!

Boatswains Mate 1st Class Jeremy Wyskiel (center), a boat operator attached to Maritime Safety and Security Team Boston, serves a volleyball during a pool party in celebration of the U.S. Coast Guard's 221st birthday at the Windjammer Pool, Thursday. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joe Ebaló



## WEATHERED

Army Pvt. Jaquan Nichols (front) and Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Tyrney Fisher, both attached to the Joint Detention Group Command Sergeant Major Detail, shovel debris caused by Tropical Storm Emily, Friday. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joe Ebaló



## WIDE OPEN

Air Force Staff Sgt. Matt Wolkman, a structural engineer with Base Emergency Engineering Force, checks that a door header is level during renovations to the media operations center at the McCalla Hill hangar, Tuesday. - photo by Army Sgt. Mathieu Perry