

The WIRE

An award-winning
JTF journal

PLUS:

Walking the Plank

Runners dress up,
get wet for pirate run

Sail Away

MWR offers
sailing lessons



**Highlighting
a Heritage
Hispanic culture
takes the stage**

COMMAND CORNER

I was excited to conduct my first “All Hands” with all of you. Thank you for attending and being engaged in my discussion with you. Hopefully, I gave you at least a small glimpse into what makes me tick, what you can expect from me as your Commander and, most importantly, what my expectations are for all of you.

As I detailed to you last week, my approach is fairly simple: “People are our most important asset!” All of the tools we are provided – facilities, transportation, housing, computers, high tech electronics, galleys, etc.—are useless without the dedicated professionals to turn them into action for mission accomplishment. Our mission is also straight forward: 1) safe, humane, legal, transparent care and custody of the detainees 2) intelligence collection 3) commissions support. When I say “straight forward,” I do not for a minute believe it is easy or simple. The expectation of those who sent us here to do this mission is extremely high and unqualified success is the standard. Meeting those expectations requires both focus and determination. We are a team and we will only succeed as a team.

I know the only way we can maintain and sustain the required level of mission focus is to utilize our off-duty time to rest, recharge and reconstitute for the next round of on-duty performance. This cycle is very important to provide the balance needed for the long haul. A balance of professional execution and personal life management is not only healthy for us as individuals but critical to the performance of the JTF GTMO team. Naval Station Guantanamo has great facilities to provide support balance to our personal lives. There is a risk of getting out of balance with too much attention to the personal side, which will adversely affect your mission focus and performance. Set realistic personal goals and do not over reach to the point of imbalance.

Another thing that will prevent mission focus and effectiveness is distracters. Distracters can take several forms. Discrimination of any kind (sexual, race, color, religion, life style) is destructive to our military and our ability to do our mission. We must snuff out any signs of discrimination at its source and not tolerate it amongst us. Drugs are another distracter and one for which we have zero tolerance. I owe you a “drug free” work environment and I am dedicated to ensuring we have one. Alcohol also has the potential to be a destructive element and distract from our mission. We must not



tolerate alcohol abuse; we must identify those who need help with their alcohol use.

The accident we had this week is a prime example of what I’m talking about. We were lucky our teammate survived this accident. The GTMO medical team did a fantastic job but his injuries were substantial enough to MEDEVAC him off the island. He is in the hospital in intensive care as I write this and our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family for a full recovery, but it will not be speedy. The circumstances surrounding this accident will be discussed by your leaders; suffice it to say, it was preventable. A key member of our team with a stellar performance record has fallen out and it will stress our mission to replace him. We need to take care of each other and look out for each other even when it may not be pleasant or popular to do so. We are in fact “HONOR BOUND” to do so.

JTF Guantanamo

Commander

Navy Rear Adm. David Woods

Command Master Chief

Command Master Chief Reynaldo Tiong

Office of Public Affairs Director

Navy Cmdr. Tamsen Reese: 9928

Deputy Director

Air Force Maj. Amy A. Oliver: 9927

Operations Officer

CW2 Scott Chapman: 3649

Senior Enlisted Leader

Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel: 3499

The Wire

Executive Editor:

Army Sgt. Meredith Vincent: 3651

Layout Assistant:

Spc. Kelly Gary

Photojournalists:

Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Sally Hendricks

Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kihlo Park

Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Louis Batchelor

Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jon Dasbach

Army Sgt. Mathieu Perry

Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class

Marquis Whitehead

Contact us

Editor's Desk: 3651

From the continental United States

Commercial: 011-53-99-3651

DSN: 660-3651

E-mail: thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

Online: www.jftgmo.southcom.mil



The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regard to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by the Defense Logistics Agency Document Services with a circulation of 1,200.

COVER: Diovany Gonzalez and daughter Melanie pose in their Panamanian dresses at the Hispanic American Heritage Association Dinner and Dance celebration at the Windjammer Ballroom, Saturday. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kihlo Park

Trooper to Trooper

featuring

Command Master Chief Reynaldo Tiong

Command Master Chief, Joint Task Force Guantanamo

I like to start out my e-mail messages the same way I do a one-on-one conversation – with a warm greeting, a strong handshake then I get straight to the point. Many of you have already met me or received e-mails from me regarding important command information or notices and they all pretty much begin like this: “Please take the time to read the message below,” followed by, “Make sure to spread the word and take advantage of this opportunity.” That is what I’d like to talk to you about in this week’s column – taking the time to go the extra mile for the mission and the team and while also taking advantage of opportunities to do the best job you can do.

First of all I want to thank you very much for all your hard work the last couple weeks. Between the 10-year commemoration of 9/11, visits from the International Committee of the Red Cross, media and leadership – in addition to carrying out our everyday missions – it has been a very busy and exciting time. I appreciate your efforts and your professionalism. However, with commissions just around the corner, it’s only going to get busier.

That being said, I’d like to share a couple of the daily leadership principles I have learned through my experiences in the military that have kept me on track and motivated me to just keep giving it my all:

Remain open-minded and see the glass as half full – Times will get tough and you might not like what it is you’re doing, but try to see the positive in every situation. Regardless of what your job is, we all have a

very important mission here and each of our individual contributions is critical for fulfilling that mission. So if you are standing a watch, processing paperwork, gathering intelligence or on patrol, remember your job makes a difference and carry on as such.

Pay attention to the details, big or small – As a recruit division commander for Navy Boot Camp, I first heard the saying “You get what you inspect, not what you expect.” Take pride in the work you do, whether it is inspecting financial numbers, supply inventories or IDs and badges for Troopers entering and exiting secure locations. The more effort you put into learning your job, the better that job will get done.

Lead by example and try to establish good habits – While serving aboard five different Navy ships during my career, I can’t stress enough the importance of being where you are supposed to be at the time you are supposed to be there. If you live by this principle, it doesn’t matter what your rank or job is, your leadership, peers and subordinates will notice your punctuality and follow suit. Take ownership of both your individual and group responsibilities and perform your duties to the best of your abilities.

Try to remain calm and be kind; it’s nice to be nice – Above all, I keep this principle in very high regard. It is important for me to treat everyone with respect and keep the lines of communication open. Try to be patient with your Troopers and accessible to them. Trust me, they will be more likely to come and talk to you about an issue if they



feel that you are calm and willing to listen.

The next few weeks will be challenging and our work tempo is most likely going to get faster before it slows down. We are a rotational force and our new folks must really hit the ground running. I’m confident in our team and in our resolve to get the job done. I’m often asked what “Honor Bound” means to me. If you haven’t guessed already, I believe it means not settling for the bare minimum. It means caring about your mission and your team and performing at the highest level. Since I have been here I haven’t seen anything less. Keep up the good work and take care of each other. If you see me around the JTF, stop me and say hello, or I might stop you first.

I’ll close the same way I do with each of my emails and personal conversations.

Thank you for everything you do. HOOYAH!



**PROTECT YOUR INFO!
PSEC ALERT**

What to do with old uniforms

Don’t throw them away! First thing, sanitize them! Remove your name tape and rank, warfare insignia and any other patches. Next, look inside – did you write your name or last 4 on the tag so you could claim it from the laundry? If you did, remove the tag or blacken out your info. Then take a good look at the uniform. Is it still usable? If it is, take it to the thrift shop or ask your shipmates or battle buddies if they could use it. Otherwise make it “un-wearable” by cutting it in half down the back and cutting the sleeves off. For pants, rip them in two. Don’t throw uniforms away whole – they’re valuable and a whole uniform could be used by an adversary to try to access places they shouldn’t be.

So take care of your uniforms and protect your personal information. USE OPSEC!

News from the Bay

Stories and reporting by
Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Sally Hendricks
and Spc. Kelly Gary

Swim lessons available for one more month

Morale, Welfare and Recreation is still offering swimming lessons for children and adults.

Lessons are available between March and October. There are only two sessions left, so it's a good idea to sign up soon. While stationed on Guantanamo Bay, there are many things to do in the water so learning the basics could be rewarding, said Tony Roberts, MWR aquatics manager.

"It's a great way to overcome your fears," encouraged Roberts. "Adults have more of a challenge because they know the danger that can be involved with water, but kids just want to jump right in, which could be dangerous as well."

Adult classes are from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. while children's classes are from 4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. All classes are offered Monday through Thursday.

Swimming is a valuable skill to possess. This is the perfect time to dive in.

For more information, call the Windjammer Pool at x2205.

Storybook reading at Windjammer Ballroom

Storyteller Bil Lepp is scheduled to perform on Guantanamo Bay this week, sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Lepp is a nationally renowned storyteller and five-time champion of the West Virginia Liars' Contest. His outrageous, humorous tall-tales and witty stories have earned the appreciation of listeners of all ages.

Lepp's "The Teacher in the Patriotic Bathing Suit," received the Parent's Choice Approved Award and "Mayhem Dressed as an Eight Point Buck" won a 2008 NAPPA Honors award.

"I first saw him at a West Virginia International Story Telling Festival and was amazed how good he was," said Chris Dickson, MWR school liaison officer.

Lepp is scheduled to be at Radio GTMO

Friday morning – there will also be a "Story Swap" at the Windjammer Ballroom, Friday, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Lepp's final performance is a one-hour show following the "Story Swap," scheduled from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Friday. The adults will be as entertained as well as the children.

For more information, call Dickson at x2172 or x84616.

Fire prevention week 5K and activities

The Naval Station Fire Department invites all base personnel and families to join them to observe, commemorate and take part in Fire Prevention Week 2011.

The main event will take place Oct. 11 at the Downtown Lycuem at 5:30 p.m., with a 5K run followed by vehicle extrication and live fire using the mobile aircraft firefighter trainer demonstration. In addition, there will be fire extinguisher training, also using live fire. Free hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided as well.

"We are here to prevent fires and educate the public on how to make their home a safer place," said Foley. "We invite everyone to come down and become informed on either an escape plan or on how to use the equipment around the home."

The department will be at various locations Oct. 10, 12 and 13 with handouts, novelty items and fire extinguisher training.

For more information, call the fire prevention team at x4178, x4179 or x4611.

Last chance for divers to attend safety brief

Port operations is scheduled to conduct a final scuba diving safety stand down at Buckley Hall at 12 p.m., Oct. 7.

"We have had many incidents," said Boatswains Mate 1st Class Lisa Alkire, assistant lead petty officer for port operations. "A common excuse has been 'I didn't know,' so we are making sure that is

no longer the case."

Port operations does not intend on scheduling any more stand downs after this one. Divers will no longer be allowed to dive if they have not attended the stand down, said Alkire.

Divers who can present proof they were on leave or off-island at the time of both stand downs will be given an alternative.

For more information, contact Alkire at x4898.

MWR one-mile swim at Marine Hill Pool

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation's aquatics department is hosting a one-mile swim at the Marine Hill Pool, Saturday, at 9 a.m.

"There has not been a race for only a swim in a long time, so we thought we would have an event just for the swimmers," explained Tony Roberts, MWR aquatics manager.

This swim is for adults only. Every participant will get a free T-shirt.

For more information, call Roberts at x2205.

Hispanic Lunch and Learn at Gold Hill

The Naval Station Multi-Cultural Observance Committee is scheduled to host a Lunch and Learn at Gold Hill Galley from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., Monday.

The Lunch and Learn is dedicated to Hispanic Heritage Month and will be focused on people from different origins sharing their stories.

"Our main goal is to conduct observances of the nine official national observances as well as the local three," said Ambroshia Jefferson-Smith, MOC chairperson. "Hispanic Heritage Month is one of the nine observances."

There will be a specific area in the galley cordoned off for attendees.

For more information, contact Jefferson-Smith at x4612.

TROOPER FOCUS

Army Sgt. Linda Baez



Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel

Ever since she was in high school, Sgt. Linda Baez knew she wanted to join the Army. While the birth of her daughter sidelined her desire to serve for several years, Baez, undeterred, entered the Army and reported for basic training at the age of 29.

“I wanted to wait until my daughter was at least five years old,” Baez said of her decision to delay signing up. “But this was a goal I’ve had in mind for years.”

Military service was a natural choice for Baez, who hails from a long line of military service; her brother is currently in the Air Force and her father served, along with great-uncles and other family members.

“Boot camp was kind of odd, I was the oldest one there and everyone called me ‘Mom,’ Baez said. “I definitely understood more about responsibility and maturity. If I would have joined when I was 18, I would have just left.”

Her military occupational specialty identifies her as a human resource specialist but Baez explained she’s spent nearly all of her career working in her MOS designator – postal operations supervisor.

“Coming here to JTF Guantanamo is the first time I’ve done admin-type work,” she

said.

Baez, who currently serves as the Joint Task Force Guantanamo awards non-commissioned officer in charge, admitted a steep learning curve was involved as she transitioned into the unfamiliar role, but her NCOIC, Army Master Sgt. James Johnson, said she was the perfect choice for the job.

“She’s a self-starter and really digs into things once you give it to her,” said Johnson. “At this point, she is considered the JTF award’s guru ... you give her a task, give her clear guidance and let her go.”

One of the unique aspects of her job, Baez said, was learning the U.S. Southern Command specific regulations, a point of contention for many individuals.

“I’ll have people come up to me and say, ‘That’s not how we do it back home’ and I try to explain to them that down here we follow

Bullet Bio

Time in service: 5 years

Hobbies: reading, working out, hiking

Pet peeves: NCOs who don’t take care of their junior Troopers

Next goal: earning bachelor’s degree and moving into intelligence field

Advice to junior Troopers: “Don’t set limits on reaching your dreams – everything is within grasp if you’re willing to put forth the effort.”

see FOCUS . pg. 19

What is your favorite water activity here on Guantanamo Bay?



“I just started spear fishing when I got here and I got hooked on it.”

**Hospital Corpsman
3rd Class
Cameron Hendrick**



“I love to have water fights with my boss. I always win of course.”

**Spc.
Heather Blackwell**



“I love snorkeling and scuba diving. I love it all.”

**Logistics Specialist
2nd Class
Enrique Sagastume**



“I enjoy spearfishing – and I’m excited about all the diving I’ve been able to do here!”

**Air Force Staff Sgt.
J.T. Peacock**

Boots on the Ground



Tanya Henigman, MWR fitness coordinator, prepares runners before the Pirates Day Fun Run, Saturday morning. More than 120 Troopers and base residents participated in the two-mile run, held in conjunction with International Talk Like a Pirate Day. (below) Henigman celebrates with Guantanamo Bay residents at the end of the run with a contest for the best dressed pirate. - photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Sally Hendricks

Pirate-themed run inspired by national pirate holiday

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Marquis Whitehead

Troopers and civilians across Guantanamo Bay dressed up and joined in on Morale, Welfare and Recreation's first Pirate's Day Fun Run, Saturday morning.

The two-mile run was conceived as a tie-in with International Talk Like a Pirate Day. Tanya Henigman, MWR coordinator explained the overall goal of the event.

"The intent of this run was to provide a morning of fun for people who love to run or walk, enjoy participating in costume themes and like the water," said Henigman.

Beginning in 1995, International Talk Like a Pirate Day, all started as, John Baur, (Ol' Chum Bucket) and Mark Summer (Cap'n Slappy) were playing a racquetball game. One of them was hurt and let out an outburst of, "Aaarr!" According to the official site of International Talk Like a Pirate Day, this is how the idea of Pirate's Day was born.

Ol' Chum Bucket and Cap'n Slappy walked around talking like pirates that day and the popularity of the inside joke spread. It was soon decided Sept. 19 of every year



would be International Talk Like a Pirate Day.

To add to the theme, participants were motivated to dress up in the best pirate costume they could find; pets were also allowed to partake in the festivities. Pirate talk was highly encouraged during the morning and individual awards were given to the best costume for both individual and animal.

"Our goal is to keep the patrons of GTMO busy and focused on fun, healthy activities to boost the morale of the base," Henigman added.

After completing the course, pirates were invited to jump off the pier or walk the plank. They then received a T-shirt that said, "I walked the plank in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba."

"We had a great turnout," said Henigman. "We gave away 110 T-shirts, meaning we had a 110 people who walked the plank."

Henigman promised the Pirate's Day Fun Run will continue to be an annual occurrence with some changes to be made every year. Keep an eye out for this spectacle of costumes, pirate jargon and entertainment.

PHONE HOME



The why and how of Morale Minder's phone program

Story by Mass Communication Specialist
2nd Class Jon Dasbach

As part of the Morale Minder system, morale phone cards are being supplied to island newcomers, allowing Troopers to call home for free from the comfort of their rooms.

Upon arrival to Guantanamo Bay, Troopers will receive a morale card with a specific pin individually assigned to each person. This pin will in turn be used to make calls to loved ones back home. Each Trooper is allotted 60 minutes per week.

"The biggest change to the

program is, Troopers are now allowed to have up to 60 minutes a week instead of 30 minutes a week," said Tech. Sgt. Jamie Hedrick, non-commissioned officer in charge, current operations customer support. "When a Trooper uses the pin, the Morale Minder system keeps track of the usage to ensure the Trooper is receiving their allotted time a week for phone calls."

The Morale Minder system allows Troopers to dial an access code from their phone and be connected to an automated system that will walk them

through the calling process.

"The morale cards give you step-by-step instructions on how to make phone calls using your morale pin, along with information on the program and point of contact information if you run into any issues," said Hedrick.

After the access code is dialed, automated prompts provide instructions on how to complete your call through a Defense Switch Network operator. There are a few options that may occur at this point of the call.

"If you already know the

DSN number, you'll receive an option to dial it," explained Hedrick. "If not, there is another option that will put you through to the Global DSN Operator, and they will give you the nearest DSN number to your area."

DSN numbers can also be found at www.disa.mil/dsn/directory/DSN_directory.pdf.

For more information about the morale cards and how to use them correctly, Troopers can contact their senior enlisted leadership or the J6 telecom shop at x8168, located in building 1451.



Troopers from Joint Task Force Guantanamo and other members of Reef Raiders, Guantanamo Bay's only organized dive club, join together in a beach clean up at the Slot, a favorite diving spot on Naval Station Guantanamo, Saturday.

Troopers, civilians help clean Slot

Story and photo by Army Sgt. Mathieu Perry

Ten members of Reef Raiders scuba diving club conducted a beach clean-up at the Slot, Saturday morning, in coordination with the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) Project AWARE's month-long Dive for Debris program.

The Joint Task Force Troopers and government contractors spent more than an hour clearing up trash that had washed ashore over the course of the past year. Their efforts resulted in a pile of 12 trash bags, weighing a combined amount of more than 100 pounds.

The Slot was chosen by Reef Raiders, Guantanamo Bay's only organized dive club, because it is the only public beach not cleaned or maintained by custodians, said Jean Anderson, budget analyst for J-6.

Eric, a civilian government employee and self-proclaimed co-chairman of the "Let's-clean-up-the-Slot-so-it-doesn't-look-like-a-dump-anymore" committee said the shape of the Slot and its recreational use concentrates the debris and divers.

"It's just a funnel for where all the trash comes in from the ocean and you can see the waves move in a specific direction, making

it a natural collection point," said Eric, who declined to give his last name. "The beach is very narrow where divers enter and exit, so everyone walks through all the trash and garbage."

He said once the trash washes ashore, it has nowhere to go. Other beaches avoid this problem as the waste gets carried or blown out to sea by the wind.

In addition to terrain and recreational use, weather made this beach clean up necessary.

"We had Hurricane Irene come through," said Anderson. "Although we never really felt any severe affects from it here at Guantanamo, there was a lot of water that went by with debris in it."

The overall goal was to make the beach safe, aesthetically pleasing and environmentally friendly, she said.

"It's important to keep the beach clean to prevent divers from getting cuts from the glass or puncture wounds from the needles," Anderson explained.

Upkeep on the beach is critical because the litter and trash never really goes away; pieces of plastic, plastic foam and soda bottles can always be found, said Eric.

"If we didn't pick up the trash, some of it would be here for 20 to 30 years," Anderson

said. "The plastic containers and Styrofoam take a long time to disintegrate."

Anderson hinted at the environmental importance of the clean up and the potential impact garbage has on local wildlife.

"Some of the debris we picked up could really negatively impact the sea creatures, especially the turtles," said Anderson. "They get tangled in the plastics or poisoned in the case of the car battery leaking toxic chemicals."

Eric said the beach is used daily by divers and should play the part of a treasure.

"It's probably one of the best dive spots in Cuba so it should look it as well," he said. "I mean, it looks great in the water and it should look just as good on the outside."

Anderson agreed, adding people like to dive where beaches look nice.

"Before it looked like a junk yard and now it looks like a really nice, inviting place to dive," said Anderson. "This isn't just popular among divers; it is also a popular place for people to come and watch the sunset."

The awards for the most intriguing piece of flotsam or jetsam went to Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel for recovering a plastic winged mermaid and Air Force Staff Sgt. J.T. Peacock, who recovered an ampoule of unknown medical substance, which was turned over to authorities on base.

Vaughn Anthony brings R&B, soul to Tiki Bar

John Legend's little brother working on new album

Story and photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Louis Batchelor

Minutes before showtime, Vaughn Anthony sits on a mantle in his trailer, mentally preparing himself to take the stage. He appears to be calm and collected, yet extremely focused. His fellow band members seem a little tenser while tuning their instruments; they have never performed for a military audience.

Anthony, on the other hand, is used to this kind of pressure. With little more than some muttered words, a few high fives and handshakes, the younger brother of acclaimed R&B superstar John Legend, is able to clear the air of stress and pull his crew together. Once they feel the crowd's positive reactions to their warm-up, the band gets amped and the show commences.

Up-and-coming R&B artist Anthony performed for the Troopers of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, at the base's Tiki Bar, Saturday.

The future star performed multiple songs, showcasing artists he considers "inspirational to his career," ranging from The Winans and John Legend himself, as well as several original pieces from his CD entitled "In the Shadow of a Legend."

"I am bringing a little something for everyone tonight," Anthony said. "My music speaks to people of all ages. The troops can look forward to hearing some good music for the soul."

Anthony said he jumped at the opportunity to play for servicemembers because it is his way of giving back to those who deserve it.

"To be able to share my gift with people who sacrifice their lives and time with their families is really more of an honor for me that stands out and makes me feel good," Anthony said. "Maybe my music will make the troops feel good too after hearing it."

"It's always a good thing when people come out to support the Troopers here," said Spc. Rony Michaud, leave and pass clerk at Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Joint Personnel Center. "Everyone who came out definitely had a good time. He (Anthony) has a lot of talent and hopefully this gave him a little more exposure, too."



Anthony has made several stops being on tour with his brother and said every country is its own experience. He said he enjoys getting to see different places and taking part in other culture's unique styles.

"Man, my experience here was different," Anthony said jokingly. "I only brought undershirts with me and I couldn't go a lot of places here that way! All in all though, I had a great time on the island, meeting the troops and I enjoyed the hospitality of the people here. Thank you to everyone."

Anthony is currently working on a new album titled, "Stepping out of the Shadow." The album is scheduled for release in January.

R&B vocalist Vaughn Anthony performed for Guantanamo Bay residents and servicemembers, Saturday night, at the Tiki Bar. Anthony sang hit singles by The Winans and older brother John Legend, as well as several original songs from his CD entitled "In the Shadow of a Legend."

Fiesta!

Story by Spc. Kelly Gary
Photos by Mass Communication
Specialist 2nd Class Kihlo Park

The smell of Latin American food and sound of music wafted out of the Windjammer ballroom Saturday night, as Guantanamo Bay residents celebrated the Hispanic American Heritage Association's Dinner/Dance. The evening was filled with feasting, dancing and a variety of representations of Hispanic culture in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

The month of observance extends from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, during which people across the nation celebrate the histories, cultures and contributions of Americans whose ancestral origins to include Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

Kathi Diaz, treasurer for HAHA, said the Guantanamo Bay dinner and dance has been a tradition for many years. Prior to the event, the committee reaches out to the community to find people to share traditional dances or dress for the evening. People from all over the base come together to support the committee.

"Latinos are warm, caring people with good food and fun dances," said Diaz.

It is easy to find samples of the tastes and sounds of neighboring countries around Guantanamo Bay. From salsa, merenque and bachata lessons to tamale sales, the evidence of Hispanic culture is prominent on the island. Troopers, contractors and civilians alike from all over the base attended as the Hispanic community was fervent to share its culture with each other and comrades alike.

Melanie Resto, vice president of HAHA, said she was happy HAHA had the chance to share her culture with everyone in attendance.

"This night was an assembly of the different Hispanic cultures we have on this base," said Resto. "It was also a sample of



Edith Diaz performs an impromptu merengue with a guest from the crowd at the Windjammer Ballroom, Saturday night.

see HERITAGE, pg. 19



(right) Traditional Hispanic dresses from their respective countries are prominently displayed at the Hispanic American Heritage Association's Dinner and Dance event, held at the Windjammer Ballroom, Saturday.

(right) Daniel Freeman plays a solo rendition of "Bolero" on his tuba.

(bottom) Melanie Gonzalez performs a Panamanian dance with her mother during the evening's festivities.



more than a DESTINATION

*With help from the MWR Marina,
Troopers learn to set sail.*

Story and photos by Spc. Kelly Gary

While Guantanamo Bay Troopers and residents start the motors on their pontoon boats, others rig the main and the jib, lower the centerboard and set sail.

A passenger a few times, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Shimer was never the one doing the sailing. In 2005, he and his father-in-law, an avid sailor, bought a small 21-foot boat to restore together. Three years later his father-in-law passed away and Shimer sold the boat before he ever got the chance to take it out. Before his father-in-law's death, Shimer vowed he would one day learn to sail.

When Shimer, J3 anti-terrorism non-commissioned officer in charge, came to the island a month ago he was presented with a chance to fulfill that promise. He learned of the free sailing lessons provided by Guantanamo Bay's Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and jumped at the opportunity.

Sunday afternoon, Shimer completed his seventh lesson but still vividly remembers the first.

"It was a lot of fun," Shimer recalled. "You are a little nervous at first; the other guy I was with was white knuckled at times."

For the first few lessons, Anthony Henry, the MWR sailing instructor, takes students out on 17-foot Hunter boats before graduating to the 25-foot Hunters. Henry explained the smaller boats are entirely under the command of the sailor. They don't have a motor so reading and understanding the airstream is vital.

"Henry is a really good instructor," said Shimer. "He teaches you how to really handle the boat and use the wind."

Rigging, boat terminology and how to tack into the wind using the main and jib sail were among the skills Shimer learned.

"If you take heed to what he teaches you," advised Shimer,

see SAILING, pg. 19





(above) Sgt. 1st Class Micheal Shimer, J3 anti-terrorism non-commissioned officer in charge, sails a 17-foot Hunter boat back to the dock at the MWR Marina, Saturday.

(left) Shimer and sailing instructor Anthony Henry secure the sailboat to dock following Shimer's fifth sailing lesson.



IN THE TRENCHES

Army ensures ‘right mix’ for junior NCO promotion points

By Rob McIlvaine

FORT MEADE, Md. – Due to the unusually high number of Soldiers attaining high promotion points without attending the appropriate schools, the Army is making changes to the semi-centralized promotion system effective Jan. 1.

“This change – which only affects the Advanced Leadership Course and the Warrior Leadership Course for E5 and E6 – facilitates the leader development imperative to ensure Soldiers get the right mix of developmental opportunities at the right time in their careers,” said Sgt. Maj. Debra J. Sturdivant, chief of enlisted promotions, Human Resources Command.

“We came about this because Soldiers were maxing out their military education with legitimate correspondence courses, but weren’t attending the NCO Education System schools,” Sturdivant said.

To ensure Soldiers get the “right mix” of classes, ceilings have been imposed on each of these elements.

The total promotion points that can be earned in military education is 260 for promotion to sergeant and 280 for promotion to staff sergeant – this remains unchanged.

A maximum of 40 percent of the points a Soldier can potentially earn are applied to the NCOES element within the military-education category (104 maximum points for Soldiers competing for sergeant and 112 maximum points for Soldiers competing for staff sergeant), Sturdivant said.

“This design intentionally limits a Soldier’s ability to ‘max’ promotion points in the NCOES category to those who are officially designated as ‘Distinguished Honor Graduate’ or as the ‘Distinguished Leadership Graduate,’” she said.

Under the NCOES category:

– Distinguished honor/leader graduates earn 104 points (competing for sergeant) and 112 points (competing for staff sergeant) respectively.

– Commandant’s List graduates receive 92 points (competing for sergeant) and 101 points

(competing for staff sergeant) respectively.

– Graduates receive 80 points (competing for sergeant) and 90 points (competing for staff sergeant) respectively.

Active-component Soldiers should see revised scores, based on these newly-established ceilings, in the automated Promotion Point Worksheet beginning Dec. 5, Sturdivant said. She said Soldiers recommended for promotion and integrated onto the recommended list not later than Dec. 8 will have these ceilings applied in determining their promotion scores for Jan. 1 selections.

A new DA form 3355 will also soon be published and Army Reserve AGR Soldiers should use this form to record their promotion points according to the new ceilings, Sturdivant said. The new ceilings must be implemented on promotion-board actions effective Nov. 1 in order to meet the timeline for Jan. 1 promotions, she said.

The changes will be announced in a MILPER Message released no later than Oct. 1, Sturdivant said.



ON THE WING

HC-130J arrival brings promise of improved personnel recovery

By Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes
Defense Media Activity

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. – Air Force Base officials received its first HC-130J Combat King II after Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz flew the aircraft here and officiated an arrival ceremony Sept. 24.

The delivery of the new C-130 model from Georgia was significant for the personnel recovery mission, as the predecessor HC-130P/N King begins to be replaced with the newer HC-130Js.

“It is an honor to have flown such a magnificent aircraft,” Schwartz said during the ceremony. “This is such

a significant milestone for the personnel recovery community. The capabilities of the new HC-130J are a magnitude greater than any of its predecessors.”

The previous C-130 models were originally built in the 1960s, but age and flight time have caught up with the airframes, said Lt. Col. Jason Hanover, the 563rd Rescue Group commander.

“This new aircraft is replacing an aging fleet and will give us so much more capability,” Hanover said. “It’s still called a C-130, but this is such a radically different aircraft. We will always execute our rescue mission, but this will allow us to facilitate other needs across the force.”

The Combat King II has

a long list of modifications that will increase its mission effectiveness, including improved navigation, threat detection and countermeasure systems, Hanover said.

Before the newly arrived HC-130J can begin flying missions, it will be flown by the testing squadron here. Air Force officials expect HC-130Js to begin regular duty at the base in early 2013.

In the meantime, members of the 79th Rescue Squadron here will complete the training needed to fly and operate the new model.

“Right now, the 79th RQS is on their last major deployment with the older model of the C-130 and will be set to begin sending

their people to the new J-model courses,” Hanover said. “The eight months of training needed to operate this aircraft really show all the improvements that have been made.”

The new aircraft will be a welcome addition to the Air Force’s rescue community, which is second to none in training, dedication and results, Schwartz said.

“It’s a result of all this that Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coastguardsmen who serve in harm’s way have that extra measure of confidence,” Schwartz said. “They know that in times of danger or extreme duress, they can count on the fact that you will be there, or you will die trying.”



Navy convenes second phase of retention

By Navy Personnel
Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – The second phase of the Navy’s Enlisted Retention Board convened at Navy Personnel Command (NPC) Sept. 26.

ERB Phase II will review the records of 7,792 Sailors in pay grades E-6 thru E-8 who meet eligibility requirements outlined in NAVADMIN 129/11. The quota and performance based board is charged with identifying the most fully qualified Sailors for retention. Combined, the first and second phase ERB will

review approximately 16,000 records for about 13,000 available retention quotas. The primary criterion for retention is sustained superior performance.

ERB was announced earlier this year as the Navy faces record-high retention and low attrition among active-duty Sailors. The purpose of the board is to reduce over manning in 31 ratings and to help the Navy meet congressionally mandated end-strength.

The ERB was divided into two four-week phases in order to reduce the amount of time

selection board members would be required to be away from their commands. The first phase of the ERB convened Aug. 22 to review the records of ERB-eligible Sailors in pay grades E-4 and E-5. That board adjourned Sept. 16 and forwarded its recommendations to NPC.

Community managers from the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) are currently reviewing the Phase I board’s recommendations for conversion opportunities outlined in NAVADMIN 180/11 before forwarding the

board’s recommendations to the Chief of Naval Personnel for approval.

Phase II results will also be reviewed by BUPERS for conversion opportunities after the board adjourns. Navy expects to release Phase I results in October and Phase II results in November.

Sailors not selected for retention on active-duty are encouraged to consider Reserve affiliation and will have access to the Navy’s transition assistance management program and other benefits for members who are involuntary separated.



INSIDE THE JAR

Marines prepare for upcoming CFT

Story and photo by Cpl. Andrew D. Johnston,
2nd Marine Division

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Physical readiness is a job requirement for Marines. Semi-annually they’re tested on those skills, to see where they stand compared to the Corp’s fitness standards.

With the deadline quickly approaching, Marines have until Dec. 31, 2011, to qualify for their Combat Fitness Test. Marines with Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, have been running CFTs aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., one a week since July.

Staff Sgt. Gabriel Boehm, data chief, Headquarters Company, HQ Bn., recently ran his CFT and said, “If you haven’t been training up to this point, it might be too late.”

“This is something that you need to be conditioning and preparing for all year round,” said Boehm. “At this point in the game if you haven’t done anything to get yourself ready, there’s not that much you can do but prepare your mind.”

The CFT involves three events during which Marines run the course in combat boots and utility uniform.

The first event is a timed 880-yard movement to contact. The second event is an ammo can lift, where Marines lift a 30-pound ammo can from below their chins to over their head as many times as possible in two minutes.



Sgt. Benjamin Venhuizen, military policeman, Military Police Company, Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, fireman carries Staff Sgt. Gabriel Boehm, data chief, Headquarters Company, HQ Bn., during his Combat Fitness Test Sept. 21, aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The final stage is the maneuver under fire. This involves a 25-yard sprint, a 25-yard crawl and a 25-yard zigzag run, which goes directly into a fireman’s drag and carry for 75 yards, a 75-yard sprint with two 30-pound ammo cans, a grenade throw to a target and a 75-yard sprint with the ammo cans.

“I haven’t taken my CFT yet, but that’s what I am conditioning for,” said Martin. “I know we only have three months left, that’s why I’ve been doing a lot of preparation on my own.

I practice buddy carries, ammo can runs and ammo can lifts. One of the workouts I do is three sets of 50 ammo can lifts, or you max whichever comes first.”

“There’s going to be those Marines who wait till the last week to start preparing, and once you hit that point you better start praying,” said Martin. “They’re going to learn their lesson that when you wait that long you’re putting all your chips on the table and by then it’s too late.”

THE RISE OF PLANET OF THE APES

PG-13
105 min.



Army Sgt. Meredith Vincent

It's amazing what a difference 10 years makes. The last time we saw the "Planet of the Apes" franchise, Tim Burton had all but murdered the series with his dull, over-reaching remake of the 1968 classic. With ridiculous ape costumes, a new "twist" ending and Mark Wahlberg's always-present torso, it seemed like a nail in the coffin for the apes vs. man saga. The original "Planet of the Apes" was good ol' campy fun, with Charlton Heston belting out some of pop culture's most iconic lines. Burton's take was neither fun nor campy, but rather cheesy and, ultimately, forgettable.

But low and behold, "Rise of the Planet of the Apes" is the surprise movie of the year, reaching beyond what anyone could have expected and resurrecting a story long thought dead. How did what was a laughable concept at first – retracing the origin of how the apes came into power – easily become the most exciting and exhilarating blockbuster of the summer?

The little-ape-movie-that-could was understandably underestimated; with only two full-length features under his belt before "Apes," director Rupert Wyatt is far from a household name. Leading man James Franco's status has been rising, but the Wahlberg-curse was always a factor. And the biggest



challenge of all: When the majority of your cast members are primates, how do you avoid awkward special effects and costumes?

Enter Peter Jackson. The godfather behind "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, Jackson's revolutionary performance-capture technology transformed actor Andy Serkis into the schizophrenic Gollum with nary a snag, allowing Serkis to turn in a brilliant performance, while also creating a believable creature.

In "Apes," Serkis is back and even better as main monkey Caesar. Caesar is the offspring of a lab ape who dies after Franco's Will Rodman injects her with a new Alzheimer's drug. Will's father (John Lithgow) is deteriorating rapidly from the disease and Will is desperate to find

the cure. He takes Caesar home with him as a temporary solution, but soon notices that the drugs given to his mother were passed to her son. Caesar's cognitive functioning begins to skyrocket, and Will's dream of curing his father sees light.

Watching the bond develop between Will and Caesar is heartbreaking, because you know eventually things will start to unravel. When they do, it's justifiably devastating. Will is forced to send Caesar to a primate habitat that makes Harry Potter's dwelling under the stairs of his uncle's house look cozy. (That won't be the only Potter reference in this review – stay tuned!) The place is run by

see MOVIES, pg. 19

	30 FRI.	1 SAT.	2 SUN.	3 MON.	4 TUES.	5 WED.	6 THURS.
Downtown Lyceum	Cowboys & Aliens (PG-13) 8 p.m. Final Destination 5 (R) 10 p.m.	Spy Kids: All the Time in the World (PG) 8 p.m. 30 Minutes or Less (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Friends with Benefits (last showing) (R) 8 p.m.	Captain America (last showing) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Crazy, Stupid, Love (PG-13) 8 p.m.	The Change-Up (R) 8 p.m.
Camp Buikley	Spy Kids: All the Time in the World (PG) 8 p.m. 30 Minutes or Less (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 8 p.m. Final Destination 5 (R) 10 p.m.	Friends with Benefits (last showing) (R) 8 p.m.	Captain America (last showing) (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Crazy, Stupid, Love (PG-13) 8 p.m.	The Change-Up (R) 8 p.m.	Cowboys & Aliens (PG-13) 8 p.m.

Call MWR at ext. 2010 for more information.

Movie Hotline - call 4880.



More than 100 passengers took advantage of the first flight since 1987 to Cuba from Fort Lauderdale, earlier this month. More U.S. airports are now offering charter flights to Cuba after the Obama administration loosened travel restrictions in January. – photo by AP

Cuban-Americans divided over expanded US-Cuba flights

By Alex Villarreal
Voice of America News Service

More U.S. airports are now offering charter flights to Cuba after President Barack Obama relaxed travel restrictions earlier this year. A long-time U.S. trade embargo still bans tourist travel to the communist nation, but the move makes it easier for Cuban-Americans and other authorized travelers to visit. Not everyone approves.

A cigar store in the Miami neighborhood of Little Havana gives Cubans in the U.S. a taste of home. But for many, this Cuba away from Cuba is not enough.

About a 30-minute drive away at the airport in Fort Lauderdale, several generations of Cubans wait eagerly to visit their families.

“This is a very big day because a new location has been opened for all the Cubans who want to travel to the island,” said Octavio Giraldo, one of more than 100 passengers on a flight that is first from Fort Lauderdale to Cuba in more than two decades. The occasion inspired a fiesta, complete with Cuban food, live music and even dancing.

Irelys Uzcatogui-Alvarez, returning to Cuba for the first time in 10 years, says the day is historic. “[It’s] very exciting, because it’s the first flight from here, near my house in Fort Lauderdale, and it seems to me that it’s more economical and more convenient.”

Fort Lauderdale is one of several airports that have begun flights to Cuba since the Obama administration loosened restrictions this year.

Before, only airports in Miami, New York and Los Angeles were authorized to run direct flights to the island.

Vivian Mannerud is president of Airline Brokers, the charter company behind this flight and others to Cuba.

“It’s a celebration for everybody, because anything that we can get approved that makes it more normal to travel to Cuba, to leave from any airport to visit your family, is a celebration day,” Mannerud said.

But not all Cubans are celebrating.

“This decision to open flights to Cuba is a mistake - more space that we have for a country that is a sponsor of terrorism,” said Emilio Izquierdo, coordinator of a citizen movement known as Cuban American Patriots and Friends. He spent more than two years as a political prisoner in Cuba in the 1960s. He and others in the exile community often gather at Little Havana’s famed Versailles Restaurant - a hub of anti-Castro politics.

Antonio Esquivel, head of the democracy-seeking Cuban Patriotic Council, says U.S.-Cuba flights provide only one-sided benefits.

“It’s not helping anybody but the Castro regime. What they’re looking for is their money. That’s all,” he said.

But travelers say money is not the motive. “It’s not putting money in the hands of the Castros, but happiness in the homes of the families who miss their relatives who have come to this country and are returning and can return every day to see them,” said passenger Octavio Giraldo.

As takeoff gets closer, it is clear how much that family time means to Manuel Marquez and many other Cubans. “There I have my mother, my siblings, my wife, and they are my loved ones. I wish I could have them here,” Marquez said.

Man's best friend: The benefits of pet therapy

Navy Lt. Lindsey Gleason, JSMART OIC

Have you ever wondered why your dog, cat, bird, or horse brightens your day and how the unspoken comfort of a pet may be more comforting than your average human interaction? The enjoyment of animals as companions dates back many centuries, perhaps even to prehistoric times.

It's no news pets of all kinds have healing benefits for a variety of ailments. Lowering blood pressure, reducing anxiety, boosting self-esteem, decreasing loneliness and inducing relaxation are only the beginning. Some of the earliest uses of pet therapy in the United States were for psychiatric patients. The presence of the therapy animals produced a beneficial effect on both children and adults with mental health issues. It is only in the last few decades that pet therapy, also known as animal-assisted therapy, has been more formally applied in a variety of therapeutic settings, including schools and prisons, as well as hospitals, hospices, nursing homes and outpatient care programs.

Today, animal-assisted therapy is used throughout the military, especially with wounded warriors. Unlike people, with whom our interactions may be quite complex

and unpredictable, animals provide a constant source of comfort and attention. Animals bring out our nurturing instinct. They also make us feel safe and unconditionally accepted. We can just be ourselves around our pets. Studies have shown petting a dog not only lowers the blood pressure of the individual, but the blood pressure of the dog as well.

You may be wondering, how can I get the benefits of a pet here in GTMO while I am deployed? Well, have you met Beacon? He is a certified Red Cross Therapy dog who can be encountered at JSMART, the Cuzcos, the Windjammer and many other places around the island. He brightens many servicemembers' day and welcomes any scratch behind the ears or rub on his belly. His proud owner, Spc. Amanda Russell, worked hard to get Beacon to the island and her hard work paid off. This lovable pup provides many deployed Troopers who have left their beloved pets behind a reminder of home and unconditional love. He also helps individuals with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, depression, anxiety and other mental health difficulties. So next time you are missing your Fido, seek out Beacon the Mighty Therapy Dog



The benefits will boost your mood and your physical health. Go fetch!

Here are some other suggestions on how to have animal contact while deployed here to GTMO:

- Volunteer at the local GTMO vet clinic.
- Visit the dog park.
- See if anyone on the island needs help walking

their dog.

- Offer to pet-sit for friends and servicemembers stationed in GTMO.
- Walk in the woods – it's amazing the critters you'll see!
- Put out a bird feeder. You may not be able to cuddle a wild bird, but its great way to start having some animal connections.

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

MOVIES cont.

Landon (Brian Cox) who does an impressive job of making jungle-khaki look frightening. But the real villain here is Landon's son, played by... Draco Malfoy?! Nope, it's actually Tom Felton, pigeon-holed and stereotyped as nasty masochist Dodge Landon, whose ignorance and brutality drive Caesar's growing hatred. The caveat to playing yet another miscreant is that Felton gets to

deliver at least two of Heston's legendary outbursts ("Get your paws off me, you damn dirty ape!") is one of them – can you spot the other?)." The cast is a talented group, to be sure, but none of them outshine Caesar. Growing from a bright and curious toddler to a stubborn, bull-headed teenager and then still into a righteous, rebellious leader, the ape's fierce

face tells it all. Credit Serkis, who pulls off probably the most fascinating performance this year. Props also go to Wyatt, who manages to tell the story with both integrity and humor and not a shred of irony.

A word to Heston loyalists: keep an eye out for carefully planted nods to the original, including a Mars space shuttle presumably occupied by Col.

George Taylor.

"Rise of the Planet of the Apes" is a gripping, intelligent and heartfelt flick that'll split your loyalties in half. By the time Caesar leads his army into a showdown on the Golden Gate bridge, you forget who you're rooting for. And when Will and Caesar have their own private goodbye, you forget about everything else.

SAILING cont.

"you can go anywhere in this bay and make it back."

After more than eight years giving sailing lessons, Henry has taught hundreds of students and claims nearly anyone can pick it up.

"Sailing is easy," said Henry. "Once you know where the wind is coming from, you can position yourself in the right direction."

The skill takes time and patience. Without the motor, moving in little to no wind can be frustrating; yet, it is the calm and serenity sailing provides many, including Henry and Shimer, are drawn to.

"It is a lot of concentration," said Shimer, "but at the same time there is no noise – you can simply focus on what you are doing and be at peace."

Henry agreed sailing is a great way to alleviate tension and offers an opportunity to take the mind off the day or week prior.

"Sailing is good to release the mind," Henry said. "When you are out here you can relieve stress – sometimes you go out and it is just you and the water."

Sailboats are the cheapest boats to rent at the marina and sailors can take them all around the bay.

Signing up for lessons is as

simple as calling or stopping by the marina. Everyone gets eight two-hour lessons free and Henry said many pick up the skill within five or six. Shimer is glad he seized the opportunity at the beginning of his deployment. The certification does not apply only to Guantanamo Bay – it is applicable around the world. Shimer plans on taking full advantage of his new skill set.

"My goal in the year I spend here is to learn to handle the boat well so when I go back to the states, I won't have any problem sailing down to the Florida Keys or to the Bahamas or even down here into the rest of the islands," Shimer said.

For sailors, new and old alike, sailing can be a means of transportation or a hobby. To many it is cathartic and for few it is even a lifestyle. For Shimer and Henry, it is about more than the destination.

"If you rent a pontoon boat you can get from point A to point B real fast," said Shimer. "But when you are operating a sailboat you are always looking ahead and judging the wind and trying to figure out how to get from point A to point B. Sometimes, they say, the journey is the best part."

HERITAGE cont.

guidance of SouthCom policy," Baez said.

In addition to quickly ramping up to support the JTF awards process, Johnson said Baez personifies a particular Army ethos.

"She has a very strong character and is a leader by example,"

Johnson said. "Before she'll assign anything to one of her younger Troopers, she'll take the time to figure it out and make sure she understands it so she can show them."

Because immersing herself in SouthCom policy wasn't enough for this motivated Soldier, Baez

HERITAGE cont.

what we contribute to today's modern dancing."

The ballroom was lined with several tributes to various Hispanic countries. At the entrance, women's clothing native to Panama, Columbia and Puerto Rico lined the wall. In addition, artifacts and artwork tied to the culture were also on display.

After the presentation of colors, a welcome from Resto and remarks from Navy Capt. Kirk Hibbert, commanding officer of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, guest speaker Navy Lt. Commander Samya Cruz spoke on what Hispanic heritage meant to her.

"[Cruz] is a Latin woman who really represents the Guantanamo Bay community," Resto said.

Following Cruz's speech was a meal of Pavocho (poultry seasoned like pork), rice with pigeon peas, fried plantains and flan for desert. As dinner finished, the dancing began. First on stage was

Maria Trias Figueroa's second grade class from W.T. Sampson Elementary School performing the Puerto Rican Plena dance. The rest of the night was filled with performances featuring merengue, zumba, and a panamanian dance with traditional dress.

"I would like to think everyone learned a bit about our dances," said Diaz. "How different styles and countries are represented in so many different ways."

Resto believes, Hispanic or not, teaching and learning about the rich Hispanic culture is the primary goal of the organization.

"This is just one of the events we hope to see for National Hispanic Heritage month," said Resto.

Attendees danced into the night while David Melendez, site safety and health officer, sang a mix of traditional and modern Spanish songs. Patrons and committee members agreed the evening was a success.

is also currently working on her degree in criminal justice with an emphasis in homeland security – a goal she hopes to accomplish while deployed to JTF Guantanamo.

"I've got 15 classes left to earn my Bachelor of Arts," she said. "I'm going to try and get it finished before we leave."

Whether she finishes here or not, Johnson knows the future is bright for this young sergeant.

"Once she finishes her degree, I can see her moving on to battle staff or getting into the intel field," he said. "But whatever she decides to do, I know she'll succeed - that's the type of Soldier she is."

The JTF At Shutter Speed



BRIDGING THE GAP

Utilitiesman 1st Class Bill Cahill (left) and Equipment Operator 2nd Class Max Leonard, both attached to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 28, measure boards for the reconstruction of three pedestrian bridges at Cooper Field, Monday. - photo by Army Sgt. Matthew Perry



GOOD BURGER

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Command Chaplain Air Force Lt. Col. Gary Bertsch cleans the barbecue grill at a burger burn held outside Camp 6, Friday. - photo by Army Sgt. Matthew Perry



COASTIE PATROL

A U.S. Coast Guard Transportable Port Security Boat conducts an anti-terrorism force protection patrol off Deer Point. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Killio Park



BULKING UP

Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Zach Lind performs warm up squats before his midday workout at Denich Gym, Wednesday. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Killio Park