

The WIRE

An award-winning
JTF journal



Heatin' Up!

Fire Prevention Week
sweeps Guantanamo Bay

PLUS:

Degree bound
Columbia College
registration in session

GTMO gets German
Oktoberfest is a hit
at the Windjammer

COMMAND CORNER

I'm now starting my fourth month here with Joint Task Force Guantanamo – and continue to be amazed at how we are able to successfully function with the rotational forces that make up the JTF. It seems we are continuously bringing a new unit (or two) along with many new individuals. This kind of turnover is something most of us haven't experienced before.

Yet there are some advantages new faces bring, if we manage it properly. Every new arrival brings a fresh perspective – a perspective which is usually based on common sense (since the new person won't likely have significant experience in the unique JTF GTMO mission). Common sense often highlights procedures which simply don't meet the true need anymore. If we "old-timers" can't explain why we're doing things a certain way to the newcomers, then maybe there's a better way. Out of a fresh set of eyes comes a simplification to our methods.

However, there are often good reasons WHY we perform procedures in a certain way. These reasons are usually spelled out clearly in some reference or some SOP. We should know these reasons - which means we need to do our homework - and actually read the SOPs and instructions. Too often, we rely solely on what we've been told without questioning the why. This apathy can set up the organization for failure. If we don't understand WHY we are doing certain procedures, then our reliefs may change (or delete) those procedures – not realizing there was a good reason WHY those procedures were originally established.

We should all be encouraged to ask why things are done, or why things are done in a specific way. The odds are good that a reasonable justification does exist. That reason should be clearly documented somewhere – and that documentation should be an important part of your next turnover. If this is done, it can help prevent the common occurrence of new people making changes "just because." We've all seen this in the past – and have probably criticized it. Yet, if the new people aren't taught why things are being done and how those actions interact with other activities, then they may naturally feel a need to make changes – changes which could later prove to be counter-productive.

While you're new, please start making your turnover list. Don't



just plan to explain to your relief what you do, but also explain why you're doing it. If the why is not clearly documented somewhere, then make the effort to document it. This documentation is a vital basis for training our reliefs. We should all strive to leave the organization stronger than we found it – and properly training our reliefs is especially key here at JTF GTMO.

JTF Guantanamo

Commander

Navy Rear Adm. David Woods

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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 2nd Class Kilho Park

Army Sgt. Mathieu Pery

Pfc. Justin Pierce

Contact us

Editor's Desk: 3651

From the continental United States

Commercial: 011-53-99-3651

DSN: 660-3651

E-mail: thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

Online: www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil



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COVER: Personnel Specialist 2nd Class Charles Skinner puts out a controlled fire at the Naval Exchange as part of Naval Station Guantanamo's Fire Prevention Week training evolutions. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist Kilho Park

Trooper to Trooper

featuring

Chief Master Sgt. Kirk Rhame

Chief Enlisted Manager,
474th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

Recently, one of my non-commissioned officers asked me, “What does going above and beyond mean?”

I replied by defining what he asked – “going:” advance toward an objective; “above:” in or to a higher place; “beyond:” in a degree or amount surpassing. To recognize what constitutes going above and beyond, it is necessary to understand the baseline performance expected of us all. To do that, we need to look at our core values.

Each service established a set of values to guide their members’ activity and decision-making. The Air Force core values are: Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence In All We Do. The Army has seven core values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. The Navy and Marines value Honor, Courage and Commitment while the Coast Guard believes in Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty. Each of the services, through their core values, set a benchmark for the performance of their personnel.

As a leader it is important to know and internalize the core values of your service. In doing so, you can set a threshold and establish a definition of going above and beyond. Yet knowing is only half the battle. Once you know how to go above and beyond, it’s time to take action. How do you do it? Volunteer your off-duty time to a program that benefits Troopers here at on Guantanamo Bay. Assist fellow Troopers in need. Work beyond the normal duty hours without being asked. The options are endless but it’s important to remember one thing: going above and beyond isn’t limited to your job performance. It’s about taking the extra step to do more than what’s expected from you, no matter the occasion.

We should always encourage our Troopers to go above and beyond. However, for leaders, our role doesn’t end there. As leaders, we have to remember to recognize our Troopers when they rise to the occasion. We must make it our duty to highlight the accomplishments of our Troopers in any way we can – verbal congratulatory remarks, a certificate of appreciation or the award of a decoration. When we do recognize our outstanding



performers, we should always strive to do it in front of their peers. The public acknowledgement of their outstanding performance builds Troopers’ self-confidence. It also serves as a moment to reinforce our service core values to our team and to demonstrate how they too can go above and beyond. Public recognition will not only build morale, it will also improve a unit’s performance.

When we understand our service core values, we understand what is expected of us as Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen. I encourage you to look for opportunities to exceed those expectations and go above and beyond. Not only will you feel good about it, your teammates will too.

Have a great GTMO day!



PROTECT YOUR INFO!
OPSEC ALERT

Dumpster Diving 101

Dumpster diving is performed randomly at the JTF to see what information people might have let slip through and thrown away. Personal information is most commonly tossed out in the form of unwanted mail or envelopes with addresses, along with tidbits of work info. Schedules, calendar events and phone numbers jotted down on sticky-notes are also easy to forget. We have a 100% shred policy that needs to be followed for everyone’s protection. If your name or information is found in the trash you could be subject to UCMJ punishment. Don’t let a simple thing like trash get you in hot water, use OPSEC and shred all paper!

News from the Bay

Stories and reporting by Spc. Kelly Gary
and Pfc. Justin Pierce

Navy Birthday Ball at Windjammer Ballroom

On Saturday, Guantanamo Bay's Navy Ball Committee is hosting the 236th Navy Birthday Ball at the Windjammer Ballroom. Social hour is scheduled from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The ceremony will begin at 6:45 p.m.

"The Navy Ball is not just for high ranking personnel," said Navy Career Counselor Chief Robert Pagtakhan, command career counselor for Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. "It is open to all to commemorate the Navy's birthday and why it was established."

Tickets are \$20 for E1 to E4, \$25 for E5 and E6, \$30 for E7 to O3 and \$35 for O4 and above and civilians.

Uniform for the ball for active duty personnel will be dinner dress white. Joint Task Force and Naval Expeditionary Guard Battalion personnel are authorized to wear clean and pressed uniforms and civilian attire will be formal. All attendees will be given a commemorative glass and coin.

For more information, call Pagtakhan at x4812.

Register for MWR flag football league at gym

The Men & Women's Fall Flag Football League begins Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. Registration deadline is Oct. 18 by 7 p.m. at Denich Gym.

A mandatory coaches meeting will be Oct. 20, at 5:30 p.m. at Denich Gym.

"Not only do our patrons enjoy watching [football] on TV but they enjoy playing it," said Alana Morrison, Morale, Welfare and Recreation sports coordinator. "Since we are not authorized to play tackle football, we provide flag football – the next best thing!"

Morrison explained the men's league will be nine players on the field per team, whereas women's teams will have seven.

She added if there are not at least three

female teams registered, the league will move to open recreation which means females will be allowed to play on men's teams under men's rules. The exception is if a female scores, the team will be allotted more points.

The league will last eight weeks with post season play.

"Playoffs are designed to allow all teams a post season game but allow for our top teams to move into a double elimination format, so we can really see who our top team is," said Morrison. "Can you handle it? Because flag football is back!"

For more information, call Morrison at x2113.

Marine Corps off-road tour now cancelled

The Marine Corps Security Force Company off-road tour scheduled for Oct. 15 is cancelled.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Aaron Tucker at x2643.

Eagle Scouts looking to come together

Troop 435, Boy Scouts of America and the National Eagle Scout Association will gather to share stories with current scouts about how earning their Eagle badge has helped them and how scouting has impacted their lives.

The event is projected to be in January. The exact date, time and place will be announced when decided. Chris Hileman, coordinator for the event, urges those interested to not wait and get in contact with him as soon as possible.

So far, Hileman has found 15 Eagle Scouts willing to get together to share stories and support the troop.

You can go to the Boy Scouts web site and the National Eagle Scout Association web site <http://nesa.org/history.html> for more information on the award, the association and notable Eagles.

For more information, contact Hileman at x9831.

Youth cheerleading camp registration

Navy Child and Youth Programs is seeking participants ages five through seven and eight to twelve to attend a cheerleading camp, scheduled to begin Oct. 24.

Registration is at the Youth Center from Oct. 3 to Oct. 21, Mondays to Fridays from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Registration fee is \$50.

There are a total of ten slots available for the former age group and twenty for the latter. In addition, NCYP is looking for volunteer coaches. They said experience is appreciated but not a must.

Practice time will be determined by the coaches. The camp will end Dec. 14.

For more information, contact the Youth Center at x74658.

New times for video news stories on roller

The Joint Task Force Public Affairs broadcast team has changed the play times for their video news stories on the roller channel. "The Wire Update" will now play at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:50 a.m., 6 p.m., and 8 p.m. Pfc. Justin Pierce, broadcaster for JTF, said this change came about to better facilitate the schedules of the viewer audience.

"Instead of trying to catch a story while getting ready for work, the stories will play once the work day has begun," said Pierce. "Also, in the evenings, the later playing times will allow everyone a chance to get home and settled after their work day is over."

Running these video news stories on the roller channel is still a new process. "The JTF broadcast team said they appreciate the support the community gives them and would love to hear feedback on their products and the scheduling of air times.

For more information, contact Pierce at x3589.

TROOPER FOCUS

Staff Sgt. Christopher Casteel



Sp. Kelly Gary

In the early nineties, Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Casteel was nineteen years old and fresh out of high school. Inspired by the Gulf War, he decided to join the Army. By the time he was done with training, however, the war had ended. Fortunately Casteel had found something he enjoyed so he stuck with it.

After 18 years as an engineer in the Army, Casteel joined the Air Force National Guard after meeting and building a strong camaraderie with some Airmen during his first deployment, a Continental United States mission in San Diego for Operation Jump Start.

Casteel, vehicle control officer and safety non-commissioned officer in charge for the 146th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, said being a part of a Guard unit brings an exceptionally larger array of abilities to the table on missions such as this one on Guantanamo Bay.

“On the reserve side, everybody has

so many different skills they bring from the outside,” said Casteel. “So when you bring everyone together, you not only have their specialties from their military jobs, you also get the experience of their education and skills from the civilian side.”

Back in the states, Casteel is a health and safety inspector for a telecommunications company. Health and safety is not merely a job to Casteel – it is his passion and one he has brought with him to the island.

Chief Master Sgt. Kirk Rhame, chief master sergeant for the 146th ECES, said Casteel is taking the former safety program up to industrial standards, which is no simple task.

“That is his strongest point,” said Rhame. “Trying to keep everyone safe in the construction field.”

Casteel recently received his associate

see FOCUS , pg. 19

Bullet Bio

Time in service: 20 years

Hobbies: snorkeling, collecting sea glass, studying

Pet peeves: not paying attention to detail

Next goal: bachelor’s degree

Advice to junior Troopers: “Make sure you keep copies of everything the military gives you.”

What was your favorite Halloween costume?



“My gypsy costume is my favorite because my son always says, ‘Mommy looks pretty’ when I wear it.”

**Air Force Master Sgt.
Carnita Farve**



“Pharaoh – I liked the robes and the head piece. Also, I liked being a figure of power.”

**Sgt. 1st Class
Antonio White**



“Batman. He is just awesome.”

**Marine Cpl.
Gerardo Aboytes**



“When I wore a hanbok, a traditional Korean outfit. I felt like a princess.”

**Steel Worker
2nd Class
Rejuna Caswell**

Boots on the Ground



Runners near the finish line Saturday morning at Denich Gym during MWR's End the Silence on Domestic Violence 5K Fun Run. Participants wore purple ribbons to show their support and advocacy for domestic violence victims.

Runners raise awareness for domestic abuse, violence

Story by Army Sgt. Mathieu Perry

More than 300 runners from Joint Task Force and Naval Station Guantanamo and the local community participated in the End the Silence on Domestic Violence 5K Fun Run, sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Fleet and Family Services Center, Saturday morning.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the run, which began at Denich Gym and proceeded past the golf course and looped back, was just the first in a series of events on Guantanamo Bay.

Carol Leaphart, domestic abuse victim advocate for Guantanamo Bay, said these events are designed to encourage discussion and promote victim safety.

"All over the U.S., towns, cities and communities are coming together to bring greater awareness of violence in domestic relationships, teen dating ... Relational aggression of any kind will not be tolerated any more," said Leaphart. "We are ending the silence on domestic violence."

Leaphart said aggression is a sign of an uneven power struggle.

"The whole purpose is to control the other partner," said Leaphart. "It's an imbalance in the relationship that occurs when one demands total power and the other one is left powerless."

Talking about domestic violence is critical to ending it, Leaphart emphasized.

"The key is letting people know they can report it and there is help," she said. "There is no shame and it's not their fault."

Leaphart said she was impressed by the support from the community.

"People from all aspects of the island have been represented in this event here today and it speaks to those who are still trapped in domestic violence," said Leaphart. "It speaks to them that if all these people are willing to come out and walk for them, they can perhaps now make a phone call and seek help."

Participant Navy Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Thoran Evans said the run was difficult, but ultimately gratifying.

"It is part of my goal to run every 5k during my deployment here," said Evans. "It's part of my personal training to help get into Basic Underwater Demolition

training because I want to be a Navy SEAL, so this should help."

Evans said the run wasn't as easy as he anticipated, but was proud of his placement.

"I wasn't sure of how I was going to do today, but second place isn't bad," he said.

In addition to better awareness on an important social cause, running is also an efficient form of stress relief, said Army Sgt. Jennifer Fish, a Soldier with the 107th Military Police Company.

"Running is a great get away from the stressors of work and everyday life," said Fish. "It's better than drinking and it doesn't cloud your mind like alcohol."

Participating in the event gives a voice to those who need to speak up, she said.

"It's important for all of us who came out here today to represent people who need to speak up, especially women out there, and to give them the voice to come forward," said Fish. "People need to know there are others who are going to protect them and stand up with them and make sure that the abuse stops. It's a terrible thing and no one should have to put up with it."

HIGHER LEARNING

Story by Spc. Kelly Gary

Some Troopers believe they do not have time for higher education during a deployment. However, there are many who, even with busy and unpredictable work schedules, manage to complete their classes and secure their degrees, exhibiting dedication and commitment for future employers.

Here on Guantanamo Bay, Columbia College offers military, civilians and contractors an opportunity to work toward a degree or simply better themselves through education, be it in math, science or art.

“We are an excellent resource for the base community,” said Mike Matheny, Columbia College director for the Guantanamo Bay campus. “Making progress on higher education goals is a fantastic way to be positive and productive while stationed here.”

Registration for classes is open until Oct. 28 and classes begin on Oct. 24. Matheny urges everyone who is interested to sign up now and get the process going.

“We offer three seat classes – music, algebra and Spanish,” Matheny said. “In addition, Columbia offers hundreds of online courses in all subjects as well as supports students in taking College-Level Examination Program exams and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests.”

Sgt. 1st Class Katherine White is striving for a degree in criminal justice. She started her schooling ten years ago and recently picked it back up. Now in her junior year, White is using her time here to complete four courses and recently registered for a fifth.

“Better late than never!” she said.

White, a platoon sergeant and watch commander for the 525th Military Police Battalion, said not only will a degree help her as she advances to master sergeant and aid in getting a good job after retirement, it also offers a different pace while here.

“It keeps your mind stimulated and yourself occupied,” said White, “and it gives you a break from the deployment.”

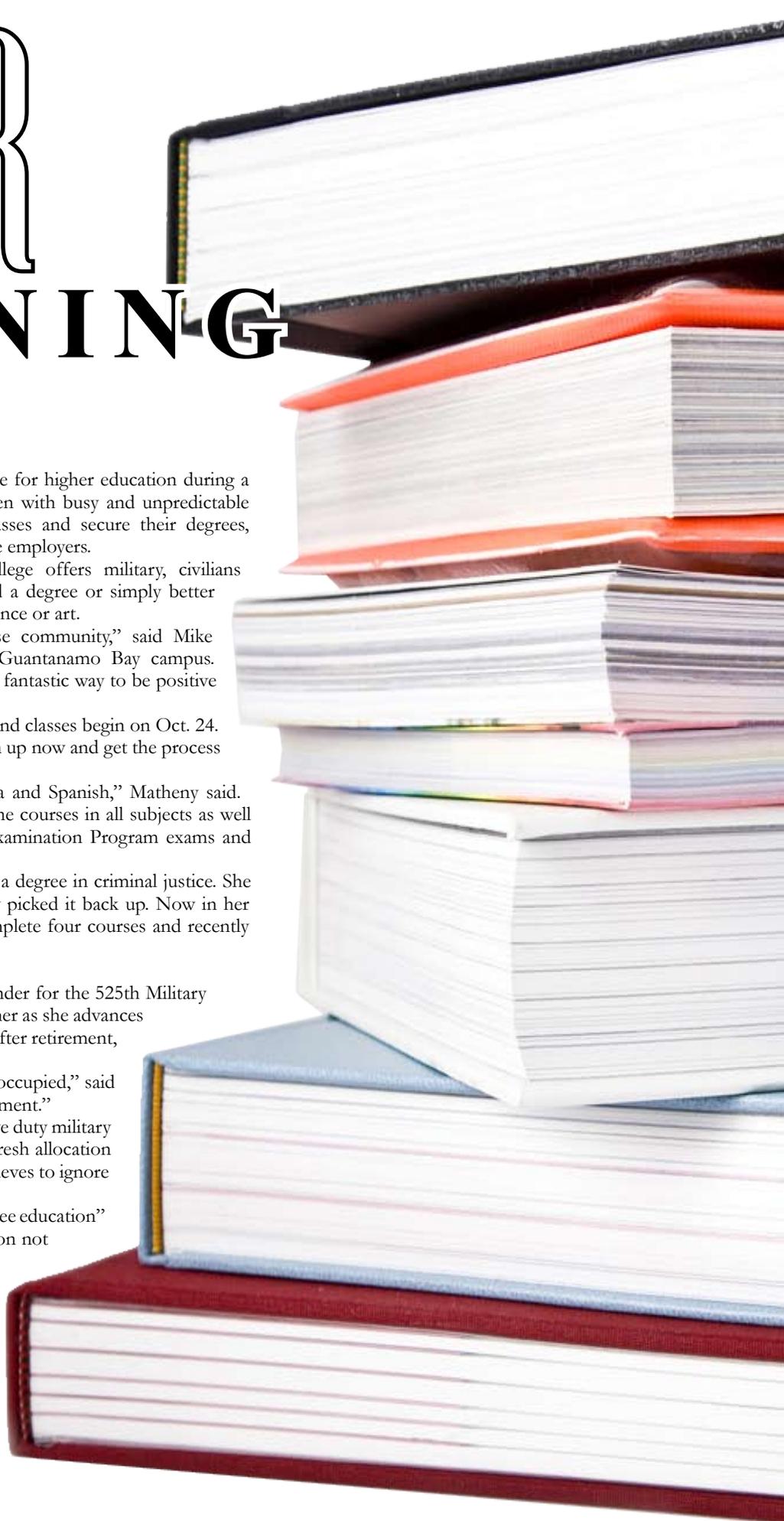
The courses themselves are at no cost for active duty military members. A new fiscal year began Oct. 1, so a fresh allocation of tuition assistance is available. White firmly believes to ignore such an opportunity would be foolish.

“I advise all Soldiers to take advantage of the free education” she said. “The Army pays for it; there is no reason not to get a degree.”

Books for the classes are at the student’s expense but most students offer their books for an extremely low price or for free, after their course is complete.

Matheny listed a variety of resources available to students, such as the office, a computer lab and classroom facilities. All of these provide an authentic college environment.

see COLLEGE, page 19



Oh Captain, My Captain

Guantanamo Bay fire captain commits his life to helping others

Story by Army Pfc. Justin Pierce
Photos by Army Sgt. Mathieu Perry

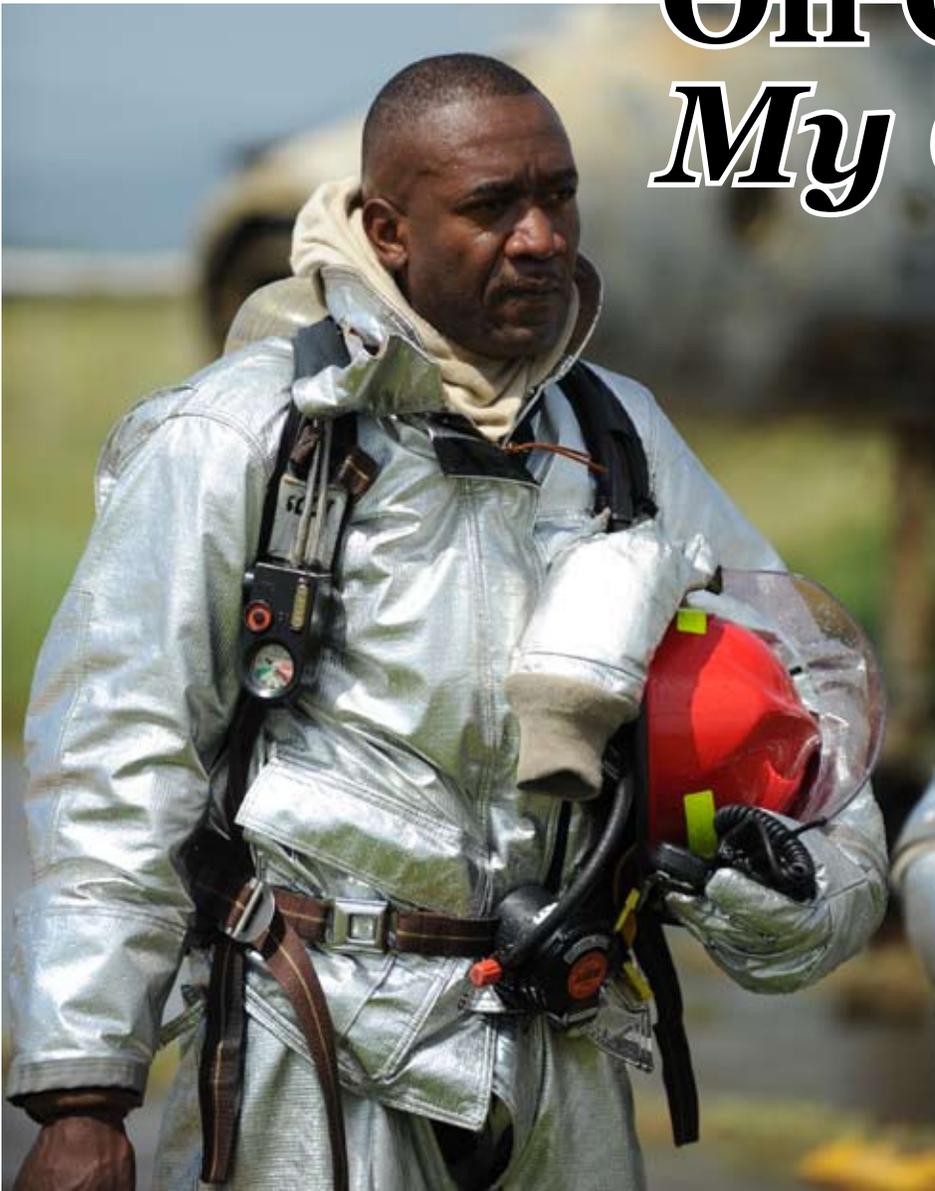
With any career, participation is a sliding scale. Some people perform to what is accepted and others to what's expected. Beyond this, few folks find themselves participating so actively, their performance can only be described as phenomenal. While many within Naval Station Guantanamo's workforce provide exceptional service, only a select few measure up to the dedication Fire Captain Maurice Hinds displays. By no means is this to the detriment of anyone else – Hinds is simply that exceptional.

Hinds' history of exemplary service doesn't start on Guantanamo Bay; it begins in his home country of Jamaica. Early on in his professional life, Hinds found himself driven to serve people. And that's what he did, spending 10 years in the Jamaican military, first as an infantryman and later a medic. It's also what he still does, having recently celebrated 11 years of service in the Guantanamo Bay Fire Department. The transition from soldier to fireman just made sense, says Hinds.

"For the most part, I was at a medical center and when I got here, part of being a firefighter, you also have to be an EMT," describes Hinds. "So, that part just fit right in, and the remainder just fit like a glove."

Hinds' background in emergency medical care might have made his transition into firefighting more convenient, but as soon as I met him, I could tell something more than skill makes up this man. Hinds didn't start a career as a firefighter just because it was a good fit. With a warm smile and a genuine concern for his men, he demonstrates the kind of leader we should all aspire to be.

Kind-hearted barely scratches the surface of the captain's demeanor. Watching him at work with his men paints a clear picture of their respect for Hinds. They look to him for



(above) Firefighter Captain Maurice Hinds, assigned to the Leeward Fire Station Three at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, looks over the scene as his team conducts response and suppression exercises, Oct. 7.

(right) Hinds observes as two firefighters stow a hose after performing a routine monthly inspection.

(opposite page) Hinds gives crew members of Engine 32 a briefing on their performance.



superb leadership he is capable of providing. Whether going through the basic rigmarole of inspecting equipment or conducting training, Hinds is a dedicated, hard worker.

His commitment to his men doesn't end with the workday. His off-duty time highlights another facet of what makes Hinds an extraordinary leader. While everyone else is winding down from work, Hinds is gearing up for one of his many other duties. Whether working part-time at Air Sunshine as an office manager, heading the Firefighter's Association or acting as a liaison between the Jamaican Employment Committee and Jamaica's Ministry of Labor, Hinds constantly seeks out new ways to help those around him. It may sound like a lot of extra work, but for Hinds, this is his fun.

"I just can't sit back and do nothing," he says. "This is my way of giving a contribution back. I have been so blessed, so I think I need to give back to the community."

Giving back is exactly what Hinds does. On Guantanamo Bay, he teaches CPR classes, plans the Firemen's Ball and takes on countless other tasks to ease the lives of his men.

"I work with the greatest set of guys ever," Hinds boasts. "When I go home to be with my family, I'm still thinking about the guys

"My motivation is just love for my job. This is family, this is home, this is where it's at."

that I leave back here. So the motivation is just coming back and hanging out with the guys."

The fire captain sees his job for more than just the responsibilities it places upon him. He sees it as his surrogate family, and he cares for his men just as he does his two daughters back home in Jamaica. As a firefighter on the island, Hinds spends only a small amount of his time with his family. On average, he sees them once every six weeks. While these visits give Hinds some family time, he also uses them for work, setting up interviews and giving inspirational speeches to Jamaica's youth. While Hinds admits being apart from his family is difficult, he also acknowledges that it's a necessary evil.

"When I just got here, it was extremely difficult," Hinds concedes. "But over time, my wife and girls, because they are just the best family ever, they have grown to understand that Dad – and in the case of my wife, her husband – is just doing something that I have to do at this time."

Despite the difficulties of being away from his family, Hinds perseveres. His job as a fire captain grants him an opportunity to serve his community, and helping others is something he holds a strong passion for.

"My motivation is just love for my job," he says. "This is family, this is home, this is where it's at."

Hinds may exceed the standards because he loves his job, but his efforts haven't gone unnoticed. A brief conversation with some of his crew was proof enough of this. Firefighter Benjamin Lemard had nothing but accolades for his selfless mentor.

"He's a good leader, working with him on a regular basis he helps me to motivate myself and build up my esteem level," commended Lemard. "He's a good worker, a good captain and I love working with him."

Hinds' superiors have also noticed his dedication to duty. Later this year, he will be submitted for a Department of Defense firefighter award. And if his men had anything to say about it, you can bet Hinds would be receiving it. As it is, only time will tell, but one thing is certain: Fire Captain Hinds will continue to provide outstanding service to his men and our Guantanamo Bay community.



FIRE PREVEN

Story and photo by Spc. Kelly Gary

In support of Fire Prevention Week, the Naval Station Guantanamo's Fire Department held a variety of demonstrations and fire prevention exercises around Guantanamo Bay.

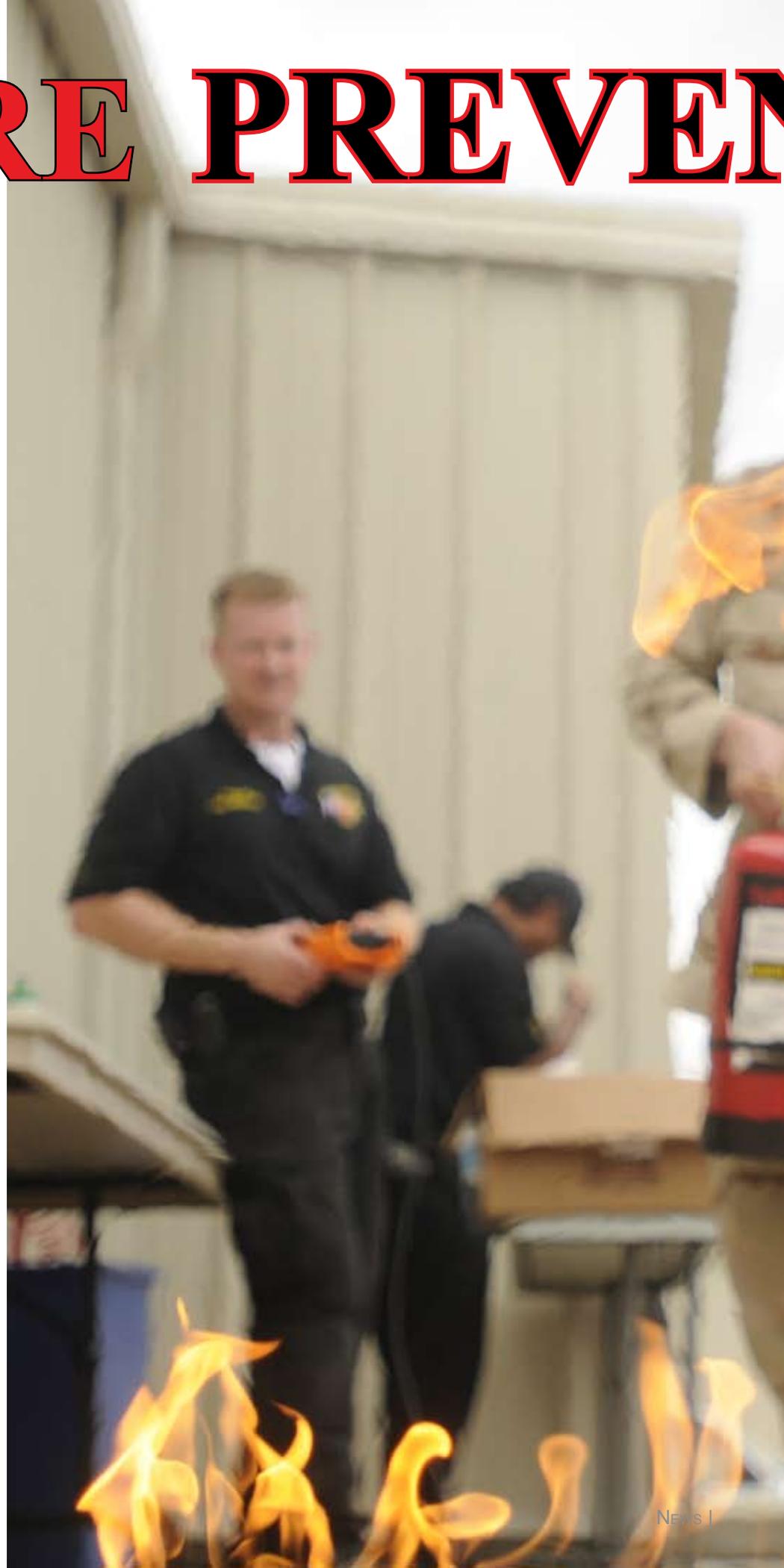
Despite the main event being postponed due to rain, the team proceeded to spread awareness through fire extinguisher training and handing out informational pamphlets and novelty items with awareness messages.

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.

While the Great Chicago Fire is the most known blaze to start during this fiery two-day stretch, it wasn't the largest. That distinction goes to the Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history. The fire, which also occurred on October 8th, 1871, roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended.

This year, Fire Prevention Week stretches from Oct. 9 to Oct. 15. Every year since 1957, Fire Prevention Week is observed with a new theme – this year's theme is "Protect Your Family from Fire." The United States, Canada, and all Department of Defense facilities across the globe observe Fire Prevention Week.

For more information, contact the fire department at x4178 or x4611.



CONVENTION WEEK



Rain or Shine:

Despite rescheduling, Oktoberfest brings crowds, dancing and plenty of beverages to the Windjammer.

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Cossel

Try as it might, the weather was unable to stop Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Oktoberfest celebration. Originally scheduled for Saturday night at the Tiki Bar, rain and wind forced MWR officials to reschedule for Sunday night at the Windjammer.

"It really was a last minute decision to reschedule it for Sunday," explained Amiee Mac Donnell, MWR activities director. "We were really concerned about all the electrical equipment, the safety of the band and wanting people to come out."

But the move presented Mac Donnell with another challenge — the band was scheduled to leave Sunday.

"The guys down at air ops really came through for us," said Mac Donnell. "They moved some stuff around and were able to accommodate two flights leaving on Monday instead of Sunday."

With that problem fixed, the celebration began in earnest at the Windjammer as throngs of Naval Station Guantanamo residents stood in long lines for the evening's hottest souvenir — the Oktoberfest beer stein.

"We had 275 and they went quickly," Mac Donnell said. "And clearly those waiting in line were waiting to get a stein — as soon as the steins were gone, the line went away."

Those elusive steins were filled to the brim with typical Oktoberfest libations and music for the evening was provided by the Florida-based Swinging Bavarians. Under the direction of Kapellmeister (bandleader) Bill Schoenfeldt, the band led the crowd through an array of traditional Bavarian tunes, along with some reinvented crowd favorites. The 27-year-old band is made up of family and close friends of Schoenfeldt, who's performed this style of music for nearly 40 years.

see OKTOBERFEST, pg. 19

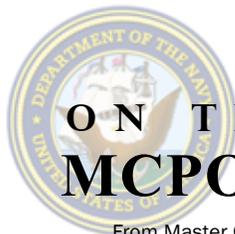




(left) Band members Krissy Schoenfeldt-Vavrek and Starr Vavrek perform a traditional slap-dance.

(top) The Florida-based Swinging Bavarians provided the musical soundtrack Sunday during Morale, Welfare and Recreations' Oktoberfest celebration. The band played a mix of traditional Bavarian music as well as several more recent, chart-topping songs.

(bottom) Morale, Welfare and Recreation Activities Director Amiee Mac Donnell announces the winner of the Oktoberfest costume contest.



ON THE DECK

MCPON expresses 236th Navy birthday message

From Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick D. West

WASHINGTON – Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick D. West sends his 236th Navy Birthday Message to the Fleet, Oct. 12:

“Shipmates and Navy families,

As we honor the birth of the United States Navy 236 years ago, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all Sailors, civilians and family members for their service and dedication to our great Navy team.

Our traditional maritime requirements, counter-piracy efforts and the many non-traditional missions we have adopted in support of overseas contingency operations are making a difference every day.

On any given day, we have at least 150 ships and 25 submarines underway, and let’s not forget about our Sailors who are boots on ground. That’s more than 40,000 Sailors who are deployed, on station around the world executing our Navy’s core

capabilities of the maritime strategy.

From our beginning in 1775 with just six frigates to our present-day highly diversified, modern Fleet with a total of 285 deployable ships and submarines, our Navy is the best it has ever been. Our Navy has remained steadfast and ready for 236 years, and we continue to be ready to answer every call our nation makes thanks to your outstanding dedication and selfless support.

I also want to say “thank you” and express my sincere

appreciation to our Navy families for your continued love and support of your Sailor and our Navy. You are the cornerstone of a Sailor’s readiness and your role is vitally important.

Please take a moment to remember the thousands of our Shipmates who are deployed around the world vigilantly standing the watch, and those who have gone before us in service to our great nation.

Happy birthday shipmates ... you look pretty darn good to be 236 years old!



INSIDE THE JAR

Marines ready to answer call for next natural disaster

Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Timothy Lenzo

SAN FRANCISCO – Marines serving with Combat Logistics Regiment 17 took on an unorthodox exercise in San Francisco, Oct. 7, during Fleet Week.

The Marines bussed to the city’s Treasure Island and trained with local first responders in urban search and rescue as part of a continued focus on humanitarian disaster relief, which also provided a chance for the Marines to build working relationships with the emergency services of San Francisco.

Marines and sailors were paired with members of the San Francisco Fire Department for the four-hour demonstration and practical application.

“At any point and time, Marines may be called upon to provide some kind of disaster relief or humanitarian effort,” said Capt. Alexis Sanchez, the Headquarters and Service Company executive officer with CLR-17.

In case of a major earthquake or hurricane, many of the local emergency offices may not be able to help. The Marines train to be ready if called upon to help the relief efforts of a natural disaster.

“Today’s objective was to train the Marines and sailors in case there is ever an

earthquake or disaster in San Francisco,” said Assistant Deputy Chief Mark Kearney, director of Homeland Security Division, San Francisco Fire Department.

Sanchez said the demonstration was very informative to many of the Marines and a vital tool for their tool kit.

“Our humanitarian support requires

us to be knowledgeable in these little things,” said Sgt. Ryan Chericie, a motor technician with CLR-17. “The fire department gave us some insights, so if there is a disaster and someone’s life needs to be saved, we actually have those techniques to support that.”

The San Francisco Fire Department took the lead in training the Marines.

“It is essential that Marines have a good, solid base of understanding of some of the techniques we’ve learned today,” said Sanchez.

“If there was ever a disaster relief in the United States, if we have a working relationship with [local first responders], we’d know exactly what they would need and how they operate,” said Sanchez.

With the tsunamis in eastern Asia and Hurricane Katrina still fresh in many people’s minds, combined with relief efforts happening all over the world, the Marines said the training was a valuable opportunity.

“I think the training was phenomenal,” said Sanchez. “Even though it was a crash course, and we just got a little segment of what they do, we walked away knowing these guys were giving all their effort to ensure that we learn what they were providing.”



Lance Cpl. Neil Unzuete, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, begins the construction of a support unit that would help in earthquakes, hurricanes or other natural disasters, Oct. 7.

Army wants more Soldiers back on deployable status

By Army Master Sgt. Doug Sample

WASHINGTON – Decreasing the number of Soldiers who are medically unfit for deployment has become a major focus of the U.S. Army Medical Command.

Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, who heads MEDCOM and led off the discussion, said that since the drawdown, the Army has seen a growing population of medically “non-ready” Soldiers. Currently the Army’s mission readiness stands at just 85 percent according to one of the panelist, while the Guard and Reserve deployability level is much lower at 70 percent.

Schoomaker pointed out that the reserve-component number is actually up 30 percent from three years ago. Nonetheless, these numbers have brought concern, Schoomaker said, adding that having so many Soldiers unfit for duty is beginning to burden unit readiness.

Schoomaker said with the loss of the Army temporary end strength, “We begin to see a growing number of medically non-ready Soldiers with a smaller population of Soldiers overall available for continued demand for deployment.”

Maj. Gen. Richard Stone, deputy surgeon general for mobilization, said the Army currently has as many as 40,000 active, Guard and Reserve Soldiers recovering from wounds or transitioning out of the military through Warrior Transition Units across the country.

“It is clear that whatever end-strength increase that we’ve been given, we’ve used up in wounded, ill and injured and transitioning Soldiers through a cumbersome bureaucracy,” he said. “And we have continued to see escalating numbers of medically non-deployable Soldiers, with as much as 14 percent of the force unable to deploy when a brigade combat team moves forward. You began to understand the scope of the problem that we are faced with.”

Brig. Gen. Brian Lein, command surgeon at U.S. Forces Command, Fort Bragg, N.C., explained that over the past four years, the percentage of medical non-deployable Soldiers has remained steady at 35-38 percent.

Lein explained that non-deployable Soldiers fall into three profile categories: Those who have permanent profiles who are going to the

medical evaluation or physical evaluation board that are not complex enough to go into a Warrior Transition Unit. Those who are returning from deployment who have medical issues to be taken care of. And Soldiers who are available for deployment by Army regulation, but who have a medical condition that prohibits them from entering a combat theater.

The general warned that if the non-deployable status remains at the current level, the Army would find it difficult to maintain unit-manning levels in the future.

“If we don’t get our arms around the non-deployable population, and the biggest population is the medically non-deployable population, we’re going to have a significant problem manning our units to get them to go downrange,” he said. “The Soldier is the center of our formations, so if the Soldier is not ready to go, then the unit is not ready to go.”

The good news is that the Army may have found a way to determine which Soldiers are prone to musculoskeletal injuries. Stone explained researchers are studying new ways of measuring, among other abilities, a Soldier’s agility, strength, arch, height, sprint and endurance.

“You can actually predict, based on the upcoming mission, what the potential is for injury would be,” he said. “In about a five-day period you can test an entire brigade combat team and then predict for the commander their injury rate.”

Armed with that information, Stone said that he soon expects to see changes in everything from the way Soldiers train for deployment, to the types of boots they wear. Any of these improvements can lessen the impact of musculoskeletal injuries to Soldiers’ health and readiness.

MEDCOM has already begun implementing a solution to some of medical readiness issues plaguing the Army. Schoomaker said a “top ten” campaign the command put together targets everything from good eating habits that emphasize less consumption of sugary drinks, to resiliency and comprehensive soldier fitness programs, and better medical recording keeping.

“Our goal, as it has always been the goal of Army medicine, is to preserve the fighting strength, it is to return the maximum number of Soldiers to be available in a deployable force,” he said. “We feel this will be a successful campaign if all of us work in concert.”

Medical codes no longer prevent some deployments

By Jon Hanson

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Air Force officials have approved expanding the deployment opportunities for Airmen who typically had limited opportunities to deploy in support of air and space expeditionary force operations.

Last month, the 602nd Training Group Provisional at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., began accepting Airmen with restrictive deployment availability codes to fill openings in its operations center and at training detachments.

“The overarching intent is to support 2nd Air Force without reducing the Air Force’s ability to meet combatant commander requirements,” said Col. Henry Polczer, the

director of AEF and Personnel Operations at the Air Force Personnel Center. “We will accomplish this by sourcing to a name those Airmen who would otherwise not be able to deploy.”

The 602nd provides support to Airmen attending Army combat skills training, combat Airman skills training and the basic combat convoy course, officials said. These courses provide Airmen specific training to prepare them for their deployment and meet the needs of the combatant commander. The AEF and Personnel Operations directorate will use the Military Personnel Data System to source those individuals with deployment availability codes which makes them normally unavailable for worldwide deployments.

“The use of MilPDS to source these individuals is relatively new,” said Wanda Davies, the deputy chief of scheduling division for AEF and Personnel Operations. “It is usually done by sourcing to the unit type code which requires the commander to select personnel from their unit to fill the AEF requirement.”

The key is for those Airmen with medical DAV codes, and their supervisors, to understand they might be selected for stateside taskings and to be prepared, Davies said. These Airmen will either work in the 602nd operations center or at one of the training detachments. This new selection process currently covers approximately 100 requirements.

30 MINUTES OR LESS

R
83 min.



Army Sgt. Meredith Vincent

By all accounts, “30 Minutes or Less” shouldn’t work. Everything about the movie, from the chilling real-life story it is loosely based on, to the go-for-broke manic comedic performances, to the questionable political environment in today’s society, should land it at the bottom of the straight-to-DVD pile where it would never have the chance to see the light of day.

Thankfully, someone was feeling risky, and the rest of us get to reap the benefits. The movie follows Nick (Jesse Eisenberg), a slacker pizza delivery guy who’s having a particularly bad day. Nick becomes a hostage (of sorts) when criminally stupid Dwayne (Danny McBride) decides to strap a bomb to Nick’s chest and forces him to rob a bank or he’s in pieces. Dwayne needs the money to hire a hitman to kill his father (Fred Ward) so he can inherit said father’s fortune. Dwayne and Nick are assisted in crime by their respective best bros, Travis (Nick Swardson) and Chet (Aziz Ansari). If none of this sounds particularly funny, it’s ok, you’re not alone. It shouldn’t be. But as the hijinks ensue, so does the hilarity.

So why does this movie work so well? I chalk it up to the right cast plus the right director at the right time. Eisenberg got his start playing awkward, mumbling losers. It was only after his breakout performance in last year’s “The Social Network” that anyone realized the kid’s got range. With



his glossy Oscar sheen still glowing, Eisenberg reteams with his “Zombieland” director and essentially plays the same type as before, only now he’s looser with much more confidence. (In-joke alert: Nick actually replies to a friend, “I don’t check Facebook.” Zing!)

While Eisenberg is the centerpiece, none of it would be possible without his tremendously talented costars. Ansari has been slowly moving up the comedy food chain with roles on TV’s “Scrubs” and “Parks and Recreation” and recently became a key player in many Judd Apatow flicks, so it should come as no surprise this funny little man is ready for some

serious screen time of his own. Ansari has developed a delivery that is part deadpan, part surprise and always unexpected. He’s an unconventional choice here, to be sure, but that’s what makes Chet and Nick so perfectly paired.

The second bromance in “30 Minutes” is the relationship between Dwayne and Travis. I could sing Danny McBride’s praises all day. For me, he is as original and innovative as comedy has to offer right now. Even the sourest of comedians usually have a gooey center – not McBride. He offers no apologies nor empathy as

see MOVIES, pg. 19

	14 FRI.	15 SAT.	16 SUN.	17 MON.	18 TUES.	19 WED.	20 THURS.
Downtown Lyceum	Columbiana (PG-13) 8 p.m. Our Idiot Brother (R) 10 p.m.	A Dolphin Tale (PG) 8 p.m. Conan the Barbarian (R) 10 p.m.	The Help (PG-13) 8 p.m.	The Change-Up <i>(last showing)</i> (R) 10 p.m.	Rise of the Planet of the Apes <i>(last showing)</i> (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Spy Kids: All the Time in the World (PG) 8 p.m.	Fright Night (R) 8 p.m.
Camp Bulkeley	The Help (PG-13) 8 p.m. Conan the Barbarian (R) 10 p.m.	Columbiana (PG-13) 8 p.m. Our Idiot Brother (R) 10 p.m.	Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Fright Night (R) 8 p.m.	The Change-Up <i>(last showing)</i> (R) 8 p.m.	A Dolphin Tale (PG) 8 p.m.	30 Minutes or Less (R) 8 p.m.

Call MWR at ext. 2010 for more information.

Movie Hotline - call 4880.

Obama, Saudi King pledge ‘unified’ response to Iran bomb plot

Voice of America News Service

The United States and Saudi Arabia have pledged to pursue a “strong and unified” international response to the alleged plot by elements of the Iranian government to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to Washington.

The White House said U.S. President Barack Obama and Saudi King Abdullah spoke by telephone Wednesday and agreed that the plot represents a “flagrant violation” of international norms and vowed to hold “those responsible accountable for their actions.”

Iran has denied the allegations. The state-run IRNA news agency quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Ahani Wednesday as calling the scenario “absurd” and urging Saudi Arabia to be wary of U.S. efforts to damage relations of countries in the region.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called the thwarted scheme a “dangerous escalation” in Iran’s “long-standing use of political violence and sponsorship of

terrorism.” She said the U.S. will work closely with its international partners “to increase Iran’s isolation and the pressure on its government.”

The tough response came a day after the U.S. Justice Department announced it had charged Manssor Arbabsiar, a naturalized U.S. citizen, and Gholam Shakuri, a member of an elite Iranian military unit, with conspiring to carry out a bomb attack on Saudi envoy Adel al-Jubeir.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said the plot was “conceived, sponsored and directed” from Iran.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said the plot involved top members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard’s Quds Force, a group that operates outside of Iran. He called that finding “significant in and of itself,” and said Washington is taking “no options off the table” in its response to the alleged scheme.

Meanwhile, the U.S. designated the Iranian commercial airline Mahan Air a supporter of terrorist-related activities in Tehran. The finding prohibits U.S. citizens from engaging

in commercial or financial transactions with Mahan Air and freezes assets it may hold under U.S. jurisdiction.

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden called the alleged assassination attempt an “outrageous act.”

The U.S. State Department has issued a worldwide alert for American citizens about possible “anti-U.S. actions” following charges against the two Iranians. It said the scheme may indicate Iran’s government could be taking a “more aggressive focus” on terrorist activity.

U.S. officials say Arbabsiar unknowingly hired an informant of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to carry out the plot, believing the informant had ties to Mexican drug cartels capable of killing the Saudi ambassador. They say Arbabsiar confessed to making a \$100,000 down payment on the scheme with a price tag of \$1.5 million.

Officials arrested Arbabsiar at New York’s John F. Kennedy International Airport on September 29, but Shakuri is still at large.

US Defense chief says painful changes coming

Voice of America News Service

U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta says painful changes are coming to the U.S. military, as the Pentagon looks for ways to cut \$450 billion from its budget in the next 10 years.

The Obama administration has called on the Pentagon to reduce spending that rose dramatically during wars in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past decade.

Panetta told a Soldiers’ advocacy group in Washington Wednesday the future U.S. military will have to deal with the reality of being smaller.

“Tough decisions await us all,” he said.

He said the nation needs an army strong enough to deal with conventional threats.

“If an enemy does challenge us in a conventional land war, we need an army that can, as General George Patton used to say, ‘hold the enemy by the nose and kick them in the ass,’” said Panetta.

At the same time, he said the military must be smarter and more versatile to deal with terrorist threats that he says are not going away.

“Still, the reality is there are not a lot of countries out there building massive tank armies,” he said. “It is unlikely that we will be fighting Desert Storm in the future. Instead, I see both state and non-state actors arming with high-tech weaponry that is easier both to buy and to operate, weapons that frustrate our traditional advantage.”

The U.S. Army alone may reduce its force by nearly 50,000 in the next five years.



U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta after speaking to the Association of the US Army in Washington, Wednesday. - photo by AP

But U.S. Defense officials say no decisions have been made on where to cut. Secretary Panetta last month called in combat commanders to start discussing places where they believe reductions can be made.

A defense policy expert at the Center for Defense Information in Washington, Winslow Wheeler, believes the cuts could result in a corrective process that will eliminate what he says has been wasteful spending.

“After 9/11, for very understandable reasons, everybody in the political system in our country wanted to do everything they could to assist our armed forces,” said Wheeler. “But some of them fell over themselves in terms of trying to just

throw money at the issue rather than selectively and smartly.”

Defense analyst Mackenzie Eaglen at the Heritage Foundation, a research organization, says cuts of \$450 billion, even if they target wasteful projects, inevitably will result in the loss of essential capabilities.

“The challenge with the ‘there’s so much waste therefore you can cut defense’ argument is that defense cuts don’t work like that,” said Eaglen. “This isn’t a laser where we are taking out the fat that is marbled inside a piece of meat, for example. These tend to be salami-sliced, budget axe, across-the-board cuts that don’t have targeted focus.”

God is talking: Are you listening?

Air Force Lt. Col Gary Bertsch
Joint Task Force Guantanamo Command Chaplain

A man tells a story of the day he was driving along a country road and realized he was lost.

He stopped by a small farmhouse to ask for directions and saw an elderly woman sitting on the porch. An elderly man was working in the front yard whistling nonstop. The whistling was loud and clear but seemed to be aimless and purposeless. There was no tune, just whistling.

When he walked up to the man, he said, "I see you're fond of whistling."

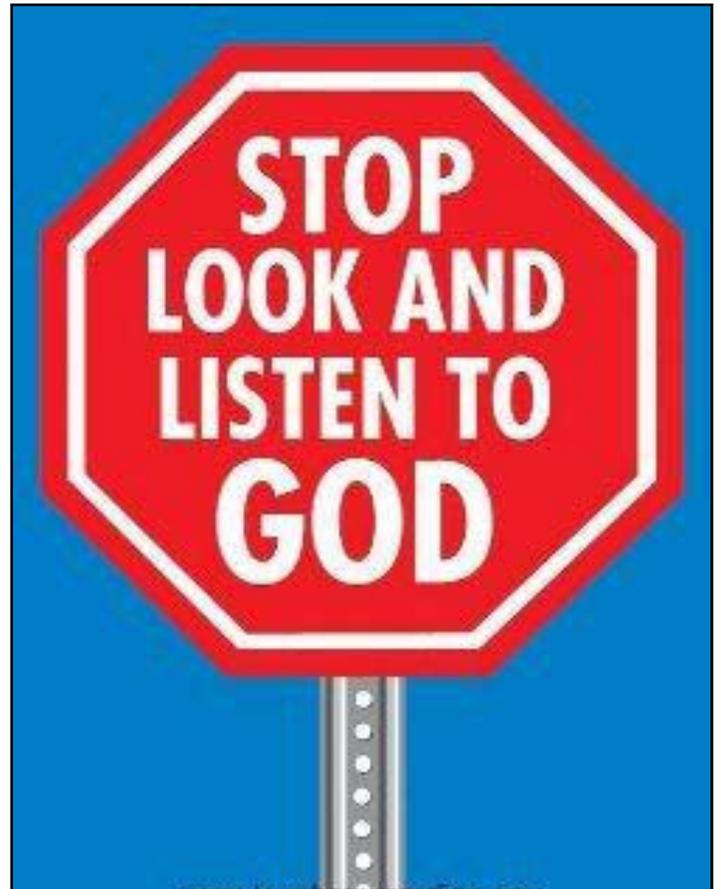
"Oh," he said, "it's second nature to me now."

Pointing to the porch, he explained the woman was his wife and they had been happily married for 38 years when she became blind. Coming as it did, so late in life, it was very frightening for her and she still

felt a deep-seated insecurity.

The husband said, "I figured if I just keep whistling while I'm outside the house, she'll have the security of knowing I'm still with her."

I like this story as a parable of God's presence with us. Sometimes it might seem God is distant, far removed or that we don't have a sense of God's presence. Like the woman in the story, there are times when we become blind. But we need to remember God's promise to always be with us through anything, including deployments. We only need to listen to God's whistling to us. It might be on the lips of a friend, loved one or co-worker. It might be in whatever devotion time you have. It might be in worship or reading of scripture. It could even be in moments of silence. Don't be afraid. God is present with us—even in a whistle!



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

FOCUS cont.

degree in occupational health and safety and is currently working toward his bachelor's. Eventually, he wants to attain his master's over the next few years.

"His military bearing is outstanding," Rhame said. "And as far as work ethic, he goes above and beyond."

When he isn't trying to better the safety program or studying for his next exam, Casteel said he enjoys snorkeling and collecting sea glass for his family back home.

Casteel's military career certainly influenced his five children, two in particular – one is also an Airman and the other is in the Air Force Reserve Officer's Training Corps program. Rhame said he sees only good things in Casteel's future – a successful military and civilian career and a wonderful family.

"[Casteel] has helped out a lot of people," said Rhame. "He is definitely making a positive impact."

MOVIES cont.

he barrels through some of the movie's more distasteful scenes and you somehow get the sense that he's just getting started. And with Swardson at his side, the two are an unstoppable duo of filth, greed and shameless humility.

How does this movie work? I have no idea. But it does, at a breakneck pace that makes you forget the real-life, fatal consequences. As Nick lurches ever closer to that 30 minute deadline, the audience, too, is flung further and further into Dwayne's twisted world. And, surprisingly, we kinda like it there.

OKTOBERFEST cont.

"The band really made the night," said Mac Donnell. "They were very interactive and really got the crowd into things."

One of the many attendees, Petty Officer 3rd Class Rose Fox, echoed Mac Donnell's sentiments. Fox said she's attended one other Oktoberfest festival back in the states and the musicians here made all the difference.

"The band for this Oktoberfest was way better," Fox said. "They seemed to be more involved with the crowd."

Fox added one of her favorite moments from the evening came when Schoenfeldt



A NEW BEGINNING

(From left to right) Rear Adm. David Woods, Joint Task Force Guantanamo commander; Air Force Maj. Patrick Shanahan, Base Emergency Engineering Force commander; Army Maj. Thomas Tuttle, project manager; Navy Capt. Thomas Karnowski, Director of Engineering; and Cmdr. Tamsen Reese, Public Affairs Officer, cut the ribbon during the opening ceremony of the Media Operations Center, Wednesday afternoon. The MOC recently underwent renovations, including the addition of two new buildings inside MaCalla Hanger to facilitate upcoming military commissions. - photo by Army Sgt. Mathieu Perry

COLLEGE cont.

White said the college takes the time to walk every student through each step. The office is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and Matheny insisted anyone who is interested should stop by and the personnel will go over what is needed.

"We have a supportive staff to answer questions and provide guidance on the process of discovering career and degree interests, college admissions and class registration," he said.

In addition to helpful staff members,

Matheny added that all of the advisors support students as well and offer assistance in everything from the application process for tuition assistance and financial aid to degree selection and career exploration as well as placement testing.

White encourages all Troopers to take a look at their futures and expand their horizons.

"Education is the best way to self-improve," she emphasized. "Once you get registered, it is smooth sailing."

strategically changed the words to the song "Doe, A Deer," from the musical, "The Sound of Music."

"It was a lot of fun and I think the guys got a kick out of it," she said.

As Schoenfeldt walked through the crowd inspiring raised steins and swaying crowds, his daughters, Krissy and Katrina, would later lead the room in multiple raucous renditions of the chicken dance — a crowd favorite — as the dance floor filled with young and old alike.

As part of the celebration, attendees were

encouraged to dress in traditional Oktoberfest garb. Near the end of the evening, those who signed up stood in front of the stage as audience members chose the best costume as measured by applause. Taking the contest was Naval Station Guantanamo resident Kitty Welsh, who was rewarded a commemorative Oktoberfest T-shirt.

"I was pleasantly surprised we were able to fill the ballroom," Mac Donnell said of the overwhelming success of the evening despite the rescheduling. "This is definitely something we'll do again next year."

The JTF At Shutter Speed



LOOK OUT
Gate guards scan nearby Windmill Beach during routine checks Wednesday at Houston gate. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kilho Park



SPICING IT UP
Command Master Chief Reynaldo Tiong samples authentic Mexican cuisine during the 525th Military Police Battalion's Hispanic Heritage celebration at the Windjammer Ballroom, Wednesday. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kilho Park



UNIT SUCCESS
Joint Task Force Guantanamo Commander Rear Adm. David Woods and Marine Security and Safety Team Boston Senior Chief Petty Officer Steven Haig pose with the Integritas Award during the Senior Enlisted Leader meeting, Wednesday. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kilho Park



HAVING A BALL
Hospital Corpsman J.E. Perjusa practices his half-volley during soccer practice at Bulkeley Field, Wednesday. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kilho Park