

# The WIRE



**Sandy drops in for an early  
Halloween trick**

**525 provides a treat of  
training in the form of a  
spray for their Troops**



CAPT. W. ANDREW DOCHERTY

CHIEF OF STAFF, JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

Hurricane Sandy really tested the planning, preparation, and response actions from the Joint Task Force and the Naval Station. After our dry run practice effort with Hurricane Isaac in August, we learned a lot of lessons and refined a lot of our procedures across the many different parts of the JTF -- and the lessons learned really paid off. Though the Naval Station and Joint Task Force suffered some minor damage in several areas, we didn't have any serious damage and (more importantly) we didn't have any injuries.

Congratulations and thanks are in order for the members of the Joint Planning Group, which monitored the storm from its nascent stages in the southern Caribbean when the track was completely uncertain through its development as a hurricane with its sights set squarely on eastern Cuba and Guantanamo Bay. The JPG did an outstanding job planning for the destructive winds, floodwaters, and damaging surf and they worked tirelessly through the night to establish a Crisis Action Center with linkages to the Naval Station and SOUTHCOM Operations Centers while also working to move Troopers to safe evacuation locations and prepositioning cots, water, and MREs to ensure we would be ready for the extended power outages that were expected.

As it turned out, every member of the organization did their part to make sure the transition to the heightened Condition

of Readiness went smoothly. Facilities were prepared for the storm, vehicles were staged, drivers were arranged, medical assets were pre-positioned, communications networks were set up, and a 100% muster was completed to provide senior leaders an accurate accounting of the status and manner in which the force was arrayed. Leaders led and everyone else showed the professional discipline to follow instructions and pitch in wherever they could to get our Area of Operations and our personnel ready for the storm. Everywhere I looked, I saw Troopers assisting others and their efforts -- your efforts -- produced great dividends.

After the skies cleared, the winds abated, and the flooded streets dried out here in

*As it turned out, every member of the organization did their part to make sure the transition to the heightened Condition of Readiness went smoothly ... Everywhere I looked, I saw Troopers assisting others and their efforts -- your efforts -- produced great dividends.*

Guantanamo, we were thankful to have weathered the storm without significant damage or injury; but for many of us our thoughts and our focus quickly turned to our loved ones back home in the states, particularly the east coast as they battened down the hatches and prepared for the renewed fury of Sandy as she reached "Superstorm" status and prepared to hammer the eastern shore. Many of your families and friends living in the affected areas will feel Sandy's effects for some time to follow. I know that I speak for the entire JTF-GTMO team when I say that I hope your families were spared the worst of it and that our thoughts and our prayers are with all of those affected by the storm.



## JTF Guantanamo

**Commander**  
Rear Adm. John W. Smith Jr.  
**Deputy Commander**  
Army Brig. Gen. James Lettko  
**Sergeant Major**  
Marine Sgt. Maj. Scott Smith  
**Office of Public Affairs Director**  
Navy Capt. Robert Durand: 9928  
**Deputy Director**  
Army Capt. Alvin Phillips: 9927  
**Senior Enlisted Leader**  
Sgt. 1st Class Rick McNamara: 8141



## The Wire

**Senior Editor** Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto  
**Layout Editor** Army Pfc. Loren Cook  
**Copy Editor** Spc. Vanessa Davila  
**Assistant Editor** Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Brian Jeffries

**Photojournalists**  
Army Staff Sgt. Lewis Hilburn  
Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.  
Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joshua Hammond  
Army Sgt. Brett Perkins  
Army Sgt. Dani White  
Spc. Raechel Haynes

**Webmaster**  
Army Sgt. Trisha Pinczes

## Contact us

**Editor's Desk:** 3651  
**Commercial:** 011-5399-3651  
**DSN:** 660-3651  
**E-mail:** [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)  
**Online:** [www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil/wire/wire.html](http://www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil/wire/wire.html)

## Free concerts!

MWR and Armed Forces Entertainment proudly bring you the "GTMO Goblins and Ghouls Concert" tonight! The Pennsylvania-based '80s and '90s cover band "M80" will perform at the Windjammer Ballroom from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. Admission is free and open to all hands. For more information, visit [armedforcesentertainment.com](http://armedforcesentertainment.com).

MWR will also present "Face for Radio" live and in concert Nov. 16th and 17th from 9-11 p.m. at the Tiki Bar. This free event is open to those 21 and older.

Still not enough free music? The Florida-based band "Hupp N Ray" will perform covers of all of your favorite classic rock tunes Nov. 15th at the Bayview from 8-10 p.m. at the Bayview Club and again Nov. 18th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. These concerts are open to all ages.

## Holiday shoutouts

Want to give a special holiday greeting to your family? Representatives from JTF's public affairs office will be standing by the Seaside Galley on Tuesdays and the Gold Hill Galley on Thursdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to record your message. Many NFL teams are also looking for your message to play during home games this season. Stop by and tell your family or a packed football-loving crowd to enjoy their holidays!

## United Through Reading

The JTF Ministry team invites deployed parents to participate in the United Through Reading program. Record a video of yourself reading a book to your young children and send it home! For more information, call 2218 or 2571.

## Marine Corps birthday ball

The ball is scheduled to take place on Saturday, Nov. 10 at the Windjammer with a cocktail hour at 6 p.m., a ceremony at 7 p.m., and dinner and dancing from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are on sale at Marine Hill from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday and at the NEX atrium from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. Cost is \$35 for E6 and above and civilians, \$25 for E4-E5, and \$15 for E1-E3. Guests should dress in formal attire only.

## Fall back, men!

Daylight saving time ends Sunday at 2 a.m., so don't forget to "fall back" and set your clock back an hour.

The choice is yours: enjoy an extra hour of sleep or enjoy showing up early to things.

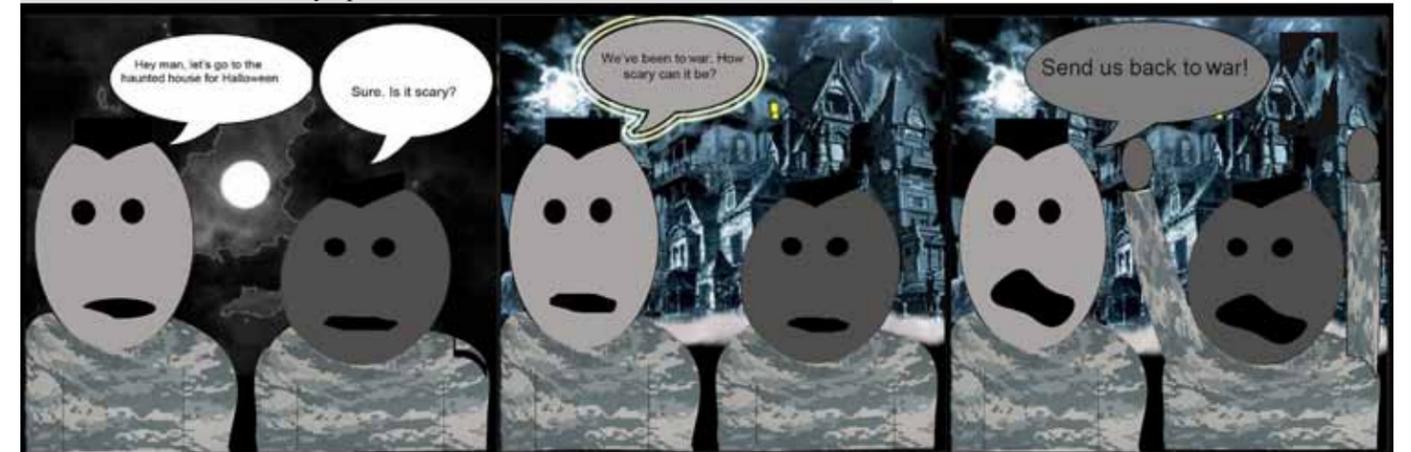
## INDEX THE WIRE NOVEMBER 2, 2012

<b>Movie review: Argo</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Hurricane Sandy rocks GTMO</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>The OC (Spray)</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Trooper Focus</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Halloween</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>GTMO Animals</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>A lesson in perseverance</b>	<b>17</b>

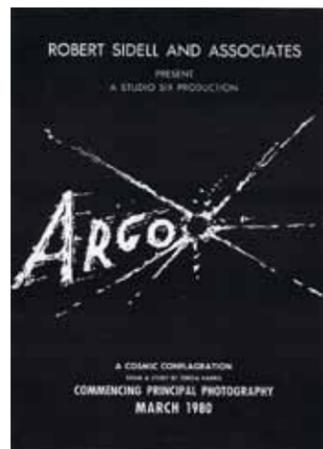
The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members 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 Defense Logistics Agency Document Services with a circulation of 1,200.



## ONLY AT GTMO by Spc. Brian Godette



**Cover:** An instructor sprays Army Staff Sgt. Jamel Pridgen in the face with OC during the 525th Military Police Battalion's confidence course Monday. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.



By Army Pfc. Loren Cook

**W**ow. When I reviewed “Chernobyl Diaries,” my lowest-rated movie to date, I opened the review with a one-word summary of my disdain for the movie. This time, in my review of “Argo,” my highest-rated movie to date, I decided to again summarize the experience with one word.

“Argo” is possibly the most mundane movie I’ve reviewed, but it’s also the best. “Argo” doesn’t take us to unearthly locales. It doesn’t present us with time travel scenarios that make our heads explode, or aliens infiltrating quiet communities. It doesn’t have anything supernatural. Instead, “Argo” merely takes us into the past... all the way to the latter half of the 1970s.

Yes, the late ‘70s, when the Atari 2600 was new and exciting, “Star Wars” had recently blown everyone’s minds, Led Zeppelin was still performing at sold-out concerts worldwide, “blaxploitation” films and dubbed Chinese kung-fu movies played in seedy cinemas around the country, and plaid bell-bottoms and silk shirts were considered acceptable fashion choices for any self-respecting male.

But not everything was fun and games in the late 1970s. It was also a time of high gas prices, high inflation, long lines at the gas pump, public distrust of the military, and worst of all, Billy Beer.

Meanwhile, in Iran, the Western-backed but unpopular shah had been overthrown and the monarchy replaced by a theocracy led by the Ayatollah Khomeini. Relations with our former ally took a nose-dive.

In early November of 1979, student revolutionaries stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran and took the staff hostage. Six Americans managed to escape the embassy. The Canadian ambassador to Iran agreed to hide them in his house.

Unfortunately, the embassy had files on every worker there. Records were shredded, but the Iranians had the time and the inclination to go through the shredded papers and put them back together. Eventually, they

would reassemble the personnel files, realize they were missing some Americans, and comb the city from top to bottom to find them. Somehow, the six escaped embassy workers would need to be rescued before then.

How to get them out? Tehran is 300 miles from the Iranian border, so a run to the border would be too risky. The Americans would have to leave from the airport using cover identities as Canadians, but what was both feasible and plausible?

Enter Tony Mendez, (Ben Affleck, “The Town”) a CIA agent and exfiltration expert. He’s as stumped as everyone else until he happens to watch “Battle for the Planet of the Apes.” Then it hits him. The hostages could pose as a Canadian film crew scouting out exotic locations for a science fiction film. Mendez manages to get the blessing for his outrageous plan.

To add credence to their cover story, the CIA needs an entire fake movie production. Mendez enlists the aid of Academy Award-winning make-up artist John Chambers. (John Goodman, “Trouble with the Curve”) and Lester Siegel (Alan Arkin, “Little Miss Sunshine”) who says their fake movie has to be treated as though it’s real.

The three form a fake production studio and do everything for their movie short of actually filming it. They buy a script (called Argo), have concept art and storyboards drawn up, have costumes designed, and even cast it!

Finally, Mendez departs for Tehran to link up and get the six out of Iran. Will he be successful? Watch “Argo” and find out!

The movie begins with the embassy being stormed, so it’s tense right out of the gate. It’s based on real events so I know what’s going to happen and shouldn’t feel so much suspense. Instead, since this is a real event that happened to real people, I can’t help but feel some of their terror. I know they’re doomed to suffer 444 days of captivity before their release, but for all *they* knew, they would be executed.

This movie managed to do the impossible: make a thriller based on a true story

and still be suspenseful. It’s a testament to the writing and the filmmaking techniques this movie employs to build suspense.

This movie somehow manages to blend together two movies and make it work. The first movie, focusing on the situation in Tehran, is tense, exciting, and deadly serious. We watch the six Americans as they struggle to keep their spirits up and then as they debate whether they should trust Mendez and his outlandish, even absurd plan.

The second movie, focusing on the fake movie in Hollywood, is comical and fun. Goodman and Arkin are clearly enjoying themselves as they make fun of the film business in a manner not unlike “The Producers.” To keep you from forgetting what’s at stake, director Affleck intercuts the Hollywood fun and frolic with footage of the hostages as they are subjected to psychological torture, including mock executions. Meanwhile, the six escapees are going through psychological torture of their own and can never leave the ambassador’s house.

What really sets this movie apart is how grounded in reality the whole thing is. I snorted when I saw that the film was “based on a true story.” “Based” gives filmmakers a lot of leeway. “Based” could give us an almost entirely fictionalized story that happens to include real people and real events. Fortunately, the creative licensing in this movie is kept to a minimum. There’s a little to keep the tension up, but for the most part, it’s true. Six Americans *were* hidden by the Canadian ambassador, the CIA *did* set up a fake film called Argo, and the six Americans really *did* pose as a film crew to try to get out of Iran.

Were the real events exactly like the ones depicted in this film? I don’t know. The Canadians played a much greater role in reality than they did in this movie, and I’m sure the real events weren’t *quite* so dramatic. That’s just it, though. This isn’t *supposed* to be a documentary about “The Canadian Caper.” It’s supposed to be a thrilling movie, and it is. I predict this movie will receive an Academy Award nomination for Best Picture, and Affleck will be nominated for Best Director.

I loved this movie. Argo see it for yourself!

# Class brings Troopers up to speed



## on buying dream car the right way

Story by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

**B**uying a vehicle is not an easy thing to do, but you still tell yourself to walk into that dealership with your head high and chest out because you believe you’re minutes away from getting your dream car. Then you realized that you just walked into a high-priced car loan with an interest rate that would probably leave you in debt for a couple of years.

Airmen here at GTMO had motives of avoiding a debt situation and learning cost-efficient ways of purchasing their next vehicle in a car buying strategies class offered by the Fleet and Family Support Center Sept. 28.

“If you think the dealer is there to give you good advice, you’ve made a bad mistake right off the bat,” said Walter Barrett, personal financial manager. “You need to educate yourself before you even walk into a dealership.”

Barrett said his main goal when teaching the car buying strategy class is to provide awareness to servicemembers and their families.

According to Barrett, the number one thing that gets most Troopers – specifically the young ones – in trouble is their vehicles.

“You are a target!” Barrett said in a firm voice. “Primarily because the dealers know when you get paid.”

Barrett said most young people don’t make smart decisions with their money, especially when it comes to buying a vehicle.

“If you’re a male under the age of 25 and you go out and buy a new car, you’re going to first realize that you have to buy full coverage insurance,” Barrett said. “And that insurance is going to go up if you have bad credit or accumulated some speeding tickets. So now you have to factor in what that full coverage insurance is going to cost you and I’ve seen it where people are paying more for their insurance than their car payments.”

Barrett said a young Trooper may be paying more than \$900 a month on his vehicle when adding necessities like fuel to the car expense.

“As a senior noncommissioned officer, we have to teach these young Troopers about finances,” said Tech. Sgt. Scott A. Dean, entomologist with the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron. Dean said he worked with a lot of young Airmen on a previous deployment and helped most of them out with their finances.

“When you’re on a deployment, whether here at GTMO or on a ship, it’s a great opportunity for you to either work on getting out of debt or save money,” Barrett said. “And these car salesmen know when you come home and know that a certain amount of those Troopers want to buy a car.”

Barrett said most servicemembers coming off a six-to eight-month deployment want to have some type of freedom and they look for that freedom in a new car.

Barrett also stated that he has had new cars in the past but he is an advocate for buying used vehicles and suggests that one should try to sell their cars opposed to trying to trade it in for a better one.

“There are a lot of people out there looking to sell their cars,” Barrett said. “You don’t just go out there looking, you got to try to narrow it down and do your homework.”

Barrett recommended either the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) guide or Kelley Blue Book to research an average market price for the car you’re selling or the car you’re interested in buying.

“Once you find the car you like, you get the owner’s permission to take that vehicle to a mechanic for an inspection,” Barrett said. “You may have to drop fifty bucks to get it checked out, but that fifty bucks is well worth it.”

Barrett said the most expensive problems on vehicles are engine, transmission and brake jobs, so an inspection may save you the time and money on the long run.

“So that’s my personal stand point,” Barrett said. “I think a person can get a pretty decent vehicle at a lot less price.”

After the class, Barrett gave out free pamphlets on car buying strategies and encouraged servicemembers to spread the word. He also said he was flexible to where he can teach the class here on the island.

Dean said he learned a few new things in the class and said he would definitely recommend it to Troopers here at GTMO.

# Ball so Hard

## GTMO's Flag Football Championship

Story and photos by Mass Communication  
Specialist 3rd Class Brian Jeffries

Another chapter of flag football at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay ended on Tuesday, Oct. 30 with the season's finals tournament. After back to back victories, Militia came out on top over Joint Medical Group (JMG) by a score of 15 – 6. It was a well contested championship game filled with big plays and great defense. If not for an interception return by Militia's quarterback/defensive back Petty Officer 2nd Class Gerald Provost, Militia would not have been in position to kneel and run out the clock down the stretch. JMG fought hard and a late game surge almost allowed for a come from behind upset.

"We had the guys to make plays, but unfortunately it just didn't work out for us

this time, but we played hard," said JMG's quarterback Petty Officer 2nd Class Javier Martinez.

Even though Militia finished the regular season as the league champions, it was JMG who strolled through the playoffs undefeated. That meant that they would have to be beaten twice because it was a double elimination tournament.

Provost said that after Militia went down early in the first half of the first game they banded together at half time; everyone on the team felt that they had the ability to win the game. They came out hard in the second half, and the momentum carried them through to victory.

"I've been here for four years playing

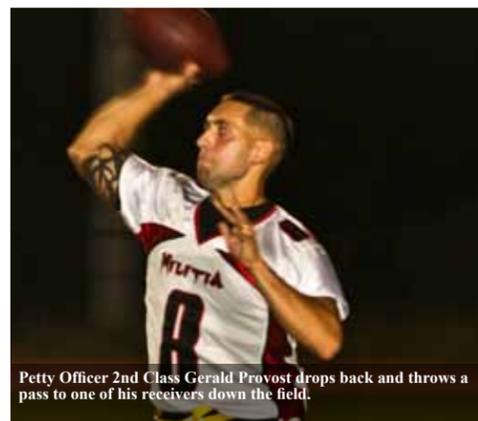
with Militia. A lot of us are leaving now, and the team will not be back next season. That's exactly how we wanted to go out; on top," Provost said.

After the game concluded, trophies were passed out and both teams congratulated each other for making it as far as they had in the season. They also took the opportunity to take photos with their respective teams.

GTMO's MWR gives service members seemingly endless opportunities to participate in different sports and compete against each other for trophies and bragging rights. Don't hesitate to join the fun and get involved with one of the many sporting leagues. The more the merrier.



Both teams participating in the championship posed afterward together showing good sportsmanship and proving that there was no love lost.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Gerald Provost drops back and throws a pass to one of his receivers down the field.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Gerald Provost eludes defenders as he picks up a first down on a second half scoring drive.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Javier Martinez shuffles a pass to his teammate in the back field while a defender forces a quick decision.

The Liberty Program is open to unaccompanied active duty personnel only.

# NOVEMBER 2012



Friday, Nov 2..... M80 CONCERT

Sunday, Nov 4..... CERAMIC SUNDAY  
CERAMIC SHOP • 1300

Monday, Nov 5..... Got the Day Off?  
DISC GOLF  
DISC GOLF COURSE • 0900

Friday, Nov 9..... NIGHT FISHING  
MARINA • 1800

Sunday, Nov 11..... 10K  
FREE BOWLING FOR VETS

Saturday, Nov 17..... GEO CACHE  
TOURNAMENT  
MEET AT MARINE HILL • 0900-1200

Monday, Nov 19..... LIGHT PARADE  
FLOAT MAKING  
MARINE HILL • 1730

Thursday, Nov 22..... THANKSGIVING  
CELEBRATION  
MARINE HILL & CAMP A. • 1600

Friday, Nov 23..... REDNECK GAMES  
COOPER FIELD AREA • 1730

Saturday, Nov 24..... DAY FISHING  
MARINA • 0630

Sunday, Nov 25..... BEACH BRIGADE  
WINDMILL BEACH • 0900

Monday, Nov 26..... LIGHT PARADE  
FLOAT MAKING  
MARINE HILL • 1730

Tuesday, Nov 27..... Got the Day Off?  
KAYAK  
MARINA • 1900

Friday, Nov 30..... NIGHT FISHING  
MARINA • 1800

### FREE Bowling

1800-2100 every WEDNESDAY  
at Marblehead Lanes  
PLUS FREE PIZZA & WINGS!



### TEXAS HOLD 'EM!



Thursday, Nov 8 • 1930 Camp A & Thursday, Nov 29 • 1930 Marine Hill



Nov 22 • 1600  
THANKSGIVING  
CELEBRATION  
Marine Hill & Camp A

### GONE FISHING.

Liberty fishing trips  
Nov 9 & 24



Like MWR  
Liberty GTMO  
on Facebook to



stay  
in the  
know!

The Liberty Program is open to unaccompanied active duty personnel only. Schedule subject to change.

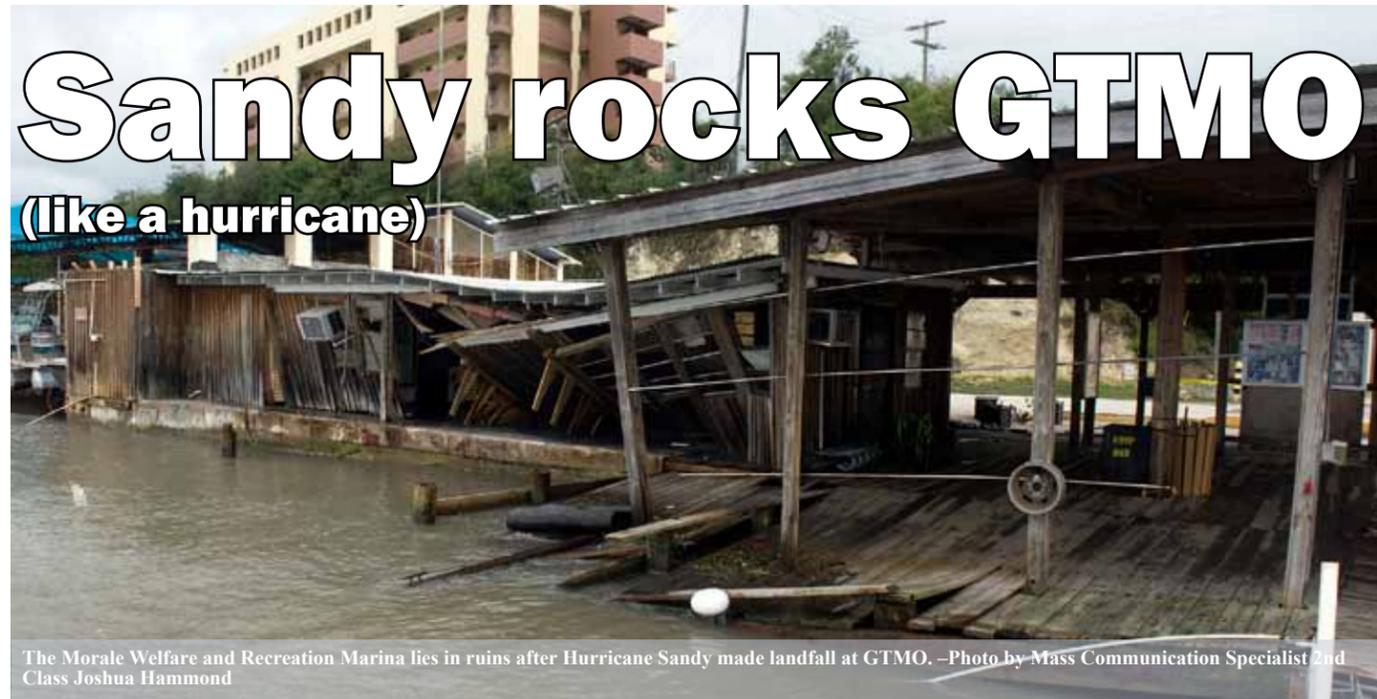


Tel: 2010

Email: Libertygtmo@yahoo.com

# Sandy rocks GTMO

(like a hurricane)



The Morale Welfare and Recreation Marina lies in ruins after Hurricane Sandy made landfall at GTMO. —Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joshua Hammond

Story by Army Pfc. Loren Cook

Those Joint Task Force Troopers who were here for Hurricane Isaac may remember it as a time of horror stories about what the hurricane would do. We had plenty of advance notice for Isaac, and plenty of time to prepare. The hearing for Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and the alleged 9/11 co-conspirators was postponed. Family members of the victims, national media representatives, members of nongovernmental organizations and trial personnel were evacuated before the storm made landfall at Guantanamo Bay.

It was a time of hurried preparations for flooding and damage that failed to materialize. Isaac didn't affect GTMO very much at all, as it turned out.

Sandy, on the other hand, struck hard and quickly. Where Isaac had the entire base on lockdown 12 hours before the storm was predicted to make landfall, Sandy scarcely allowed time for that. The storm made landfall less than 12 hours after the base had been placed in Condition of Readiness Three and mere hours after the base had been placed on lockdown.

Isaac left GTMO a little rainy and a little windblown. Sandy left GTMO damaged. In her wrath, she blew the roofs from several buildings, including the arts and crafts shop; knocked trees down and snapped a power line in half; left the Morale Welfare and Recreation Marina heavily damaged; demolished most of the cabanas at Windmill Beach; and even destroyed the iconic pier at Ferry Landing Beach from which countless Troopers have jumped when saying goodbye to departing personnel.

Air Force Capt. Octavia Heard was trying



Workers begin repairs on the arts and crafts shop after Hurricane Sandy damaged its roof. —Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joshua Hammond



A stop sign pole near Phillips Dive Park was snapped in half. —Photo by Mass Communication Chief Petty Officer Stanley Travioli.



This tree fell on a house in the Windward Loop Housing Area. —Photo by Army Pfc. Loren Cook

to sleep through the storm when a tree fell on her house in the Windward Loop housing area.

“There was a big rumble, so I woke up and saw a flash of light. Then a tree crashed down onto my house. I got up, but I didn't know where it had landed. Then I heard the sound of water rushing in,” Heard said.

Heard followed the sound to her closet,

where she found the tree that had recently been in her backyard was now partly in her house.

“I opened up the door and found everything: my clothes, my shelving, all of it was on the floor and soaking wet,” Heard went on. “So I had to make a mad dash to get the clothes out of the closet and put them in the bathtub.”

Heard spent all night getting things that

could be damaged off the floor as storm water flowed in through the hole in her closet.

In the end, however, residents of Guantanamo Bay were lucky and no one was killed. Damaged buildings are already being repaired, and the beaches are being swept for danger. A week after Hurricane Sandy swept through GTMO, life goes on for those deployed and stationed here.



Waves break over the cliffs near the Lighthouse Museum hours after Hurricane Sandy had already passed over GTMO. —Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joshua Hammond

# 525th Soldiers feel effects of OC confidence course

Story and photos by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

“GET DOWN, GET DOWN! CROSS YOUR LEGS AND BRING THEM TO YOUR BUTTOCKS! PLACE YOUR HANDS IN THE SMALL OF YOUR BACK AND TURN YOUR HEAD AWAY FROM THE SOUND OF MY VOICE!”

Those were the commands shouted out by Soldiers of the 189th Military Police Company, 193rd Military Police Company and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, all part of the 525th Military Police Battalion at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

On Monday, those Troopers practiced their unarmed self-defense and expressed their authority by yelling, pushing and performing various takedown moves, all the while feeling the effects of oleoresin capicum (OC) as it was sprayed in their face.

Commonly known as pepper spray, this chemical compound irritates the eyes causing tears, pain and temporary blindness.

These Soldiers endured exactly that as part of their OC confidence course training.

“The main objective for the course is to build the Soldiers’ confidence and to train them on the equipment they use,” said Sgt. 1st Class James Farish, training noncommissioned officer in charge with the 525th MP Bn.

Starting the course, the Soldiers approached the execution line one by one, closed their eyes and waited for the trained instructor to spray them with OC.

The other Soldiers waited their turn behind a gate cheering that particular Trooper on.

“You got this!” yelled one of the female Soldiers waiting her turn.

The rest of the Troopers also tried to instill motivation as they watched their fellow Soldiers fight through excruciating pain.

The initial contact with the spray didn’t seem to have any negative effect on the trainees until a couple of seconds passed. After that, Soldiers struggled to keep their eyes open.

“Oh man, the training they provided for us was rough, but overall it was pretty good,” said Army Sgt. George W. Skibinski III, internment/resettlement specialist (corrections specialist) with the 193rd MP Co.

Skibinski was the first one to go through the course. He said he wanted to lead the way as a noncommissioned officer and set the standard.

Bearing the pain, Skibinski stomped, spit, stomped some more, spit a couple of more times and even added a scream or two before making it through the course. He did indeed set an example and proved that, despite pain, you can muscle through your mission.

“You got to have the heart to fight through it,” Farish said.

These Soldiers showed how much heart and fight they had too. With words of encouragement from their battle buddies and directions from their instructors, they performed well under pressure.

“It went well. This class did pretty good,” said Army Staff Sgt. Max Soellner, one of the instructors attached to the 193rd MP Co.

Soellner said he has been an instructor for OC training and for the actual confidence course for four years now and has trained about six classes since he’s been at GTMO.

“I think this is good training; it’s proficient and the instructors are obviously doing their job very well,” said Spc. Daniel A. Newman, corrections specialist with the 348th MP Co.

Newman did not go through the course with his fellow Troopers. His role was to help the other Soldiers to the decontamination site after completing the course. He has already completed all three levels of OC spray training.

Level one consists of getting sprayed with OC from a distance of about six feet away. Level two is when a sponge-like object soaked with OC gets wiped across your eyebrow.

When you find yourself in a contaminated small room, tighter than a jail cell, with OC fumes so thick that it immediately takes your breath way, you know you’ve made it to level three.

“The hardest part of level three is the very beginning when you’re trying to talk – saying your name, social and unit – and the OC comes inside your lungs and makes you cough a little bit,” said Army Cpl. Jerry A. Castellano, corrections specialist with the 193rd MP Co.

Level three chokes you up a bit but just imagine using unarmed self-defense moves with OC all over your face like the rest of the Troopers did in levels one and two.

“Level one is the worse one,” Farish said. The first two levels consisted of four aggressive scenarios.

In the first scenario, the Troopers had to take their target down and subdue him by using a combination of loud and authoritative voice commands, an arm twist and handcuffs. Loud, repetitive commands of “get back” led the second scenario, with a mix of pushing.

The third scenario consisted of some more unarmed self defense moves with handcuffs and the fourth and final scenario allowed them to spray the target with OC spray, take them down and apply the cuffs.

“This training prepares you for a real life situation,” said Army Sgt. Joseph F. Kloak, also a corrections specialist with the 193rd MP Co. “Whether it’s putting on hand cuffs or performing take down moves, its great training.”

Even though Kloak thought the training was beneficial, he still thought the confidence course was painful.

“I would go through the gas chamber 10 more times before I do this again,” Kloak said.

He also said the training helps you maintain your military bearing and keep your composure.

Army Staff Sgt. Jamel Pridgen, unit supply specialist with the 525th MP Bn., kept his composure, despite knowing that this training is not required for his military occupational specialty.

Pridgen was the only support Soldier who went through the course.

Farish said this OC confidence course training happens every month for Soldiers who are not yet certified. Around 20 to 30 Troopers go through it at a time.

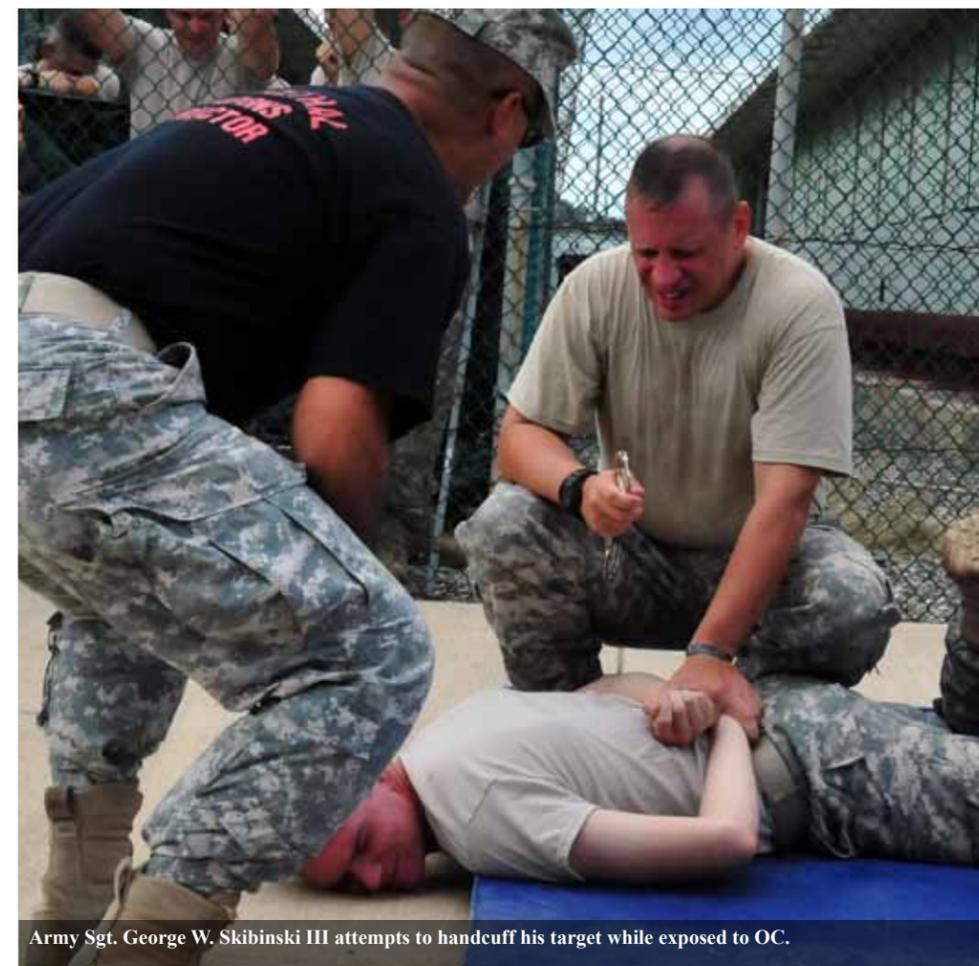
“I feel good now having gone through the training,” Kloak said.

When the Soldiers were not repetitively spitting and coughing, they cheered loudly knowing that they had completed the grueling course.

“I know now that if I get sprayed with OC, I could put on cuffs correctly,” Skibinski said. I have more confidence in doing my job.”



Army Sgt. Joseph F. Kloak pushes his target away during the OC confidence course.



Army Sgt. George W. Skibinski III attempts to handcuff his target while exposed to OC.



A Soldier with the 525th Military Police Battalion finishes her OC confidence course training by spraying her attacker in the face



Sgt. First Class James Farish, training noncommissioned officer in charge, teaches his Soldiers how to properly perform an arm twist.

# HOSPITALMAN ZACHARY SMITH

## *Trooper of the Quarter*

*Behind-the-scenes worker  
comes into the forefront*

# Trooper Focus



Story and photos by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto

Hard work isn't just the reason Hospitalman Zachary Smith was named the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper of the Quarter. Hard work is a way of life for him; something he's always done whether or not it brought him recognition.

From trying to work his way through college before he joined the Navy to now acting as one of two supply workers for the Joint Medical Group, Smith said working hard no matter the job is all he has ever known.

And just because he was finally recognized for a job well done, that doesn't mean he will rest on his laurels, change his ways, and stop working hard.

"When I start a job, I get really committed to it, even if the job sucks," Smith said. "I care about my job. Some people come here to work just to get through the nine months. I can't do that."

The hospital corpsman by trade, turned logistics specialist by assignment here, was recently named JTF Trooper of the Quarter, an honor he jokes must have been given to him in error but seriously says he is happy and grateful to receive.

"I thought they made a mistake first," Smith said. "It's quite humbling, honestly."

As far as the humble Sailor can tell, it is his hard work and dedication to his job that led him to be recognized as Trooper of the Quarter.

At GTMO, which is his first deployment since enlisting in the Navy in January 2011, Smith said he helps handle supply needs for the JMG, which includes the Joint Troop Clinic, Camps V and VI, Camp Echo, JSMART, and other spots around the JTF.

"We service a lot of different people," he said. "They all have their supply needs."

Although Smith is used to working in a hospital back at his duty station and his counterpart in supply is also a corpsman, he said he still realizes the importance of his supply mission.

"We care a lot about what we do," Smith said. "It's a tough situation, just getting

supplies here in the first place."

Smith simply said he just enjoys working hard at whatever he is doing and tries to shy away from the spotlight as much as possible.

"I don't really like getting public recognition," he said. "I like to work behind the scenes and keep things moving."

While he doesn't like getting attention for the work that he does, Smith said he nevertheless appreciates being named Trooper of the Quarter and is glad to receive that honor.

"It feels good," he said. "I couldn't be happier. I never work for recognition, but to get it makes you feel good. I'll work just as hard

especially the idea of making a difference and helping people out, and that is what also drew him to the hospital corpsman rate when he looked into the Navy.

Smith said he was not partial to any particular military branch and checked out medical jobs in the Army and Marine Corps as well before settling on the Navy.

"I love anything medical," he said. "I liked that aspect, [helping people]. I really just wanted to join for that one purpose ... The hospital corpsman rate had better possibilities and was more focused toward what I like to do."

After completing boot camp, Smith reached his duty station and nine months later was deployed to GTMO as an individual augmentee. With six months down and about three months to go in his tour here, Smith said the time has gone quickly and the tour has had its challenges.

"I love my job here," he said. "We have to do a lot of problem solving ... I love coming to work. On the weekend, I'm anxious to get back to work."

Hard work is something Smith has been doing his whole life, or at least since he was 14 years old when he got his first job. He has been working full-time ever since and said the Navy is actually a nice

break; explaining that he has worked longer hours and traveled more at other jobs.

He said he finally found a job he loved – with a chemical cleanup company – when he decided to join the Navy. That job awaits him should he choose to take the offer, though he admits it's more pay for longer hours. He also needs to complete clinical rotations that can't be done online to finish his education and hopes to find a way to do that.

Whatever he decides to do next, whether it's working his job in the Navy, finishing his nursing education, taking a civilian career, or some kind of combination, one thing is certain – Smith will keep working hard at whatever he does, whether or not it gets noticed.

"It's always nice to get recognized for hard work," he said. "I work hard either way, with or without it."

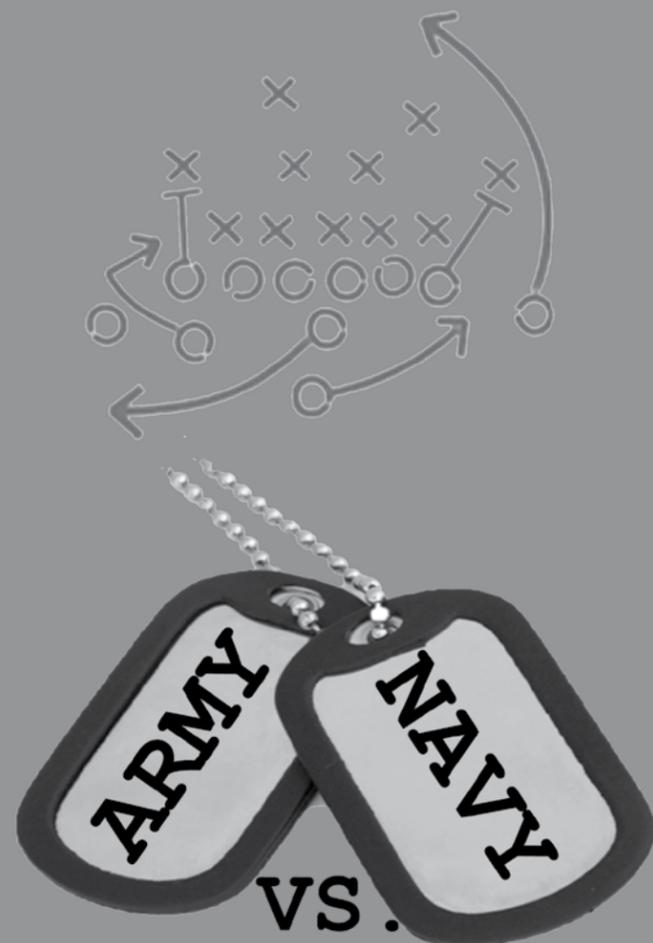


# FLAG FOOTBALL

November 10 & 11  
1900-2100

Players must attend  
both sessions

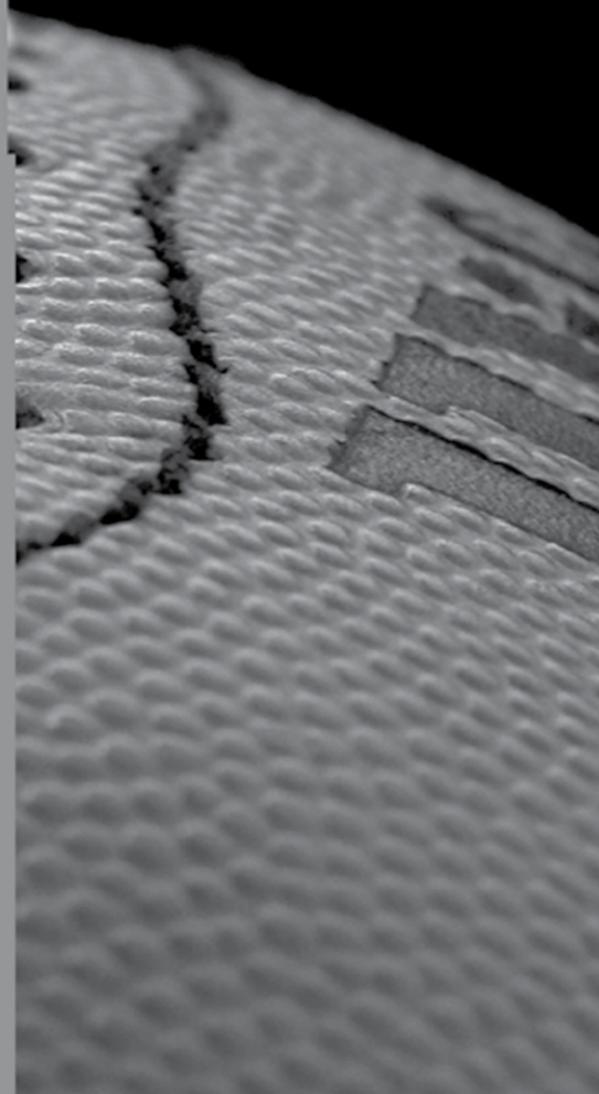
For more information,  
contact Alec Culpepper at 2157  
or [alec.culpepper@usnb.gtmo.navy.mil](mailto:alec.culpepper@usnb.gtmo.navy.mil)



# TRYOUTS

Army vs. Navy  
game will be held  
December 7 at 1800

4 teams  
15-19 players each



## GTMO provides plenty of fright and fun for Halloween



W.T. Sampson High School senior Forrest Welch guides unsuspecting victims through the haunted house. The high school seniors hosted a haunted house attraction to raise funds for their class trip. The haunted house was one of many Halloween events held at GTMO.

Story and photos by Spc. Raechel Haynes

Halloween has been celebrated for centuries. Historians believe that the original Halloween celebration was a Celtic feast called Samhain (pronounced SAH-WIN). The very name Halloween is a contraction of the Christian holiday, All Hallows' Eve.

Most people celebrate Halloween in one way or another and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay is no exception. GTMO's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation and various clubs provided a variety of different Halloween events that the community participated in this past week. The usual Halloween traditions included trick-or-treating and dressing up and then there were some other not so common events.

"I think it is about the imagination behind it," said Petty Officer 1st Class Sandra Hosier. "Halloween is a great time to put on a costume and just act out of the ordinary."

The First Class Petty Officer Association feels the same way so it hosted an 18 and older costume party Saturday night at the Community Center.

It turned the Community Center into a web-covered, ghost-haunted, flashing-lights night club. In addition to the night-club atmosphere, the FCPOA also provided guests with a buffet.

The Guantanamo Bay Spouses' Club and the 525th Military Police Battalion also added some fun with the Trunk or Treat event Saturday at the Downtown Lyceum. Prizes were awarded to the winners of the best decorated military and civilian vehicle and for the fans' favorite vehicle.

The W.T. Sampson High School contributed to the Halloween festivities as well. The senior class' Halloween attraction was a haunted house, located behind the Downtown Lyceum. The senior class hosts a haunted house every year as a way to earn money for their class trip.

A \$3 donation was recommended but all donations were welcome.

"A lot of hoops had to be jumped through just to get the key to this place," high school senior Kyle French said. "On top of that, finding supplies is hard. The Navy Exchange doesn't carry a lot of things, so we put it together with what we had."

Despite challenges, the senior class managed to continue the Halloween tradition and frighten all its guests.

MWR also provided a good scare at Wednesday night's 5K Zombie Run.

"It's a way to have a lot of fun, dress up,

and get some exercise all at the same time," said Hospitalman Whitney Smith.

The 5K kicked off at 7 p.m. at Cooper Field. Volunteers and runners arrived early at Denich Gym to paint the zombies or be transformed into zombies. Zombies chased the runners or scared them mid-run. The most treacherous zombies were the zombie runners – you never knew when they were coming for you.

Scares are not the only big thing about Halloween; candy and fun games are also the most anticipated parts of this holiday's celebration. Children went trick or treating Wednesday night throughout the base housing areas.

Many of the activities we participate in on Halloween are deeply rooted in Halloween's history and there are many ways to celebrate this spooky holiday. GTMO has embraced a number of different ways. Happy Halloween!



Guests dressed up for the FCPOA's Halloween party at the Community Center. The Halloween party was held Saturday night and was one of many events held at GTMO.

# Where the Wild Things Are

Story and photos by Army Sgt. Dani White



Army Capt. Mariam Lovell (center) assists employees from the Toledo Zoo to sedate a Cuban boa named Lee before his surgery.

Many of us two-legged inhabitants of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay have noticed our fellow four-legged neighbors wandering around our living and work areas.

The cyclura nubila, also known as the Cuban rock iguana, the hutia – or banana rat as GTMO residents call it – and plain old stray cats may be the creatures residents notice the most.

Though we interact with them on a regular basis, people may not realize that the way we treat these creatures can have a serious effect on them.

“If people feed the iguanas, they will become food aggressive,” said veterinarian Army Capt. Miriam Lovell. “When this happens we have to relocate them to a new area

away from people.”

When iguanas are moved to a new location, another iguana may already inhabit that area. This means that the two iguanas will fight and kill one another for the territory.

Animals that develop food aggression can also harm the people around them. People can be accidentally bitten if they try to feed the animals.

Bites or scratches from wild animals can cause humans to develop serious symptoms.

“Wild animals and strays carry a number of infectious diseases,” Lovell said. “People can get rabies, toxoplasmosis, intestinal parasites, ring worm, and bacterial infections.”

What many people may not know is that GTMO is also a wildlife preservation area, protecting the endangered species that live on the base.

Some of the wildlife on GTMO whose population numbers are low are the hutia, the Cuban kite (a bird), Cuban boa and the Cuban rock iguana.

“These creatures were here first,” Lovell said. “We have amazing endangered animals and they need to be protected.”

Lovell added that it is best to give the wild animals on GTMO their space and should be observed from a distance.

Pet owners should keep an eye out for their pets. Lovell treats many house pets that try to eat the poisonous toad that resides around GTMO.

People should also refrain from petting and feeding the stray cats that roam the area.

Animal control constantly collects the stray cats and takes them to the GTMO veterinary clinic. She examines them for major health issues and checks to see if they are microchipped.

“If the animals are not microchipped we humanly euthanize them,” Lovell said. “If

they are microchipped and adoptable, we will find them a home.”

We share this small strip of land with diverse wildlife, and like any good neighbor, we are responsible for treating these critters and their home as we would want guests to treat our mother’s house when we invite them over for Thanksgiving dinner – with respect and kindness.



An orange tabby kitten waits for a family to adopt him from the clinic.

## From me to you

A lesson in perseverance from your friendly neighborhood petty officer

Story by Mass Communication Specialist  
3rd Class Brian Jeffries

“There ain’t no holding me back; I’m going to get mines, believe that. Cuz what’s sunshine with no rain and what’s joy without no pain”- J. Cole

The previous line is from one of my favorite songs since joining the Navy. I don’t simply like it because of its catchy lyrics or how it sounds coming out of my 808 speakers; I fell in love with the song because of the message it articulates. I honestly feel like it changed my life or rather my outlook on my military career.

I have been in the Navy for almost three years; I know, I know, it hasn’t been that long. Even though my time has been short, I feel like I have learned so much. I’m not going to say I have it all figured out, but I know that nothing will keep me from being successful as long as I’m in.

Coming into the military I had big dreams. Life before the Navy hadn’t been terrible, but a few mistakes and stumbles landed me in the recruiter’s office looking for the next option. Within a few months I was shipped off to Great Lakes, Ill.; soon after, Ft. Meade, Md. for “A” school, and then before I knew it I was stationed in San Diego.

I got exactly what I joined for – an opportunity to get away from Baltimore, Md. and a chance to see the world, or at least a lot less of the East Coast that, up until enlisting, I had never left.

With my life on the right track, I had my heart set on being as successful in the military as I possibly could. My past immaturity had prevented me from performing well in college and even from working hard enough to continue playing college basketball. Being in the Navy, a little older and a little wiser, I was determined to get in that career fast lane and never look back; you know, that fast track where promotions and accolades would put me in position to secure those coveted gold-fouled anchors before the age of 30.

I believed that it was all going to work out too. With my rate allowing for 100 percent advancement, I was sure I’d be a petty officer sooner than later.

I was so excited for what my future held that I never took the time to think about

potential snags or obstacles. I had this personal self-assurance that no matter what got in my path I would surly go under, around or through it. Unfortunately, even though that mentality was good to have, it is rarely a realistic approach. I realized quickly that nothing is guaranteed. This is when I learned the hard lesson of life’s trials and how to keep your head up through adversity. This is when the proverbial manure hit the fan.

My ship, the USS Boxer (LHD 4) deployed Feb 22, 2011 on a Western Pacific deployment. This wasn’t my first time away from the pier but it was sure to be the longest. I wasn’t too concerned though. Instead, my focus was on the advancement exam that was going to take place in just a few weeks. The results would be out that June, and any high score would allow me to be a petty officer.

June came and the results were in. The captain read the names of all those who had been advanced on the 1 MC (or the intercom to you non Navy types). My name was not mentioned. My heart sunk. My personnel specialist master chief later told me that I had taken an advancement exam that I shouldn’t have been allowed to take, because I lacked a secret clearance. Everyone in my rate had received one; I somehow had slipped through the cracks.

This was a tough pill to swallow, to say the least. Not only could I not advance, but because of my deployed status, it was going to be difficult to fix everything in time to take the September test. I had to watch all of my “A” school classmates and others advance without me. My plans to be on the fast track were dwindling, and my first major upset had truly come in the Navy.

I will admit that it almost broke my will just that quick. All my high hopes and aspirations were gone and, coupled with the stress of deployment weighing heavy, I began to implode. The plan that I had been working toward had crumbled, and my oh so bright career was starting to lose its glow. I moped around and started to let my work performance

suffer. I began lashing out at my peers and even became unsettled with my chain of command. I wasn’t being myself and was having a hard time getting out of the rut that I felt I was placed in unfairly.

During this depressing moment, I spent a lot of time in the gym and by myself just listening to music. It was then that I stumbled across a bunch of mix tapes that were stored onto a buddy’s hard drive. Now here is the the reason I’m sharing this story. Through listening to the song entitled “Holding Me Back” by J. Cole, I was able to gain some clarity about all the issues I was dealing with. I realized that things are not always going to go your way. The sooner you get over your pitfalls and short comings and figure out what’s next, the better off you will be.

I lost a few months being down on myself before realizing that things could always be worse and that I could still make the best of a situation by focusing on what I could control. What I could control was getting better at my job of writing stories and taking



# Trooper to Trooper

## Leading from the front

SGT. FIRST CLASS BRAD ALEXANDER  
OPERATIONS SERGEANT, 189TH MP CO.

“Sergeant, it’s because of you that I made it this far.” Troopers have said this simple, yet meaningful, statement to me and other noncommissioned officers as they progressed through the ranks. It’s a great feeling when a Trooper that you trained, mentored, and motivated when you were a young NCO becomes a leader himself and honors you in this way.

Every noncommissioned officer has his or her own leadership style. Leadership is the same anywhere you go, “providing purpose, direction, and motivation.” Troopers desire to be taken care of and feel like they are being challenged. When you take a Trooper one-on-one and walk them step-by-step through something like a preventive maintenance checks and services (PMCS) on a tactical vehicle, they not only grow by the information that you are giving them but also by seeing what the right way to train someone looks like. A leader can then watch from the side as this one Trooper imparts

that information and teaching method to his peers, thus starting their career as a leader.

We can all sit around and say, “Well back in the old Army,” but this statement has no real meaning. Back in the old Army,

the NCOs cared more about their duties because they had senior NCOs that pushed them to care. Back in the old Army, our junior leaders took the initiative to do the things that were expected of them because they had leaders that, somewhere in their careers, took the time to show them exactly what right looks like.

Our NCOs of the past and present are one and the same. It’s leading from the front by being the example and by giving the Troopers everything they expect and more. It’s leaders that will maintain the NCO Corps’ resilience and strength regardless of branch. Troopers will have more confidence in what their leader is telling them simply by knowing that their NCO has the knowledge and experience that they desire to possess. When the very first Trooper that you had as a first-line leader climbs the ranks and continues to impart the same teachings that you gave them on how to be a leader, it shows the little things that might be overlooked or considered miniscule by some, have an immense impact on the future leaders of our armed services.



Photo by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto

### PROTECT YOUR INFO!

## ALERT **Wow, that storm was bad!**

Was that storm crazy or what?! As the base continues to clean up and repair the aftermath of the storm, we need to remember the photo restrictions that we have in place still apply. If you choose to take personal photos of storm damage, remember that there are still areas and facilities that are off limits to photography. Just because the NO PHOTOGRAPHY sign blew down, that does not mean it is open to the general base population. Do not take pictures of restricted areas or go into areas marked off by security barriers to take photos of storm damage. All reports of damage should come through official channels and photos of storm damage should be left to our professional PAO staff. Remember to stay clear of damaged areas and be careful what photos or information you post online. Use strong OPSEC!



	2 FRI	3 SAT	4 SUN	5 MON	6 TUE	7 WED	8 THU
Downtown Lyceum	The Odd Life of Timothy Green (Last Showing) (PG) 7 p.m. Expendables 2 (R) 9 p.m.	Wreck It Ralph (NEW) (PG) 7 p.m. Possession (NEW) (PG-13) 9 p.m.	Premium Rush (PG-13) 7 p.m.	Bourne Legacy (Last Showing) (PG-13) 7 p.m.	Hit & Run (R) 7 p.m.	Argo (R) 7 p.m.	Paranorman (PG) 7 p.m.
Camp Bulkeley	<b>No movies due to storm damage and needed repairs.</b>						

Call the movie hotline at 4880 or visit the MWR Facebook page for more information.

## GTMO RELIGIOUS SERVICES

For more information, contact the NAVSTA Chaplain’s Office at 2323 or the JTF Chaplain’s Office at 2309

### NAVSTA MAIN CHAPEL

Daily Catholic Mass  
Tues.-Fri. 5:30 p.m.

Vigil Mass  
Saturday 5 p.m.

Mass  
Sunday 9 a.m.

Spanish-language Mass  
Sunday 4:35 p.m.

General Protestant  
Sunday 11 a.m.

Gospel Service  
Sunday 1 p.m.

Christian Fellowship  
Sunday 6 p.m.

### CHAPEL ANNEXES

Protestant Communion  
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Room B

Pentecostal Gospel  
Sunday 8 a.m. & 5 p.m. Room D

LDS Service  
Sunday 10 a.m. Room A

Islamic Service  
Friday 1 p.m. Room C

### JTF TROOPER CHAPEL

Protestant Worship  
Sunday 9 a.m.

Bible Study  
Wednesday 6 p.m.

## GUANTANAMO BAY BUS SCHEDULE

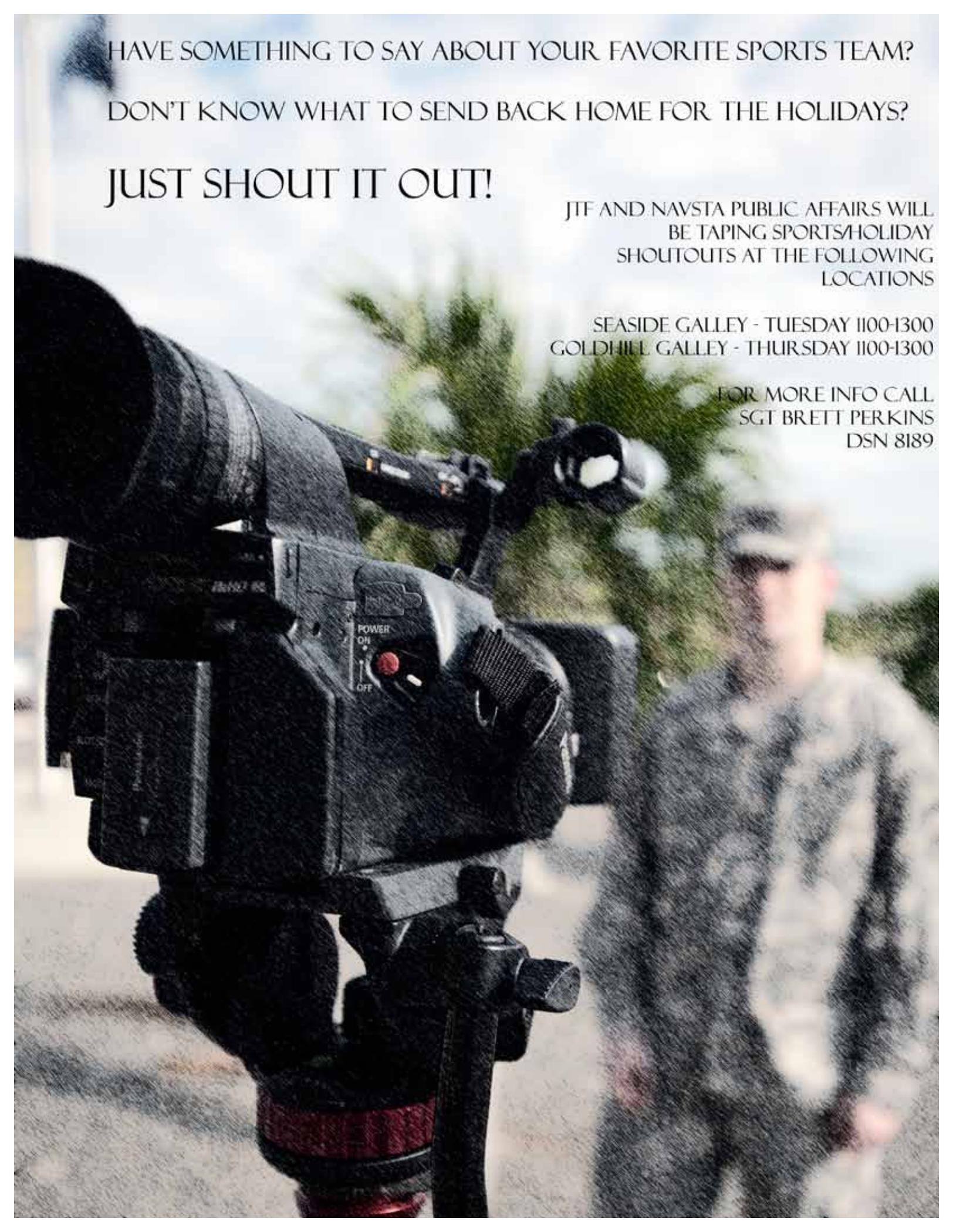
All buses run on the hour, 7 days/week, from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Camp America :00 :20 :40  
Gazebo :02 :22 :42  
NEX Trailer :03 :23 :43  
Camp Delta 2 :06 :26 :46  
KB 373 :10 :30 :50  
TK 4 :12 :32 :52  
JAS :13 :33 :53  
TK 3 :14 :34 :54  
TK 2 :15 :35 :55  
TK 1 :16 :36 :56

West Iguana :18 :38 :58  
Windjammer/Gym :21 :41 :01  
Gold Hill Galley :24 :44 :04  
NEX :26 :46 :16  
96 Man Camp :31 :51 :11  
NEX :33 :53 :13  
Gold Hill Galley :37 :57 :17  
Windjammer/Gym :36 :56 :16  
West Iguana :39 :59 :19  
TK 1 :40 :00 :20

TK 2 :43 :03 :23  
TK 3 :45 :05 :25  
TK 4 :47 :07 :27  
KB 373 :50 :10 :30  
Camp Delta 1 :52 :12 :32  
IOF :54 :14 :34  
NEX Trailer :57 :17 :37  
Gazebo :58 :18 :38  
Camp America :00 :20 :40

# SAFE RIDE – 84781



HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM?

DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SEND BACK HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

JUST SHOUT IT OUT!

JTF AND NAVSTA PUBLIC AFFAIRS WILL  
BE TAPING SPORTS/HOLIDAY  
SHOUTOUTS AT THE FOLLOWING  
LOCATIONS

SEASIDE GALLEY - TUESDAY 1100-1300  
GOLDHILL GALLEY - THURSDAY 1100-1300

FOR MORE INFO CALL  
SGT BRETT PERKINS  
DSN 8189