

# WIRE

Joint Task Force Guantanamo

## *Farewell to arms*

32-year Army veteran says goodbye to colleagues

## *Lighten up*

Base residents decorate, promenade boats for parade

# *Settling the score*



# AROUND THE BAY

AND IN OUR PAGES



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World-renowned traveler makes a pit stop at GTMO



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## Cover Story

Cover photo by Staff Sgt. Lassima Packett

GTMO's Goats and Black Knights go head-to-head in the annual Army vs. Navy flag football game. PAGE 8

# BAY WIRE REPORT

## Brunch with Santa Claus



The Morale, Welfare and Recreation program will host a special mid-morning meal with jolly, old Saint Nick Dec. 22, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Bayview.

Santa Claus will visit the Bayview that morning to meet with base residents, and check off the naughty and nice list from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

For more information, contact MWR at ext. 75604.

## Watch your savings grow

Navy Federal Credit Union and Fleet and Family Support Center will host a family financial workshop Friday, Dec. 20, from 10:30-11:30 a.m., at FFSC, building 2135.

To register for this seminar, call the FFSC at ext. 4141 or ext. 4153.

## Start your week off right

With Mongolian Sundays from 6-9 p.m., at the Bayview, you can start your week off right with the "best stir fry in GTMO."

The Bayview will not be open Dec. 26.



**MOTIVATOR**  
OF THE WEEK

**SSgt. Duane Schroeder**  
Base Engineer Emergency Force

**SPC Richard Cantu**  
189th Military Police Company



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
24 December - 1900 hrs  
at Trooper Chapel

The service will include the Christmas Story, singing carols and sharing the Christmas candlelight.

Watch the movie "Nativity" following the service.

Enjoy Hot Cocoa, Coffee and Snacks!

**CORRECTIONS** Please report all corrections to [thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil)



# THE WIRE

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The Wire is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF-GTMO. The contents of The Wire are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Departments of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines or Coast Guard.

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# Religious Services

## NAVSTA Chapel

### Catholic Mass

Saturday 5 p.m.

Sunday 9 a.m.

## Chapel Annexes

### Pentecostal Gospel

Sunday 8 a.m. & 5 p.m.,

Room D

## Holiday Services

### Christmas Concert

Dec. 22, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.,

NAVSTA CHAPEL

### Christmas Eve Candle Light

Dec. 24, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.,

NAVSTA CHAPEL

### Christmas Eve Children's Mass

Dec. 24, 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.,

NAVSTA CHAPEL

## Protestant Services

General Protestant

Sunday 11 a.m.

Gospel Worship

Sunday 1 p.m.

## LDS Service

Sunday 10 a.m., Room 19

## Islamic Service

Friday, 1:15 p.m., Room 2

## Seventh Day Adventist

Sabbath School:

Saturday 9:30 a.m., Room 1

Divine Worship:

Saturday 11:00 a.m., Room 1

## JTF Trooper Chapel

### Protestant Worship

Sunday 6:40 a.m.

Sunday 9 a.m.

Sunday 7 p.m.

### Midnight Mass

Dec. 24, 11 p.m.,

NAVSTA CHAPEL

### Christmas Day Mass

Dec. 25, 9 a.m.,

NAVSTA CHAPEL

# Transportation Schedules

## Bus #1, 2, 3:

Camp America - :00, :20, :40

Gazebo - :01, :21, :41

Camp America NEX - :02, :22, :42

Camp Delta - :04, :24, :44

TK 4 - :13, :33, :53

JAS - :14, :34, :54

TK 3 - :15, :35, :55

TK 2 - :16, :36, :56

TK 1 - :17, :37, :57

CC - :19, :39, :59

Windjammer/Gym - :22, :42, :02

Gold Hill Galley - :24, :44, :04

NEX - :26, :46, :06

NEX Laundry - :27, :47, :07

C Pool - :30, :50, :10

Downtown Lyceum - :31, :51, :11

NEX - :33, :53, :13

Gold Hill Galley - :35, :55, :15

Windjammer/Gym - :37, :57, :17

CC - :40, :00, :20

TK 1 - :41, :01, :21

TK 2 - :42, :02, :22

TK 3 - :43, :03, :23

TK 4 - :44, :04, :24

Camp 6 - :50, :10, :30

Camp Delta - :53, :13, :33

HQ Building - :55, :15, :35

Camp America NEX - :57, :17, :37

Gazebo - :58, :18, :38

Camp America - :00, :20, :40

## NEX Express Bus

9:55 a.m. - 7:55 p.m.

Every hour at the stated times

Camp America - :55, :48

TK 1 - :05, :36

Denich Gym/Windjammer - :11, :31

Gold Hill Galley - :14, :29

NEX - :16, :27

Downtown Lyceum - :17, :25

## Beach Bus

Sat. and Sun. only - Location #1-4

Windward Loop

9 a.m., 12 p.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m.

East Caravella

SBOQ/Marina

9:05 a.m., 12:05 p.m., 3:05 p.m.

NEX

9:08 a.m., 12:08 p.m.,

3:08 p.m., 6:08 p.m.

Phillips Park

9:14 a.m., 12:14 p.m.

3:14 p.m.

Cable Beach

9:17 a.m., 12:17 p.m.,

3:17 p.m.

Windward Loop

9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.,

3:30 p.m.

NEX

9:25 a.m., 12:25 p.m.,

3:25 p.m., 6:25 p.m.

SBOQ/MARINA

9:35 a.m., 12:35 p.m., 3:35 p.m.

Return to Office

9:40 a.m., 12:40 p.m., 3:40 p.m.

# JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMAMO



SAFE



HUMANE



LEGAL



TRANSPARENT



# Beating the stress of holiday deployments

**By Cmdr. Terry Eddinger**

*Command Chaplain, Joint Task Force Guantanamo*

Christmas is almost here again. It seems like it was just yesterday, my albino ferret was under my Christmas tree trying to chew the buttons off the tree skirt. Yet, a whole year has passed since then and, once more, my ferret is under the Christmas tree at my home wreaking havoc on the tree skirt.

However, being deployed, I will not spend Christmas with my family. This year I will experience Christmas in Guantanamo, as will most of you. Our families and friends back home are doing last minute shopping, trying to find the perfect gift, or planning for the big meal.

Whatever the case, it is a busy, stressful time. The stressors are compounded by the fact that the husband or wife, mom or dad, son or daughter, sister or brother is deployed.

There are several ways you can help

alleviate this stress. First, communicate often with your family and friends back home. Simply calling or Skyping shows that you care about them. If your custom is to have a family or social gathering, this allows the group to talk with you and include you, albeit briefly, in the festivities.



*Cmdr. Terry Eddinger*

Second, encourage your friends and family to find a way to include you in any festivities they may have. This can include doing something as simple as placing a photo of you at their dinner table. The photo helps them remember that you are a part of the family or social group. They can then send you a video or a photo of their festivities.

Third, find a way to honor your family and friends while you are here. Perhaps you can carry-out part of your Christmas or holiday tradition here. If so, do it.

Fourth, find a way to do something beyond yourself. Christmas is a time of

giving. What can you give to your GTMO community? Find a way to spread the Christmas cheer right where you are.

Lastly, Christmas is a time of anticipation and celebration. For Christians, it is a time of anticipating and celebrating the coming of Christ. That's what Christmas is really all about. Yet, we all have our own anticipations and celebrations. One we all share is the anticipation of returning home. There is nothing wrong with anticipating your return home to your family and friends. Use this opportunity to rededicate yourself to make the most of this assignment and finish the rest of your deployment with honor. That way, when you do return home, you will have pride and a sense of accomplishment of your work here. You will have something great to celebrate. After all, what you do does make a difference.

On behalf of your Joint Task Force Chaplains, Religious Program Specialists, and Chaplain Assistants, I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a grand year in 2014.

## TROOPER TO TROOPER

### Getting involved can make a difference

**By Master Sgt. Jerry Kennedy**

*NCOIC, Camp 5*

This holiday, for many of our young Service members in Guantanamo, falls during their first deployment, overseas tour, or first time being away from family. As leaders, we need to identify those personnel and keep a watchful eye on their demeanor and their morale.

If needed, there are support organizations that can be used to lessen the Service members' stress like the Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team, the Chaplain's Office and Morale, Welfare and Recreation events. We need to ensure our Service members use these organizations when needed. When a leader identifies these Service members, leadership needs to, at a minimum, make contact with that Service member and explain the importance of keeping in contact with family. Sometimes the only thing needed is a letter or conversation from a loved one. This is especially prevalent during the holidays, birthdays and anniversaries.



*Master Sgt. Jerry Kennedy*

A good leader wants to know what is going on in the lives of their subordinates.

Our Warriors should be reminded that, although they are away from their immediate families, they have an extended

family within their organizational unit. There are also Service members within our ranks who arrived at GTMO with their spouses and dependents. We, as leaders, need to be reminded that these family members are also a part of our organization; and who also experience family separation.

Sometimes it is more stressful for a Trooper when their family comes with them, especially those with children. The children may not understand why they have to be confined to GTMO; so as leaders, we need to ensure our Service members are not only explaining this to their children, but involving them in family discussions. I would encourage our Service members to make it a priority to have their children get involved in school activities and MWR events. In addition, Troopers should introduce their spouses to the unit's family support group within their organization. Whenever possible, leadership should allow for these Service members to have the opportunity to spend some quality time with their families to help lessen the stress.

In closing, I would recommend that leadership ensure their Service members use the Morale Call Program. It's a great way for our Warriors to make a phone call to their loved ones, free of charge. Leaders should encourage their Warriors to write home at least once per week to keep their families abreast of their well-being and allow the flow of correspondence back and forth. It could help our young Warriors.

# World traveler makes GTMO stop

*From Wall Street to Main Street, Abbamonte has seen so much*

Story by Sgt. Katherine Forbes

JTF PAO, thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

It was Sept. 11, 2001, when Lee Abbamonte happened to be in Texas on a business trip. Normally, he worked in his Manhattan office at the top of the World Trade Center. That day he lost his best friend and several close colleagues in the 9/11 attack.

"I had a hard time dealing with it," Abbamonte said. "I just decided I was going to live my life and do what I wanted; essentially, not work 20 hours a day like I was doing because you never know what could happen."

Since leaving his job on Wall Street, Abbamonte has become the youngest American to travel to all 193 sovereign nations of the world. Abbamonte spent time with residents of Guantanamo Bay at the Windjammer Ballroom Dec. 9, sharing photos and stories of his travels.

Abbamonte's new goal is to become the youngest person to complete the Travelers Century Club, which is a more comprehensive list of nations and



Photo by Sgt. Katherine Forbes  
Lee Abbamonte, the youngest American to travel to every sovereign nation in the world, shares stories and photos of his life and journeys with Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers and GTMO residents Dec. 9. Abbamonte aims to become the youngest person to complete the "Travelers Century Club" which includes 321 countries and territories.

territories, he said. He has been to 310 of the 321 destinations on the list.

"I hope to finish it in 2014," he said. "I've tentatively scheduled another South Pole expedition for next December and I plan on taking a boat that hits three South Atlantic islands that no one's ever heard of called Tristan de Cunha, St. Helena and Ascension."

His trip to Guantanamo was unexpected, but thrilling for him. Before his talk at the Windjammer, he shared his experiences with the high school

students here. That was the best part of his trip, he said.

Abbamonte's life of travel started on his own dime, from money he had saved up as a kid. He also started and sold two businesses before working on Wall Street. With this money, he was able to start traveling the world, create a blog, and brand himself as a travel expert. Now, travel companies pay him to go places.

"I use my blog as my resume. That's where I document everything. I'm a multi-media travel guru," he said.

For those interested in traveling, Abbamonte spoke of the difficulties that must be overcome.

"The two great equalizers of travel are time and money," he said. "If you have the time, you don't have the money and vice versa. You have to set goals, decide what you want to do and go for it."

To learn more about Abbamonte's journeys and advice on travel, or read about his GTMO visit, log on to [www.leeabbamonte.com](http://www.leeabbamonte.com).



Photos courtesy LeeAbbamonte.com

## Free ain't all it's cracked up to be

Do you use a free email provider? Gmail or Yahoo! for example?

Here are some things to remember when logging on to see if you have mail:

- \* DON'T send work-related correspondence to these type accounts
- \* SET your SPAM filter to better protect you from hackers
- \* NEVER give PII over email



## Encrypt it - for your safety and others

With major data breaches being reported too frequently, emphasis on personal information security, mission essential information and sensitive statements is at an all time high.

Protect yourself AND the recipient of the information by using data encryption. Just like your eggs at the galley, encryption scrambles information to prevent an attacker or adversary from gaining your PII or sensitive information.

Add the extra layer of protection - use encryption.

Information Assurance



## All you won't want for Christmas

Review by **Sgt. 1st Class Gina Vaile-Nelson**  
 Editor, [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

### A "Holiday" sequel dances its way to hit status

Review by **Sgt. 1st Class Gina Vaile-Nelson**  
 Editor, [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

A girl has got to thank Universal Pictures for wrapping up some good-lookin' actors and delivering them this holiday season in "The Best Man Holiday," the sequel to 1999's "The Best Man." I doubt your friends get together every 15 years, and put on a dance routine, but bless director Malcom D. Lee for putting one together.



This romantic comedy has it all – humor, great flow and a vision of yourself ('cause everybody has had that one holiday dinner gone awry, an awkward moment stuck in a social setting with your absolute rival, or moment when you realize your entire circle of friends has emotionally or physically been together).



Courtesy Universal Pictures

It's got laughs, it's got tears and it will tug at your heartstrings. It's about the trials of life, the blessings of friendship and family and love. It proves that even time doesn't really tarnish a true friendship – and how one holiday can bring you together.

You can call it a holiday "must see," and there's really no reason not to. I give this one four banana rats. 🍌

Here we go again. Same old junk again. Yet another Madea movie (didn't one just play here recently?)

Well, I get it. Tyler Perry has to make money somehow. Especially considering 'Tis the season.

And in this flick, twas the movie to find every, single, stereotype that has plagued the South. From corn to the Ku Klux Klan. And it's supposed to be a holiday film you want to take your teenager to?

And just when you thought it couldn't get any worse, enter Larry the Cable Guy.



The only thing that makes this a "holiday flick" is the fact that Madea and her sister Eileen (Anna Maria Horsford), have traveled for Christmas to visit with family.

And with any family, there is drama around the table this holiday.

I just wish there had been more laughs too. So, for that, it gets two banana rats. 🍌



Courtesy Lionsgate

### This is one where Vince doesn't deliver

Review by **Sgt. 1st Class Gina Vaile-Nelson**  
 Editor, [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

This weekend's "Delivery Man," is a disappointment to Vince Vaughn fans who have come to expect belly laughs and smiles during the 90 minutes he's on screen.



Courtesy Disney

It's not because he plays an unbelievable

character – David Wozniak, a delivery man who has fathered 533 kids via sperm donations, has an entire family disappointed in his life, and, on top of it all, has the mob chasing him for money.

It's more because this remake of the 2011 French-Canadian "Starbuck" should've been left alone. If you saw the trailers, you saw the best parts already. No need to waste your time at the Lyceum for this two-banana rat film. 🍌



## "The Hobbit" is worth its' weight in dwarfish gold

Review by **Sgt. David Bolton**  
 Copy Editor, [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

"The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" roared its way onto the big screen this past weekend as the second part of "The Hobbit" trilogy came to GTMO. Building on the previous movie, Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) and the band of rough-and-tumble dwarves, led by Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage), make their way ever closer to the Lonely



Mountain and the treasures of the dwarves.

Much like the first movie in the trilogy, "The Desolation of Smaug" mixes fast-paced action sequences with well-timed and methodical storytelling and character development. There was very little lacking in this film, other than the inevitable cliff hanger at the end—which movie-goers will have to wait another year to see concluded. For getting me there and back again, I am giving this one five banana rats. 🍌



Courtesy Warner Bros. Pictures

# Lighting up the bay



Participants set sail for the annual Boat Parade Dec. 14, from the base marina. The annual boat parade invites residents to decorate their personal or rental boats for a display around the bay after sunset.

Story and photos by Sgt. David Bolton

Copy Editor, [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)

Residents of Joint Task Force Guantanamo and U.S. Naval Station GTMO grabbed their Christmas lights, candy canes and mistletoe to decorate vessels for the annual Morale, Welfare and Recreation boat parade Dec. 14, on Guantanamo Bay. The event featured nearly a dozen boats, each one decked to the hulls from bow to stern in full seasonal regalia.

“We’ve seen people out here before on the boat parade and we got our own boat this year and decided to do it,” said Paul Rhoades, a contractor with BDRC at GTMO.

Rhoades and his friend, Richard Berry, a contractor with Prime Projects at GTMO, spent the afternoon building a miniature tiki bar on their pontoon; designed for diving but repurposed for the evening event.

“It’s the holiday spirit, it’s fun,” said Berry.

The boat parade, which has been going on for

more than six years, took boaters from Navy Capt. J.R. Nettleton’s house to Navy Rear Adm. Richard Butler’s house and back; a total distance of about a mile.

“We do two laps around the bay, close to shore, so people can view them from the marina, the Bayview and some of the bay-front houses,” said Timothy Baugh, MWR outdoor recreation director.

MWR provided the generators used by the boaters to power their luminous watercraft for the Christmas-time tradition.

“We have a limited quantity but it’s enough that we can do 10 to 15 generators and about six to 10 power inverters,” said Baugh.

Baugh added that the creativity and ingenuity of base residents was only limited by their imaginations and resources.

“As long as it’s safe, there’s no restrictions,” said Baugh.

As the vessels set sail into the closing darkness of the day, their festive lights, jubilant decorations and high spirits were enough to light up the bay and spread just a little more GTMO Christmas cheer. ☺



Paul Rhoades, a contractor with BRDC construction, decorates his boat “Who’s Your Daddy” before the annual Boat Parade held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba Dec. 14.

## Now Showing!

at the Downtown and Camp Bulkeley Lyceums

Call the Movie Hotline at ext. 4880 or visit the MWR Facebook page for more information  
Stay classy, GTMO! No ALCOHOL or TOBACCO at the Lyceums!



DOWNTOWN  
CAMP BULKELEY

20	FRIDAY	21	SATURDAY	22	SUNDAY	23	MONDAY	24	TUESDAY	25	WEDNESDAY	26	THURSDAY
<b>Anchorman 2 (New)</b> PG13, 7 p.m. <b>Dallas Buyers Club (New)</b> R, 9:15 p.m.	<b>American Hustle (New)</b> R, 7 p.m. <b>The Hobbit 2</b> PG13, 9:30 p.m.	<b>Walking with Dinosaurs (New)</b> PG, 6 p.m. <b>Thor: The Dark World (LS)</b> PG13, 8 p.m.	<b>Tyler Perry’s A Madea Christmas</b> PG13, 7 p.m.	<b>Christmas Feature: Elf</b> PG, 7 p.m. <b>Christmas Feature: Scrooged</b> PG13, 9 p.m.	<b>Christmas Feature: A Christmas Story</b> PG, 7 p.m. <b>Christmas Feature: National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation</b> PG13, 9 p.m.	<b>Frozen</b> PG, 7 p.m.	<b>American Hustle (New)</b> R, 8 p.m. <b>Last Vegas (LS)</b> PG13, 10 p.m.	<b>Anchorman 2 (New)</b> PG13, 8 p.m. <b>Dallas Buyers Club (New)</b> R, 10 p.m.	<b>The Hobbit 2</b> PG13, 8 p.m.	<b>Lyceum closed</b> <i>Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.</i>	<b>The Best Man Holiday</b> R, 8 p.m.	<b>Lyceum closed</b> <i>Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.</i>	<b>Delivery Man</b> PG13, 8 p.m.

# BATTLE ON THE

Story by Spc. Le  
Staff Writer, thewire@j



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lasima Packett/JTF PAO

Spectators cheer for a touchdown during the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program's annual Army vs. Navy football game at Cooper Field, Dec. 12.

Soldiers and Sailors assigned to both Joint Task Force Guantanamo and U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, took to Cooper Field, Dec. 12, and showcased their athletic skills and training during the annual GTMO Army vs. Navy flag football game.

It served as a pre-cursor to the bigger, annual tradition where the Army Black Knights of West Point and the Navy Midshipmen of The

U.S. Naval Academy's football teams met in Philadelphia for a showdown on the gridiron; a tradition that dates back to 1890.

And while the players for the service academy's get regular practice and play weekly against other collegient teams, the GTMO pigskin players were more of a hodge-podge of competitive Troopers – together for one common goal: to win.

The game brought to a head the rigorous training for both the male and female teams.

"The build-up to this day was intense," said Army Sgt. Amio Taylor, military police, 491st Military Police Company, JTF GTMO, who played on the Army team. "Waking up at 4 a.m. for physical training, working my shift, then sometimes being out practicing up until 10 p.m.,

The build-up to this day was intense.

— Sgt. Amio Taylor

MP, 491st Military Police Company, Army football team



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lasima Packett/JTF PAO

Army Capt. Lindsey Gerheim, commander, 66th Military Police Company, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, throws a football pass at Cooper Field, Dec. 12, during the annual Army vs. Navy football game.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lasima Packett/JTF PAO

A Sailor dodges two Joint Task Force Guantanamo Soldiers while carrying a football during the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program's annual Army vs. Navy football game at Cooper Field, Dec. 12.

# GTMO GRIDIRON

Lerone Simmons  
ltsftgmo.southcom.mil

was all a part of the challenge for getting here today.”

Cheers and jeers from the crowd of more than 100 people kept the players motivated while some Troopers paraded service flags through the stadium. At the end of the night, both Army teams defeated the Navy delegation with males scoring 28-0 and females 21-8.

“During the beginning of the game I was nervous, but as we continued to score - the nerves went away,” said Taylor.

“At the end of the day, it all paid off. I feel good, proud and accomplished,” she said.

Navy players were not diminished by the final score, and remained gracious in defeat.

“It was a great game, along with the fans and atmosphere overall,” said

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Takiyah Dillard, member of the GTMO female football team and assigned to JTF-GTMO.

“Given the opportunity, we would like a rematch,” she said.

While deployed in a joint service environment, sport events tend to be the ice-breaker for most Troopers to enjoy themselves while building cohesion and morale with other services.

Army Spc. Jason Pique, military police, 357th MP Co., also a member of the Army team, shares a common bond with both services.

“My brother is in the Navy, and I love to beat up on him, so I’m glad that we beat the Navy,” he said. “It’s great having both services come together through football, but in the end, Army came out on top.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lasima Packett/JTF PAO  
Army Brig. Gen. Marion Garcia, second from left, deputy commander, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, slaps hands with fellow teammates during the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program’s annual GTMO Army vs. Navy football game Dec. 12, at Cooper Field.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lasima Packett/JTF PAO  
Spectators fly Navy flags during the annual Army vs. Navy football game at Cooper Field, Dec. 12. This year, the Army defeated the Navy here at GTMO, but not in Philadelphia where Navy beat Army for the 12th consecutive time for a final score of 34-7.



Photo by Spc. Lerone Simmons/The Wire

Members of the male and female Army football teams pose after winning the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program’s annual Army vs. Navy football game at Cooper Field Dec.12. Comprised of Soldiers from Joint Task Force Guantanamo, both teams won with a combined score of 49-8.



The Commission Liaison Office team takes time for a group photo outside their office prior to commissions, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The CLO provides commissions support to GTMO as one of the three primary functions of the base.



Numerous supplies are stored in preparation for commissions by the Commissions Liaison Office in AV-34 at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. As part of their duties, CLO works closely with the Office of Military Commissions to provide planning, administrative and logistical support for on-island sustained operations.

# CLO keeps the wheels turning at GTMO

Story and photos by Sgt. David Bolton  
Copy Editor, [thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil)

In an unsuspecting, concrete building overlooking Ferry Landing, lies one of the central organizations of Guantanamo Bay. The Commission Liaison Office provides commissions support to GTMO as one of the three primary functions of the base; the other functions include detainee operations and intelligence collection carried out by other organizations. As part of their duties, CLO works closely with the Office of Military Commissions to provide planning, administrative and logistical support for on-island sustained operations. CLO also integrates Joint Task Force and Naval Station staff functions and security to ensure synchronized commissions operations.

“We coordinate with all those entities to ensure that the commission process goes smoothly,” said Army Maj. Doug Kuhn, commissions officer with CLO.

What this translates to is CLO pro-

viding for the housing, transportation, security and supply needs of all commissions personnel. This list includes the defense and prosecution attorneys, media, convening authorities, family members of victims, Non-governmental organizations and trial judges.

Kuhn said the sheer number of people CLO processes in a single year is staggering. According to Kuhn, CLO will have processed more than 2,500 visitors to the island by the end of 2013.

Making sure all these visitors to GTMO are taken care of falls to the commission support team. These individuals ensure all the necessary needs and requests of CLO are provided for.

Providing for the technological assets such as cell phones, radios, computers, scanners and printers is Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Chelsea St. Onge-May, information systems technician with CLO.

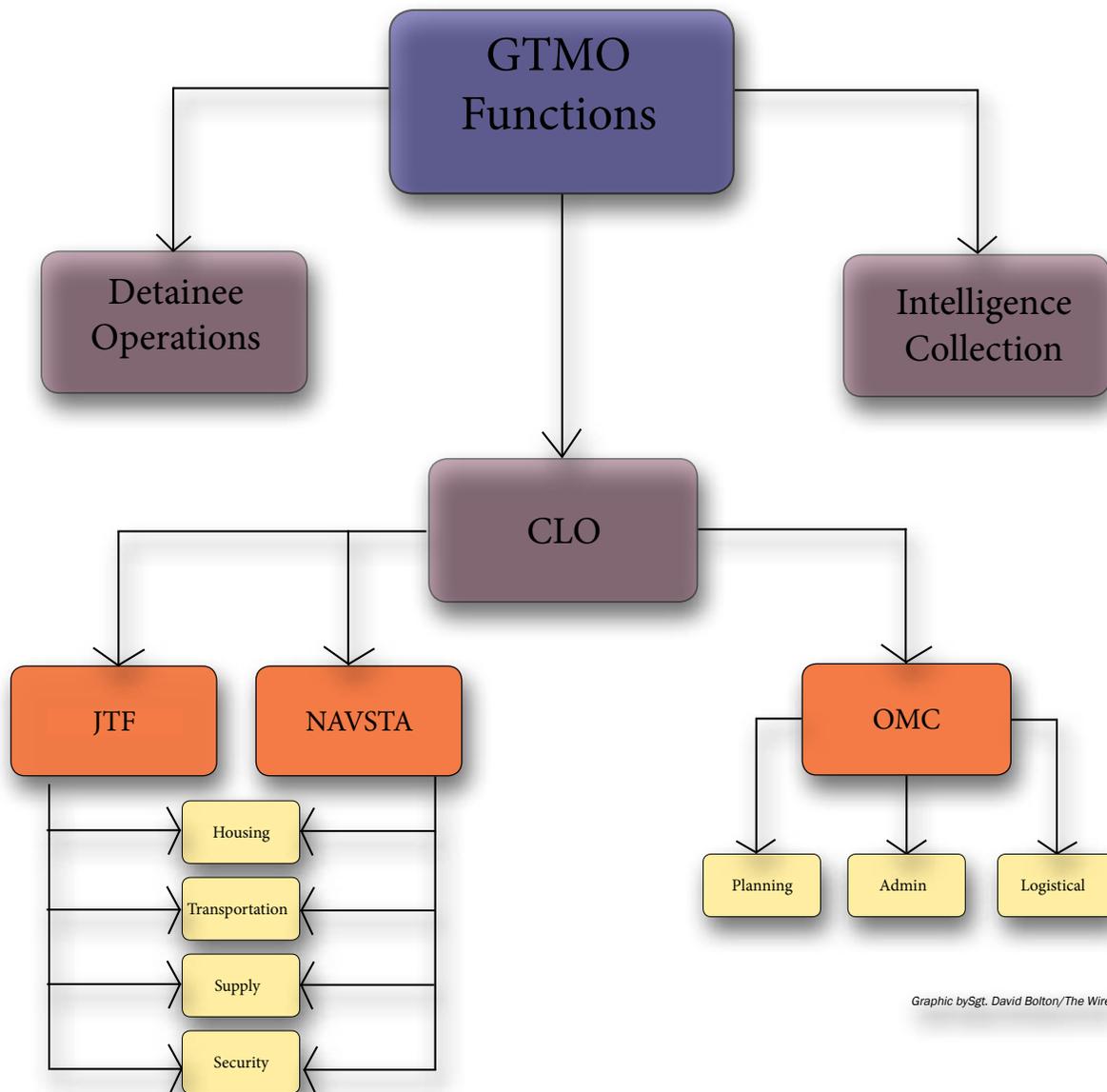
“I support the practical, on-the-ground tech assets for running and preparing for commissions,” said St. Onge-May. “Working here is ever an adventure.”

St. Onge-May said CLO has lots of resources signed out to lots of people and making sure everything is accounted for is really a question of scale and accountability.

“You can dot all your ‘I’s’ and cross all your ‘T’s’, but at the end of the day you’re handing out your assets to a massive group of people, then you wait and hold your breath and hope you get everything back in the condition you signed it out,” said St. Onge-May.

In addition to the technological aspect of CLO, logistics play an integral part in the support of commissions here on island.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Elsie Alexander, logistics specialist with CLO’s



Graphic by Sgt. David Bolton/The Wire

commission support team, provides a dual role as the budget person, managing nearly \$8 million for commission support, and purchasing contact, doing all purchases related to commissions support.

“All the maintenance purchases for Camp Justice and the Expeditionary Legal Complex, all purchases related to communications, transportation and lodging from bed sheets to bulldozer tires for people who do the upkeep, are made here,” said Alexander.

Alexander said that one of major challenges CLO faces during commissions is making sure that everybody who visits for commissions is happy and that they don’t see any kind of negative feedback.

“There are so many last minute items that are an emergency, especially since it deals with commissions,” said Alexander.

Alexander added that even if it is an emergency item, it will be a while before that item is seen due to the shipping time of the cargo from Florida to GTMO. CLO has to anticipate emergencies before they become an actual emergency, but prior commission experience helps decided when to order things.

The other cog in the wheel is the security provided by CLO during the actual commissions themselves. For this facet of CLO to function without a hitch, Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert Middleman, master at arms with CLO, steps in to lend a hand.

“I make sure the gates are operating properly and are functional,” said Middleman, “and ensure the perimeter security through roving patrols, make sure Army guards have what they need and solve any issues they have.”

Middleman said he is just like his

name indicates, he is the middle man between the Army and whoever is doing the security.

“Any time the Army guys need any help, even the inner security guys that work in the ELC, I’m the one that gets the phone call, I’m the one that brings them the supplies they need, I make sure all their stuff is operational,” said Middleman.

Other than the long hours during commissions, Middleman said learning to work with other branches and learning how they operate is a challenge; noting the different manner of executing procedures between Navy and Army.

CLO’s significance to and role in JTF mission cannot be denied and ensuring that the wheels of GTMO keep on turning is just another day’s work for the 11-person CLO team. 🌟

## Volunteering Do's & Don'ts

### Do it over time



The point of the Meritorious Volunteer Service Medal is to provide a continuous service to your community. Space it out over your tour and your weekends.

### Document it



Bring your camera. Troopers get to experience really neat opportunities and make memories that will last a lifetime.

### Bring it



Be prepared! Make certain you pack some water and snacks if you will be outdoors for an extended period. Sunscreen and a hat are must-haves, and gloves are handy for clean-up projects. Also bring your signature sheet.



**Don't wait until your last weekend** to get your hours in. First of all, there isn't enough time in the weekend, secondly it defeats the program.



**Don't forget signatures** on your volunteer hours sheet. Due to personnel turnover, you might not be able to obtain a signature weeks after the event.



**Don't be Late!** Some events can't start unless the required personnel are present. Don't be that guy who shows up late and keeps everyone waiting.



**Don't limit yourself** to specific event types. Here, you can volunteer for sporting events, retail assistance or even making a difference in the lives of the youth.

# Leaving GTMO better

Volunteer hours improve quality of life, service record

By Staff Sgt. Lorne

Staff Writer, [thewire@jtf6](mailto:thewire@jtf6)

A lot work goes into running events and activities at Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station GTMO, often at the hands of volunteers.

Whether it's beach clean-ups, Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored tournaments, hours helping our vet clinic with furry friends through the Red Cross, keeping GTMO green at the nursery, or helping at one of GTMO's schools, Troopers are involved with their community.

"I do it because I enjoy helping others out, and out here, it gives me something to do," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jacqueline Harris, preventive medical technician, Joint Medical Group.

"I enjoy meeting new people and it makes me feel good inside helping others," she said.

Harris is part of a group that volunteers regularly.

"I do it with a group of other girls," said Harris. "The way we do it is, once a month one of us will pick a volunteer opportunity for everybody to go participate in."

She said it is not difficult to find something to do.

"I normally go through either "GTMO Life" or I look online on the roller and it tells you what volunteer opportunities are coming up and it gives you a point of contact," said Harris.

Troopers and civilians alike are welcome to volunteer on base and are eligible for the Military Outstanding Service Medal, an award the Department of Defense established to recognize individuals who volunteer at the community level.

"It's a great opportunity to get the award while deployed and in most other places you have to spend years to receive the award," said Army Lt. Col. Michelle Mason, director of personnel, JTF GTMO.

Her office processes the award for the JTF headquarters.

"Here, the command has established a minimum of

30 hours and sustained throughout the deployment," said Mason. "It's an opportunity that's not easy to get back at the home station."

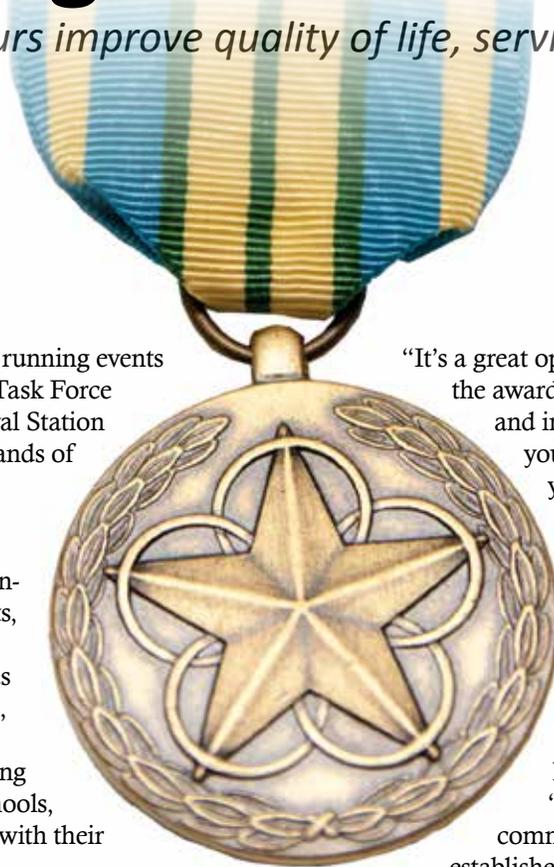
Mason said the DoD leaves it up to individual commands to establish criteria for the award.

"Individuals don't start early enough in the deployment. It's not something you can just wait until the last month and hope it's something you can get," she said.

"The regulation talks about this being something of a sustained and direct nature for volunteering. It should be throughout the deployment."

According to Mason, you cannot receive a monetary award if you volunteer and you cannot be tasked to do something, even if it benefits the community.

"What you can do to volunteer is only limited by your imagination," said Mason. "A unit or individual can do anything as long as it shows a benefit to the community; from clean-ups to volunteering at the schools. There are a lot of opportunities, they just need to be creative." ♦



# Saying goodbye to



## Master Sgt. hangs up boots after 32 years of service

Story by Sgt. Cassandra Monroe

Photos by Sgt. David Bolton

Surrounded by Troopers from all branches of the military, professional comrades and family, Army Master Sgt. Gregg L. Ramsdell celebrated the final chapter of his military career during a retirement ceremony at the Windjammer Ballroom, Dec. 12, at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The ceremony recognized Ramsdell's impressive 32-year military career. Throughout his time in service, Ramsdell served on several major assignments, including: Military Police Investigation Branch, Mannheim, West Germany; the 2nd Battalion, 75th Rangers, and numerous Army Reserve Ranger units.

During the ceremony, Navy Rear Admiral Richard W. Butler boasted about Ramsdell's career and urged him to spend time with his large family now that he has the time.

"Master Sergeant, you can be proud

of your service to your country," said Butler, Joint Task Force Guantanamo commander.

"Although you're setting down your arms and lightening your pack, the legacy of your service will endure," he said.

During his remarks, Ramsdell said his career consisted of watching others retire, learning from his comrades, superiors and subordinates alike, and growing in personal development throughout the years. Although he is a veteran of many international conflicts, Ramsdell is a firm believer in seeing the good through the bad.

"We've had a lot of conflicts but I've seen a lot of great things happen, a lot of great warriors have come out," he said. "What's equally as amazing, is that everyday is so exciting."

Reflecting over his military

career, which consisted of many positions, duty assignments and deployments, Ramsdell said he hopes the troops he led throughout the years continue to pay-it-forward with the knowledge they've received.

"When you're able to lead troops like I did, they become your kids," he said. "And that's the hardest part, I'm leaving a thousand kids. I really hope that they carry forward what I've taught them." ♦



Master Sgt. Gregg L. Ramsdell, sits with his wife, Suzanne, and daughter, Faith, during his retirement ceremony, Dec. 12. Ramsdell served more than 30 years during his time in the military, ending his career at Joint Task Force Guantanamo.



# Meals with monroe

*Dark chocolate, check. Peanut butter, check. Walnuts, check. These cookies have everything you want and nothing you need. You won't be able to eat just one, so you might as well get out a glass of milk, take two or three of these, sit yourself down and get comfortable.*

*These cookies are pretty good, if I do say so myself. I added dark chocolate chips with peanut butter chips for different flavors and the walnuts for a little bit of crunch. The best thing about this recipe, and just about baking from scratch in general, is that you can mix and match and add and subtract as many extra flavors or ingredients as you'd like.*

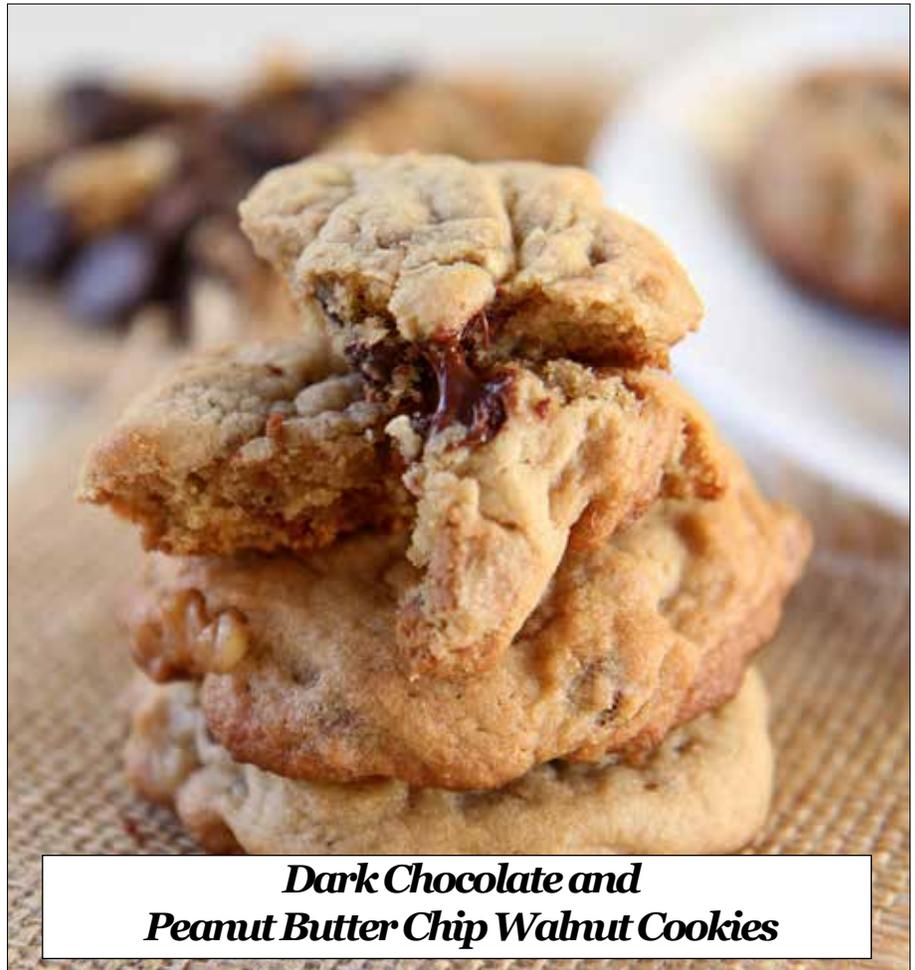
*These cookies are chewy and soft and melt in your mouth. Pop them in the microwave for 15 seconds to serve them warm, even if they've been in your fridge for two days, they still taste fresh out of the oven. Recipe adapted from [www.tollhouse.com](http://www.tollhouse.com).*

Preheat oven to 375 F.

Combine 2-1/2 cups **flour**, 1 teaspoon **baking soda** and 1 teaspoon **salt** in small bowl and whisk; set aside.

In a larger bowl, beat 1 cup -or 2 sticks- **butter**, 3/4 cup **granulated sugar**, 3/4 cup **dark brown sugar** and 1 teaspoon **vanilla extract** until creamy (use hand or stand mixer if you can, it makes things easier.)

Add 2 large **eggs**, one at a time,



***Dark Chocolate and  
Peanut Butter Chip Walnut Cookies***

and beat well after each addition.

Gradually beat in flour mixture, then stir in 1/2 cup **dark chocolate chips** and 1/2 cup **peanut butter chips** and 3/4 cup **walnuts**.

Drop by rounded tablespoon

or ice cream scoop on ungreased baking sheets.

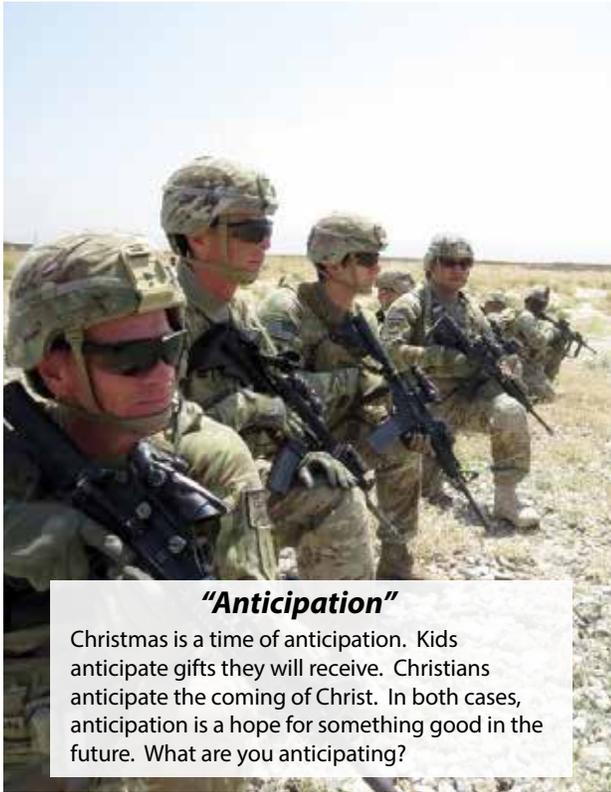
Bake 9-11 minutes or until golden brown, then cool on baking sheets for two minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool completely.



**p.s.  
(one last thing)**

I want to hear from you! Did you try my recipe and loved it? Did you try my recipe and hated it? Well... that's too bad but email me anyways!

If you have a recipe you'd like for me to try, **contact me!** [cassandra.l.monroe@jifgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:cassandra.l.monroe@jifgtmo.southcom.mil)



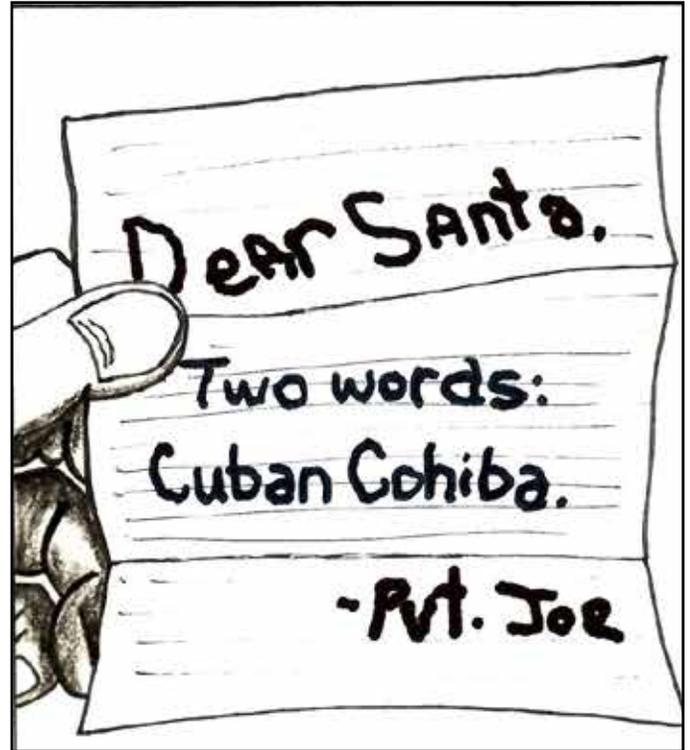
**“Anticipation”**

Christmas is a time of anticipation. Kids anticipate gifts they will receive. Christians anticipate the coming of Christ. In both cases, anticipation is a hope for something good in the future. What are you anticipating?

Army photo by 1st Lt. Charles Morgan/DVIDS

# THE DOWNSIDE UP

by Sgt. Darron Salzer



“Dear Santa ...”



Army Sgt. Scott Sieck captured the remains of this long-since scuttled boat along the beach of one of Guantanamo's inlets.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Send your best photos to [thewire@jftgtno.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgtno.southcom.mil)

# MWR Holiday Hours

## Food & Beverage

- Dec. 24: Normal operating hours
- Dec. 25: Closed
- Dec. 26: Bowling & Taco Bell: Noon-9 p.m.  
Normal hours for all others
- Dec. 31: Normal operating hours
- Jan. 1: Pizza Hut, O'Kelly's: 5-9:30 p.m.  
Bowling: Noon-9:30 p.m.  
Taco Bell: Noon-10 p.m.

## Outdoor Recreation

- Dec. 24: Golf Club House: Closed, No cart rental  
Marina: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Dec. 25: Golf Club House: 8 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Marina: Closed
- Dec. 31: Golf Club House: Closed, No cart rental  
Marina: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Jan. 1: Golf Club House: 3-7 p.m.  
Marina: Closed

\*Golf Course is always open. Clubs can be rented and kept overnight.  
\*\*Reserve boats in advance and pick up the keys the evening prior for morning use and use on a day the Marina is closed.

## Sports & Fitness

- Dec. 24: Normal operating hours  
Bulkeley Gym closes at 10 p.m.
- Dec. 25: All gyms and pools are Closed, except  
Bulkeley Gym opens at 10 a.m.
- Dec. 31: Normal operating hours  
Bulkeley Gym closes at 10 p.m.
- Jan. 1: All gyms and pools are Closed, except  
Bulkeley Gym opens at 10 a.m.

## Child & Youth Programs

- Teen Center holiday hours:  
Monday-Thursday: 1-7 p.m.  
Friday-Saturday: 1-9 p.m.  
Closed Christmas and New Year's Day
- All CYP other facilities  
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1: Closed  
Dec. 24 & 31: Normal operating hours



# Happy Holidays!

*Santa's Classic*  
Christmas Golf Tournament  
A 9-hole, best ball knockout

Sunday, Dec. 29, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Lateral Hazard Golf Club

Register prior to Wednesday, Dec. 25. For more information please call ext. 77288

# Stein Night

Friday, Dec. 27, 6-9 p.m.

Ceramics Shop, Fee: \$30

For more information please call ext. 74795

# JINGLE BELL RUN

an MWR 5k fitness run

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m.

Christmas Tree Hill

Call ext. 2113 for more information.