



THE WIRED

The Official Publication of Joint Task Force Guantanamo



New MPs for JTF

339th takes over authority

Festive traditions

**Mardi Gras, 50th anniversary
of pipeline cutting**

Soldiers earn their spurs

AROUND THE BAY

AND IN OUR PAGES



5 **Social Media standown**
Do you know what not to show?



10 **New MPs in Detainee Ops**
591st relinquishes mission to 339th



12 **Star light, star bright**
Astronomy enthusiasts host telescope party

Other Stories

- 11 *The JSMArt Spot*
- 12 *GTMO celebrates Mardi Gras*
- 14 *Mind, Body & Soul*
- 15 *GTMO Gourmet*
- 15 *Chaplain's Corner*
- 16 *Cartoons and upcoming events*



Cover Story

Cover illustration by Sgt. Spencer Rhodes

Soldiers from around the JTF participate in one of the most iconic and grueling events in military history: the Spur Ride.
PAGE 7

BAY WIRE REPORT



MOTIVATOR
OF THE WEEK

SGT David Camberos
189th Military Police Company

SPC Alyssa Rouse
Staff Judge Advocate

St. Patrick's Day
Preseason Softball Tournament
Register by 3/12 - Coaches meeting 3/13
Saturday
March 15

Looking to volunteer?

Help is needed for the manatee capture and survey, April 5-10. Orientation is fast approaching, so send an email to GTMOmanatee@gmail.com for more information.

Test your aquatic endurance

Sign up now for the Adult One Mile Swim, 10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 15 at the Marine Hill Pool. Register at either pool locations by next Thursday. Cost is \$10, and includes a t-shirt for participants.

Send us your feedback
Tell us what you'd like to see in The Wire and what you look forward to seeing the most!
email us:
thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

CORRECTIONS Please report all corrections to thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil
The following information was printed incorrectly in the Oct. 4 online issue of the Wire



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Religious Services

NAVSTA Chapel

Catholic Mass
Mon.-Thur. 5:30 p.m.
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Protestant Services

General Protestant
Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Gospel Worship
Sunday 1:00 p.m.

Chapel Annexes

Pentecostal Gospel
Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.,
Room D

LDS Service

Sunday 10 a.m., Room 19

Islamic Service

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

Seventh Day Adventist

Friday, 7:00 p.m., Room 1
Sabbath School: Saturday 9:30 a.m.,
Room 1
Sabbath Service: Saturday 11:00 a.m.,
Room 1

JTF Trooper Chapel

Protestant Worship

Sunday 6:40 a.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Sunday 7:00 p.m.

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 GUANTANAMO



SAFE



HUMANE



LEGAL



TRANSPARENT



Martin Delany: a hero remembered

By Capt. Daryl K. Daniels

Commander, Joint Medical Group

Although Black History Month has just concluded, I still want to take a moment to bring attention to someone who did so much to foster the rights of black Americans more than 100 years before Martin Luther King Jr. – Maj. Martin Delany. He was an African-American abolitionist, writer, editor, doctor and politician. He was also the first black field officer in the U.S. Army, serving as a major during the Civil War.

Delaney was born in Virginia in 1882. Although his father was a slave, his mother was a free woman. Because his mother was free, he took her status under slave law. As a child, attempts were made to enslave him and his sister, but his mother went to court and successfully argued for her family's freedom based on her own free birth.

At the time, Virginia prohibited the education of slaves. Delaney's mother moved her family to the free state of Pennsylvania, after she was arrested for teaching her son and daughter to read and write.

Delaney kept learning and, at the age of 19, journeyed west to Pittsburgh and became a student of Rev. Lewis

Woodson of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. He also began attending Jefferson College where he was taught the classics: Latin and Greek.



Capt. Daryl K. Davis

During the national cholera epidemic in 1833, he apprenticed under Dr. Andrew McDowell, an abolitionist doctor, and then continued to study medicine with the help of other abolitionist doctors in the area. In the early 1840s,

he began writing on public issues and began publishing 'The Mystery,' a black-controlled newspaper, while maintaining his personal medical practice. In 1850 he applied to several medical institutions to further his education, before being accepted to Harvard Medical School, one of the first three black men to be admitted there. Unfortunately, Delany and his two fellow black students were dismissed within three weeks of their admission because a group of white students wrote to the faculty protesting their presence. Furious, he returned to Pittsburgh.

In response to Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," a tale that he believed depicted slaves as too passive, Delaney published "Blake or The Huts of America." This was the first novel published by a black man in the United

States.

Due to the military draft in 1862, Delaney began recruiting black men for the Union Army. His efforts encouraged thousands of enlistees throughout multiple northern states, many of whom joined the newly formed United States Colored Troops. In 1863, at the age of 51, Delaney was granted an audience with President Lincoln. He proposed a corps of black men led by black officers.

Delany was commissioned as a major a few weeks later, becoming the first black field officer in the U.S. Army, achieving the highest rank an African American would reach during the Civil War. He resigned in 1865, a year after the war ended. Delany lived for another 20 years, dying of tuberculosis.

He has been named one of the 100 greatest African Americans, and has two separate memorial markers in the city of Pittsburgh to commemorate his historical importance.

Maj. Delaney was a man of many remarkable "firsts." Despite challenges, he persevered, never deviating from what he thought was right. I think he would be proud to see how today's military has evolved, from those first units of African-American soldiers that he helped recruit, into the integrated, multi-cultural force of diverse men and women that serve in today's all volunteer force.

TROOPER TO TROOPER

By Senior Master Sgt. Edward Armstrong

Task Force Platinum, Psych Tech NCOIC

When I enlisted in the Air Force, our involvement in the first Gulf War had ended. I was interested in seeing the world and saving a little money for college. I never thought I'd make the military a career ... but I am glad I did.

When I think about my service, and that of all those who I am serving alongside, one of the most amazing things that springs to mind is since 1973, there has been no draft. Our military is made of volunteers. Everyone who now wears the uniform voluntarily took an oath to support and defend the Constitution.



SMSgt Edward M. Armstrong

Service & Duty

While there are minor variations in the oath for officers, enlisted, and National Guardsmen, the most important phrase common to all is: "I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States." This symbol embodies all we hold dear and all that has been given to us. These men and women,

as all those who have gone before, have chosen of their own free will to serve and defend the ideals set forth by the founding fathers, often in harm's way, voluntarily, so that we may continue to live in peace and prosperity. Over the past 13 years alone, there have been countless acts of

heroism and selflessness on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

I see young men and women every day who exhibit supreme vestiges of loyalty and duty in service to the nation, who came into the military with a mature resolve to serve and became instilled with a powerful sense of honor and integrity. If they decide to leave the service when their tour is over, they undoubtedly carry this resolve and dedication with them and continue to serve in other capacities with the same fervor they gave to their country.

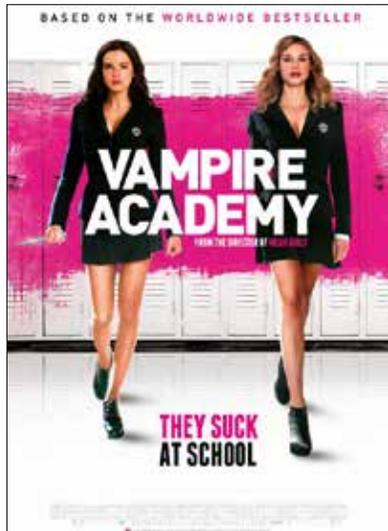
For those who find their service as a life-long calling or decide to stay because they simply enjoy working side by side with America's best, it comes with an indelible sense of pride for what they, and we, all stand for.

Another bloody vampire movie

Review by Sgt. Debra Cook

Staff Writer, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

“Vampire Academy” is the story of a half human, half vampire girl named Rose Hathaway, adapted from a best-selling book series by Richelle Mead. Set at St. Vladimir’s academy, a private high school that claims to offer higher learning along with “higher stakes” for vam-



Courtesy Big Picture Studio

pires, the blend of magic and cheesy sayings is reminiscent of “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” meets “Harry Potter.” The low budget feel also begged for the tiny logo on the bottom of the screen that reads: “ABC Family.”

In the first five minutes, three new species of vampires and a princess are introduced. There’s a street fight with matrix style moves and a dramatic entrance from a man out of the night fog clad in a black leather

trench. The next hour or so becomes a mental marathon keeping track of all the blood-thirsty members of the student body, as well as their individual dramatic components to the plot.

Clearly a movie designed for tweens, despite some of the adult situations, it did end on a high moral note with the princess giving a tearful speech to her fellow vampire students about bullying. This movie gets two banana rats, although adults should probably just skip this one.

‘Labor Day’ disappoints despite star cast

Review by Army Capt. Jesse Manzano

PAO Operations OIC, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

After watching “Labor Day,” Jason Reitman’s latest film, I was left with a sense of disappointment for what this movie could have been. With Kate Winslet and Josh Brolin, two of Hollywood’s most talented actors playing the lead roles, the movie didn’t lack star power. However, it lacked a sense of serious poignancy, making the plot fall flat and, what’s worse, at times seemed even comical.

The movie, based on Joyce Maynard’s 2009 novel, tells the story of how life in a New Hampshire town changes with the arrival of Frank, a stranger played by Brolin, from the perspective of a 13-year-old boy named Henry. Over a period of five days, the lives of the boy and his divorced mom are turned



‘That Awkward Moment’ when guys talk about their feelings

Review by Pvt. Kourtney Grimes

Staff Writer, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

Teeming with high-school humor, “That Awkward Moment” serves as a decent bromantic comedy for a mature audience.

The film begins with a typical morning after breakup scene fueled by the ominous question “So...?” asked by Jason’s (Zac Efron or that kid from “High School Musical”) hookup from the night before.

This opening scene sheds light on the player mentality in the main character and his unwillingness to be in a steady relationship.

Jason, his soon to be divorced friend Mikey (Michael B. Jordan), and his noncommittal buddy Daniel (Miles Teller), vow to compensate for lost time

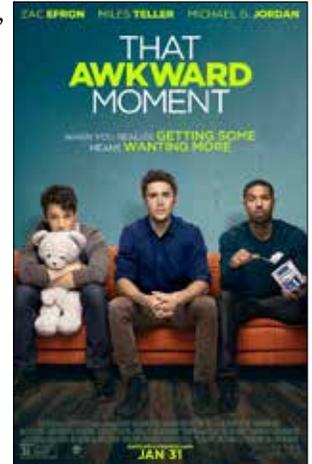


and make a pact to stay single for as long as possible now that Mikey is joining the club of bachelors.

Despite their zeal for this new pact, all of the friends ironically find themselves falling for girls but none of them want to give in.

The noble theme that “relationships are based on being there for each other when it’s the hardest,” eloquently put by Jason’s hipster cute not-girlfriend, is overused throughout the story but makes for a picturesque and cliché ending. While the plot was predictable at best, the sharp wit and continuous one-liners keep this movie worth watching.

Despite its over-scripted dialogue (what man can remain in a back-and-forth conversation for longer than 5 seconds?) and the one-too-many toilet jokes, I give “That Awkward Moment” three out of five banana rats for its clever GTMO joke and the aesthetically pleasing Efron.



Courtesy WORKS ADV

over by their unexpected encounter with the stranger who, unbeknownst to them, is actually a fugitive.

As Henry’s mom and Frank embark on a love affair over Labor Day, what is left of the drama quickly dissipates into the summer heat, and is replaced by an outpouring of sentimentality. I will not go into the peach pie baking scene, so as to not to give away too much of the plot, but I will say that unless you are a diehard fan of Brolin, Winslet, or you really like peach pie, you should skip this movie altogether.

The movie gets two banana rats. And that’s only because I really like peach pie.



Courtesy BLT Communications, LLC

Tradition, teamwork celebrated in cavalry spur ride

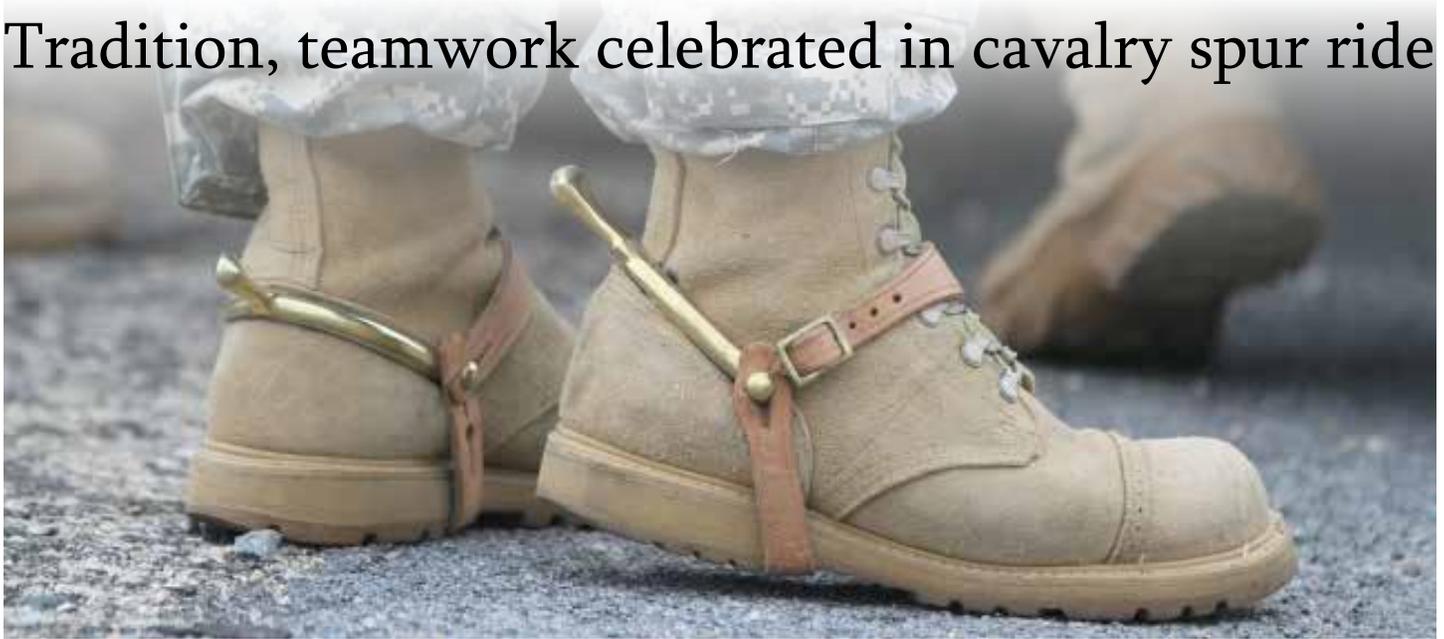


Photo by Sgt. Kenneth Tucceri/The Wire

Story by Sgt. Kenneth Tucceri

Webmaster, thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

The cavalry is one of the most iconic organizations of the United States military. Its image and accomplishments are recognizable, widely known and celebrated. From their black campaign hats, now black Stetsons, to the horses that galloped underneath them to, perhaps most of all, the spurs in that kept the horse going case they grew tired from lengthy rides. Missions and assignments from western expansion all the way to World War II, U.S. cavalry squadrons rode horses to defend and grow our nation.

Even prior to the birth of our country, Gen. George Washington distinguished the effectiveness of cavalry troopers, initially known as dragoons, during our colonies' fight for freedom against the British.

With so much history, modern-day cavalry squadrons, which contemporarily serve with the armor branch, are rife

with tradition.

One such tradition is the spur ride. A process that initially started with new cavalry troops having to prove themselves deft atop horses before they were granted the privilege to wear spurs.

Hours before the rise of the sun on Saturday, March 1, at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, 82 spur candidates amassed at Phillips Dive Park to carry on the tradition and pride of the United States cavalry with the hopes of wearing spurs by completing a day-long spur ride.

Though there is no equine element to a contemporary spur ride, today's troops who partake in the tradition to achieve the privilege of wearing their spurs face a broad spectrum of tasks with varying difficulties. GTMO's spur ride was no different.

"Overall the Spur Ride consisted of a total of 10 miles, which was broken up into 10 different stations," said 1st Lt. Emory Eludui, Alpha Troop, 3rd Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment.

"Each station was focused on a different Soldier task."

Eludui was one of the numerous spur holders of the event. These were Soldiers who previously completed a spur ride. They were easily identified during the event as Soldiers wearing ACU bottoms with a black 3-89th Cavalry t-shirt, a traditional black Stetson hat, and of course, their spurs.

"Today I was one of the spur holders," said Eludui, "which means throughout the course of the spur ride I was the one who was providing extra motivation, purpose and direction for all of the candidates coming through."

The first station was call for fire, added Eludui, ensuring soldiers knew how to perform the basics for this operation.

Other stations included 9-line medevac, movement to contact drills and incorporating some of the unique elements of Cuba. At Windmill Beach they were able to perform rescuing a drowning swimmer and basic first aid,

■ **JUMP** Continues on page 8

Now Showing!
at the Downtown and Camp Bulkeley Lyceums

* Parent or guardian required for viewers under the age of 17.

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!

	D	FRIDAY	D	SATURDAY	D	SUNDAY	D	MONDAY	D	TUESDAY	D	WEDNESDAY	D	THURSDAY
CAMP BULKELEY DOWNTOWN		Labor Day PG13, 7 p.m. 300: Rise of an Empire (New)* R, 10:15 p.m.		Endless Love (New) PG13, 8 p.m. That Awkward Moment R, 10 p.m.		Mr. Peabody & Sherman (New) PG, 7 p.m.		Ride Along (LS) PG13, 8 p.m.		Vampire Academy PG13, 8 p.m.		The NUT Job (LS) PG, 8 p.m.		300: Rise of an Empire* R, 8 p.m.
		Endless Love (New) PG13, 8 p.m. That Awkward Moment R, 10 p.m.		300 Rise of an Empire (New)* R, 8 p.m. Labor Day PG13, 10:30 p.m.		Vampire Academy PG13, 8 p.m.		Lyceum closed Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.		Ride Along (LS) PG13, 8 p.m.		Lyceum closed Note: Concessions at Camp Bulkeley are also closed every night until further notice.		I, Frankenstein PG13, 8 p.m.

according to Eludui.

“Every station poses a little bit different of a challenge,” said Army Staff Sgt. Bradley Kimball, with Alpha Troop, 3-89th. “Some are a little more physical than others. Some are a little more knowledge based. It’s all about esprit de corps, teamwork, getting through the challenge together and not as an individual and making them work as a unit to achieve a common goal.”

“This is probably one of the hallmark traditional events that we conduct as a cavalry unit,” added Kimball.

Prior to starting at the first station, the day began in the early morning as spur candidates were put into teams and got familiar with the spur holders.

“The hardest part was in the morning,” said a spur candidate. “It was chaos and everybody was trying to work together as a team and they kept telling you contradicting things like dump out your ruck, pack up your ruck, dump it out again, pack it up.”

“It was a pretty long day,” said a soldier. “We started really early. We had to do some exercises for a little while. Then we picked up our rucks and started rucking.”

1st Sgt. Jason Barton, with the 3-89th, who has participated in five prior spur rides, was the senior spur holder for the event.

“As the senior spur holder you’re overall in charge of the spur ride,” said Barton. “You’re responsible for generating the stations, making sure the task conditions and standards are feasible. There are safety measures in place to reduce and mitigate any risk we might have.”

Two distinct variables made this spur ride special.

Firstly, it very well may be the first here at GTMO.

“There has only been one or two other cavalry units here,” said Eludui, “and just because of that statistic I would venture to guess that this has been the first spur ride that’s been conducted here at Guantanamo Bay.”

Second, spur rides usually consist of primarily cavalry members. For this event, there were soldiers from many backgrounds and a wide variety of ranks.

“The biggest difference was the fact that we got to incorporate a lot of the different type of Army branches,” said

Eludui. “We had MPs, quartermasters. Traditionally it is usually just strictly cav. so I thought adding the greater depth of personnel really added more variety to the spur ride as a whole.”

After the spur candidates completed the nine prior stations and rucked to station 10, they were required to answer questions from a board of spur holders. The questions focused mainly on cavalry tradition. After the completion of the question portion, the soldiers, now with ACUs caked with mud from the day’s activity, gathered for the end of the day ceremony.

It was here, under dark skies, reminiscent to the darkness the participants were under during the start of the event, that the spur candidates stood in a big formation as their sponsors put their silver spurs on their boots.

“Do you find your candidate worthy of the spur?” was propositioned to the sponsor prior to their application of the earned spurs.

After concluding words from the senior spur holder, Barton, the spur candidates joined their motivators and guides of the day as spur holders.

“This totally made my deployment,” said one brand-new spur holder. “It was the best and worst day.”

“We all kept together strong as a team and kept motivating each other,” added a new spur holder. “So I fed off everyone else. I tried to motivate them as well too.”

As the troopers wore their new silver spurs, they walked around gingerly

with noted fatigue from the long day. There was a triumphant aura of accomplishment that is only achieved by hard work and accomplishing a goal as a team.

“I’m extremely proud,” said Barton. “This is kind of a bittersweet spur ride for me because I’ll be retiring next year. It’s good to be a part of this, but at the same time the bittersweet part is this is going to be my last one.”

Thanks to the effort and pride in tradition from soldiers like Barton, the Army and its cavalrymen can ensure this fine tradition will continue.



Litter Carry



The Bay



Call for fire



Photo by Sgt. Kenneth Tucceri/The Wire

Sherman Road



Vehicle Recovery



Start



Photo by Sgt. Kenneth Tucceri/The Wire

9 Line MEDEVAC



Photo by Sgt. Kenneth Tucceri/The Wire



Photo by Sgt. Kenneth Tucceri/The Wire

React to contact



Movement training



Photo by Sgt. Spencer Rhodes/The Wire

Tarawa Road



Photo by Sgt. Kenneth Tucceri/The Wire

Weapons



Establish TCP



Photo by Sgt. Spencer Rhodes/The Wire

Kittery Beach Road



Photo by Sgt. Kenneth Tucceri/The Wire



Photo by Sgt. Spencer Rhodes/The Wire

Spur board



Photo by Sgt. Spencer Rhodes/The Wire

Rescue and evaluate a casualty



Photo by Sgt. Spencer Rhodes/The Wire

Caribbean Sea

591st MP Co. relinquishes mission at Joint Task Force Guantanamo

339th MP Co. continues duties at JTF

Story by Sgt. Spencer Rhodes

Copy Editor, thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil

The morning is warm and there is obvious excitement for many at the Bulkeley parade field, February 28, as the transfer of authority ceremony between the 591st Military Police Company and the 339th MP Co. comes to a start.

Lt. Col. Darcey Overbey, Commander for the 525th MP Battalion in charge of detention center operations, started the ceremony with her assessment of the 591st and their time at Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Overbey noted the enthusiasm and preparedness that came with the 591st when she greeted the newcomers at the airstrip, June 8, 2013.

“Like most units are when they arrive, the Soldiers of the 591st were motivated and eager to get started. They were also highly disciplined, confident and young.”

The 591st MP Co. provided operational support to the high risk detainee operations center and set a standard for exemplary conduct, as they started their time in a highly opportune period of the detainee operation. The mission tempo had escalated for the 525th, to a six days on, one day off work schedule.

Each work day was around 14 to 15 hours, and this tempo was maintained for nearly two months. With the arrival of the 591st MP Co. for support operations, the 525th, which was quickly becoming weary from the work strain, was successfully able to resume its previous five days on, two days off

work schedule.

At the newcomer briefing for the 591st Spartans, Overbey, gave them three challenges that she hoped to see them accomplish while serving here: to serve with honor, be a part of the team and to make a difference. After completing their challenging tour of duty here, Overbey accedes that they have



Photo by Pvt. Kourtney Grimes/The Wire

Lt. Col. Darcey L. Overbey, Commander, 591st Military Police Battalion, speaks at the transfer of authority ceremony, Feb 28, between the 591st Military Police Company and the 339th MP Co.

surpassed expectations in meeting the challenges.

“They quickly integrated into our operations; their arrival brought much needed relief in the camps as we re-

sumed a five-two work schedule. Their boundless energy and can do attitude however, enhanced all of our operations, and they maintained that attitude for their entire tour. For the past 9 months, the Spartans have surpassed each of my three challenges,” said Overbey. “Without a doubt the 591st has made a difference during their tour. The 591st MP Co. ...they have touched the lives of all vigilant Warriors with their hard work, dedication and even their stories.”

At the end of the ceremony, the 591st commander, Capt. Osvaldo R. Santiago, commented on how seamlessly the unit took on the obstacles of having their mission change in such a short time period, and into an area of operations so unknown to them. Within weeks of arriving, Santiago said they contributed to improving the detention center’s already smooth operation.

First sergeant for the 591st, Roland A. Ellis, says he is incredibly proud of the performance of his unit, considering the constant change of plans at the beginning of their journey at Fort Bliss, Texas.

“The Soldiers performance here was nothing short of outstanding... once we got here, the guys hit the ground running without missing a step; again, I’m immensely proud of them,” said Ellis.

The 339th has now taken responsibility of the 591st’s area of operations and will continue to do so throughout their deployment here at GTMO.



Photo by Pvt. Kourtney Grimes/The Wire

U.S. Soldiers with the 339th Military Police Company stand attentive during the transfer of authority ceremony at Bulkeley Field, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Feb. 27. The unit replaced the 591st Military Police Company.

The JSMART Spot

Adjusting to JTF

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Keith Reau
Advertising Coordinator, JSMART

When transferring to a new location there are a lot of stressors involved.

Be it new roommates, different schedules or a whole new work load you haven't really had time to prepare for. When you get to a new location and get settled in the first few weeks it's important for you to take some time for yourself and unwind and reflect so you can release the overwhelming feelings of stress and anxiety. There are many ways to go about doing this but ultimately it's

up to you how you relax. If you want some suggestions, come see us at JSMART.

We are located behind the JTF Post Office and Chaplains' office in Camp America Bldg 2514A. No appointment necessary, walk in for a talk, to use a message chair, or participate in one of our many therapy classes.

Our hours are 0600-1700 M-F.

“Come see me!”
- Titan





Festivities combine with celebration of local hero

Story by Pvt. Kourtney Grimes

Staff Writer, thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil

The island was busting with excitement this weekend as many Troopers and families joined together along Sherman Avenue to enjoy the Mardi Gras and Admiral Bulkeley's 50th Anniversary Parade. This community event-filled day began with the parade that departed from the Downtown Lyceum and ran all the way to the Bayview Club where a traditional Mardi Gras feast was later served. The festivities concluded at the Tiki Bar where Navy Entertainment stars Erick Baker and Donnie Reis filled the warm evening air with guitar, keyboard and violin melodies.

"We're looking forward to hanging out with y'all," said

Eric Baker, a singer and guitarist performing on the island a second time. Baker's first visit to GTMO was New Year's 2012, where he performed with Edward McCain.

While this time of year marks the celebration of Mardi Gras, it also marks the 50th Anniversary of Admiral John D. Bulkeley's historic

cutting and sealing of the Cuban water pipe that proved Naval Station Guantanamo was self-sufficient, despite accusations from Fidel Castro about stealing water.

The parade was the first of its kind, said Stephen Prestesater, two-year community activities director for the MWR. "The parade is a nice way to commemorate him cutting the pipe."

Events like this bring the deployed military personnel peace of mind and a feeling like they're back at home, said Prestesater.

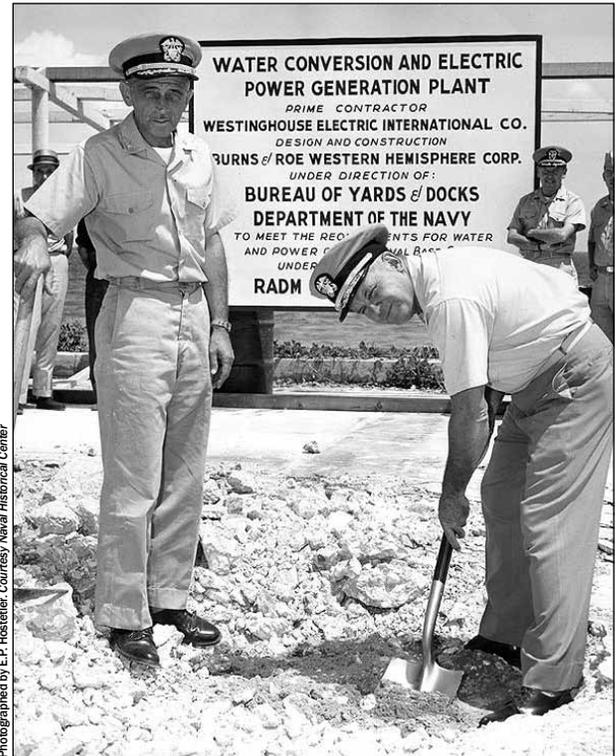
Joint Task Force Troopers were eager to help with the parade as they packed their proudly decorated vehicle full of Service members to ride in the procession and throw out candy and beads during the parade.

"It was great," said Navy Cmdr. Yvette Costales, a JTF team member here. "We had a great time. We threw beads to kids, families and the General. They were cheering us on."

"The best part was seeing the kids pick up the necklaces," said Chief Petty Officer Wanda Ford, a noncommissioned officer here at the JTF.

There were a lot of people involved in making the parade a success, in addition to the MWR employees.

"We thank the community for coming out," said Prestesater. "We thank the command for letting us put it on and the volunteers for helping us clean up."



Photographed by E.P. Hostetler, Courtesy Naval Historical Center

Rear Admiral John D. Bulkeley, USN, Commander of the Naval Base, (right), and Captain Zabisco C.Trzyna, USN, Commanding Officer of the Base's Public Works Center, break ground at the start of the base's water desalination plant, April 1, 1964.



Photo by Pvt. Kourtney Grimes/The Wire

Two festive Troopers provided medical support during the Mardi Gras and Admiral Bulkeley's 50th Anniversary Parade. This exciting celebration was the first of its kind here at GTMO.



Photo by Pvt. Kourtney Grimes/The Wire

JTF Troopers throw beads and candy from a decorated party bus in Saturday's Mardi Gras and Admiral Bulkeley's 50th Anniversary Parade. With the help of numerous JTF volunteers, the parade featured floats of all shapes and sizes.

Stellar hobby brings Troopers together

Story by Pvt. Kourtney Grimes

Staff Writer, thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

Anticipative eyes gathered near the lighthouse in hopes to gaze upon the stars. Arranged by Lt. Cmdr. Cynthia Holland, Joint Task Force's Deputy J1, the monthly event is attended by a variety of island inhabitants from young children to high-ranking officers. Although the night's observing began doubtful as clouds taunted the viewers with an unclear view, the strong ocean winds dispersed the wispy stragglers giving a window of stargazing that was enjoyed by all.

"I don't know what it is about GTMO but the stars look like diamonds," said Holland.

Holland, a Columbia College professor and star gazing enthusiast, pointed out twinkling stars, constellations, galaxies, and even Jupiter while the eager group sat listening to her insightful descriptions and explanations of the night sky.

"The same reason that sunsets are red and purple and orange and all that stuff, well it happens to stars too," said Holland. "They get this beautiful red and green and orange and purple sparkle and they're gorgeous."

As the sky cleared of clouds, Holland began preparing a telescope, a Celestron 11-inch CPC Schmidt-Cassegrain, to get a closer view of the big mysteries up in the night sky. This MWR asset was, to her knowledge, unused until her arrival on the island in October. She began to input her location and other information into the telescope to engage a function called clock drive, which provides optimal viewing by polar alignment.

Due to the rotation of the Earth, using a telescope can become tricky because stars and planets move out of the field of view after a while. Holland explains that her telescope can compensate for that movement by engaging a motor to turn it the opposite direction using the North Pole as a bearing.

"I just find it so fascinating," Holland said as she pointed out the more visible constellations to her attentive audience.

As the fast moving clouds broke for a final moment in the evening, Holland pointed out the constellation Orion.

"Orion actually has a beautiful nebula in it that on a nice, dark, clear night here in the lighthouse parking lot, I've seen

really pretty blues and whites and grays in that nebula."

While the event began as a way for Holland to enjoy her unique hobby, the star gazing event has reeled in other curious Troopers who wish to enjoy the scenery GTMO skies have to offer.

"It's just amazing how many stars there were," said Capt. Kathryn Maurer, a JTF team director. "There are a lot of good nights here for star gazing. It's so dark [here]."



Courtesy Photo
Lt. Cmdr. Cynthia Holland poses with her telescope at the lighthouse.

Equinox Star Party

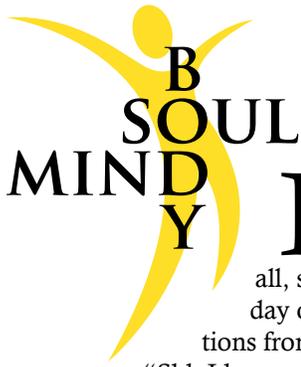
FRIDAY, MARCH 21 AT PHILLIPS DIVE PARK, 7-9:30 P.M.

Come out to see the amazing night sky and learn about astronomy. Look through a telescope and gaze at planets, moons, galaxies, nebulae and stars!

Arrive before 6:00 p.m. if you want to watch the sun set over the ocean. Bring a chair and a flashlight (with a red filter if you have one).

FMI: CONTACT LCDR CYNTHIA HOLLAND AT 9717





What keeps you going?

Story by Sgt. Debra Cook
Staff Writer, thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil

Basic Training, Fort Jackson, September 2009. A group of new recruits, about 33 of us in all, sat in the classroom after our first day of training awaiting further instructions from our drill sergeant.

"Shh I hear someone coming," Private Jones said.

Drill Sgt. Scarpulla walked in the room. He stood up front and towered over us with his six foot, tattooed frame. He scanned each Soldier and asked, "Which one of you is going to quit?"

Like a guard on watch, he walked up and down the aisles stopping at different desks to interrogate us, "How about you Wolf? You gonna quit on us?"

"How about Smith? Smith looks like a quitter to me."

Each one of us denied his accusations. "We won't quit drill sergeant!"

"Oh, but some of you in this room will. It's going to get hard here - really hard - and if you don't remember why you came, you'll give up."

He asked each one of us why we enlisted and what we

wanted out of it. Some of us had answers and some didn't.

"Tonight, when you get to your bunks, I want you to think hard about why you're here, not just what your goals are, but why you made that goal in the first place. Write that reason down and put it up inside your locker. I promise you this, remembering why you came here will keep you going when you want to quit."

Sir Winston Churchill had a speech impediment and tried three times before passing the entrance exam to attend the military college that began his career. The famous quote he's credited for is, "Never, never, never give up." In his lifetime he became the Prime Minister of the U.K. and received the Nobel Prize in Literature.

That's never giving up!

Most of us have heard the advice to write down our goals and post them where we can see them. Remembering and writing down why you made that goal in the first place can give that technique even more power.

Why are you here?



Story by Sgt. Debra Cook
Staff Writer, thewire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil

Imagine being a child and getting to wake up to the smell of blueberry muffins on Sunday mornings. This was the life of Army Sgt. Spencer Rhodes when he was a boy. His mom didn't make muffins every Sunday, but when she did, she'd wrap them up with a hot towel and set them in a basket for the family. Rhodes recalls, "Those were the few times we had breakfast together before church."

Something as simple as cooking and eating home-cooked meals together can be powerful enough to motivate a Trooper to keep him from giving up.

Mitch Albom, author of "Tuesdays with Morrie" wrote, "I don't know what it is about food your mother makes for you, especially when it's something that anyone can make (pancakes, meat loaf, tuna salad) but it carries a

certain taste of memory."

Army Sgt. Christopher Vann said that he remembers watching old Kung Fu movies on the weekends eating the blueberry muffins his mom made and that blueberry muffins bring back memories of those happy times.

Cooking has helped Army Staff Sgt. Erin Ennis get through the holidays here at Guantanamo Bay. She's been cooking since third grade when she made dinner for her family for the first time. "I made fish followed up by strawberry pie."

Ennis cooked homemade blueberry muffins from scratch right outside her room in the Cuzco. She placed her standard convection oven on the picnic table to cook them in. For Ennis, baking treats like muffins and desserts is a reminder of her dad who was the baker in her family.



Photo by Pvt. Kourtney Grimes/The Wire

As the batter cooked, the smell of fresh, hot, steamy blueberry muffins permeated the block and drew a small group of Troopers returning home after a hard day. "What do I smell over here?" one asked and another guessed right away, "blueberry muffins. I knew it. It smells just like when my mom used to make them."

For a few simple moments, smiles, talking and laughter filled the block for some Troopers coming home after a long day, all from the smell of Ennis' blueberry

muffins. If you have a recipe you would like to share, please contact The Wire office at 8156.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CHAPLAIN'S

By CH Brian Osborn
Task Force Platinum

The Golden Gate Bridge was an engineering masterpiece at the time it was built in 1935. Eleven construction workers lost their lives while working high above the water of the San Francisco Bay. As a result, the project proceeded slowly until safety precautions were considered to mitigate further losses. A giant moveable safety net was developed and constructed so that when a worker fell, he would not fall to his death but be caught by the net. It was the first time something like this was used. With the \$100,000 safety net below, workers were able to move at a faster pace because they knew that if they fell their lives would be spared. The net helped remove the dread of uncertainty



Courtesy Photo

and allowed the men to work with a sense of security. A total of 19 workers' lives were spared by the giant safety net.

Many people of faith believe there is a net beneath us that provides safety and security in life. We may not be able to physically see it, but we know it is there. It is a net that will catch us when we have had a rotten day, receive bad news, or if a relationship is spinning out of control. It is a net that we can trust to save us if ever our inner world becomes dark and dreary. We believe this net is given by a loving God to replace dread of life's uncertainties with a sense of security and purpose. If you too believe God's safety net is there for you, I encourage you to take advantage of opportunities to grow in your faith while at GTMO.



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/jointtaskforceguantanamo





Recipe

Ingredients: 1 1/2 c. flour, 3/4 c. sugar, 1/2 tsp. salt, 2 tps baking powder, 1/3 c. vegetable oil, 1 egg, milk, 1 c. blueberries.
Topping: 1/2 c. sugar, 1/3 c. flour, 1/4 c. butter, 1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon.

Preheat oven to 400 F (200 C).
Grease muffin cups or line with muffin liners.
Combine flour, sugar, salt and baking powder.
Pour oil into measuring cup; add egg and add milk to the 1 c. line. Mix this with flour mixture. Fold in blueberries. Fill muffin cups and sprinkle with crumb topping mixture.
To Make Crumb Topping: Mix sugar, flour, butter, and cinnamon. Sprinkle over muffins before baking.
Bake for 20 to 25 minutes in the preheated oven, or until done.

2014 Spring
All Hands

SOFTBALL LEAGUE



STAY HEALTHY • STAY FIT • STAY NAVY





Season Starts
March 31st

Register by March 26th
Coaches Meeting: March 27th at
Denich Gym Classroom, 1830

FREE REGISTRATION
at Denich Gym.
Trophies for 1st & 2nd Place Teams
Open to hands 16 & up.

FMI, call 2113.



AEROBATHON



Wednesday, March 12, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

G. J. Denich Gym

Step Aerobics
Powertraining
Kick Boxing
Zumba & more!

Open to all hands 18+ Register at Denich Gym

Dive

The real reason females wear their hair up while stationed at GTMO.



The sunset creates a sky of golden yellow on the water facing the Leeward side of GTMO in this photograph by Air Force Staff Sgt. Frank Cole.



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Send your best photos to thewire@jftgtno.southcom.mil