

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

# THE WIRE

September 11, 2015





**LT. COL. CARL SMALL**  
*Command Inspector General*



**SGT. 1ST CLASS SHAUN LEHNERT**  
*Assistant Inspector General*

## STEPS FOR SEEKING IG ASSISTANCE

The Joint Task Force Guantanamo Inspector General team, Sgt. 1st Class Shaun Lehnert, assistant inspector general, and Lt. Col. Carl Small, inspector general, are here to support command teams and assist Troopers of all services. The IG uses Army Regulation 20-1, Inspector General Activities and Procedures, as its operational guide to assist the JTF-GTMO family.

When most military personnel hear the words “Inspector General”, they feel apprehensive and get that slight inner shudder, and think “Oh no, why are they coming here, what did I do?” The Inspector General Corps has long been looked at with trepidation and the foreboding “The Black Hat” image because of the inspections and investigations we are asked to perform.

Our goal is to help Troopers accomplish the mission. A major portion of the IG workload is to assist Troopers who have a request for information or a complaint. These could be issues such as pay and allowances, promotions and reductions, awards, leave, and JTF-GTMO policies.

The IG recommends, before you seek our assistance, to give your chain of command an opportunity to help you with your questions and/or complaints. When you decide to seek assistance from the IG, during your normal duty hours, you should request permission to leave your place of duty from your supervisor.

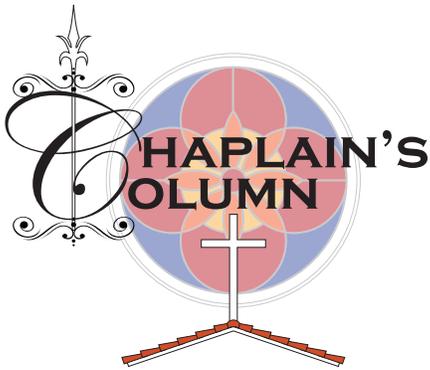
After duty hours, Troopers can visit the IG without notifying their supervisors.

When you visit with the IG, we will determine how we can best assist you. We may ask you to complete a DA form 1559, Inspector General Action Request. We will not intentionally disclose your identity, without your consent, outside the IG channels or our directing authority, unless it is necessary to resolve the issue.

You should bring any applicable documentation, such as e-mails, orders, sworn statements, etc. Additionally, provide names and phone numbers of people you have sought assistance from before coming to the IG. Be prepared to tell the IG what you want us to do. In addition to assisting Troopers with issues and complaints, the IG also conducts teaching and training, inspections and investigations. You can read more about IG activities in JTF-GTMO Policy Memorandum 11.0, which is on the JTF-GTMO SharePoint.

If you need to contact your IG team, please call Sgt. 1st Class Lehnert at office x8339 or cell x84734. Lt. Col Small can be contacted at office x8550 or cell x84736. The IG office is located across the street from the JTF-GTMO headquarters in building 1451.

*Courtesy article by*  
**INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE**



There are many stories in the Bible about memorials; things and names designed to help the people of Israel and early Christians remember who they were. Rocks were piled high to remind of the location God led them to cross the Jordan River. Places were given special names to remember events that took place there. Meals recalled past events. The Israelites were commanded to tell their children and the generations that followed so they could know how their national identity was shaped. Even communion, also called

## REMEMBRANCE - SACRED EVENT

the Lord's Supper and the Eucharist, is about remembering Christ, what Christ did, and how he impacts the identity of those who partake.

On the publication date of this newsletter, 14 years will have passed since 9/11. I remember exactly where I was when the first plane flew into the first tower, immediately killing hundreds of people. I was gathered with a group of pastors. We all gasped when the second plane came into view crashing into the second tower. Some began to weep immediately. Others remained very solemn. We all began to pray; some out loud, some silently. The day grew darker as we heard the news of the Pentagon and Pennsylvania.

Since that day, our nation has built memorials to remind us of those events. I have wondered what those who lost their lives in 9/11 would say to us today if we could hear them. How would they have us remember? What would they ask us to do? 9/11 has forever shaped the identity of our nation. It

is why we (those for whom this newsletter is written) are where we are today. It's why we do what we do. Some of us remember it vividly. However, it's quite possible that some of our service members serving alongside us were only four or five years old on 9/11. In the next three to four years, some who wear the uniform will have been born after 2001. All the more reason we remember and recall it to the generations who follow.

Remembrance is a sacred event. It's holy. It places us in the midst of humanity rather than centered on self; reminding us that our identity has been shaped by past events. We are truly not our own. We stand on the shoulders of those who come before us. In this case, those who died on 9/11.

*Article by*  
**ARMY CHAPLAIN (CAPT.)**  
**TOBY LOFTON**  
*525th MP BN. Chaplain*



## COMMAND & CHAPLAIN

The Inspector General's Office gives you a brief overview of how their office works. The chaplain recounts a sacred event, 9/11, and remembers the victims of that day.



## GTMO NEWS

One Trooper reflects on his personal detailed experience of Sept. 11, at the Pentagon. GTMO brings back a taste of the Jeep club and Troopers get a little mud on their tires.



## PHOTO STORY / COVER PHOTO

Firefighters with the Fire Station Four gear up for training in the extreme heat. They fight more than just fires; they make calls to medical emergencies, vehicle rollovers and cliff rescues.



## ENTERTAINMENT

Joel Edgerton and Jason Bateman perform in a psychological thriller that will, not only give you the creeps, but also leave you discussing it hours later.



## SPORTS

Dislexia shows up to compete in a lopsided victory over Floppy Disks in Ultimate Frisbee. MCSFC hold northeast fence line run to Kittery Beach.



## LIFE & FITNESS

Eating correctly and exercising go hand-in-hand in order to keep and maintain your energy level. JSMART asks: who are you and what are your core values?

# MOTIVATOR OF THE WEEK

**AIR FORCE TECH. SGT.  
ANDREW CUEVAS**  
BEEF

**ARMY SGT.  
TOM OTT**  
324TH MP CO

## SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

There has never been a more urgent time to practice OPSEC than now. The adversary understands they don't need our highly protected classified secrets. All they need is minimal information about you and your mission. Adversaries like ISIS have been able to accomplish more in one year than al Qaeda did in 10 years, because of websites like Facebook and Twitter. For them it is as easy as viewing your account, without even having to hack into it they will have what they need. Take five minutes out of your day to review your privacy settings. Use and think OPSEC!!!

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 U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines or Coast Guard. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay Public Affairs Office. The Wire is printed weekly by the Defense Logistics Agency Document Services with a circulation of 1,025. It is distributed free to all personnel assigned to the Joint Task Force and is published online.

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# THE SMOKE THE SHOE, THE FLAG

**Editors Note:** What follows is Sgt. Charlie Helmholt's first person account of his experience responding to the attack on the Pentagon Sept. 11, 2001. Helmholt is an Illinois National Guard Soldier from the 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment currently assigned to JTF-PAO.

## REFLECTION

Every generation in this country has one of those days. A day you'll always remember where you were or what you were doing. Some of them are our nation's greatest achievements, like man's first walk on the moon, or the fall of the Berlin Wall. Some are catastrophes like the attack on Pearl Harbor, or JFK's assassination. These days are destined for more than just pages or paragraphs in history books, they change the very fabric of what it means to be a citizen of this country.

Sept. 11, 2001. When someone says the date we all feel it. Maybe for some that feeling is anger, or perhaps it's pain or sorrow. But undoubtedly we all, at least, share the common sight of planes crashing into buildings, or see a charred spot in a field in Pennsylvania.

While I remember those things, for me, it really isn't any images I saw on television that I think of when someone mentions the date. When I think about that day I think mostly of the smoke, the flag and the shoe.

## THE SMOKE

I was serving in the U.S. Army, 3rd Infantry Division the Old Guard, the Army's Honor Guard, a ceremonial unit used as the president's official military escort. The Honor Guard is split between Fort McNair, in Washington D.C., and Fort Myer, Virginia, both within eyesight of the Pentagon.

I belonged to Company A, which is housed at Fort McNair, a beautiful little peninsular base of Washington, D.C. It is surrounded by the Potomac River and is preceded by the iconic tidal basin seen laden with cherry trees and blossoms in so many photos during the spring.

That morning we took a bus across Interstate-395 bridge over the Potomac, to Fort Myer in Virginia, just a few miles away. We were in a giant building nicknamed C-hall when the crash happened and we were close enough to hear the impact. Everyone ran outside at once and everyone froze.

The Pentagon, our country's symbolic building of military strength was seemingly alive, spewing gigantic plumes of black smoke into the air. The Pentagon is such an imposing building; it employs more than 23,000 people. It was a surreal sight. I remember the confusion, fear and anger as we loaded the bus to get back across the river.

We were stopped on the bridge going back into Washington, D.C., so we got off and ran roughly a mile-and-a-half down the tidal basin, along the water that led back to Fort McNair. We all sprinted, every one of us silent. All the while, the Pentagon bled out dark smoke just over our shoulders at only a glance away, there across the river.

## THE SHOE

After securing our fort in Washington, D.C., we were loaded onto trucks and taken to the Pentagon. We had been told that since most members of our unit had security clearances we would be needed to augment the search and rescue mission inside the building.

We were briefed by firefighters on what we could expect to see. Instructions were given by military brass on what we could never discuss and we were sworn to secrecy on any sensitive material the floors or broken cabinets inside might share with us. We dressed

in chemical suits, full white garbage bag-looking plastic suits and given a civilian gas mask.

We walked under the slab of roof that hung down in front of the hole for the first time, and when we did, I could have never been prepared for what I saw.

When I describe it, I always tell people to imagine a bomb going off in a junkyard, but that's not near enough disaster. It was sheer chaos. I think before we arrived everyone hoped to be the one to find someone alive and bring them out, but when you walked in that first time all those hopes were shattered, no one could have been alive in what lay before our eyes.

Huge support columns had to be reinforced and in some cases built anew to keep the weight of the damaged building from collapsing. Then the arduous task of sifting through debris separating biological remains from a jungle of twisted metal began. Though some bodies were found, particularly away from the impact site, it was the red biohazard bags for body parts that were most common.

There were moments during this time some of us would come together to weep during the days and weeks that followed. One memory in particular sticks with me. Just the thought of a friend fighting back tears, holding up the shoe of a young boy, almost certainly a passenger on the plane that tore through the building just a day or two before.

## THE FLAG

If I remember correctly, we worked eight-hour shifts around the clock for the first two weeks or so. We even slept there, on site, in tents. Most of the work was hard labor moving bombproof filing cabinets that were twisted and torn to pieces or trying to make sense of countless office décor strewn together, with charred human remains mixed throughout.

Then a different kind of memory jumps into my mind. I remember getting to leave for something after a few weeks and there were people on some of the interstate overpasses holding huge American flags during weird times of the day. Early, like Army early, when people should be sleeping or getting ready for their day.

People were coming together in a way which I'd never seen in my lifetime or have since. People volunteered to help, counselors gave us free sessions, masseuses gave massages and phone companies set up lines to call whomever we needed for free.

In fact, what I feel most about that day is pride. Of course, I'm not proud of what happened, but when I saw the huge flags over the interstate and the even bigger one on the Pentagon itself, it filled me with pride to see us come together to help one another.

I was proud to be a Soldier, in a team of Soldiers, firefighters, police and volunteers who ran willingly into those wounded buildings with the sole intent to help someone they had never met, only because those people live under a common flag. Of course, I think about the ones who went in never to come back out.

Perhaps it's naive and a bit cliché to still say in 2015, that we are the greatest country in the world, a title our grandfathers and great grandfathers earned, and has become this country's birthright since. Maybe we don't see that every day anymore, but I saw it then. That's



*A memorial flag is illuminated near the spot where American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001 in Washington, D.C. (Courtesy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Brandan Schulze/Released)*

what I mean when I say I remember the flag, not the colors or fabric, but the symbolism behind it. The representation of everyone who died that day in September and all the days before defending what this nation is.

It's pride in men, who, guessing their fate, charged the plane's

cockpit, choosing to sacrifice themselves rather than be used as a weapon against others. It's pride in the ones left behind who are strong enough to carry on and hold up that flag so that this land and the entire world will know that we will persevere and we will never forget.



Guantanamo Bay off-roaders stage their Jeeps at the half-way mark, near a cliff, to enjoy the view during the "GTMO Goes Off Road" event held by the Morale, Welfare & Recreation program, Aug. 29. The trails are off limits to off-roading with the exception of this event.

# GET MUDDY. SET, GO

Remember the kids in elementary school; the ones who never stayed within the lines? They were the same kids who splashed in the puddles during recess only to return to the classroom smiling from ear to ear. Those kids matured, bought Jeeps, and arrived at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to push boundaries and veer outside the lines.

Tim Baugh, the Morale, Welfare & Recreation outdoor recreation director, coordinated with agencies across GTMO to create the "GTMO Goes Off Road" MWR 4x4 event as an outlet for service members.

Before joining the GTMO MWR team in 2011, Baugh was an off-road driving supervisor at a resort in western Pennsylvania. However, last year was the first time he hosted an off-road event at GTMO.

Baugh knows this is not a typical MWR event, Aug. 29.

"This event is outside the normal options for MWR and hopefully provides the community with a fun and safe experience," Baugh said, hoping this experience would give the participants a new view of the base.

At 9 a.m. on a Saturday morning, 15 drivers showed up for the event. Baugh gave the safety brief and explained the route. Joint Task Force and NAVSTA service members, as well as civilians, were eager to get going. It seemed as though they were encouraged by the heavy clouds and the possibility of precipitation for the morning.

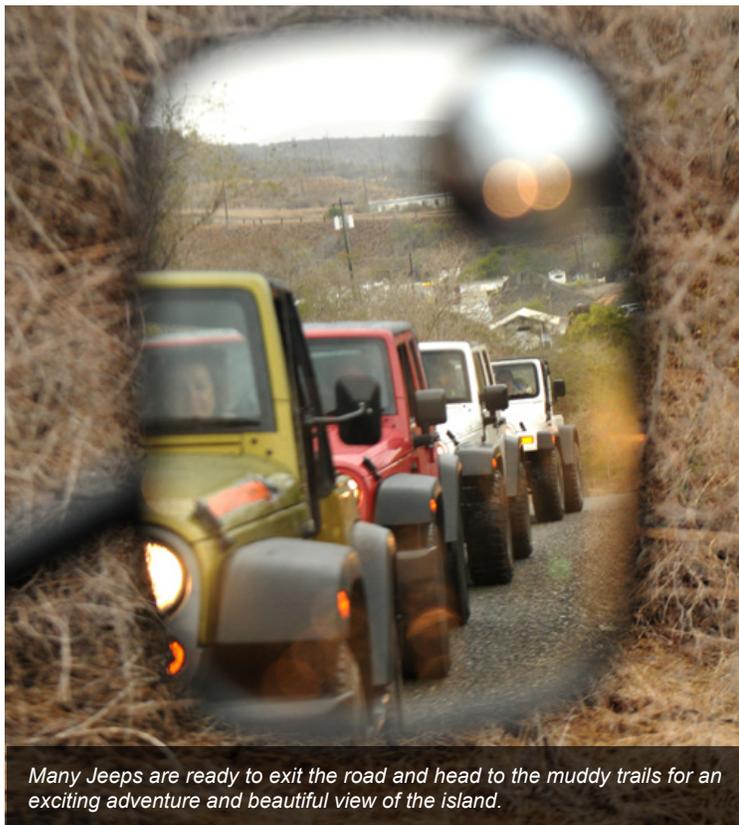
Thanks to the little bit of rain, which Tropical Storm Erika graced us with, the vehicles were soon put into four wheel drive. Strangely,



Caked tires and muddy fenders were the "norm" during this off-road expedition.



Off-roaders enjoy climbing the steep hills and muddy trails of GTMO.



Many Jeeps are ready to exit the road and head to the muddy trails for an exciting adventure and beautiful view of the island.



Lt. Col. John Fivian, commander of the 525th Military Police Battalion, surveys the trail while traveling over Stephen Crane Hill.

no one seemed to mind the mud coating their fenders. In fact, the more mud they found, the more their faces lit up.

The event was limited to privately owned vehicles that met the off-road requirements. Therefore, the few fortunate enough to participate were able to travel on roads, which are normally closed to the public, and trails that tested both the driver and vehicle.

Lt. Col. John Fivian, the commander of the 525 Military Police Battalion, seemed very much at home as everyone veered off of Sherman Avenue. Fivian started off-roading in high school in his first vehicle, a 1975 Chevy Blazer. Much of his time off-road was spent with civilian organizations.

"I have never been at an installation that does something like this," Fivian said. "This 4x4 event is unique to GTMO."

The trails brought the crew up and over Stephen Crane Hill to an observation tower for an unobstructed panoramic view of the island.

"The neat thing about this trip is that we get to go places that are generally off limits and make GTMO feel bigger," Fivian said.

Unique events open up more of the base and give troops a different view of the island.

At the end of the day, muddy tires and happy drivers converged at the wash rack for a raffle and a free lunch provided by the MWR.

"I think that the camaraderie within the community at GTMO is fantastic as it is, but you add some off-road loving folks, and it takes it to a whole new level," Baugh said, looking over the crowd.

Off-road events are rare on the island but they provide the "big kid" in some of us the chance to go outside the lines and get a little muddy.

Article and photos by  
**CAPT. GREGORY MCELWAIN**



A GTMO sticker still hangs onto a Jeep. The sticker is the remnants of a Jeep club that existed on base years ago.



Weaving through the tall grass, drivers retreated to many deserted trails.

# FIRE STATION IV RESPONDS TO THE CALL

Brush fires, car fires, vehicle rollovers, medical emergencies, fire alarms and cliff rescues are just a few of the incidents, which firefighters serving Joint Task Force Guantanamo, respond to, at a moment's notice.

"We are here to protect buildings and structures; we deal with brush fires, inspections to ensure buildings are fire code compliant, and medical emergencies," said Station Four Fire Capt. Granville Ferguson, a 14-year department veteran. "Whatever emergencies take place on the JTF side, this firehouse responds. However, if there is a fire, all stations respond no matter where on the base it is located."

According to the mission statement of the fire and emergency services found on the U.S. Naval Station GTMO website, The GTMO Fire, Crash and Rescue Department has the primary responsibility of both life safety and property protection. The department diligently prepares and executes these services on behalf of all community personnel.

To confront the life and property threat that is present at all times, a relentless pursuit of prevention as the optimum solution to this threat is the foundation for all endeavors. The performance of these duties directly impacts the ability of this command to meet their primary mission.

Some of the firefighters were certified prior to their arrival at GTMO; others have been trained here upon being accepted to the department. Certified instructors are brought to GTMO to conduct a fire academy for new recruits, there are also online certification courses, which accommodates additional classifications needed through the Air Force.

"This month a new class of approximately 25 firefighter candidates will start the academy," said Orain Thompson, a firefighter with house four since 2013 and former police officer in Jamaica. "The instructors will be provided by the University of Maryland to conduct the academy here on GTMO."

The firefighters are certified at many different levels and in different areas.

"We do medical runs, have hazardous material technicians, conduct rescue and fire suppression but back in the United States they have separate trucks that handle each of those calls," said Ferguson.

Firefighters take on a lot of responsibility when it comes to dealing with saving lives, protecting property and buildings. That is amplified as firefighters take on multiple roles within the department.

"The dynamics between being a firefighter here and in Jamaica is not so different," said Kaiser Heath, a firefighter here since 2013 and a firefighter in Jamaica before moving to GTMO. "However, we do many more building inspections here. Back home there is a separate

team of inspectors that takes care of the building inspections."

It could be argued that GTMO is definitely different than anywhere else in the world, with unique qualities as well as challenges, but for the firefighters safety seems to be a common thread.

"It is also much safer here and there are fewer emergency calls to respond to here," said Heath.

Firefighters answer the call of duty for many different reasons but why would a seasoned veteran give up what he had in his home country and make the change to an isolated post on the south eastern edge of Cuba?

"My reason for opting for a firefighter position in GTMO was to further my career," said Heath. "Back home I was a firefighter and EMT but I needed Airfield Firefighting and Rescue and did not have that opportunity there."

Sitting in a firehouse at GTMO, the excitement level has potential, where there is a threat of hurricanes and tropical storms; vehicle fires and rollovers; house, office and structure fires; but most of the firefighters consider this a very safe environment and count it as a privilege to serve here.

Article and photos by  
**SGT. JAMES D. SIMS**



Insignia on the door of the firetruck represents the Joint Task Force, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, fire department.



*Firetrucks sit in the bay of Fire Station Four, ready and waiting to answer the call. Station four covers Joint Task Force Guantanamo in the event of an emergency. Firefighters from this house also conduct routine building inspections ensuring compliance with fire codes.*



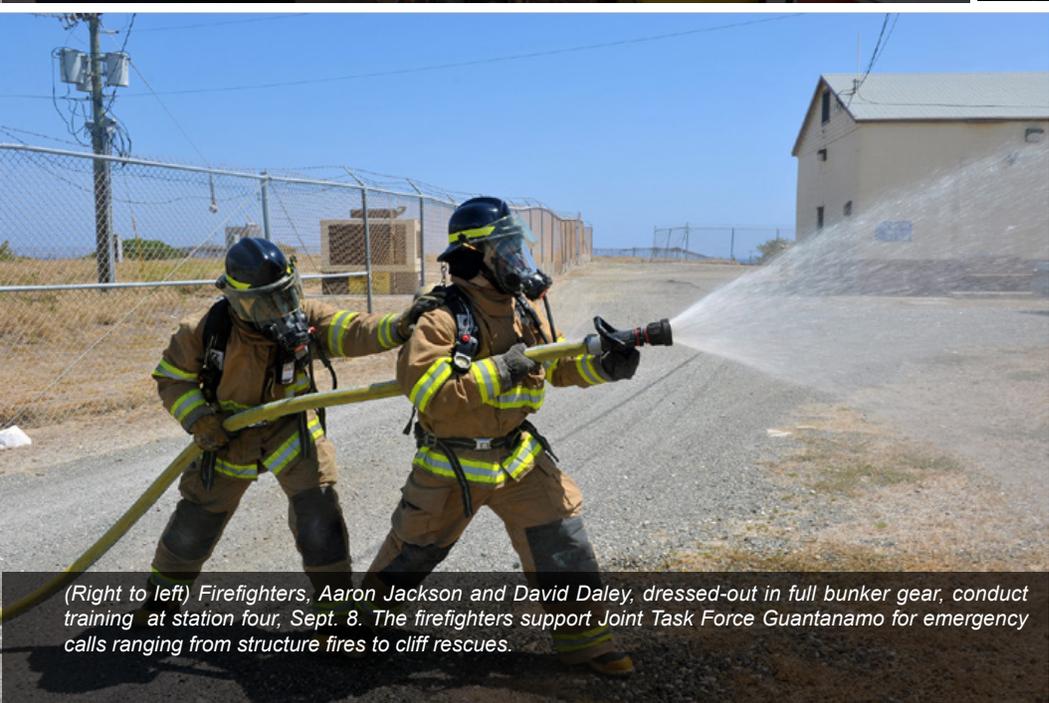
*Firefighter David Daley inspects the medical kit that will accompany the firefighter in the event of an emergency.*



*Fire Station Four engineer, Wallace James, conducts an inspection of his truck at the beginning of his shift, ensuring the equipment is serviceable and ready for duty.*



*Firefighter Aaron Jackson removes the hose from the fire truck in order to conduct training, Sept. 8, at fire station four. Even with a heat index of 108, firefighters must learn to adapt to all weather conditions to be prepared.*



*(Right to left) Firefighters, Aaron Jackson and David Daley, dressed-out in full bunker gear, conduct training at station four, Sept. 8. The firefighters support Joint Task Force Guantanamo for emergency calls ranging from structure fires to cliff rescues.*



*Engineer Wallace James sits in the driver seat of the truck he is responsible for.*

# TROOPERS BUILD SOLID FINANCIAL FOUNDATION



Lt. Cmdr. Mark Moreno, a chaplain with Joint Task Force Guantanamo, talks with service members about Financial Peace University at Trooper Chapel, Aug. 25. The 13-week course focuses on how to alleviate financial stress and focus on building the Trooper's financial future.

U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Cuba, service members attended a one hour Financial Peace University course at the Trooper Chapel on Aug. 25. This was the first meeting of the 13-week class which concludes in November.

"A nationwide survey of service members and their spouses disclosed that one in four credit card holders had card debt of \$10,000 or more," said Lt. Cmdr. Mark Moreno, a chaplain with JTF GTMO. "One in five (service members) used a nonbank lending service, such as pawnshops and payday lenders."

Financial Peace University, created by Dave Ramsey, enlightens individuals on how to handle financial situations through video education, interactive discussions and small group activities.

The class is similar to a basic financial management course, which teaches Troopers ways to save money, cash flow planning, how to dump debt, the use of credit cards, marketing ploys, mutual funds, retirements, college tuition, real estate and mortgages, said Moreno.

Service members participated in the course to understand how to build a better foundation by diminishing distractions and affording them the opportunity to focus on other life aspects.

"Debt threatens mission readiness, so this course helps members reduce or eliminate debt and build wealth," said Moreno. "Most people who take the course feel like they got a raise the first week."

Some service members already have goals in mind and are using the knowledge they learned in class to prepare them for financial freedom.

One of the Soldiers, who attended the Financial Peace University, plans to buy a house when he returns from this deployment.

"I want to plan for the future," said Spc. Andrew Melton, with the 525th Military Police Battalion. "Buying my first home is going to be very stressful."

In addition to gaining the knowledge to achieve financial goals in

the short-term service members also learn about long term planning for retirement.

"I'm here to get better educated on how to invest and build a stable financial plan for retirement," said Sgt. Danydza Quimis also with the 525th MP Bn. "Hopefully I can pass along useful information to fellow Soldiers, as well."

Financial stress is one of the main reasons individuals take this course. This experience will teach each individual the tools needed to alleviate that stress.

"It reduces the friction between spouses that argue over money issues," said Moreno. "A Department of Defense survey found that military personnel consider finances to be the second-largest source of stress in their lives... ahead of deployments, family, health - even war."

Paying bills is a priority no matter where service members go, but trying to avoid unnecessary bills, will lessen some anxiety.

In order to stay away from debt and save money for things you want, do not fall for the "no payments, no interest" promise, said Moreno. Many car dealerships and large stores offer these "deals". Moreno also recommends staying away from credit cards.

"Have a rainy day fund that you use as an emergency fund when the car needs repair or a medical bill comes due," said Moreno. "Make a real budget and stick to it. Their financial mess isn't going to get better by ignoring it."

Troopers are often scared to talk about their struggles. With the constant flow of bills, most individuals dread finances. Financial Peace University teaches service members how to fight and win the never-ending battle of financial stability.

Article by  
**SGT. RYAN L. TWIST**



# IN THEATERS THIS WEEK

The Downtown Lyceum showtimes are shown in the top row and the Camp Bulkeley Lyceum showtimes are displayed in the bottom row.

<b>The Man from U.N.C.L.E. (New)</b> PG13, 8 p.m. <b>Ricki and the Flash (New)</b> PG13, 10 p.m.	<b>Straight Outta Compton (New)</b> R, 8 p.m. <b>The Gift</b> R, 10:40 p.m.	<b>Pixels</b> (LS) PG13, 8 p.m.	<b>Ricki and the Flash</b> PG13, 8 p.m.	<b>Paper Towns</b> (LS) PG13, 8 p.m.	<b>The Man from U.N.C.L.E.</b> PG13, 8 p.m.	<b>South Paw</b> (LS) R, 8 p.m.
9/11 FRIDAY	9/12 SATURDAY	9/13 SUNDAY	9/14 MONDAY	9/15 TUESDAY	9/16 WEDNESDAY	9/17 THURSDAY
<b>Straight Outta Compton (New)</b> R, 8 p.m. <b>The Gift</b> R, 10:40 p.m.	<b>The Man from U.N.C.L.E. (New)</b> PG13, 8 p.m. <b>Ricki and the Flash (New)</b> PG13, 10 p.m.	<b>South Paw</b> (LS) R, 8 p.m.	<b>LYCEUM CLOSED</b>	<b>Pixels</b> (LS) PG13, 8 p.m.	<b>LYCEUM CLOSED</b>	<b>Paper Towns</b> (LS) PG13, 8 p.m.

Call the Movie Hotline @ 4880 or visit the MWR Facebook for more info. \*Concessions at Bulkeley are closed until further notice Stay classy, GTMO! No alcohol or tobacco at the Lyceums.

WANT TO WRITE A MOVIE REVIEW? PLEASE SEND YOUR REVIEW TO THE WIRE EMAIL: [THEWIRE@JTFGTMO.SOUTHCOM.MIL](mailto:THEWIRE@JTFGTMO.SOUTHCOM.MIL)

## MOVIE REVIEW / THE GIFT



I have to admit “The Gift” was a phenomenal movie and probably one of the best I have seen in awhile. As of late, there are very few movies that would receive such praise from me. Normally, I’m “that guy” who points out every flaw in a movie and will tell you I could have

done a better job even on my worst day. Although cheesy, “The Gift”, was truly a gift to cinematics everywhere and deserves four out of five stars.

“The Gift” is a psychological thriller written, produced and directed by Joel Edgerton (Zero Dark Thirty) who also plays

Gordo, the antagonist.

Simon, played by Jason Bateman (Horrible Bosses), and his wife Robyn, played by Rebecca Hall (The Town), recently returned to California after Simon got a new job. Robyn and Simon bump into Gordo who claims he knew Simon from high school.

Initially, Simon didn’t recognize Gordo. Simon has successfully moved on with his career after high school but the past has begun to pay him a few weird visits. Unexpected gifts begin showing up at Simon’s doorstep. As the movie goes on, a disturbing truth about the past is revealed and things begin to spiral out of control.

The drama kept you on the edge of your seat. At one point, I kid you not, every woman screamed as they jumped out of their chairs. I looked over and saw some men trying to quickly regain their composure as they frantically searched for their man cards after shrieking along with the women. This movie will give you the creeps and make you think.

This being Edgerton’s first feature film as director, I wasn’t sure if the movie was even going to peak my interest but I was hooked from the first few minutes. There was one plot twist after the other. It’s one of those movies

you just end up talking about long after it is over.

While I praise the story and the direction, I must bash the so-called “acting” of Hall and Bateman. If the story line wasn’t as good as it was, I probably would’ve walked out of the theatre. None of their scenes were convincing. Bateman had the same stale mannerisms he does in every movie and I’m not sure what Hall was doing. Edgerton’s performance wasn’t all that either, but I will cut him some slack because he did better than the other two. I do have to admit the character development was pretty good but I will credit that to the director and not the actual “actors.”

I digress. I give this movie four out of five stars.

Edgerton’s ability to direct was outstanding. I promise you, you will be psychologically thrilled and if you disagree with my thoughts, by all means, send in your movie review. In fact, I challenge any reader for a rebuttal.

All submissions are welcomed and can be sent to [thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil).

Let us know what you think!

“The Gift” is rated R for language.

Movie review by  
**SPC. JUSTIN LE MALONE**



# TROOPERS PACE THEIR WAY TO KITTERY BEACH



The first 200 Troopers received medals after completing the 2nd Annual Marine Corps Security Force Company, five-mile, Windward Fence Line run, Sept. 5, at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Service members and base residents woke up early to take a bus ride to the starting destination of their morning run. As Troopers continued to wake-up, they looked out of their windows to a spectacular view few ever get to see. The new scenery awaited all opponents who dared to challenge the fence line run.

Approximately 230 participants took part in the 2nd Annual Marine Corps Security Force

Company, five-mile, Windward Fence Line run, Sept. 5, at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Troopers raced along the winding road, up and down hills along the fence line, just steps away from Cuban territory, to the finish line for an opportunity to relax at the beach. All participants welcomed a new challenge and the change of scenery while allowing them to enhance their running skills.

"I feel like I accomplished something great," said Steven Waite, a runner with Joint Task Force Guantanamo. "It was a lot more difficult than I anticipated."

The run began at the Northeast Gate where participants faced challenging hills along Windward Fence Line and finished at Kittery Beach.

At each mile marker, volunteers filled cups of water for the participants as they passed by. Service members enjoyed the opportunity to take on a new test while stationed in Cuba.

According to Michael Castillo, the dreadful route was very rewarding for him.

"It doesn't matter what place you come in, just the fact you completed it, is the best feeling on earth," said Castillo, who felt redemption after the race because he injured himself during a previous event.

Building team cohesion is one reason service members participated in the event.

"To support my Soldiers from my section is why I came out here," said Liza Rosado, a JTF Trooper who normally does not participate in runs.

Her favorite part of the run was how everybody kept moving, regardless of how intimidating the hills were, she said.

Participants admitted the run was difficult, but unit camaraderie is what kept them motivated to finish the long winding path.

Castillo said it was the first time most of his unit was able to run and finish together.

"It's definitely challenging," said Castillo. "It brings us all together and pushes all of us to complete it all together."

In addition to building unit cohesion and camaraderie, the hills of this fence line run provided a perfect training platform for the ambitious.

The Windward Fence Line run, allowed Castillo and his teammates to train for the Army Ten-Miler, coming up in October.

"I am always running, always participating in the races," said Castillo, who was also appreciative of another rare opportunity afforded by participating in this unique run.

"It was awesome," said Castillo. "No one ever gets a chance to come to Kittery Beach." Kittery Beach is off limits to those stationed at GTMO, with this weekend's race being a rare exception.

The first 200 runners to cross the finish line at Kittery Beach received finisher's medals upon reaching the end. The MCSFCO also prepared and served lunch for all participants and spectators to enjoy while they relaxed by the water.

Article and photo by  
**SGT. RYAN L. TWIST**



A Trooper with the 525th Military Police Detention Battalion, runs up a hill with his unit flag. The run began at the Northeast Gate and finished at Kittery Beach.

## MWR 2015 SPORTS SCHEDULE

Starting dates are subject to change. All leagues last 2-3 months, including playoffs.

### MONTH / DAY ACTIVITY

September 11	Memorial Run
September 14	Co-Ed Softball League
September 18	Dodgeball Tournament
September 25	Oktoberfest
September 26	Olympic Triathlon
September 26	Trail Triathlon
September 27	Power lifting Competition
September 27	Flag Football League
<b>October 24</b>	Paddle, Pedal, Paintball
October 24	Fitness & Figure
October 31	Zombie 5K
<b>November 7</b>	Glow Run
November 14	Duathlon
November 21	Power lifting Competition
November 21	Max performance games
November 26	T-Day Half Marathon
<b>December 5</b>	Power Lift Competition
December 11	Army / Navy Game
December 19	Holiday Basketball
December 24	Jingle Bell Fun Run

# THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE



Ian Acosta, member of Floppy Disks, and Jacob Snow, member of Disclexia, reach for a pass during an Ultimate Frisbee game, Sept. 2 at the Multi-Purpose Field at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. w

Two Ultimate Frisbee foes faced off on Multi-Purpose Field at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on Sept. 2. What was supposed to be a competitive battle of Ultimate Frisbee soon became a lopsided victory as Disclexia beat the Floppy Disks 22-5.

The match began with both teams trading scores as players ran across the field to get open long enough to catch the Frisbee disk before throwing it to another teammate. Soon, it began to rain, making conditions slippery for both teams as players began to lose their footing while trying to make catches. As the rain fell, Disclexia triggered offensive and defensive onslaughts. They began to spread the field, intercepted and deflected passes with ease as they moved the Frisbee disk up and down the field while scoring points.

"We all played as a team and everyone did an awesome job," said Nicholas Colfer, team captain of Disclexia. "Everyone had one goal: we all wanted to win."

Colfer said their team has won five straight games of Ultimate Frisbee. After Disclexia's 22-5 victory, they have positioned themselves as the first place team in the league, for now.

By the second half, the game began to slip away from Floppy Disks. Fundamental errors, such as not tapping the disk on the floor when taking control of the Frisbee disc for the first time, and passes to each other became daunting tasks. Coupled with Disclexia's suffocating defense, Floppy Disks simply could not answer. Miscommunication and miscues were the theme

of the night for the Floppy Disks.

"We had eight new faces out here today," said Juan Sanchez, Floppy Disks' team captain. "We just have to practice and get comfortable with each other. I'm confident we'll turn it around and finish strong by the end of the season."

Speed and teamwork were Disclexia's greatest assets. They made entire line substitutions after every point scored to keep their legs fresh. Cheering and coaching took place the entire game, with every team member making solid passes. On several occasions, members of the Disclexia team jumped over Floppy Disks players to win control of the Frisbee disc and keep their team moving.

Hugo Lerma, a member of the Disclexia team, scored 10 points on 13 catches, almost half the team's overall points, in the entire game. Despite his incredible performance, Lerma gave credit to his team.

"We did outstanding," said Lerma. "We have a diverse team that definitely dominated today."

The Floppy Disks will play the Legal Air Warfare next, while Disclexia will play Down to Flick.

Ultimate Frisbee games are held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 p.m. on the multi-purpose field located next to G.J. Denich Gym.

Article and photo by  
**SGT. CHRISTOPHER A. GARIBAY**

## MWR ULTIMATE FRISBEE

No.	Team Name	Standings
01	<b>Disclexia</b>	(5-0)
02	<b>Salt Water Cowboys</b>	(5-0)
03	<b>Frizz Beez</b>	(4-1)
04	<b>The Ice Men</b>	(2-3)
05	<b>Down to Flick</b>	(2-3)
06	<b>Dirty Red &amp; the Boys</b>	(1-3)
07	<b>Floppy Disks</b>	(0-4)
08	<b>Legal Air Warfare</b>	(0-5)

## MWR VOLLEYBALL

### A DIVISION

No.	Team Name	Standings
01	<b>Team</b>	(14-0)
02	<b>Deep Sets</b>	(11-2)
03	<b>Emperors groove</b>	(11-2)
04	<b>BCO Super Stars</b>	(11-3)
05	<b>Gunslingers</b>	(10-4)
06	<b>Sparta-licious</b>	(8-6)
07	<b>Sets on the Beach</b>	(7-6)
08	<b>328th</b>	(7-7)

### B DIVISION

No.	Team Name	Standings
09	<b>Island Shenanigans</b>	(6-8)
10	<b>EAD</b>	(5-9)
11	<b>Honey Badgers</b>	(5-9)
12	<b>Serves of Steel</b>	(3-9)
13	<b>Yurrr</b>	(3-10)
14	<b>Spartans</b>	(3-11)



## HEALTH, FITNESS GO HAND-IN-HAND, BOOST ENERGY

Exercise and fitness are important to the body for a multitude of reasons. Your health should be the number one priority when making the decision to start a fitness regimen and losing weight. Diseases, stroke and diabetes are only a few health concerns when considering the reasons you want to get fit and lose weight. Other reasons include appearance, mood, fun, fitness, energy and better sleep. The list goes on.

Eating right and exercising goes hand-in-hand. Find a meal plan that works for you with the base nutritionist and join the events provided by the Morale, Welfare & Recreation program.

These events are fun and allow you to see where you fit or what you like to do best. If it is running, the MWR has a memorial run on

9/11 at 6:30 p.m. tonight.

MWR events are fun and can boost your mood and help you find a workout buddy. There is strength in numbers when it comes to finding a fitness program. Your motivation and energy will increase and you will always have someone to do the two-person exercises. If competitions are your thing, you will always have a partner. The MWR offers power-lifting competitions, 1000 pound club, sports leagues, triathlons and much more.

Whatever you are searching for to increase your overall health, Guantanamo Bay, has got it!

Article by

**STAFF SGT. ALEAH M. CASTREJON**

## No-Bake Energy Bites

Tasty energy balls, a healthy snack alternative.

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1/2 cup mini semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup ground flax seed
- 1/2 cup crunchy peanut butter
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Combine oats, chocolate chips, flax seed, peanut butter, honey, and vanilla extract together in a bowl; form into balls using your hands. Arrange energy bites on a baking sheet and freeze until set, about 1 hour.

*"To enjoy the glow of good health, you must exercise." - Gene Tunney*



## JSMART SPOT

▲ JSMART HELPER: HARLEY

### CHALLENGE IN KEEPING CORE VALUES

Maintaining our core values can be challenging given the environment we are in, the pressures of our jobs, family and others' expectations of us. How do we accomplish this? How do we maintain what matters most to us when we are tugged, pushed and pulled from, what feels like, all sides?

This notion of core values has varying meanings depending on who you ask. It could mean honor, courage and commitment if you are a Sailor or Marine; the seven leadership values if you are in the Army, integrity first, service before self; and excellence in all we do if you are an Airman; or honor, respect and devotion to duty if you are in the Coast Guard.

Then there is you - the individual who brought in specific values that were important to you long before you joined the military.

What are your core values? Do they amplify your service and does service strengthen your values?

When we find ourselves in a position of competing values, there must be a way to resolve this, which builds self and serves as a force multiplier. Sometimes it can feel as if there is a black hole drawing you away from your values, but operating within your scope and identifying what you have control over, while ensuring your foundation is strong, mentally and physically, can help provide a buffer and even a counterbalance to all of the seemingly insurmountable forces.

Have you reminded yourself today who you are and what you stand for as a service member?

Article by

**LT. MICHELLE MAHONE**  
Joint Medical Group

## MILITARY HISTORY

### REMEMBERING 9/11, HONORING VICTIMS

The deadliest day for New York firefighters was 9/11, according to history.com. Nearly 350 firefighters were killed the day America was attacked by Islamic terrorists from Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations.

Those old enough to remember the 9/11 events can recall exactly where they were and exactly what they were doing. Most people can remember the events as if it happened only yesterday.

The U.S. suffered great loss, between those on the planes and inside the buildings, but that day did not break America.

America stood taller, closer and prouder. The people of the greatest nation on earth flew Old Glory from homes, offices, bridges and many more locations. Foundations and memorials were built to honor

those who lost their lives on that tragic September day.

Every year, countless numbers of events honor the victims of 9/11. From flag displays at grade schools, stair climbs, marathons, motorcycle runs, wreath-laying events and even blood drives. On this day, many will recount the events of where they were.

At Guantanamo Bay, Cuba everyone is welcome to participate in a 9/11 memorial service held at the Naval Station Chapel at 9 a.m. and everyone is invited to participate in a memorial run hosted by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program at 6:30 p.m. at G.J. Denich Gym.

Article by

**STAFF SGT. ALEAH M. CASTREJON**

**RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

**ROMAN CATHOLIC (NAVSTA chapel)**

Saturday\* 1700  
 Sunday\* 0900 (Side Chapel)  
 Mon-Thurs\* 1730&0900

**PROTESTANT SERV. (JTF Troopers' chapel)**

Sunday\* 0900&1900

*Friday night movie* Friday 1900

**PROTESTANT SERV. (NAVSTA chapel)**

*Traditional\** Sunday 0930 Annex Room 1 (Liturgical Service)  
*Contemporary\** Sunday 1100 Main Chapel  
*Gospel* Sunday 1300 Main Chapel

**OTHER SERV. (NAVSTA chapel)**

*Islamic Prayers* Friday 1315 Annex Room 2  
*7th Day Adventist* Saturday 0900 Annex Room 1 (Sabbath School)  
 Saturday 1100 Annex Room 1 (Sabbath Service)  
*Latter Day Saints* Sunday 0900 Annex Room 19  
*Pentecostal* Sunday 0800 Annex Room D  
 Sunday 1700 Annex Room D  
*Christian Fellowship\** Sunday 1800 Main Chapel (Non-denominational)

**BIBLE STUDIES (JTF Troopers' chapel)**

Monday 1900 JTF Trooper's Chapel  
 Wednesday 1900 JTF Trooper's Chapel  
*Game Night* Saturday 1900 JTF Trooper's Chapel

**LUTHERAN SERV. (JTF Troopers' chapel)**

Sunday 1030 JTF Trooper's Chapel

**DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE / MILITARY EDITION (JTF Troopers' Chapel)**

Tuesday 1900 Taught by Navy Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Mark Moreno

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS**

Mon/Wed/Sat 1830 NAVSTA Chapel Annex, Room 16

\*These services are conducted by Army or Navy chaplains / For more information call ext. 2218

**BUS SCHEDULE**

Camp America :00/:20/:40  
 Gazebo :01/:18/:21/:38/:41/:58  
 Camp America NEX  
 :02/:17/:22/:37/:42/:57  
 Camp Delta :04/:13/:24/:33/:44/:53  
 Camp 6 :07/:10/:27/:30/:47/:50  
 HQ Building :55/:15/:35  
 TK 1 :01/:17/:21/:37/:41/:57  
 TK 2 :02/:16/:22/:36/:42/:56  
 TK 3 :03/:15/:23/:35/:43/:55  
 TK 4 :04/:13/:24/:33/:44/:53  
 CC :00/:19/:20/:39/:40/:59  
 JAS :14/:34/:54  
 Windjammer / Gym :02/:17/:22/:37/:42/:57  
 Gold Hill Galley :04/:15/:24/:35/:44/:55  
 NEX :06/:13/:26/:33/:46/:53  
 NEX Laundry :07/:27/:47  
 C Pool :10/:30/:50  
 Downtown Lyceum :11/:31/:51

**BUS SCHEDULE** 09:55 - 19:55 hourly

Camp America :48/:55  
 TK 1 :05/:36  
 Windjammer / Gym :11/:31  
 Gold Hill Galley :14/:29  
 NEX :16/:27  
 Downtown Lyceum :17/:25

**BEACH BUS** (Saturday & Sunday only)

Windward Loop / E. Caravella:  
 0900/0930/1200/1230/1500/1530/1800/  
 1830  
 SBOQ / Marina:  
 0905/0935/1205/1235/1505/1535/1805/  
 1835  
 NEX:  
 0908/0925/1208/1225/1508/1525/1808/  
 1825  
 Phillips Park: 0914/1214/1514/1814  
 Cable Beach: 0917/1217/1517/1817  
 Return to Office: 0940/1240/1540/1840

**FERRY SCHEDULE**

*Monday - Saturday*

**FERRY**

**Windward:**

0630/ 0730/ 0930/ 1030/ 1130/ 1330/ 1530/ 1630

**Leeward:**

0700/ 0800/ 1000/ 1100/ 1200/ 1400/ 1600

**UTILITY BOAT**

**Windward:**

1630/ 1730/ 1830/ 2030/ 2230/ 2330

**Leeward:**

1700/ 1800/ 1900/ 2100/ 2300/ 0000

*Sunday & Holidays*

**FERRY**

**Windward:**

0730 / 1330

**Leeward:**

0800 / 1400

**UTILITY BOAT**

**Windward:**

1030 / 1530 / 1730 / 1830 / 2030 / 2230

**Leeward:**

1100 / 1600 / 1800 / 1900 / 2100 / 2300

*Photo by Jose R. Cruz*  
**PARTING SHOT**



'FLOATING IN THE BLUE' PHOTO BY SPC. JOSE R. CRUZ. FOR A CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR PHOTO FEATURED IN THE PARTING SHOT, PLEASE SEND SUBMISSIONS TO: [THEWIRE@JTFGTMO.SOUTHCOM.MIL](mailto:THEWIRE@JTFGTMO.SOUTHCOM.MIL)

THE **WIRE**

