

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

# THE WIRE

May 20, 2016



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PHOTO STORY



## LEADERSHIP / CHAPLAIN

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper Cmdr. Joel Schofer, shares lessons learned as a first-time commander. Chaplain Capt. Ronnie Detmer explains perspective and the benefits of changing it.

## GTMO NEWS

Capt. Kimberly D. Snow, Joint Task Force, was inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame. Troopers, 525th Military Police Detention Battalion work hard to keep the wheel of the mission running smoothly.

## JSMART / HEALTH

JSMART discusses stressors within the workplace and ways to combat them. The Joint Troop Clinic would like to introduce U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. (Dr.) David Weldon, the officer-in-charge of the Dental Clinic.

## PHOTO STORY

Coast Guardsmen assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo held a water survival training course, May 13 at the Windjammer Pool. Seven JTF Troopers participated, wearing uniforms, body armor and helmets.

## ENTERTAINMENT / HISTORY

Joint Task Force Troopers took part in a 4x4 Trail Ride. Read about the history of the lease agreements between the U.S. and Cuba.

## SPORTS

The Morale, Welfare & Recreation volleyball season kicked off, May 11, with *Praetorians* defeating *Spike the Bag*. *Warning Track Power* demolishes *HHC 525 Spartans* in softball, May 11, with a 17-7 victory.

# MOTIVATORS OF THE WEEK

**AIR FORCE STAFF SGT.  
CHRISTOPHER MURSCH**

**ARMY SGT.  
PATRICK PETRY**

## COVER PHOTO CAPTION

Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman, the Ohio Adjutant General, places a medal around the neck of Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper Capt. Kimberly D. Snow, May 16, on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for being inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame. Snow was inducted for her brave actions in combat more than a decade ago.

## CASUAL CONVERSATION CAN CAUSE CHAOS

Have you ever told someone that information was "off the record?" While you are at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, there is no such thing as "off the record." You are a JTF Trooper 100 percent of the time, in or out of uniform, around family, friends, media or other base visitors. Perhaps you said, "You didn't hear this from me..." and then gave out information, which you were told not to share. This type of casual conversation is a violation of OPSEC and can compromise an operation. Ensure the sensitive information you have been entrusted with, STAYS off the record. Practice rock solid OPSEC!

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# LESSONS LEARNED AS FIRST TIME COMMANDER



I came to Joint Task Force Guantanamo in September as the Deputy Commander of the Joint Medical Group, but in November I was named the permanent Commander due to a policy change. Leading the JMG for the last 7 months has been an amazing experience. Here are the top leadership lessons I learned as a first-time commander.

When making decisions, consider fairness

above all other factors. You'll never keep everyone happy, so you need to make sure your decisions follow policy and are fair. You should be able to explain the rationale behind your decisions to anyone that wants or needs to know why you made them. If you can't, you need to re-evaluate those decisions.

The overwhelming majority of your people are competent, so empower them to do their job. When people come to me with problems, my common response is, "Well what do you want to do?" Sometimes they are surprised to be asked this question, but you don't fix problems in the front office. Your people are competent, smart and creative, and the people on the front lines who are close to the problem are the ones most likely to come up with the best and most efficient solution.

You don't need to know it all. Because I've never done the majority of the jobs in the JMG, I clearly don't know it all. As a leader, you should never be afraid to admit that you don't know. When you admit to your people that you don't know something and that you rely on their knowledge and expertise, it doesn't make you look uninformed. It reinforces to them the value they provide to both you as

a leader and the mission of your unit.

Little things can mean a lot. As a senior leader, small things get magnified in their importance. Inconsequential comments now become policy setting statements. Troopers and sailors notice small details, like how your uniform looks. Something as small as holding a monthly athletic competition can become a command-wide morale booster with lasting impact.

M&Ms can kill morale. No, not the candy. I'm talking about micromanagers and meetings. Realize your people are competent, and let them do their jobs without feeling micro-managed. In addition, by their very nature meetings are collective and, if unnecessary, they can collectively waste a ton of time. Twelve people having a non-productive meeting for 1 hour is 12 wasted hours. Only have meetings when they are necessary, and always respect your people by starting on time, sticking to a pre-established agenda, and avoiding them when they aren't required.

*Article by*  
**NAVY CMDR. JOEL SCHOFFER**  
*Joint Medical Group*

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER: PUT IT IN PERSPECTIVE

Perspective is a point of view, defined as an attitude towards something, or a way of regarding something. We can't change the things that happen to us, but we can change how we look and react to them. Biblically speaking, perspective is understanding something because we see things from a larger frame of reference. It is the ability to perceive how things are interrelated and then judge their comparative importance.

We all know the popular sayings on perspective: the glass is half empty, the glass is half full; beauty is in the eye of the beholder; etc.... but your perspective affects everything that happens to you. For example, is it unbearably hot and humid outside? Or is it such a beautiful sunny day; the sky is blue; the grass is green and we're taking the kids to the park? We have the same exact circumstances, but one view makes you feel good while the other makes you feel bad. The only difference is a shift in our perspective.

This is a prime example of the difference between knowledge and perspective.

Knowledge, is knowing the facts; perspective is understanding why it's allowed to happen. The Bible says a lack of perspective is a mark of spiritual immaturity (1 Corinthians 3:1-2, 13:11, 14:20). In contrast, having perspective is evidence of spiritual maturity, "But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil" (Hebrews 5:14).

Some of the gifts of changing our perspective include:

Resisting temptation. We recognize the long-term consequences of giving into short-term pleasures just aren't worth it. Without proper perspective, we follow our own natural inclinations. "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death" (Proverbs 14:12 NIV).

Handling troubles. We recognize life's challenges are there to help us grow and mature. One of my favorite verses is, "when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has

a chance to grow" (James 1:2-3).

Allowing us to forgive others. Forgiveness is one of the hardest things to do, but unforgiveness left unchecked is like a cancer, it can fester and grow into bitterness and rage causing problems in every area of our lives. Without a change in perspective, we could do something that will negatively affect your families, your careers, your units, or possibly our own lives. This is so important that we are specifically warned against unforgiveness, "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins" (Matthew 6:14-15).

Remember, good things and bad things are going to happen in our lives regardless; we can't change that, but how we view and react to them is up to us.

*Article by*  
**ARMY CAPT. RONNIE DETTMER**  
*JTF GTMO Chaplain*

# SOLDIER INDUCTED INTO OHIO MILITARY HALL OF FAME

It is not every day that a service member gets placed in a Military Hall of Fame, but April 29, the state of Ohio inducted Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper Capt. Kimberly D. Snow, a JTF commander, into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for her brave actions in combat more than a decade ago.

Since Snow was unable to attend the formal induction ceremony state-side, U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman, the Ohio Adjutant General, decided to perform a ceremony during his visit to U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, May 16 to celebrate Snow's achievement.

"When we decided to work the trip to come down here," said Bartman, "we thought it would be a nice surprise to be able to bring the award down here and give it to her in front of some of the leadership at JTF Guantanamo, so they could see the outstanding quality of Soldiers that we have in the Ohio National Guard."

One of the requirements for the Ohio Military Hall of Fame is to have earned a medal for valor, said Bartman. For her tour of duty in Iraq in 2004, Snow earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor.

During the ceremony the award read, "Sgt. Kimberly D. Snow is receiving the Army Commendation Medal with 'V' Device for valorous and extraordinary achievement during ground combat operations against enemy forces in Fallujah, Iraq. Sgt. Snow's dedication to accurately portraying Soldiers' valorous acts on the battlefield proved invaluable time and time again as 2nd Platoon found itself under heavy enemy contact."

Snow was a military public affairs specialist at the time, and when her platoon came under fire, she grabbed her rifle and laid down suppressive fire allowing her and fellow Soldiers to escape. She then grabbed her camera and captured photos of the combat as well as caches, providing the brigade with proof that Fallujah was a safe haven for terrorist forces.

Snow said, "It's definitely humbling to be included in the ranks of such brave men and women."

Ohio created the Ohio Military Hall of Fame to recognize its sons and daughters



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John Harris, the Ohio Assistant Adjutant General, and U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman, the Ohio Adjutant General, visits with Soldiers during his visit to U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, May 16, to express his gratitude for the great work they are doing here.

who earned awards for valor in combat, said Snow. Snow and her husband were both recognized and inducted at the same time. Since she was unable to attend, Snow's husband accepted the honor for her.

"I didn't do anything that the others I was with didn't do that day or any other day," said Snow. "I'm just proud to have served with such amazing Soldiers – both then and now."

Article and photos by  
**ARMY SGT. SHANNON BALL**



Joint Task Force, Guantanamo Trooper U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Grant Burtch poses with JTF Trooper U.S. Army Capt. Kimberly D. Snow after her recognition ceremony, May 16, on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The state of Ohio inducted Snow into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame.

# 525TH MOTOR POOL KEEPS EVERYONE ROLLING

The 525th Military Police Detention Battalion motor pool keeps their vehicles in tip-top shape in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Even though the maintenance team is small, they serve hundreds.

“We are part of the 525th MP Detention Bn., which is tasked with running detention facility operations and Camp America,” said JTF Trooper Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Dugan, the motor pool noncommissioned officer-in-charge. “Specifically, we are part of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company. We have six rotational units, which run the camps, and we support them with maintenance for their tactical and General Services Administration vehicles, licensing and driver’s testing.”

The maintenance team conducts preventive maintenance checks and services, called PMCS, on their equipment based on a monthly and yearly schedule.

“We make sure the military vehicles are up to par and functioning for the unit’s day-to-day functions, as well as emergency events, such as a hurricane,” said JTF Trooper Sgt. Erika Muñoz, the scheduled maintenance noncommissioned officer.

When vehicle operators fail to conduct PMCS to standard or overlook a deficiency because it appears to be only a minor issue, it sets the stage for a domino effect to potentially compromise the mission.

“It’s the simple things, like a broken gauge or loose lug nuts that could mess up the mission if it’s not looked for,” said JTF Trooper Pfc. Jacob Marquez, a construction equipment mechanic.

In addition to tactical vehicles, the crew also keeps construction equipment and generators ready to use. Initially, Troopers here receive non-tactical vehicles supplied through the Office of Fleet Management General Services Administration and ready them for transfer to Centerra for general maintenance.

“We function as the liaison between the customer unit and Centerra,” said Dugan. “If the customer has a problem with their GSA (vehicle), they bring it here and our guys do



Army Pfc. Jacob Marquez, a construction equipment mechanic assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, changes the lubricant in the front wheel gear box of a high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle during a technical inspection.

a quality control inspection on it and then open a job order with Centerra.”

The pace of work for the service crew is



Army Sgt. Christopher Figueroa, a Trooper assigned to U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Joint Task Force, 525th Military Police Detention Battalion install jack stands under a M1097 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle as a safety precaution before removing the front wheels during a technical inspection.

dramatically different than back in the states.

“I came from a line unit, and it is a completely different tempo,” said Muñoz. “At one point in my career, I was assigned to a unit where my responsibilities included fueling helicopters and helping load them with rockets. Going from that to a handful of vehicles and less than a dozen Soldiers is a big change.”

Even though this assignment is not as glamorous, it is still of great significance.

“It’s important that everyone has transportation to and from their job, as well as to any side missions, such as range qualifications,” said Muñoz.

The pace of turning wrenches may have changed, but for Marquez it will always be a highly rewarding experience.

“This is the greatest job in the Army and getting my hands dirty makes me feel like I have earned my paycheck,” said Marquez. “In the motor pool, everyone is a team, a family where everyone is close and we all work together to accomplish the mission.”

Article and photos by  
**ARMY STAFF SGT. MATHIEU A. PERRY**

# WAYS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE



## UNCLE SAM PAYS FOR YOUR COLLEGE

The Fleet and Family Support Center hosts many educational and developmental classes in which Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers can participate. May 12, Mike Rivera, the FFSC personal financial advisor and educator for U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, instructed a free “Paying for College” class for JTF Troopers and NSGB members.

U.S. Navy Capt. Scott Fedor, director of the JTF GTMO Commissions Liaison Office, attended the course to find ways to help pay for his teenage kids’ dreams of attending college.

“I have two kids in high school,” said Fedor. “I will need all the help and advice I can get in order to set them up for success in college. They have big dreams, and I want to help them as much as I can to reach their dreams.”

“‘Paying for College’ is a course that provides information on sources of funding for higher education, focusing on financial aid resources, college savings plans and tax incentives,” said Rivera.

Rivera said the class helps Troopers by providing

information for those looking to take college courses, as well as for those who want to save for their children’s future education.

“For those with children, remember that college costs double every 10 years, so start planning early,” Rivera said. “Time is your greatest asset, so start saving for college as soon as possible. If you start saving at your child’s birth, about 1/3 of your college savings goal will come from interest on your contributions.”

“Paying for College” provides Troopers with options and strategies for understanding the costs and expenses that incur with achieving higher education, said Rivera.

Fedor recommends the class to both service members looking to attend college after separating or retiring from the military and those who want to save for their children’s education.

“Learning about the resources we have at our disposal to advance our own knowledge and career is extremely important,” said Fedor. “Military service only lasts so long and having a solid set of leadership skills, which you can combine with a degree, will provide the best opportunities for transition to a civilian career.”

Understanding how little it takes to save money for college, if you start early, is



important and will help you create a great future for your children, said Fedor.

“The team at FFSC does a great job bringing us valuable programs,” Fedor said. “Leaders within JTF and on Naval Station Guantanamo Bay need to continue to encourage Troopers and Sailors to attend these classes and reinforce their importance. I wish I had attended classes like this 10 or 15 years ago.”

All FFSC classes are free to Troopers. Command units can coordinate with FFSC staff to schedule group classes at x4141.

Article by

**ARMY SGT. SHANNON S. BALL**

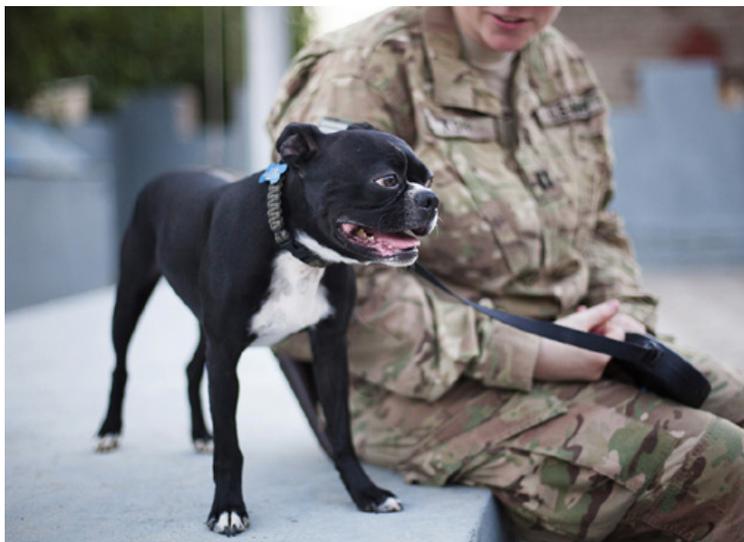




## JSMART SPOT

JSMART HELPER: HARLEY

## CONTROL YOUR STRESS



Although being stationed at such a unique workplace as Joint Task Force Guantanamo comes with excitement, it can also come with a lot of unique

stressors. These stressors include limited time off, high tension with peers—potentially related to living, working and spending off time together— problems

adjusting to shift-work and emotional isolation.

Ways to combat stressors here are a lot simpler than you think. Positive coping skills that you can utilize include calling family or friends, sending letters or care packages home, going bowling, going swimming or participating in any of the other Morale, Welfare & Recreation activities on the island. Some helpful relaxation techniques are meditation, non-required reading, listening to music and exercising. Friends can assist you in performing these skills and techniques or you could decide to do them alone, which helps to release the daily stress in a healthy, fun way.

Be cautious, however, to avoid negative coping strategies like excessive consumption of

alcoholic beverages, isolating yourself or engaging in inappropriate relationships. A healthy lifestyle is an overall way to combat occupational stress. Eating regular healthy meals, exercising and getting good sleep are the basics to a healthy mind and body and will promote your resiliency against daily stressors. For more information or to discuss difficulties that may be affecting you, come to Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team to learn more about our services.

*Article by*  
**NAVY PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS**  
**JONNI GILLISPIE**  
*JTF-GTMO*

# HEALTH

## MEET YOUR PROVIDER



The Joint Troop Clinic would like to introduce U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. (Dr.) David Weldon. Weldon is not a stranger to Guantanamo Bay; in fact, he comes from a Navy family who served eight years on island. After high school, Weldon completed his Doctorate of Dental Medicine degree from Nova Southeastern University, Florida.

He then completed one year of Advanced Education in General Dentistry in North Carolina where he served with Marines.

After a deployment and another duty station, Weldon pursued specialty postgraduate education in Bethesda, Maryland earning a certificate in “Comprehensive Dentistry” and a master’s degree in Oral Biology.

A comprehensive dentist is one who has received two years of specialized training in all the dental specialties including prosthodontics, periodontology, pediatrics, orthodontics, oral pathology, oral surgery, oral medicine, operative dentistry, endodontics, oral facial pain, cosmetic dentistry and implantology.

At the moment, Weldon is serving as officer-in-charge of the Dental Clinic at the Joint Troop Clinic. In the fall, Weldon will serve as the Director of Dental Services at

the U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay. Weldon considers GTMO his home, having lived here longer than anywhere else. He is excited to return here with his family with whom he can share his love of diving.

Weldon believes GTMO has much to offer and stated, “After you’ve lived here, you will leave and dream of this special place.”

To make an appointment at the JTC, call 3395. Working hours are Monday to Wednesday and Friday from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Thursday from 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. with sick call hours from 7 – 8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.

*Article by*  
**NAVY PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS**  
**CAITLYN STRADER**  
*Joint Troop Clinic*

# SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

THE COAST GUARDSMEN ASSIGNED TO JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO HELD A WATER SURVIVAL TRAINING COURSE

In the midst of a hot, sunny day on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, seven Troopers from Joint Task Force Guantanamo put on their uniforms, body armor and helmets to participate in the Coast Guard's Water Survival Course May 13 at the Morale, Welfare & Recreation's Windjammer Pool.

Service members from the Army, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marines trained together in the course. Among the trainees was Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Cosper, the JTF senior enlisted leader.

Upon course completion, trainees obtain certification to wear a law enforcement belt equipped with what is similar to an inflatable life jacket. The equipment is the only flotation device authorized to be worn in conjunction with the Coast Guard's ballistic plate carrier, said Chief Petty Officer Jordan Gere, a JTF Coast Guard

Trooper and water survival training course trainer.

The course goes through a crawl, walk and run phase, said Gere. The participants begin with a swim test that includes different basic swim strokes. Afterwards, the participants learn how to jump into the water properly and practice using the equipment in the shallow end of the pool.

After practicing the removal of gear in the shallow end and the deep end, the final three jumps take place from the top of a 10 foot platform, said Gere. Participants remove all their gear, inflate the flotation device manually and swim to the stairs leading out of the pool.

The risk level of the training was high, and each time a trainee conducted a jump, there was at least one master swimmer and one water survival responder in the water, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Carla Galland, a JTF Coast Guard Trooper and course trainer.

*Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Cosper, Joint Task Force Senior Enlisted Leader, does the backstroke during the swim test portion of the Coast Guard's Water Survival Training Course on May 13. The training course was held at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Windjammer Pool, and lasted around five hours.*





A Trooper assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo prepares to take off her gear after jumping into the Morale, Welfare & Recreation's Windjammer Pool as a portion of the Coast Guard's Water Survival Training Course, on May 13.

## “THERE WAS NOTHING, BUT PROFESSIONALISM FROM THE COAST GUARD”

- COMMAND SGT. MAJ. MICHAEL COSPER

“I make sure the trainees, who are participating in the program, don't drown in the process of getting qualified,” Galland said. “Our job is to be there as a reassurance to the trainees, and also in case of an emergency.”

By the end of the course, the instructors built participants' confidence in survival while in a body of water, said Cosper.

“The training was just unbelievable,” Cosper said. “There was nothing, but professionalism from the Coast Guard. I couldn't be happier with their professionalism, and for them allowing me and the JTF deputy commander to come down and train with them. I used to consider myself a strong swimmer, but after the physical portions of this, I wasn't as strong as I thought I was.”

The Coast Guardsmen assigned to JTF enjoy having other branches of service attend their training because it allows every service to build relationships with one another, said Gere.

“We invited other members from other branches because we continually want to train and work with the other branches to increase the interoperability between crews,” Gere said. “It also gives other branches an idea of the equipment that is being used in a different branch of service.”

Article and photos by  
**ARMY PFC. LAUREN OGBURN**



Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Burkett, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Deputy Commander, jumps into the Morale, Welfare & Recreation's Windjammer pool as a required portion of the Coast Guard's Water Survival Training Course, May 13, on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



A Trooper assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo gets a breath of fresh air after jumping into a pool, and disassembling his body armor, May 13 as a portion of the Coast Guard's Water Survival Training Course.



A Marine assigned to U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, feels the impact of jumping into the pool while dressed in full body armor, May 13. He participated in the Coast Guard's Water Survival Training Course, and received his certification at the end.



A Trooper assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo reassembles her gear after a Coast Guard Water Survival Training Course jump into the Morale, Welfare & Recreation Windjammer Pool, May 13, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Burkett, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Deputy Commander, removes his ballistic plate carrier, and prepares to engage his flotation device as part of the Coast Guard's Water Survival Training Course, May 13 at the Morale, Welfare & Recreation's Windjammer pool on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

# JEEP SEA DRIVING AT GTMO

**A**t the Downtown Lyceum, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers and U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay service members and civilians all took part in the Morale, Welfare & Recreation 4x4 Trail Ride, May 14.

This event is one of the most anticipated events for the off road enthusiasts here and is open to anyone on base who privately owns a 4x4 vehicle. All participating vehicles go through a pre-inspection at the NSGB Auto Skills Shop before being allowed to hit the trails.

The reason there is an event like this is mainly due to Army Sgt. Maj. Robert Mattson, a JTF Trooper, and his wife, Heather.

“Most of the people in our neighborhood had Jeeps, so we started asking about going off-road, and we were told that we were only permitted to go once a year,” said Mattson. “My wife thought that was crazy because of all the Jeeps on the island, so we asked about a Jeep Club and the MWR said that there was not one available.”

The Mattson’s got a small group together to start a Jeep Club. One member did a lot of research and determined the group needed to go through MWR to start the process. That turned into the formation of the first GTMO Jeep club with a monthly 4x4 ride on the second Saturday of each month.

After the safety brief, Katie Prestesater, the community recreation director here, gave out instructions and routes and the drivers set out to see NSGB from a different trail.

There were three not so supple trails the drivers and their passengers took, the Fuel Farm Weapons Trail, Ridge Line Trail and Blind Beach Trail. One of the more challenging was Ridge Line. These trails are normally off limits to any on base drivers, but for the day, they were blazed



by 20 fully-functional 4x4 vehicles.

Once the drivers got off the main drag and into the trails, the real fun began. Drivers took pathways that looked nearly impossible to climb, let alone drive. Fellow drivers cheered on one another as they went through hard passes and came out the other side.

One of the trails took drivers to the top of Stephen Crane Hill. From this vantage point, the drivers and passengers took in sights rarely seen by anyone else here on base. The Ridge Line Trail gave the drivers an over-the-top view of the base as they climbed along the trails.

“There is so much that is hidden and the views are just untouchable from some of the dirt roads,” said Mattson. “We enjoy the new views and scenery and we really get some great pictures. You just have to come out and see what GTMO Jeep club is all about.”

The MWR wanted to let people know that it is not just jeeps that can attend these trail rides, explained Prestesater.

“If you don’t have a

Jeep I know there are drivers out there who would love to take new riders,” said Prestesater. “This time, we had a variety of 4x4 vehicles. This is not just a Jeep thing; it’s a 4x4 thing.”



*Katie Prestesater, the community recreation director, prepares club members to roll out. Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers, service members and civilians all took part in the 4x4 Trail Ride hosted by the Morale Welfare & Recreation team on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.*

*Article by*  
**ARMY SGT. MATT YOUNG**

*Photos by*  
**ARMY STAFF SGT. JESS WILLIAMS**



# SPIKE THE BALL: VOLLEYBALL HITS GTMO



*Spike the Bag spikes the ball to Praetorians, May 11, in G.J. Denich Gym on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during the Morale, Welfare & Recreation volleyball game in the second match. Praetorians went on to win 25-19.*

*Praetorians* came out strong, May 11, on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for the Morale, Welfare & Recreation opening week of volleyball at G.J. Denich Gym as they took on *Spike the Bag*. *Praetorians* dominated *Spike the Bag* by defeating them in just two games, 25-22 and 25-19.

*Praetorians* found a strong rhythm playing together. The elegance of *Praetorians'* passing and setting the ball contributed to

an outstanding performance.

"Our team comes together to keep everyone motivated," said Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper Krysta Manning, coach for *Praetorians*, before the game. "I am very confident the team will do well."

Despite *Spike the Bag's* lack of experience, they still found a strong cohesion that aided them in an effort to beat *Praetorians*. The score teetered back and forth, but *Spike the Bag* unfortunately fell short.

"I believe the first game was the best game because we kept it close for almost the whole game," said JTF Trooper Manuel Ruiz, a player for *Spike the Bag*.

*Praetorians* continued to apply high pressure to *Spike the Bag* to keep them off-balance. *Spike the Bag* tried to capitalize off *Praetorians'* mistakes, but there were just not enough. *Spike the Bag* continued to show heart and spirit through the first game and into the second.

"We played better during the second game," said JTF Trooper Javan Kontz, a player for *Spike the Bag*. "We were communicating

better and pulled very close to winning against the *Praetorians*."

Though it would not be enough, *Spike the Bag* still has a motivated attitude for the remainder of their season, said Kontz.

"Every game, we are getting used to playing as a team and getting better overall," said Ruiz.

Volleyball differs from other sports with team members rotating throughout the matches. Additionally, players do not just play one game in a match, they play the best of a three match series. Volleyball players have to be versatile, possess strong endurance, and stay focused and quick reflexes. Volleyball is also a great way to unwind after a busy day at work.

"I really enjoy the sports that the MWR has provided for us," said Kontz. "It is a great stress reliever."

*Article and photos by*  
**ARMY SGT. MATTHEW TARPLEY**

# HISTORY

## CUBA SIGNS TREATY OF 1934



*Crew members of the U.S. gunboat Eagle performed survey work for the new naval reservation in 1899.*

U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, has a long and interesting history. Something of importance happened here on the anniversary of nearly every week and

month of the year, and May is no exception. Lease agreements have existed between the U.S. and Cuban governments since 1903, and still affect the manner in which the U.S. military utilizes this oldest U.S. military base overseas. Some details about the history of these treaties warrant explanation.

On May 20, 1903, the Republic of Cuba amended its constitution to allow the U.S. to lease Guantanamo Bay as a naval station, based on a treaty between the U.S. and Cuba which Tomas Palma, then-President of Cuba, signed Feb. 16, 1903. Theodore Roosevelt signed it on Feb. 23, 1903. One week later, a joint U.S.-Cuban commission met aboard the anchored U.S.S. Olympia, in Guantanamo Bay. Both sides discussed and agreed on the plans and the U.S. started surveying the very next day.

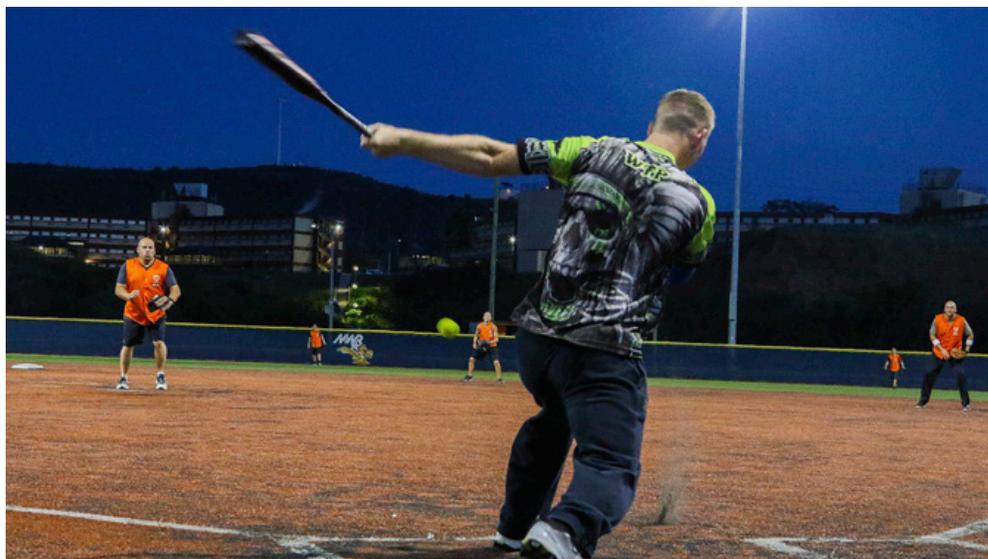
In Washington D.C. May 29, 1934, the U.S. and Cuba signed the Treaty of 1934, which is the current binding legal agreement between the two countries. According to Rear Adm. M.E. Murphy's History of Guantanamo Bay,

"This treaty has the effect of giving the United States a perpetual lease on this reservation, capable of being voided only by our abandoning the area or by mutual agreement between the two countries."

Murphy adds some insight to how the U.S. Government viewed (and still views) this treaty: "Thus it is clear that at Guantanamo Bay we have a Naval reservation which, for all practical purposes, is American territory... we can continue in the present status as long as we like. Persons on the reservation are amenable only to United States legislative enactments... We may not use the reservation for other than a naval station; we have agreed not to interfere with the passage of vessels engaged in Cuban trade; private enterprise is forbidden on the reservation; and we are obligated to prevent the smuggling of materials and merchandise into Cuban territory."

*Article courtesy of*  
**ARMY 1ST SGT. MICHAEL B. SHIMER**

## WARNING TRACK POWER BEAT SPARTANS



Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper Denver Meek, a player for Warning Track Power, slams the ball, May 11, at Softball Field #1 on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during the Morale, Welfare & Recreation softball game against HHC 525 Spartans. WTP won 17-7.

HHC 525 Spartans looked for redemption against Warning Track Power in the Morale, Welfare & Recreation softball game, May 11, on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, at Softball Field #1. The HHC 525 Spartans will have to wait for another day to get even, as they lost 17-7.

HHC 525 Spartans had another match against WTP earlier this May, and this week found themselves repeating the past – with another loss. For many teams it is aggravating, frustrating and stunts a team's progress after enduring a second loss; nevertheless, HHC 525 Spartans did not show that kind of attitude.

"We play defense well, and we have a lot of fight in us," said Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper Jordan Staton, a short stop for HHC 525 Spartans. "As a team we refuse to lay down for anyone."

WTP showed how they could win against the same team more than once by having few errors.

"I feel that our team is all around good," said JTF Trooper Cameron Winning, a first baseman for WTP. "I wouldn't say we excel in just one area. The team can hit the ball and also field the ball."

It is safe to say, WTP believes they are a good team. Some teams need time to adjust and get in a groove, but not WTP. Almost immediately, WTP came out swinging and knocked softballs further out in the field.

"The inning in my eyes that was best was the first inning," said Winning. "We came out fielding strong and hitting strong. The first inning really set the pace for the rest of

the game."

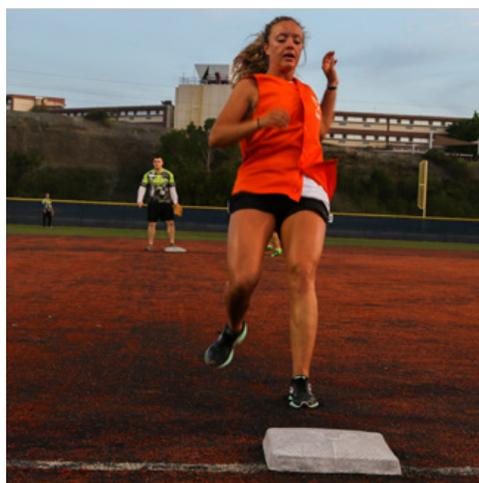
And it showed...

"WTP is a solid team who played some good defense and hit the ball where we weren't," said Staton. "Not a whole lot you can do about that."

The score was never close, but the HHC 525 Spartans never showed or acted as a team that was losing. WTP secured their victory early on and continued to show discipline out on the field to keep their lead.

Article and photos by

**ARMY SGT. MATTHEW TARPLEY**



Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper Karli Holmes, a player for HHC 525 Spartans, runs to third base, May 11, at Softball Field #1 on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during the Morale, Welfare & Recreation softball game against Warning Track Power. WTP won 17-7.

# MWR

## 2016 SPORTS SCHEDULE

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

### MONTH / DAY ACTIVITY

May 17-21	Captain's Cup Events
<b>June 4</b>	Max Performance Games
June 11	JPJ 5 Miler
June 18	Youth Summer Splash
June 25	Power Lifting Meet
June 27	Soccer League starts
<b>July 2</b>	Softball Tournament
July 2	Ridgeline Trail Run
July 4	Golf Tournament
July 11	Basketball League starts
July 16	Cable Beach Run
July 23	Adult Swim Sprint 300 Yard
July 25	Badminton League starts
<b>August 6</b>	Duathlon
August 8	Beach Volleyball League
August 13	Paddle, Pedal, Paintball
August 20	Back to School Splash
August 20	Fitness & Figure
August 22	Ultimate Frisbee League
August 27	All-Night Softball Trnmnt.
<b>September 3</b>	Sprint Triathlon
September 5	Golf Tournament
September 6	Co-Ed Softball League
September 11	9/11 Memorial Run
September 13	Flag Football League starts
September 17	Adult 100 Yard Swim Meet
<b>October 22</b>	Glow Run
October 29	Zombie Run
<b>November 5</b>	Olympic Triathlon
November 19	Max Performance Games
November 24	Thanksgiving Half & 5K
November 26	Across the Bay Swim
<b>December 3</b>	Power Lifting Competition
December 9	Army vs. Navy Game
December 23	Jingle Bell Fun Run
December 24	Holiday Basketball Trnmnt.

For questions contact the G.J. Denich Gym at x77262.



# 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.

5/20 FRIDAY	5/21 SATURDAY	5/22 SUNDAY	5/23 MONDAY	5/24 TUESDAY	5/25 WEDNESDAY	5/26 THURSDAY
<b>The Angry Birds Movie (New)</b> PG, 8 p.m. <b>Criminal (New)</b> R, 10 p.m.	<b>Elvis and Nixon (New)</b> R, 8 p.m. <b>The Boss</b> R, 10 p.m.	<b>Captain America: Civil War</b> PG13, 8 p.m.	<b>Midnight Special</b> (LS) PG13, 8 p.m.	<b>Barbershop: The Next Cut</b> PG13, 8 p.m.	<b>Eye in the Sky</b> (LS) R, 8 p.m.	<b>Captain Horatio Hornblower</b> NR, 8 p.m.
<b>Elvis and Nixon (New)</b> R, 8 p.m. <b>The Huntsman: Winter's War</b> PG13, 10 p.m.	<b>The Angry Birds Movie (New)</b> PG, 8 p.m. <b>Criminal (New)</b> R, 10 p.m.	<b>Eye in the Sky</b> (LS) R, 8 p.m.	<b>LYCEUM CLOSED</b>	<b>Midnight Special</b> (LS) PG13, 8 p.m.	<b>LYCEUM CLOSED</b>	<b>Mother's Day</b> 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 for The Wire? Send your movie review to: [thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil)

## ERIC FANNING, FIRST OPENLY GAY SERVICE SECRETARY



Then-Acting US Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning testifies during his confirmation hearing Jan. 21, 2016, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

The landmark move was praised by the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender civil rights organization. His nomination comes five years after the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" legislation barring openly gay people from serving.

"Eric Fanning's historic confirmation today as Secretary of the U.S. Army is a demonstration of the continued progress towards fairness and equality in our nation's armed forces," HRC President Chad Griffin said in a statement. "Eric Fanning has spent his career serving this nation with tireless dedication, skill and ability, and as secretary he will bring that same commitment to the men and women of the U.S. Army."

Closing Guantanamo was a theme of President Obama's 2008 campaign, and he has pushed to shutter the facility, transferring

detainees overseas a few at a time. Congress prohibited Obama from transferring detainees to US soil, yet the possibility prompted Roberts' actions.

On the Senate floor Tuesday, Roberts announced he had a private meeting with Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work, who told him that he was the official "charged with executing any movement of detainees to the mainland, where he would be unable to fulfill such an order before the close of this administration."

"Practically speaking, the clock has run out for the president," Roberts said.

There was also growing pressure on Roberts to release the hold, including items in the New York Times and Washington Post, which spotlighted Roberts' obstruction on Fanning, widely considered a highly qualified candidate, if not a historic pick. Senate Armed Services Chairman John McCain, whose committee advanced Fanning's nomination months ago, who said in April he had spoken with Roberts "ad nauseum" on the issue.

On Tuesday, McCain appeared beside Roberts and voiced his respect for the concerns of his "friend from Kansas," saying he and Roberts worked on this year's defense policy bill, which — if passed into law — would bar any administration request to reprogram funding to move detainees to the mainland. McCain also praised the US Army base Fort Leavenworth, home to a detention facility Roberts worried would house detainees, and the Army's general staff college.

Earlier in the day, Roberts called Fanning to say he was lifting the hold and to wish him good luck on a speech to graduates of the US Military Academy at West Point. On the Senate floor, Roberts praised Fanning's character and courage.

"He will be a tremendous leader as Army secretary and will do great by our soldiers at Fort Leavenworth and Fort Riley," he said, adding: "I look forward to voting for Mr Fanning, who has always had my support for this position."

Article Courtesy  
**JOE GOULD & AARON MEHTA**  
 Defense News

**RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

**ROMAN CATHOLIC (NAVSTA Chapel)**

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

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

Sunday\* 0900&1900

**PROTESTANT SERV. (NAVSTA Chapel)**

*Traditional\** Sunday 0900&1900 Annex Room 1  
*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)  
*Jewish Study* Friday 1930 Call JTF Chaplain for location\*

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

Wednesday 1800 JTF Troopers' Chapel  
*Holy Smokes* Friday 1800 Plant Nursery  
*Game Night* Saturday 1900 JTF Troopers' Chapel

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

Tuesday 1900 Taught by Navy Chaplain

**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 05:00 - 01:00**

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

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

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

**BEACHBUS (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

**CONFIDENTIAL  
 COUNSELING  
 FOR TROOPERS**

The Military & Family Life Counseling Program, known as MFLAC, is an additional mental health counseling for Troopers seeking confidential counseling outside of JSMART or the Chaplain Office. Call x58406 for more information.

*Photo by Kahn Singh*

# PARTING SHOT



BANANA RAT IN A TREE BY KAHN SINGH. 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**

