

# THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



**Commissions explained**  
**USCGC Ocracoke vigilant over Migrant Ops**  
**8th annual cardboard boat regatta**  
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# One fight, one team

**Army 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt.  
James A. Venske**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

We all know how important teamwork is when a big job needs to get done. Many hands make light work, as the saying goes.

The word “teamwork” often makes us think of sports – allow me to use my beloved Green Bay Packers as an example. When quarterback Brett Favre tried to put the team on his shoulders, he often made some whopper mistakes that cost his team the victory. When he had capable teammates who shared the load and met their responsibilities on the field, the Packers cruised to the division championship game.

The lesson here: Leadership can’t happen alone.

Keeping with the sports analogy for a moment longer, imagine assembling a team of blue-chip players from football, baseball, basketball, soccer and hockey. Now get this talent to work together on a different sport, like volleyball.

This is kind of what a Joint Task Force is like – different players with different methods, but the same desire to play well and to win.

When my unit set foot on Guantanamo Bay two months ago, I didn’t know what to make of the joint experience here. I had never done anything like this in my 28 years of military experience.

What has amazed me is that we all wear different uniforms, we’re all here to support this mission, but there is very little inter-service rivalry. That’s a testament to the quality of the Troopers assigned to the Joint Task Force mission here at Gitmo.

One fight. One team.

To make one team out of many different players, you need to have a clear game plan and the proper execution. We know what our mission is: We provide safe and humane care and custody of detained enemy combatants. We also collect strategic intelligence in support of the War on Terror. We support law enforcement and war crimes investigations. We are committed to the safety and security of those working inside our facilities.

We execute this game plan – this mission – by strictly adhering to the playbook. Each of us has a role to play that complements the other.

Vince Lombardi, legendary coach of the Green Bay Packers, once said “The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.”

Even though Stephen Covey never

coached the Packers – and probably never visited the Joint Task Force at Guantanamo – he still had it right when he said, “Strength lies in differences, not in similarities.” We each bring different skill sets and methods to accomplish the same goal.

We’re here at a truly historic time – we are living history as it plays out on the world stage. We would not be able to do this mission without teamwork, even if our teammate or team captain wears a different uniform from our own.

Carry on.



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### COVER:

**Justin Tanner takes advantage of a block barrier while he prepares to fire at the opposing team during a paintball match at the Paintball Range on June 1.**

– JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Megan Burnham



The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regards to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by the Document Automation & Production Service with a circulation of 1000.

# OARDEC:

## Evaluations, administration and recommendations

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class  
Nat Moger**  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Over the course of the near future the world's eyes will intermittently turn its attention to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and the historic military commissions of detained enemy combatants. However, before any trial may begin, there are countless hours of hard work by numerous organizations involved with the detainees.

The Office for the Administrative Review of the Detention of Enemy Combatants is right at the heart of the detention process.

"We conduct tribunals and administrative review boards determining enemy combatant and threat status on detainees held in Guantanamo Bay in support of Operation Enduring Freedom," said Navy Capt. Ken Garber, officer in charge of OARDEC-Forward here.

OARDEC stood up May 11, 2004. The Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Honorable Gordon England, established OARDEC to provide ARBs for detainees held by Joint Task Force Guantanamo. England was appointed as the designated civilian official with the responsibility of determining whether to release, transfer or continue to detain detainees. OARDEC makes recommendations to England.

On June 28, 2004, the U.S. Supreme Court recommended a military tribunal to determine enemy combatant status based on the ruling held in *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld* that standards of due process for people being detained would be met by notification and an opportunity to be heard. As a result, England established combatant status review tribunals.

In layman's terms, CSRTs and ARBs allow OARDEC to make detention status recommendations to the Deputy SECDEF upon initial detention and over the course of time.

"Detainees are held in accordance with the law of armed conflict," said Garber. "With CSRTs, the enemy combatant status of the detainee is reviewed after they arrive here in Guantanamo."

CSRTs are comprised of a panel of three officers, one of whom is a legal officer. Despite the presence of a judge advocate general, the process is an administrative

review as opposed to a criminal trial.

"After a CSRT the tribunal designates the detainee as an 'enemy combatant' or 'no longer an enemy combatant,'" said Garber.

ARBs are also comprised of a panel of three officers, one of whom is an intelligence officer, which annually reviews the status of enemy combatants. The ARB process balances the risk posed by enemy combatants and the U.S. government's desire to not hold these individuals any longer than needed.

This second review process looks at the status of detainees under the following criteria: the threat the detainee may pose towards the U.S. and the detainee's intelligence value.

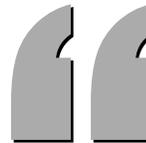
ARBs conclude with a recommendation to the DCO to either release, transfer or continue to detain the enemy combatant in U.S. custody. These decisions can be complicated, with many factors being weighed. The rigor of the ARB process helps to mitigate the risk that a detainee will be transferred or released and then return to the battlefield.

While OARDEC is not part of JTF Guantanamo, both organizations work closely. JTF ensures detention is safe and humane, while OARDEC ensures that proper recommendations are made to keep the right individuals detained.



**Navy Capt. Ken Garber, Officer in Charge of the Office for the Administrative Review of the Detention of Enemy Combatants-Forward, meets with a staff member in their office on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay June 3, 2008.**

"Technically we're not part of JTF," said Garber. "We are integrated into the mission here and we work closely with the staff, and rely on the support they give us."



**With ARBs, we want to make sure no one gets returned to the battlefield that wants to do harm to the U.S.**

– Navy Capt. Ken Garber

Given the amount of weight their recommendations carry, each member of the team understands the importance of performing their job with precision.

"The OARDEC processes play a pivotal role in determining if detainees will be transferred out of U.S. custody," said

Garber. "Therefore, this entire organization takes this responsibility very seriously. I am proud of the dedication and professionalism demonstrated everyday by the OARDEC team." 🇺🇸

# Migrant Ops keep safety at sea paramount



**Coast Guard Cutter Ocracoke ships out from Guantanamo Bay Monday, May 12.**

## **Army Pfc. Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

U.S. Coast Guard cutter Ocracoke, like all Coast Guard cutters, has multiple missions. One of the most important and recurring missions is alien migration interdiction operations (AMIO).

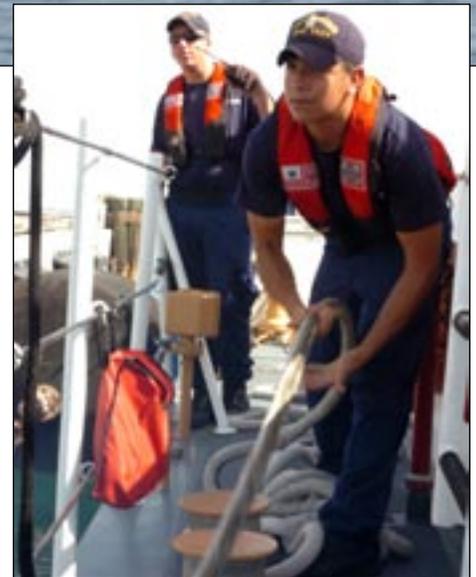
“The main purpose of (this mission) is the safety of life at sea,” said Coast Guard Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class William Martinez, a leading crewman onboard the Ocracoke.

“The reasons we do AMIO is because vessels are usually overloaded or the

conditions are unsafe for migrants onboard,” Martinez continued. “Vessels are usually piloted by someone with little, if any, maritime knowledge.”

The Ocracoke, which docked here twice between missions in recent weeks, has assisted in AMIO for over 20 years. First commissioned in 1986 at U.S. Coast Guard Base, New Orleans, the ship was homeported at U.S. Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, until it recently moved to Coast Guard Sector – Miami Beach.

See **OCRACOKE/11**



**Coast Guard Seaman Robert Navejar reels in a mooring line while Petty Officer 2nd Class Joseph Lombard looks on aboard U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Ocracoke Monday, May 12, as it leaves Guantanamo Bay.**



**Coast Guard Lt. Chris Keene, deck watch officer, examines the area while Coast Guard Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Scott Blackketter, conning officer, pilots U.S. Guard Cutter Ocracoke as it pulls out from Guantanamo Bay Monday, May 12.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Russell

# Commissions keep protection of justice



This courtroom illustration shows Ibrahim Ahmed Mahmoud al Qosi of Sudan August 27, 2004 in Guantanamo, Cuba. (Illustration by Art Lien/Getty Images)

## Army Pfc. Eric Liesse

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

With the signing of the Military Commissions Act of 2006, the U.S. government enacted a system to try alien unlawful enemy combatants for violations of the law of war, while at the same time protecting their rights and safety.

Signed into law by President George W. Bush Oct. 17, 2006, the Military Commissions Act of 2006 also sets the parameters in which the military commissions must be held.

The rules of evidence and procedure for Military Commissions resemble similar provisions in the Manual for Courts-Martial, according to a January 2007 press briefing on the commissions process. Military commissions follow courts-martial in many ways except where needed to accommodate unique aspects of the Military Commissions Act.

The Military Commissions Act defines an alien unlawful enemy combatant as:

“A person who has engaged in hostilities or has purposefully and materially supported hostilities against the United States or its co-belligerents who is not a lawful enemy combatant (including a person who is part of the Taliban, al Qaeda, or associated forces); or

A person who has been determined to be an unlawful enemy combatant by a

Combatant Status Review Tribunal (CSRT) or another competent tribunal established under the authority of the President or the Secretary of Defense.”

Many protections for the accused are spelled out in the Military Commissions Act, including all accused being innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. The accused may also view evidence that will be used against them, can choose whether or not to be present at their trial and testify, and may appeal rulings, even to the civilian court system.

During pre-trial motions here Thursday, May 23, Ibrahim Ahmed Mahmoud al Qosi exercised his right to select a civilian defense counsel over his appointed military defense attorney. After repeatedly stating he did not want any representation by any person appointed by the U.S. government, al Qosi asked to be able to contact home in Sudan to have his family find a qualified civilian attorney.

The presiding judge, Air Force Lt. Col. Nancy Paul, then ordered the present attorneys to work with the International Committee of the Red Cross to secure a phone call from Sudan to Guantanamo Bay for al Qosi. The deadline she gave for scheduling the phone call was July 1.

The process of trying an alien unlawful enemy combatant begins with the prosecution drafting charges against the accused. Once the prosecution has thoroughly investigated the case and

compiled the evidence, charges against the accused are sworn.

After being sworn, the legal advisor to the convening authority, Air Force Brig. Gen. Thomas Hartmann, reviews the charges and provides pre-trial advice to the convening authority. The charges and evidence, along with the legal advice, are reviewed by the convening authority of the Military Commissions, Susan J. Crawford, who was directly chosen by the Secretary of Defense. The convening authority then decides whether to refer all, some or none of the charges to trial. If referred, the convening authority details military members to serve on the trial.

There are at least five members for each trial. Members are similar to jurors in a civilian court. If a guilty finding in a trial could result in a death sentence, there must be 12 members for the trial, and they must reach a unanimous vote on the verdict and the sentence. Any active-duty commissioned officer can serve as a commissions member.

If the accused is convicted, there is an automatic review by the convening authority. The convening authority can mitigate any sentence or dismiss any charge. After that, another automatic review is carried out by the Court of Military Commissions Review. The accused can also appeal to the District of Columbia U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and potentially the U.S. Supreme Court. ♠

# Cardboard + Duct Tape = Boat Race

■ Great Cardboard Box Race '08 a hit!



The crew of the Radio Gitmo Jeep accepts their award for most creative cardboard boat.



Tony Vader and Ian Underwood accepted their 1st place trophy in the open division from Craig Basel.

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class  
Nat Moger**  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Bits of hull lay strewn about the bay. Water balloons littered the nautical pitch. Vikings dragged their longboat onto the shore, while medical personnel lamented the loss of their steamboat.

Hundreds of fans and more than 60 participants showed up for U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's Great Cardboard Box Boat Race 2008.

"The turnout this year was spectacular," said Craig Basel, base morale, welfare and recreation director and race coordinator. "31 boats was the absolute largest number we have ever had."

Among the boats were multiple haze grey U.S. Navy-style vessels, an upside-down cow and a gigantic, replica Jeep. Each vessel was created according to strict guidelines, allowing only corrugated cardboard, duct tape, and non-waterproof paint to be used. Judging from the amount of creativity, laughing and good-sportsmanship generated from this year's event, the race is looking to become a naval station tradition.

"This was our eighth cardboard box boat regatta and we're looking forward to next year's event," said Basel.

The event kicked off with an under-18



**Everyone spent countless hours designing and building their boats. They all deserve a huge round of applause.**

– Craig Basel

youth race. *November, India, Charlie, Kilo* took 1st place, *Got Physics!!* took second and *The W* took third.

In the open division, *The Banana Boat*, piloted by Tony Vader and Ian Underwood from the Public Works Office took the overall top spot. *Banana* utilized a streamlined hull which resembled a kayak more than a cardboard box. *The Bella Rosa* from the Cabiness family took 2nd and *Caltanic* from the calibration lab took 3rd.

*USS Red Rover* from the Naval Hospital

took the best looking boat award and *Road Kill Gourmet* took the best name award. *Wiki Tiki* took the best theme award, mixing transportability and shade into a floating tiki hut. *The Radio Gitmo Jeep* took the most creative award.

"There were a lot of really great looking boats out there, but in the end we just had to give it to the guys from the radio station," said base commander Navy Capt. Mark Leary during the awards presentation.

Finally, *Udder Chaos* from Manitowoc, Wis. took the best Titanic sinking after being run over by *Jeep* two minutes into the race.

The event gave participants an opportunity to display engineering prowess and the crowds got a chance to watch some old-fashioned, good-natured dirty competition as the slower boats switched from trying to win to bombarding their opponents with water balloons and boarding attempts. In the end, however, it was all about people getting together, taping some cardboard and seeing if it would float.

"Everyone spent countless hours designing and building their boats," said Basel. "They all deserve a huge round of applause." ☆



FOR OFFICIAL  
**INDY'S  
RETURN  
CRACKS  
AWAY AT  
LEGEND**

**Army Pfc.  
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

**WARNING:** This review is full of spoilers. They explain why this movie sours childhood memories. If you want to keep the suspense for your first viewing, head to page eight now!

"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," easily the most highly anticipated movie of the year, finally arrived to whip the big screen into a nostalgic ride the way only Dr. Jones can. However, the movie's end is as sharp and painful as a cracking bullwhip.

Starring an older yet still-virile Harrison Ford - proving it's not the years, it's the mileage - the movie does exactly what it set out to do. Punching and exaggerated action sequences, quick and perfect dialogue, too many nameless goons to count - it's all here. It's all a throw-back to the original trilogy, which is in turn a throwback to the pulp-action serials of the 1930s and '40s.

Director Steven Spielberg and executive producer George Lucas know what they are doing here, and it shows.

Set in 1957, 19 years after "The Last Crusade," Ford co-stars alongside Shia LaBeouf as greaser-kid Mutt Williams, keeping up with Ford on every turn. To little surprise, Mutt is revealed as Indiana's son, possessing his trade-mark back-talking.

Series veteran Karen Allen returns as Indy's tenacious old flame, Marion Ravenwood. Being in the '50s, Indiana takes the fight to The Red Menace of the Soviet Union personified by Irina Spalko, a secret agent frigidly and precisely played by Cate Blanchett.

The movie contains several high-flying



**PG-13  
2 hours, 4 minutes**

**Rating:** ★★★★★

action scenes. LaBeouf and Blanchett characters even sword fight while on separate speeding jeeps through the Amazon before Mutt catches a vine and rips into the trees, just to Tarzan-swing back with a horde of monkeys to take out a Soviet vehicle. Traversing man-eating ants and multi-tier waterfalls all testify to Indiana's adventurism.

However, it's not the acting or action that lacerates the movie. In the first big scene, while he and his fedora hide in a refrigerator, Dr. Jones survives an atomic blast in a testing field. If the beginning is this head-scratching, the end can't make a lick of sense.

Spielberg and Lucas transcended the realm of Indy's hey-day into a whole new reality. The crystal skull is alleged to be alien early on, but it's vague enough throughout that you can still hope Indy will finish out the flick by dodging traps and cracking the Soviets full of kangaroo-hide after quelling some ancient Mayan unrest.

It's the computer-generated climax, complete with inter-dimensional rifts and pyramid-destroying spacecraft lifting off into the stars, that dashes these childhood dreams away.

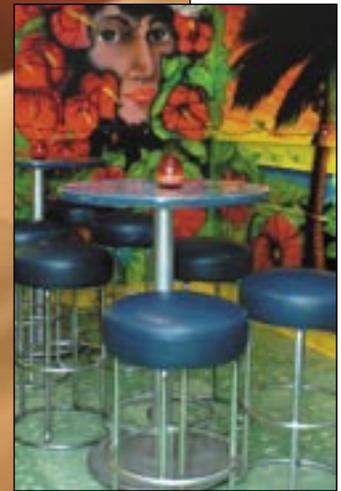
The character that got millions of kids to want to be archeologists is now dealing with aliens. They're genuine, outer-space voyagers with elongated skulls and twirling flying saucers hiding under ancient Mayan ruins. History's role is virtually non-existent by the final few scenes

Yes, this film does take place during the 1950s when the Red Scare and Mars invasions were real fears. Indiana Jones films, however, were throw-backs to old-school adventure with classic machismo and clever dialogue. By the end of "Crystal Skull," Dr. Jones is just a whip-holding bystander watching his legend change before his eyes.

If you don't find the aliens' shoe-horning into the saga unsettling, this is an on-par walk through a memory lane filled with poison darts and bullets well worth the wait. However, the rest of the audience will walk away with disappointment lashed into the child in us all. ★



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Sarah Carter, Navy Chief Petty Officer Eric Jorgensen and Navy Chief Petty Officer Mark DeLeon engage in a game of Spades while spending time at the Iguana Xing.



# Come one, come all

**Army Staff Sgt.  
Emily J. Russell**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

If you're looking for a place to spend time with friends in a relaxed environment that won't put a dent in your wallet, look no further than the Iguana Xing (Crossing).

Located at the top of Chapel Hill, across from the main Naval Station Chapel, the Iguana Xing offers a cozy atmosphere where anyone can kick back and relax. There, you can watch a movie, study, enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee or use the computers which are less restricted than at other public facilities.

"It's really relaxing," said Chief Petty Officer Mark DeLeon. "You can have a conversation or enjoy a game with a small group of individuals. It's totally different than a work atmosphere."

"I spend time there because it (provides a place) to meet people I may not have met and it's a quiet place to just relax," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Sarah Carter. "The air conditioning is cold, the coffee is great and it gets me out of my room. It's a great place to share a laugh."

The Iguana Xing is a safe, clean



environment for Troopers who are not of legal drinking age, or those who choose to be in an alcohol free setting.

"It's a great place to just be yourself without the influence of alcohol," said Carter, "(It) alleviates the awkwardness of drunk people."

Support groups often use the space at the Iguana Xing and anyone can request to

reserve the space for a group function.

"There is religious intent here, not that anyone is preaching," emphasized Chaplain David Mowbray, "but it's an environment to provide outreach to the community. You may not get a (Trooper) to come to chapel but he might be comfortable coming here."

With its bright colored walls and historic photos of Guantanamo Bay, the Iguana Xing has a coffee bar, and occasionally offers other treats when available. Volunteers and visitors often bring food to share, at no cost to others.

Because of the rotational nature of Troopers' deployments and military work schedules for many of the volunteers, more volunteers are needed and encouraged to help out.

"I'm looking for someone who is willing to help manage the staff and give suggestions to make this place better," said Mowbray.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to donate goods to the Iguana Xing and support Troopers; contact Chaplain David Mowbray at david.mowbray@usnbgmto.navy.mil. ✪

# The Great Cardboard Boat Regatta

Photos by Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn Larson, Army Staff Sgt. Emily Russell and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nat Moger

Thirty One boats made entirely of cardboard, duct tape and non-waterproof paint crowded the Guantanamo Bay marina for the 8th annual Great Cardboard Box boat race. Hundreds gathered on the beaches and the piers to watch competitors vie for not only for fastest finisher but for most creative, best name, best looking, best theme and best sinking awards.



# Cutter plays vital role in migrant ops

**OCRACOKE** from 4

“We believe [AMIO] is more search and rescue,” said Luis Diaz, deputy public affairs officer for U.S. Coast Guard District 7. The development of the cutter class of ship in the 1980s was brought on mainly by the war on drugs, which migration can also effect. Diaz added, “All Coast Guard cutters are multi-missioned.”

Cutters were created mainly for AMIO, counter-drug operations and security missions, such as patrolling ports and military bases.

When the Ocracoke intercepts a vessel, either by spotting it or through intelligence from outside sources, procedures are the same.

“We find them in the water when we’re out there, either by coming across them or an aircraft spots them and lets us know where they’re at. Sometimes we get intelligence from a source that says, ‘I saw a boat that is 30 foot long and has 100 people on it.’ Then, we try to locate them,” Martinez explained.

If the migrants accept help and are brought onboard, the crew gives lifejackets, food, water and other necessities, depending on the situation. Then, they are taken back to their country of origin.

“Guantanamo is kind of the epicenter [of AMIO],” said Coast Guard Lt. Chris Keene, captain of the Ocracoke, “This becomes the major staging ground for holding and processing.”

Should a large-scale incident occur, Joint Task Force and the Naval Station play a large role in overall Caribbean migrant operations.

Army Maj. Ricardo Giron, officer in charge of migrant operations for J-3, said “boots-on-the-ground training” is the best way to prepare Guantanamo Bay for a possible large-scale migrant operation. Holding encompassing training exercises, with role-players, table-top planning and involving many different government organizations is an effective way to prepare.

Though a mass migration would encumber Guantanamo, Giron said extensive plans are developed to help offset its effects. The main limitation would be space to house migrants, he added.

Should a mass migration occur, a “tent city” would be erected on the Leeward side of base, “to minimize interference with day-to-day operations on the Windward side,” Giron said.

From one cutter, to a naval base, to an entire Coast Guard district, migrant operations are ever-present. However, at all levels, safety of life at sea is always a chief concern. 📧



**Chief Petty Officer Mike Waters, above, the chief machinery technician aboard Coast Guard Cutter Ocracoke, checks the engine as it begins lighting up Monday, May 12, just before shipping out from Guantanamo Bay. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Eric Liesse**



**Cost Guard Cutter Ocracoke, left, which shipped from here Monday, May 12, holds full equipment needed to perform alien migrant interdiction operations as well as other security missions. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Russell**

# Beating Stress

**Stress! We all experience some level of stress, whether it is finding out your spouse overdrew the bank account, or your superior yelled at you for something that wasn't your fault. Sometimes stress is just related to the long hours of work and your work situation. Everyone experiences some level of stress. Stress has a tendency to make people irritable, moody and forgetful, among other symptoms. Everyone needs to relieve a little stress.**

## 7 suggestions for relieving stress from JSMART

1. Take a time out- Sometimes all we really need is a little break to gather some perspective. Take a break; walk away from the situation for a few minutes and clear your mind. Take a breath before returning to the situation.
2. Engage in physical activity- Find an activity you enjoy and get involved. Go for a walk, a run, swim or play a sport. Get moving and get involved.
3. Help someone else- Focus on others. Get involved and find ways to help others.
4. Find creative outlets- Take a pottery class, write a poem, write in a journal, draw, find some way to express yourself and be creative.
5. Identify the things that trigger your stress- By identifying your triggers or stressors you can make an effort to avoid certain people or things that increase your stress as much as possible.
6. Seek social support- Get involved. There are a lot of groups on base to get involved with. By getting involved in a book club, bible study, scrabble group or other group or organization, you can get your mind off your troubles and relieve a little stress while learning or just having a good time.
7. Talk to someone- Talk with people. If you are having a hard time and feel like there is no one to talk to, see the chaplains or JSMART. There are people who want to hear your problems, people who can help. Talk with them.





## History unfolds

**Army Col. Steven David, chief defense counsel for the Office of Military Commissions, addresses civilian media during a press conference following the arraignment of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four other alleged 9/11 co-conspirators in McCalla Hangar here June 5. If found guilty, the accused may face capital punishment. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nat Moger**

## Boots on the Ground

*by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nat Moger*

*Where do you most like to hang out around Guantanamo Bay?*

**Navy Petty Officer  
3rd Class Julio Mejia**



**"I like the disc golf course for the exercise."**

**Army Sgt.  
Daniel Thomas**



**"I like hanging out at Windmill beach since it's more open and less crowded than other beaches."**

**Army Staff Sgt.  
Dennis A. Rodriguez**



**"I go to the bowling alley for stress relief."**

**Navy Petty Officer 3rd  
Class Josh Langlois**



**"I like going to the gym because after awhile working out becomes addictive."**

# May we always remember



Soldiers prepare to invade Normandy shores during the amphibious landings as part of Operation Overlord on June 6, 1944, during World War II.

## **Navy Lt. Cmdr. Daniel McKay**

JTF Guantanamo Command Chaplain

This Friday, June 6, 2008, is the sixty-fourth anniversary of D-Day. Known as “Operation Overlord,” D-Day was the largest, most complex military endeavor in history. Involving more than 850,000 personnel from a dozen or more nations, its success called on the highest order of organization, skill and execution at all points of entry – land, sea and air. The operation’s scale truly boggles the mind: 6,900 vessels, 4,100 landing craft, 12,000 aircraft, 1,000 transports for paratroopers, 10,000 bombs, 14,000 attack sorties, et cetera. As a result of the heroic efforts of all involved, the names of the beachheads along Normandy, France, are indelibly inscribed in the world’s collective memory: Omaha, Utah, Sword, Gold and Juno.

Winston Churchill’s charge, first delivered May 13, 1940, was again utilized as a rallying cry: “Victory at all costs, victory in spite of terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival.” The costs, of course, were already great, for just a few weeks before the operation was kicked into action by Gen. Dwight Eisenhower’s simple order, “Okay . . . let’s

go,” nearly 650 Soldiers and Sailors had died in a training exercise off the shore of Devon, England. By the operation’s close, more than 10,000 personnel would be killed, wounded or captured.

To those involved in the operation, Eisenhower provided a letter of encouragement and inspiration. The words he penned reminded them of their purpose, professionalism and true Source of their power and strength for the fight ahead. He wrote:

“Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force! You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you.

“In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world. Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, and well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

“But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The united nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open

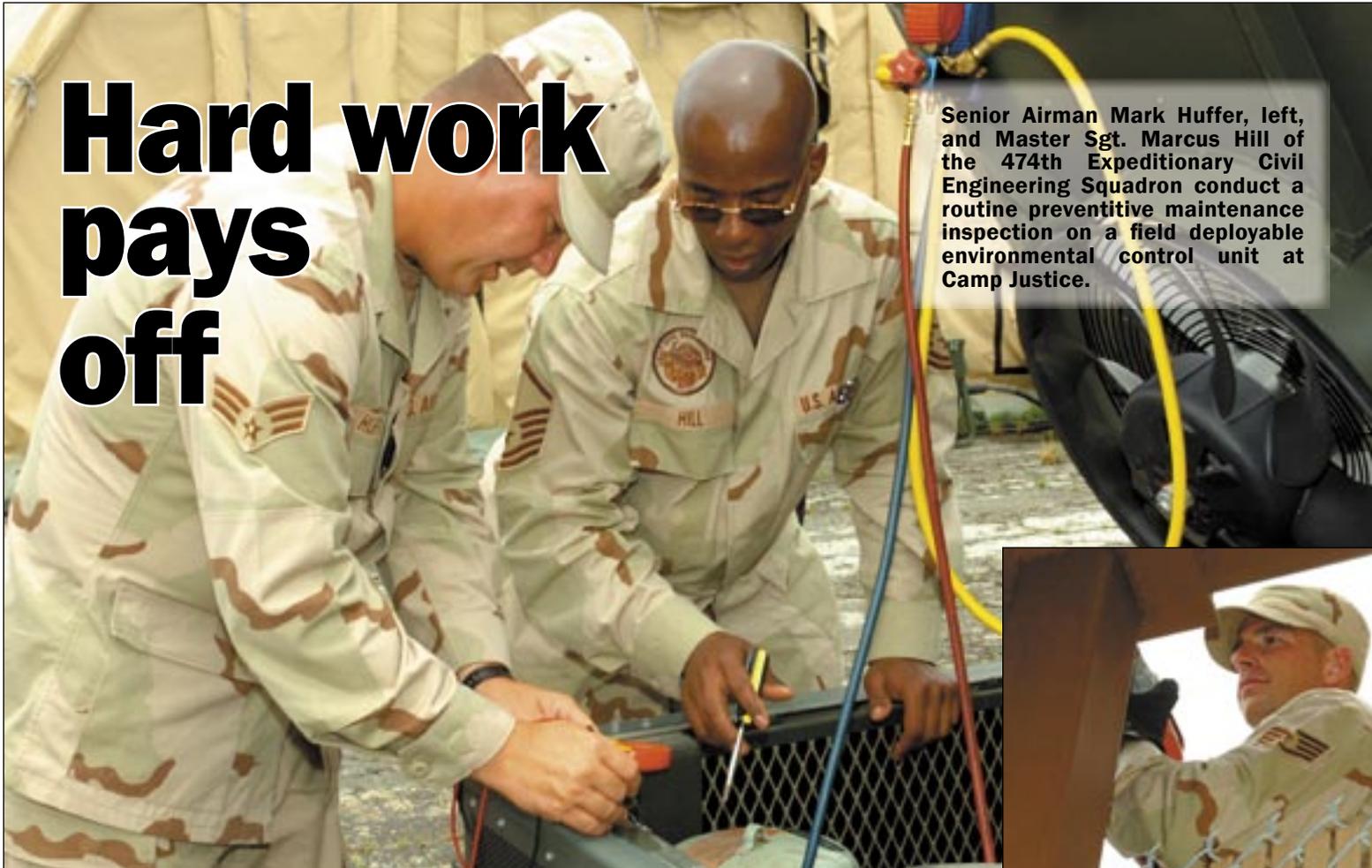
battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our home fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

“I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory! Good luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.”

May we ever remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the blessings of freedom we enjoy today, and those who so gallantly fought beside them and pressed their shared cause on to victory. It is as President Ronald Reagan so well stated, in commemoration of D-Day’s 40th Anniversary: “Strengthened by their courage, heartened by their valor, and borne by their memory, let us continue to stand for the ideals for which they lived and died.”

With God as our Protector, Guide and Strength in our current struggle, I know we can and we will – all the way to victory! (Psalm 20:7) ✪

# Hard work pays off



Senior Airman Mark Huffer, left, and Master Sgt. Marcus Hill of the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron conduct a routine preventive maintenance inspection on a field deployable environmental control unit at Camp Justice.



**Army Spc. Megan Burnham**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

**Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Street of the 474th ECES works near the commissions site here.**

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba (June 06, 2008)- From working in hot, dusty conditions to walking in inches of water after a sudden rain shower, certain Airmen of the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, from the Texas and Mississippi Air National Guard continue to conduct their work and succeed in their job at Camp Justice on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

Master Sgt. Marcus Hill, Staff Sgt. Brian Street and Senior Airman Mark Huffer have been seen continuously going above and beyond in their duties and responsibilities. Since first arriving on base in February, senior leadership has been using their own means to recognize Airmen and reward them for all their hard work in completing the mission.

This has been accomplished by submitting recognized Airmen, including Hill, Street and Huffer, to compete against all Air Force deployed units for the Deployed Air Forces Southern monthly awards at 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force in Tucson, Ariz. Each month, over 3,100 members compete for these awards.

The monthly award is divided into four sections that include Airman, Non-Commissioned Officer, Senior Non-Commissioned Officer and Company Grade Officer. Only four awards are given in each category, one to represent

each of the four regions that make up the Air Force. Recipients of this award are presented certificates and coins as proof of recognition for all their hard work.

"We want to make sure our Airmen are recognized and compete at some kind of level," said Air Force 1st Sgt. Scott Clarkson. "The 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force is a very high level. To win that, you've accomplished something."

The mission of the 474th ECES in Guantanamo Bay is to construct and maintain the Expeditionary Legal Complex and Camp Justice facilities, and infrastructure in support of the Office of Military Commissions

The deciding factors at the 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force level are the explicit accomplishments that highlight that specific Airman above everyone else. However, the description of all their accomplishments and qualities must fall within an eight-sentence limit.

Since the beginning of their deployment, three distinguished Airmen including Hill, Street and Huffer have achieved the AFSOUTH monthly award in their sections.

Hill, a senior lever heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) craftsman, achieved the Senior NCO of the month award in March. He was nominated by his supervisor Master Sgt. Michael Hamilton,

HVAC shop superintendent.

"It's been a great experience," said Hill. "It lets you know that your hard work is realized and appreciated and some of the things you're doing is setting you apart from the crowd."

During the month of April, Street, pavements and equipment craftsman, was awarded NCO of the month. He was nominated by his supervisor Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Cox, heavy equipment supervisor.

"Street is an outstanding Airman; he's technically and professionally proficient," said Cox. "He does an excellent job in everything he does...it's well deserving for him to get this award."

Huffer, HVAC specialist, received Airman of the month also during April. He was nominated by Hamilton as well.

"It's a great achievement," said Huffer. "It's probably the greatest achievement I've accomplished since I've been in the military."

Certain qualities like attitude, job performance and quality of job completed are considered necessary for the supervisors in determining who they choose to nominate for this award.

"I nominate the guys that are going above and beyond," said Hamilton. "I nominate those that are really pushing forward to learning their craft as best as they can; even on their off-duty time."



Scattered thunderstorms earlier in the day and the threat of more rain failed to keep a handful of hardy movie-goers away from the U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's downtown Lyceum Tuesday, June 3 to watch the Paramount Studios-MTV Films release, "Stop Loss." - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson



Josh Trusty, a skid loader with Mid-American Golf, moves dirt Wednesday, June 4 at Cooper Field, the athletic field adjacent to Denich Gym. The project is tentatively scheduled for completion in August. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class James Proctor "ollies" over a ramp at the Denich Gym skate park Sunday, June 1 while brushing up on his skateboarding skills with Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Ronald Casasanta - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell ▶



Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Devlon Johnson shows Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan Nelson, both of the Port Security Unit 313, some additional areas that needed to be cleaned on an M240-B crew served weapon. Maintenance is performed on the weapons four times daily to prevent rusting due to the constant exposure to salt water. JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Gretel Sharpee

# AROUND THE JTF