

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



You heard it here

JTF commander speaks about
our future

Winning it all

525th Trooper of the year

Part of the solution, not the problem

**Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer
Ron Becknauld**

JIG Senior Enlisted Leader

Editor's Note: Last week the Trooper to Trooper column written by Coast Guard Command Master Chief Wayne Miesen was accidentally credited to Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Ron Becknauld. We are running Becknauld's column with the correct byline and photo this week, and Miesen's column will appear next week.

Have you ever been angry over negative circumstances that seem to affect only you, upset by actions or inaction of others, or characterized some situation as just plain dumb? You are not alone.

If I added up the number of hours I have invested in complaining alongside my fellow associates over the years, it would most likely be embarrassing. Some complaints were worthy of grievance while others were just old-fashioned complaining. No matter what service – Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard or Air Force – the problems you and those around you experience will never improve through venting alone.

A valuable tool and tenet that I have employed during my career is “Be Part of the Solution, not the Problem.” The steps taken to live up to this ideal are: do not act in anger, identify those causes worthy of action and develop achievable solutions that you are willing to champion.

Scrutiny, disagreement and personal viewpoint are powerful tools for progress and change when used to identify solutions for the greater good. Never act in anger and avoid the pitfall of mistaking anger for passion. Two quotes from Dr. Laurence J. Peter apply, “Speak when you are angry – and you will make the best speech you’ll ever regret.” “Real, constructive mental power lies in the creative thought that shapes your destiny, and your hour-by-hour mental conduct produces power for change in your life. Develop a train of thought on which to ride. The nobility of your life as well as your happiness depends upon the direction in which that train of thought is going.”

The test for identifying grievances worthy of action is within the solution. Is the solution self-serving? If the answer is yes, then the solutions to your woes lie within yourself. Solutions that improve the lives of others as well as your own is worthy of your passion and talents.

Develop fully rounded solutions, to the problems you want to solve. Be your own devils advocate. Look for obstacles and incorporate answers into your proposals. By doing so, you will be able to determine if your solution is obtainable or not. The chain of command is a powerful tool but it is not the “easy button.” Use the chain of command as a tool of empowerment for championing your cause, not as a convenient handoff. The future and progress of the United States Armed Forces is in the hands of those who are capable of seeing the higher truth and willing to take on the responsibility of employing action.

Idealism is the conception of things as they should be or as one would wish them to be. Herbert Hoover stated, “Words without actions are the assassins of idealism.” Those who want to be “part of the solution” act on solutions for the common good, and individuals who are “part of the problem” will continue to increase their tally of hours devoted to criticism that yields no results. ★



JTF GUANTANAMO

Commander:

Navy Rear Adm. David M. Thomas, Jr.
Joint Task Force Command Master

Chief:

Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Brian T. Schexnaydre

Office of Public Affairs:

Director:

Navy Cmdr. Pauline Storum: 9928

Deputy Director:

Army Capt. Kim Kleiman: 9927

Supervisor:

Army 1st Sgt. James Venske: 3649

The Wire

Executive Editor:

Army 1st Lt. Adam Bradley: 3596

Editor:

Army Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson: 3651

Assistant Editors:

Army Staff Sgt. Emily Russell: 3592

Army Staff Sgt. Gretel Sharpee: 3594

Staff Writers:

Army Spc. Megan Burnham: 2171

Army Spc. Eric Liesse: 3499

Graphics:

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher

Dollar: 3589

Contact us

Editor's Desk: 3651 or 3596

From the continental United States:

Commercial: 011-53-99-3651

DSN: 660-3651

Email: thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

Online: www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

COVER:

Dr. Donald C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy, walks through Camp 4 during a visit to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Feb. 17. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Carlynn Knaak



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.



Until the mission is complete

Navy Rear Adm. Dave Thomas, Jr. takes time to speak with Joint Task Force Troopers during a recent tour of Camp 6. – JTF Guantanamo Photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson.

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The decision to close Joint Task Force Guantanamo is no longer just a campaign promise but a reality now that the Executive Order has been signed. Naturally, JTF Troopers are curious to know what the fate of the detention facility and the JTF will be.

“[President Obama] said the detention facilities will close by the 22nd of January, 2010,” said JTF Commander Navy Rear Adm. David M. Thomas, Jr. “That’s an order, and I, as a military member, understand orders. It’s not a suggestion or a recommendation, it’s an order. I don’t have opinions about them, I perform my duties and the missions that I have in accordance with my orders.”

These words hold true for every Trooper. Although we have a new order, our mission remains the same.

“We have to maintain our focus on those missions – the safe and humane, legal and transparent care and custody of these detained enemy combatants, intelligence collection for force protection and support law enforcement in the global war on terrorism and support for the Military Commissions – it’s very important,” Thomas said.

According to the JTF commander, the Executive Order is more significant to the policy makers and legislative and judicial branches in Washington than it is to Troopers here in the short and mid-term.

“What the Executive Order does is direct many folks in Washington to perform an evaluation of JTF Guantanamo within 30 days for compliance with Geneva Convention

Common Article Three,” Thomas explained. “[Navy] Adm. [Patrick] Walsh, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, is here with a team of 10 other senior Department of Defense officials evaluating every aspect of JTF Guantanamo. He has 30 days to do it.”

Thomas explained a provision of the Executive Order which requires the individual evaluation of all the detainees here and the evaluation of all the intelligence and information that the government has collected about the detainees to assess each detainee, with the findings reported back to the president.

“Then, within one year, the closure of the facility,” Thomas added. “We will support those reports and evaluations and of course await a timeline or decisions on the transfer or release of the detainees. But, those decisions will be made in Washington.”

Thomas emphasized that until the last detainee is gone and the last bit of this facility is closed down, Troopers will remain focused on the three missions.

“In the Navy, when we deploy, the most vulnerable time of that deployment isn’t when we’re launching aircraft or engaged in forward activities, it’s that transit back when the deployment is over and all we’re doing is transiting,” Thomas said. “[If] you let your guard down and you stop focusing on being safe, that’s when accidents are most likely to occur, and you’re likely to lose your edge.

“We are going to run through the finish line with the same focus and dedication that we’ve had all the way through,” he continued. “We’re going to do this right until the last detainee is gone. We’re going to finish strong.”

According to Thomas, the Executive Order changes nothing in the relationship between JTF and the Naval Station.

“The JTF gets marvelous support from the Naval Station, Navy Region Southeast and the entire Navy chain of command,” he said. “We also get fantastic support from Morale, Welfare and Recreation, as well as support in construction projects and maintenance.”

Thomas is frequently asked about ongoing projects he has in place to refine the conditions of detention operations in the JTF.

“I’m asked, ‘Since we know the facility is going to close, we’re going to stop all this, right?’ The answer is ‘no,’” he said.

Thomas decided, in consultation with his staff, that the right thing to do was to address these issues that would continue to improve the detention facility.

“Whether it’s for 11 months, 11 years or 11 days, those things are still the right thing to do.”

Thomas explained the necessity of moving ahead with the projects and programs that he and his staff plan to refine.

“There’s no timeline on the right thing to do, so I’m going to press ahead with those initiatives,” he stated. “We’re going to finish this correctly, the right way, as our country would expect us to do.”

“Our Troopers are my main battery,” Thomas explained, as he expressed his pride in the men and women who support this mission.

“I’m really proud of what we do here,” he said. “Every day I recognize what an important mission this is for our country and how important it is to do it right. I’m grateful to be part of this team.” 🇺🇸

Attitude is key for next level

**Army Spc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

For enlisted Troopers and commissioned officers, standing before a board of superiors is a long-time tradition of advancement. Taking a barrage of questions from leaders you may not even know, maintaining strict military bearing, and remembering a laundry list of both vital and obscure military knowledge are all expected.

Two 525th Military Police Battalion Soldiers did more than answer questions as they went before the U.S. Army South Soldier of the Quarter and Non-commissioned Officer of the Quarter boards this week in Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

The two Joint Task Force Guantanamo Soldiers, Sgt. Jonathan Vasquez and Spc. Juan Jackson, left Guantanamo Feb. 14 to participate in the competition. The boards last five days and included events such as a standard panel of questioning rifle qualification, physical fitness test, an obstacle course and a land navigation exercise.

"[The USARSO board] has a lot more situational questions," Vasquez said Feb. 13. "It's a lot more putting in your own perspective and opinion."

"I think it'll be more competitive," Jackson said Feb. 13, comparing his USARSO board expectations to his past experience. "It's their best and it's our best." He added that not knowing anyone he's going to be competing against makes the entire event "fresh."

The two Soldiers were selected by the

525th because Jan. 22 each was selected as Soldier and NCO of the Quarter, respectively, with the 525th's battalion-wide board. Both won monthly boards for November 2008, with Jackson taking Soldier of the Month and Vasquez taking NCO of the Month.

Jackson said that the USARSO board will only be his third military board ever.

"I'm not a person [who is] easily intimidated," Jackson said. "I have confidence in myself."

Jackson said that he prepared for his USARSO board by simply studying whenever the opportunity came up.

"That, and I try to maintain a positive attitude," he added.

Vasquez, a shop foreman and tool custodian for the 525th's motor pool, said he got his studying in even when performing other tasks. Vasquez went to USARSO's website and downloaded a digital audio file of the board study guide and put it on his personal music player to listen to.



Army Spc. Juan Jackson, posing after winning the November 2008 Soldier of the Quarter competition, expects stiff competition at the U.S. Army South board. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard



Army Sgt. Jonathan Vasquez, here performing routine maintenance a Joint Task Force Guantanamo vehicle, competed in the U.S. Army South Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter board this week at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard

Vasquez said he also received plenty of help and advice from his supervisors, specifically Staff Sgt. Adrian De Jesus, the battalion master driver and Vasquez's sponsor NCO for the USARSO board.

"[Vasquez] is the type of guy that all he needs is the ingredients," De Jesus said. "That's what he does; he's constantly trying to improve things."

As his board sponsor, De Jesus will present Vasquez's basic packet to the board's sitting sergeants major, as well as provide an opening statement about his Soldier. Although De Jesus has done the job in the past, he's never gone to such a "big board" before.

"It's a very new experience for me as well," De Jesus said.

Jackson and Vasquez both said they believe going before a board is all about attitude and preparation.

"I say I own the place for the next 20 minutes," Vasquez said. "Be confident, sound off and just maintain your military bearing."

"Stay calm, and if you're prepared, you're prepared," Jackson said. "If you know it, you know it. Make some noise." ☆



Speaking from the top



Dr. Donald C. Winter, the Secretary of the Navy, also visited U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Carlynn Knaak

**Army Staff Sgt.
Gretel Sharpee**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Speaking to the Troopers at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Dr. Donald C. Winter, the Secretary of the Navy explained the importance of their mission during an All Hands Call, Feb. 17.

“You are taking part in a very technical mission,” Dr. Winter said. “The leadership appreciates the sacrifices you and your families are making.”

The short meeting highlighted Guantanamo Bay’s long history and long future due to its critical location and unique mission.

Winter discussed ways the base would continue to improve through improved family housing, fitness centers and healthcare facilities. He also noted that continuing education options for Troopers and their families would continue to be a priority.

“The most important thing to me is making sure you have what you need by way of training and taking care of families,” Winter said. ★

Dr. Donald C. Winter, the Secretary of the Navy, presents a member of the Joint Task Force Guantanamo guard force with a coin, as token of appreciation in Camp 4 Feb. 17.

Some fun underwater competition



A judge of the Reef Raiders Scuba Olympics relaxes on the ocean floor at Phillips Dive Park waiting for any participants who have not yet competed at his station.

Army Spc. Megan Burnham

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

For scuba divers at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, most dives are spent exploring the tranquil underwater world or partaking in activities like underwater fishing, wreck diving, deep diving or night diving.

However, for one day out of the year, scuba diving becomes a competitive sport for the annual Reef Raiders Scuba Olympics.

“The event is pure underwater fun with some out-of-the-ordinary experiences,” said Bill Keenan, member of Reef Raiders.

The Scuba Olympics, held Feb. 15, has been an annual event since 2001 when a group of Reef Raiders members, Keenan included, were brainstorming a unique underwater event.

The event was held Sunday morning at Phillips Dive Park where 32 participants, in teams of two, competed in seven underwater events. The events included the coin drop, ring toss, “toypedo” toss, hoop relay, melon relay, 3-legged relay and musical chairs.

“Events fluctuate from year to year, and we always try to bring at least one new event to the competition,” Keenan said. “This year was the three-legged relay. While we had seven events this year, we

have about 20 events in the game bag for future Olympics.”

In each event, participants were competing against everyone to swim the fastest, throw the farthest, get the most rings or coins on the poles, or win in musical chairs. The melon relay, the three-legged relay and musical chairs were all team events while the coin drop, the ring toss, the “toypedo” toss and hoop relay were individual events.

Whoever did the best in each event was given a blue poker chip that represented three points. The second best received a red chip representing two points, and all other participants received a white chip representing one point.

Phillips Dive Park has been the location of the Scuba Olympics since it first started. It has been determined as one of the safest dive sites on base where the flat, sandy bottom makes setting up easy and preserves the integrity of the surrounding sea life.

“While the name Reef Raiders implies a negative connotation towards the underwater environment, the club membership is committed to preserving the ecosystem while promoting fun diving,” Keenan said.

After the competition ended, the acquired chips were counted to see who had done the best overall. The first-place finisher received a dive computer, the

second-place finisher received a dive bag, and the third-place finisher received scuba hangers and an underwater flashlight.

The results showed a first-place tie, 38 points, between Brian Rogers and Miguel Estrella. Colin Kerrigan placed third receiving 36 points overall. To break the tie, Rogers and Estrella competed in a paper-rock-scissors competition where Roger won. However, he wanted the dive bag so Estrella was awarded the dive computer instead.

“I was shocked that I actually won a dive computer by playing a game of paper-rock-scissors,” Estrella said. “The fact that I was diving with a computer that doesn’t work made it more rewarding since I was planning to buy one soon.”

All in all, this year’s Scuba Olympics was a great success with great anticipation for next year. Reef Raiders will be promoting a fun dive to Leeward for folks not familiar with the area next month.

“It’s better known as an orientation dive for divers not experienced in [safe entry and exit techniques], the type of entries and exits, or the area,” Keenan said.

To become a member or obtain information on future events, stop by the Reef Raiders club or online at reefraidersgtmo.org. They are open Monday through Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. and on Saturday, Sunday and holidays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ☆

Stylish? Yes. Good? No.

**Army Spc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Never in my geeky life did I ever think I would walk out on something comic legend Frank Miller himself created. However, with his latest project, “The Spirit,” the unthinkable happened.

The creator of “Batman: Year One,” “The Dark Knight Returns” and “300” decided to throw his fedora into the ring by taking on his first solo writer-director role, adapting the Will Eisner serial newspaper comic “The Spirit” into a feature film.

Like Tim Burton making “Alice in Wonderland,” it seems like this would be a perfect fit. Miller’s infamous neo-noir style and knack for visual storytelling could make a mind-blowing picture with just enough plot to tie it together.



However, Miller didn’t keep these elements on an even keel. At no point in the film can the audience even begin to care about what’s going on. The characters have little-to-no introduction and just begin to do things for no apparent reason. Plus, Gabriel Macht as “The Spirit” never once seems to show a hint of emotion in his “crime-solving everyman” character. Very quickly, this film falls flat on its overly flashy face.

The story is simple: Macht is Denny Colt, aka the Spirit. He’s a cop back from the dead who tries to fight crime in a simple black suit, black trench coat, black fedora and red tie. Did I mention that it’s done in an over-the-top, neo-noir style? Think “Sin City,” but not as good. “The Spirit” even has Macht wearing Converse All-Stars sneakers like Clive Owen’s “Sin City” character. However, Owen made them look so much cooler.

The Spirit runs into his nemesis, the Octopus (Samuel L. Jackson), early on in the film, as Octopus tries to steal the chest holding the blood of Heracles from the Central City mud flats (which is the first place I would look for it) femme fatale Sand Saref (Eva Mendes) is already there stealing the other chest, which holds the treasure of the Argonauts.

All this begs the question: Why would a Greek demigod’s blood and the treasure of a mythological hero be there? One of the two I’ll let slide, but both? That makes as much sense as Samuel L. Jackson spouting agonizingly long monologues in a Nazi uniform – which also happens in this movie.

Some fighting ensues between the three, with Saref and Octopus escaping with the wrong chests, and the Spirit seemingly dead. But remember he’s undead, so he’s fine.

Nothing really picks up from here. There is a surprising amount of dialogue for such a showy film, with some scenes dragging on so long even the characters cry boredom. The artistic style is kind of cool for about 15 minutes, then it just gets in the way of telling an actually interesting story.

The one saving grace of the film is a peppering of hilarious lines. For instance, the Spirit tells the Octopus after their first fight, “I’m gonna kill you all kinds of dead.” These absurd quotes alone merit at least a half star.

Yes, I did go back and finish the film a few days later. Still, I saw nothing which warranted even a free viewing because, despite its name, this film has absolutely no soul. ☆

PG-13
1 hours, 43 minutes

Rating: ★☆☆☆☆



The Scuba Olympics of GTMO

1st Place - Brian Rogers
 2nd Place - Miguel Estrella
 3rd Place - Colin Kerrigan

Melon Relay



3-Legged Relay

Three teams wait in anticipation for the buzzer to sound to begin the three-legged race along the bottom of Phillips Dive Park.



A Scuba Olympics participant races through five hoops to obtain the fastest time.

Grassline - - - - -
 10
 30
 Toypedo Toss



Ring Toss

Miguel Estrella throws the "toypedo" as far as he can in one of the seven events of the Scuba Olympics. This task was easier said than done.

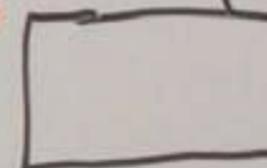


A musical chairs contestant waits for the buzzer to sound to compete against four other divers.



Shane Lauritzen attempts to drop a washer-coin on the pole during the coin drop competition.

Can Drop



JTF Guantanamo photos by
 Army Spc. Megan Burnham

Dive Pier

Musical Chairs
 □□□□

Shoreline - - - - -

Come and get it!

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Fellowship and a free meal is always an appreciated gesture, no matter who you are. For the Troopers working here, a barbeque with burgers, hot dogs and all the “fixin’s” provides an opportunity to relax with friends, if only for a few minutes.

“We [barbeque] for morale and to show appreciation for the Troopers working behind the wire,” said Army Capt. Eric Bey, Chaplain for the 525th Military Police Battalion. “I’ve been doing it since I got here in July. Troopers love it.”

What began as a suggestion from the chaplains’ assistants over a year ago, according to Bey, has become a popular event for all Troopers at Camp America.

“When I came on board, I kinda took it over, and the [chaplains’ assistants and religious program specialists] assisted,” Bey said. “Their reason for doing it is for the troops. Initially, it was mainly just for HHC but I said we need to do this at the camps because those guys are working harder than we are.”

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan Richman, a religious program specialist, takes part in the cook-out and enjoys supporting the event.

“I think it’s great. It raises morale and gives guards a break from their job and a chance to mingle,” he said.

The barbeque lets the chaplains and their assistants reach out to Troopers, who might not otherwise have time to meet the chaplains.

“It’s opened doors for ministry,” Bey said. “People have called on me that normally wouldn’t have because they didn’t know me.”

“I enjoy hanging out with ‘Chaps’ and support the things they do for the Troopers,” said Army Sgt. Aaron San Luis at the last barbeque Feb. 6.

The chaplains may not be able to hold barbeques as often in the future because the funding for it is low.

“Tithes and offerings [collected during church services] pay for it, and [the funds] are down,” Bey said. “We used to do it every other week, alternating between locations, but now without funds, we’ll have to cut back to once a month and continue to alternate.”

“Camp Five is always quick to join in and bring their own stuff,” Bey added.

Despite the cut back in frequency of the barbeques, from twice a month to once a month, Troopers are still enthusiastic.

“Sometimes when I go into the camps, Troopers will ask me when the next barbeque is taking place,” Richman said. “It feels like we’re getting something accomplished when they ask – I think it’s great.” ☆



Navy Lt. Cmdr. Clinton Pickett, Command Chaplain for the Joint Task Force supports the chaplain barbeques by cooking burgers and hot dogs on the grill.

68 years, a time to reflect



**Army Spc.
Megan Burnham**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Despite the opinion that many people have about getting a year older, there is nothing better than a birthday. That is the day when everyone is at your beck and call and no one gives you a hard time about taking a second piece of cake. This kind of treatment is what the United States Coast Guard Reserve received when they celebrated their 68th birthday, Feb. 19.

The Coast Guard Reserve, as it is today, was established in 1941 when Congress passed the Coast Guard Reserve and Auxiliary Act that separated the Coast Guard into the reserve and auxiliary components.

The Coast Guard traces back to 1790 when it was then known as the Revenue Cutter Service, established by Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton as an enforcement service on tariffs and smuggling. In 1915, the Revenue Cutting Service merged with the Life-Saving Service to form and be known as the United States Coast Guard. Later on, the Coast Guard gained the U.S. Lighthouse Service in 1939 and the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation in 1946.

“That’s the Coast Guard we know as of today being encompassed with all those missions,” said Lt. Commander Andrew Zavanelli of Port Security Unit 305. “[The Coast Guard Reserve] is relatively young

compared to the other services but we have been part of every major conflict since World War II.”

The Coast Guard Reserve conducted port security missions during WWII and served as landing craft operators taking Marine ashore in the Pacific and Europe. They also maintained an active force through the



Vietnam

War.

“At the end of the Vietnam War, the government at that time looked at actually disbanding the Coast Guard Reserve and folding it all into the active duty Coast

Guard,” Zavanelli said.

That never occurred; however, the concept called Team Coast Guard dissolved the Coast Guard Reserve’s separate chain of command structure and integrated the reservists into the active duty component.

“When drill weekends or drill periods are conducted, you have reservists standing at active duty posts,” Zavanelli said. “The reserve maintains the same qualifications, the same duty and watch rotations, and train on the same equipment [as the active duty]. We no longer designate being reservist or active duty, we are all one entity.”

In celebration of the Coast Guard Reserve’s 68th birthday, PSU 305 conducted a 5-kilometer Company run, Feb. 18, with the unit flag that started at the Lighthouse, just past Phillips Dive Park. The following day, the unit enjoyed a barbecue lunch followed by a cake-cutting ceremony.

As the Coast Guard Reserve birthday was celebrated differently by each unit, the Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington D.C. had their own cake-cutting ceremony.

“For me, I stop and think about those that have gone before me and those that have come out and been activated or brought on active duty,” Zavanelli said. “There’s a motto the Coast Guard has: Semper Paratus, Always Ready. Those are our guiding principles that we always think about; not only in coming here but when we go home we have to be ready for all missions, all hazards.” ★

Kicking up too much dirt?

- Slow down in gravel parking lots. The speed limit is 5 mph.
- Limit the amount of dust your vehicle kicks up and be courteous.
- Report speeding or unsafe behavior.
- Hold each other accountable.

For more information, please email safety@jtftgmo.southcom.mil

How to make a “Morale Minder” call.

Active Duty Military, DoD Civil Service Employee, or a U.S. employees of a government contractor are authorized two 15-minute calls per week. A Personal Identification Number (PIN) is assigned by your command and delivered to the Base Communications Officer to be entered into the Morale Minder System. Upon confirmation from the BCO, you are then ready to use this new system. The system resets every Monday at 0001.

Instructions

Dial telephone number 2800 to connect to the base telephone switchboard. After the automated recording, wait for the appropriate prompt and then press the number one (1) on your telephone.

Step Two: Wait for the next prompt and then enter your PIN plus the pound sign (#).

Step Three: Enter the required information once prompted. You will have two options to choose from:

1. Prompt one will allow you to make a direct DSN call to the base that you're calling.
2. Prompt two will provide you access to a DSN Operator. The operator will give you the DSN number to the base you are calling and at times will even place the call for you. In either case this time frame isn't registered against your 15 minute calling time.

For more information, please call x2500.





Necessary maintenance

Navy Seaman Christopher Timpe, a constructionman attached to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11, performs routine maintenance on a van here, Feb. 12. NMCB 11 is on a six-month deployment in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo's construction projects. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Carlynn M. Knaak

Boots on the Ground

by Army Spc. Eric Liesse

In honor of the Academy Awards Sunday, what is the best film you've seen at Guantanamo Bay?

Navy Petty Officer 3rd
Class Spencer Flanagin

Navy Petty Officer 3rd
Class Stephanie Burton

Army Master Sgt.
Micheal Alicea

Army Sgt. 1st Class Pedro
Caraballo



"Quantum of Solace." That's the last one I saw. It's been a while."



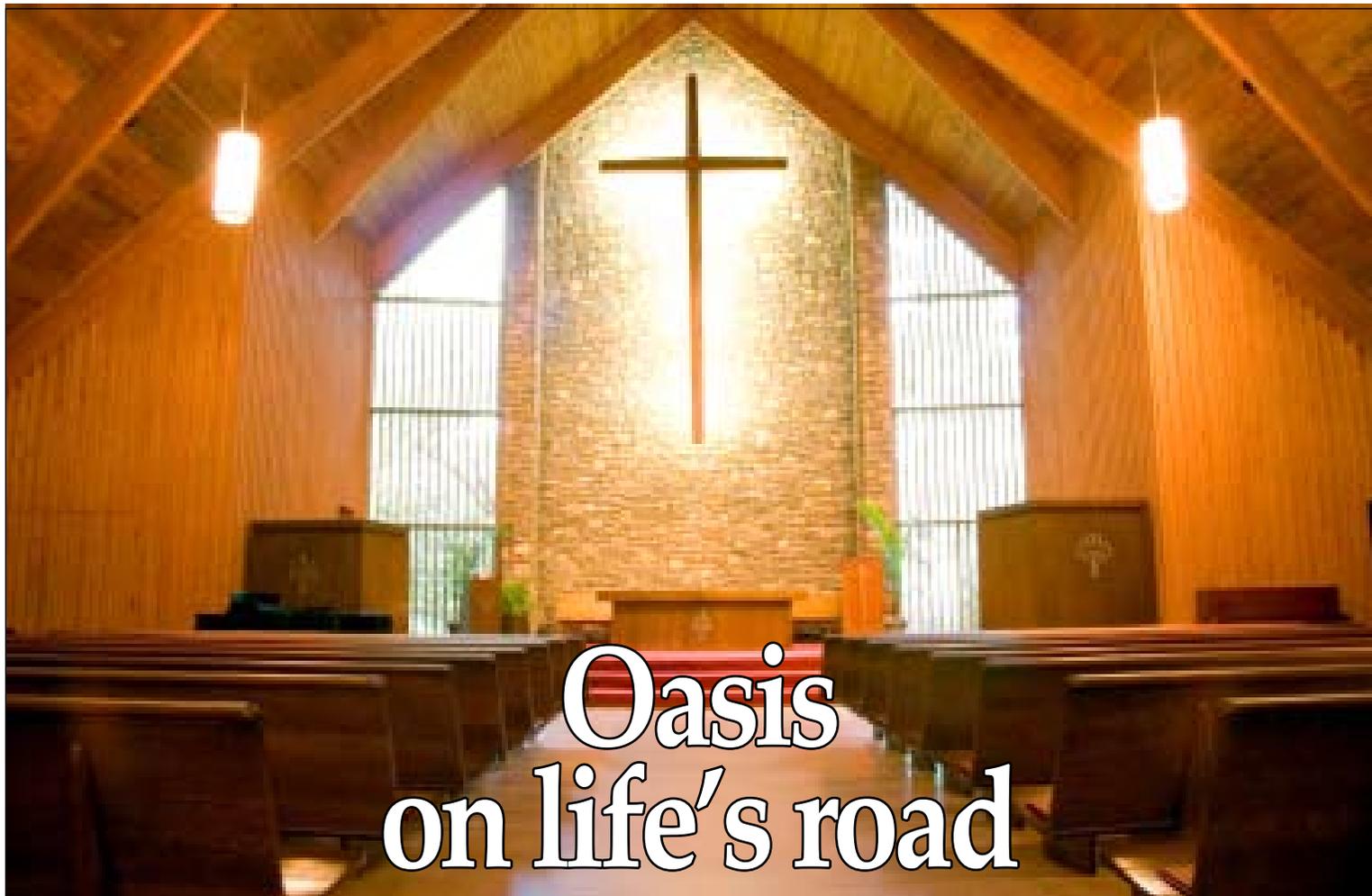
"Madagascar." I like it. It made me laugh."



"It would have to be 'Seven Pounds' with Will Smith."



"In 2002 I was here and there a lot of good movies. But I haven't seen anything yet this year."



Oasis on life's road

**Army Capt.
Eric Bey**

525th MP Battalion Chaplain

Have you ever given much thought about why people go to church? How about the reasons people have for not going?

I have heard people say countless times that they don't have to go to church to be a Christian. That is absolutely true, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't. As a military chaplain I would like to set forth some reasons, by way of analogy, that one should consider going to church.

First and foremost is the fact that it is commanded. In Hebrews 10:25, the Apostle Paul admonished believers to continue to assemble and to not be like those who have broken the custom. Have you ever considered the ant? It is not a formidable foe by itself, but if you get the whole colony on you, you'll be in big trouble. They stick together and work storing food in the summer to make it through the winter.

Within the colony there is harmony, peace and safety.

Second, there is power, peace and safety in numbers. First Corinthians 12:12-31 tells us that the church is the body of Christ. It explains how each one of us, like the parts of the body, has a role to play. If one of us decides not to show up, then we are not whole. That doesn't mean that we are non-functional. For just as when a person goes blind his ears will become more acute, so the rest of the body will compensate – but it is not according to function or design. When you deprive the church of your presence, it will be like your arm or leg deciding to not function. You will be able to get through the day, no doubt, but it will not be as if all limbs were present and functioning properly.

Once when Jesus was teaching, he was questioned about why he was eating with sinners and tax collectors; in response, he said that it is the sick that need a doctor, not the healthy. The church is where we

salve and bind up our wounds. It is where we minister one to the other and teach and correct one another. It is where the lost and the lonely come for comfort and fellowship.

If you've got your whole life in order and you are not in need of anything – to include salvation because "you're good" or "you and 'the Man upstairs' have an agreement" – then church is probably not for you. In my experience, no one has it that together.

Finally, church is like a gas station. If you own a car, you will easily appreciate this one. Try going without a gas station and see how that works out for you. You can bring gas to the car, but no one does that except in emergencies. Like the gas station, church is where we go to get filled for the week. It's where we hear the word of God preached with power and conviction with signs and wonders following and confirming. If it has been a while, perhaps it's time to drop in and get reacquainted with the family. ★

JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

Catholic Mass

Sunday: 7 a.m. Confession
7:30 a.m. Mass

Wednesday: 11 a.m.
Spanish Mass

Protestant Worship

Sunday: 9 a.m.

Spanish Protestant Worship

Sunday: 11 a.m.

Bible Study

Sunday: 6 p.m.

Wednesday: 7 p.m.



Coast Guard wins again

Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Keith Cupples stands in a familiar position at the wheel of a transportable port security boat. Cupples, Senior Trooper of the Quarter winner, is a boatswain's mate with Port Security Unit 305 and is in his second tour to Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

**Army Staff Sgt.
Gretel Sharpee**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

A sea of Coast Guard Troopers' photos is a familiar site on the Trooper of the Quarter winner board, and this quarter is no different. The most recent winner of the Senior Trooper of the Quarter board was Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Keith Cupples.

"That is a good question," Cupples said when asked why Coast Guardsmen usually win the Trooper of the Quarter contest. "Everything [tested on during the board] except for land navigation are things that we need to pay attention to in our daily jobs," he continued. "For example, law enforcement is a part of what we do so we have to know aspects of the constitution, especially the fourth amendment, really well."

Cupples, a boatswain's mate, has been a member of the Coast Guard Reserve for more than six years. This is his second deployment to Joint Task Force Guantanamo with Port Security

“

Everything [tested on during the board] except for land navigation are things that we need to pay attention to in our daily jobs.

– Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Keith Cupples

Unit 305.

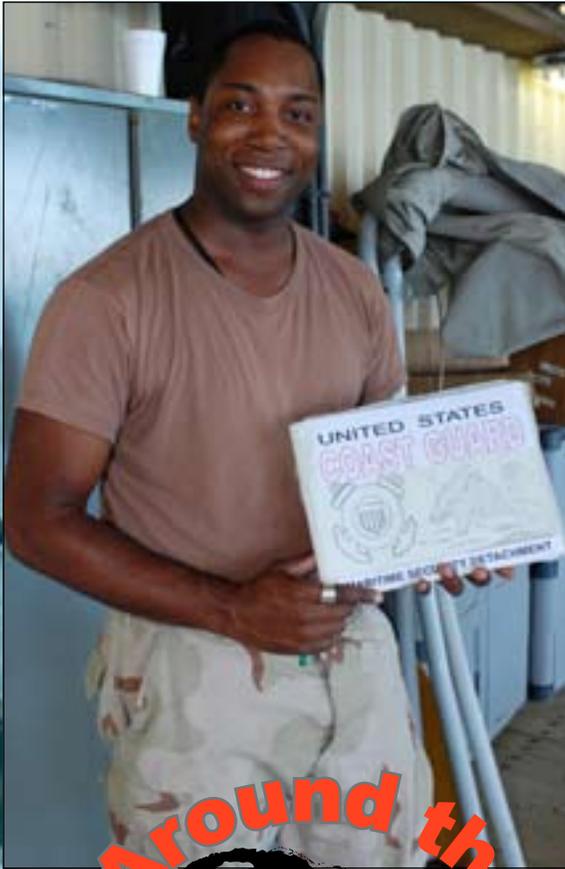
"It is a good mission," said Cupples. "Providing [anti-terrorism, force protection] for the base and for the Joint Task Force is a good way to highlight our capabilities to the other services."

Cupples was selected to go before the Trooper of the Quarter board by his chiefs and felt genuinely surprised when notified that he was going to represent the Coast Guard and their long history of success.

To prepare, Cupples had everyone in his unit asking him questions. He even had Soldiers ask him questions specific to their service to cover areas that he was not familiar with.

After going before a panel of senior enlisted leaders of the Joint Task Force, Cupples was informed that he had beat out his competition and was named Senior Trooper of the Quarter.

"It was such a relief to be done," Cupples said. "Then I was kind of in shock when they told me I won. It was a relief to know I kept up the Coast Guard tradition." 🇺🇸



Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Isaac Blakely, a machinery technician with Port Security Unit 305, shows what the new Coast Guard boathouse sign will look like when finished. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Linda Andreoli



Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Gene Cox with Port Security Unit 305 keeps a look out as he pilots a patrol boat along the Guantanamo Bay coast. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Linda Andreoli

Around the

JTF



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Kinte Horton (left), and Navy Ensign Reggie Smoot (right), both assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Naval Expeditionary Guard Battalion, show off Horton's certificate of reenlistment after reenlisting Saturday, Feb. 14. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Richard Wolff