

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Telling tales
United Through Reading connects families

Food fashion
What not to wear at the galley



Unity

**Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer
Jodi Myers**

Camp 6 Leading Chief Petty Officer

We come from various backgrounds, cities, states and branches of the armed forces, but at the end of the day, we all have one mission in mind – to serve our country and carry out the mission. From my perspective, there is no way we can successfully carry out the mission of Joint Task Force Guantanamo without the strength and unity in combining our resources and services.

Establishing mutual respect is an absolute necessity before the unity process can begin. We need to take the time to learn about how our respective services work, and then how to integrate our similarities while striving to bridge any differences in a positive light. “One team – one fight” is more than a slogan. It is a concept that is personified by the selfless commitment of the men and women in our respective services working together in the joint environment to honor the past, safeguard the present and preserve the future.

Our mission has transcended since the inception of the joint operating environment. We spoke in terms of unity, but still operated within our respective lanes. We can attribute this to remaining in the confines of our comfort zones. Eventually, we took the initial steps outside of our lifelines to achieve the desired footprint. Today our service members recognize that although they may not have enlisted in the military to carry weapons, or embark on ships, the eagerness to contribute toward mission accomplishment is readily apparent here in Guantanamo.

The unity process begins with leadership at every level. Whether working with, or leading the men and women on the front lines, doing detainee operations or convoys in the desert, our country would not be where we are today without uniting as one.

Leadership transcends branches of service, ranks, or other distinguishing characteristics within our respective services. Successfully achieving the prerequisite courses of action to accomplish our mission here in Guantanamo is a direct result of leadership demonstrating to our service members that regardless of service, rank or status, our individual effort is collectively essential toward mission execution and success.

The most rewarding aspect of working in this joint environment is observing – firsthand – the interaction of our Sailors being “battle buddies,” and Soldiers being “shipmates.” Although our mission is clearly stated, one of the unintended consequences is the successful integration of our services and learning about one another’s culture. If we stop and take a moment to think about our service members that are united together and the selfless sacrifices they make, we will gain a greater appreciation for one another’s service, diversity and dedication to the ideals that make this country great. ★



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COVER:

Members of the 525th Military Police Battalion participate in an M-16 rifle qualification, July 9, at Grenadillo Range. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens



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 1,000.

Soldiers walk down range to check their targets while zeroing weapons at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's Grenadillo Range, July 9. Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers regularly rotate through the qualification ranges to keep their marksmanship skills fresh.
- JTF Guantanamo photo by Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens



Safety key to successful range

Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The front lines of the War on Terror aren't found in the desert sands of Cuba, but Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers still train like they are.

Recently, during an especially hot day, members of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard's 480th Military Police Company set up targets and conducted weapons instruction for some military policemen at JTF Guantanamo. The weapons of choice – M-9 pistols and M-16 rifles; the Soldiers' number one enemy – the heat.

In an ongoing effort to make sure each Trooper completes annual weapons qualification, Soldiers are cycling through Grenadillo Range at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. Different units take turns operating the ranges each week.

"We try to get as many [Troopers] as we can [qualified] each time," said Sgt. 1st Class Mario Perez, the non-commissioned officer-in-charge.

Because of the extreme heat, precautions are taken to avoid dehydration and heat stroke. Camouflage netting provides shade for those waiting to fire, combat life savers are on hand to provide aid and evacuate casualties if needed and plenty of water is available to keep Soldiers hydrated while on the range.

When conducting ranges or any outdoor training or exercises, especially when the weather is hot, leaders should take into consideration the following hazards: heat category, level of exertion during training,

individual risk factors for each Trooper and length of exposure and recovery time.

Troopers who are more susceptible to heat injuries are: those who are not acclimatized to the heat, who have been exposed to more than one day of increased heat, increased exertion levels or lack of quality sleep; Troopers in poor physical condition, who are overweight or have a minor illness; Troopers who are taking medications, or have used alcohol in the last 24 hours; and those with a history of heat illness or who are over 40-years-old.

Leaders should constantly monitor their Troopers for signs of dehydration, including dizziness, headache, nausea, unsteady walk, weakness or fatigue and muscle cramps. More serious symptoms can include high body temperature, confusion, agitation, vomiting, convulsions, weak or rapid pulse, unresponsiveness and coma.

Perez considered many other risks – including rough terrain, the potential for brush fires and possible ammunition hazards – prior to conducting the range in accordance with Army Risk Assessment protocols. Each identified hazard was assessed and controls were put into place to mitigate or minimize the risk each posed. Inherent in each weapons range is the potential for injury due to accidents or weapons malfunctions. These risks can be minimized by using proper weapons safety procedures.

Weapons safety on the range is important. Proper safety procedures can enhance safe, realistic live-fire training, protect personnel and property and avoid injury and significant property damage.

Since 2005, approximately 15 Soldiers –

Army wide – have died as a result of improperly handling a privately owned weapon. Nine of the 15 accidents involved alcohol and six involved a Soldier intentionally pointing what they thought to be an unloaded weapon at themselves.

In addition to treating every weapon as if it is loaded, Soldiers must understand that proficiency with the assigned military weapon does not make them an expert on all weapons. ★



Army Sgt. Ada Vazquez, a range safety NCO, examines a target during M-16 rifle qualifications at Grenadillo Range, July 9. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens

Great presence

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Presence is one of the greatest gifts that the chaplains at Joint Task Force Guantanamo can offer Troopers.

For Troopers, knowing that someone is willing to listen – and will hold what you say in confidence – is priceless, especially when the mission demands great responsibility and professionalism in the face of adversity.

“We take care of all the Airmen, Soldiers, Marines, Guardians and Sailors, and ensure [they] are engaged in their daily occupations – whatever that may be,” explained JTF Command Chaplain, Air Force Lt. Col. Dwayne Peoples. “If you are struggling with an emotional or spiritual issue, we are going to help you through it because invariably, those things can keep you from focusing on the mission which – in turn – can result in disciplinary action. We’re into preventative care; we want to help our Troopers be the best they can be.”

As the command chaplain, Peoples oversees the overall mission of the JTF chaplains.

“My mission is to look at [chaplain operations] from a strategic perspective,” Peoples said. “What do my chaplains and chaplain’s assistants need to accomplish their mission at an operational or tactical level? I guard their time and help them stay focused on their mission, which is the spiritual care of the Troopers. I also mentor them and help them understand how they [personally] help the Troopers.”

Supporting detention operations requires commitment and time. With Troopers having little time outside of their job within the camps, the chaplains come to them.

“Presence over program is our emphasis,” Peoples said. “With the nature of the JTF and Trooper schedules, people don’t respond to the standard church programs that chaplains tend to offer.”

Being present and approachable with the Troopers is key to the success of the chaplains’ ministry and outreach.

“This mission is critical because spiritual readiness is a key factor of readiness as a whole,” said JTF Deputy Chaplain, Air Force Maj. Robert Sullivan. “We try to make sure that the Troopers aren’t just physically and mentally prepared, but spiritually too – it has to do with your commitment before God, to family, morals and values.”

Sullivan, who oversees religious activities, provides ministry and also works to ensure that Troopers have freedom to practice their religion.

“We reach out to the community through written word, worship opportunities, and ministry,” Sullivan said. “We work together as a team to make sure everyone has the opportunity to worship.”

With the continuous outreach mission the chaplains perform, knowing that Troopers aren’t afraid to reach out to them in a time of need helps them know their work is making a difference.

“Be present, be approachable,” Peoples said. “That in itself helps Troopers see us as someone they

can talk to because we can be trusted. They can talk to us about whatever their struggles are and it’s by being present that they can identify with us and see us as normal, someone they want to talk to. Hopefully, they’ll seek us out in those quiet times and know they can talk to us in confidence.”

“We place great responsibility on our [Troopers] and my goal is to help them do their job,” said Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion Chaplain, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Lee Hellwig. “I see the great job that the [Troopers] are doing here. It’s a tough job; it’s in the lime-light and makes this a more challenging situation for the guards. This is a very important mission and they handle it well.” ★



**Air Force Lt. Col.
Dwayne Peoples**



**Air Force Maj.
Robert Sullivan**



**Navy Lt. Cmdr.
Lee Hellwig**



Army Capt. Scott Brill



**Army Capt. Eric Bey – JTF Guantanamo
photos by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell**



BREMCOR Licensing and Dispatch Agent, Carol Hale, inspects a JTF Guantanamo vehicle. Hale routinely conducts damage assessments on all vehicles that are returned to the JTF J-4 Transportation Office. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Gholston

Supporting the fleet

**Army Sgt. 1st Class
Michael Gholston**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Anyone who has spent any time at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay knows there are countless people who work behind the scenes to keep everything flowing – both on and off the road.

Like any metropolitan city, there is a central office on island which dispatches and maintains government vehicles. This transportation link is overseen by the Joint Task Force, J-4 Transportation Office.

In conjunction with J-4, BREMCOR, a local contractor, handles the vehicle maintenance and repair of the JTF fleet.

The transportation office is staffed by several military members and one civilian contractor – Carol Hale – who has served in her position as the licensing and dispatch agent for the past 11 months.

As the direct liaison between J4 and BREMCOR, Hale supports approximately 450 vehicles including; vans, trucks, cars, buses and utility vehicles, and admits that “every day is unique and challenging.”

“There’s never really a normal day,” Hale said. “We take calls for any number of vehicles that need attention and [provide] maintenance assistance for broken down vehicles that have to be towed. This includes

things as simple as fixing a flat tire.”

Hale also administers a vehicle data base that tells her when vehicles must be re-dispatched and turned in for routine maintenance.

“We re-dispatch vehicles every 60 days and send them in for maintenance every six months,” Hale said.

Ultimately, Hale is responsible for making sure Guantanamo’s transportation piece is meshed with the needs of the community, throughout the JTF and naval station. Those needs involve vehicle maintenance, replacement and service status when vehicles are turned in for routine checks or inspections.

“If people want to know anything about their vehicles, they have to come to our office first,” Hale explained. “It’s important for everyone to know that if they have a question about their vehicle [when it] is being serviced that they must call [the transportation] office. Once we receive the request we will forward it to the BREMCOR vehicle maintenance department and, in turn, they will send us a status update.”

Hale added that people who try and circumvent the system only slow the process which translates into a longer vehicle return time.

Included in the fleet of approximately 450 vehicles, are some that can be issued

as loaners when severe maintenance is required on the primary dispatches.

“Normally our loaner vehicles go out to support special missions,” Hale said. “If it is mission essential then the request must be filled out by each unit’s Vehicle Control Officer. Ultimately that request must be approved by our command.”

Hale added that the transportation office always does its best to accommodate loaner requests, but before a loaner vehicle is issued each unit must try to identify other alternate vehicles to accomplish the same mission.

“It’s very difficult telling someone that they can’t have a loaner vehicle while theirs is undergoing routine maintenance,” Hale said sympathetically. “Commands don’t want to let their vehicles go but we are required to perform mandatory maintenance on all of our dispatches.”

Under the contractual agreement between the government and BREMCOR, they are allowed to keep these vehicles for a total of three days to accomplish routine maintenance.

Hale is passionate about her role at the transportation office and also about the community she is part of.

“I love being here and supporting the Troops. My gratitude goes out to all of them.” ✨



Summer softball league

GTMO Crush pitcher Mark Massa rifles the ball to first-baseman Kenny Buonviri for a forced out at first base. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

As the weather at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay heats up, so does Morale, Welfare and Recreation sports.

The 2009 Summer Softball League is in full-force as it passes the half-way marker;



A GTMO Crush player hits the ball to left field during a game against the GTMO Latinos, July 16. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

10 teams remain in competition prior to the post-season tournament.

Last season's champions, the Antagonizers, continue to be a power-house in the league as they remain undefeated and stand at the top of the league standings. The Antagonizers also have the most points so far this season.

Army Staff Sgt. Stephen Dix, with the 193rd Military Police Company, and his team the GTMO Crush have been maintaining a solid team and look to continue to enhance their playing abilities.

"We are a good team," Dix said. "We should win several more games as long as we play to our abilities."

Dix knows about playing for good teams, because the GTMO Crush's right-center has played in some big ballgames.

"I first started playing softball when I joined the Army several years ago," Dix explained. "While I was in Germany, we ended up going to the Military Softball World Series in 2002."

Just like many Troopers, Dix is able to see the benefits of participating in MWR activities.

"It gives me something to look forward to and keeps me busy," Dix said.

Right behind the Antagonizers, the GTMO Crush is second in points.

"We are able to hit the ball well," said Navy Petty Office 1st Class Jeremy Sluss.

2009 Summer Softball League Standings As of July 14

MEN'S Points	Wins	Losses	PF	PA
1. Antagonizers	8	0	129	26
2. MSST	7	1	79	47
3. GTMO Latinos	6	2	85	53
4. GTMO Crush	5	2	76	34
5. Puerto Rico	5	2	58	45
6. CSG	4	5	63	74
7. Beef/ 474 th	3	4	49	40
8. The Hospital team	3	5	43	79
9. Violators	2	5	46	86
10. NAVSTA	1	6	34	77

PF: Points For

PA: Points Against

"We have a lot of homerun hitters."

The season ends July 28, and until then games will be played Tuesday's starting at 7 p.m., Thursday's starting at 6:30 p.m. and Friday's starting at 6:30 p.m.

If you have any questions regarding MWR sports, call Robert at ext. 2113. 📧



Public enemies; private hero

exciting joy ride about living fast and dying young. Instead, the viewer is offered a story that makes a statement about a time and a place that allowed a man to become a legend.

Johnny Depp stars as John Dillinger, an Indiana farm boy turned Depression outlaw who is both frightening and alluring. With humor and grace, Depp finesses his way through a series of well-choreographed bank robberies and prison breaks. He defines the romantic gunman, alone against the world; both in

his choice of occupation and his steadfast loyalty to those he loves. But, lest his finer attributes fool you, there is a demonic side to this character. He is the stuff of legend, of shoot-'em-ups and matinee gangsters with jaunty smiles, tempered with a darker element of danger.

Christian Bale is Melvin Purvis, the F.B.I. agent who is chosen to lead the media-hyped chase to apprehend Dillinger. Unlike the goody-two-shoes lawman the audience may expect, Purvis is a man trapped between the law and what he considers to be right, and the expectations of his superiors. He finds himself crossing that line in the sand in order to ensure he gets his man. Purvis is haunted by the eyes of the dying and the task he has undertaken.

Marion Cotillard portrays Billie Frechette, Dillinger's last and great love. Her character is a lighter note in Dillinger's

world of violence. Frechette's story is as old as time itself. Girl meets boy, girl falls in love, and girl is left with a broken heart. However, as old as the story may be it is impossible to look away. The viewer somehow still manages to hope that this time it will be different. This time they'll ride away into the sunset together.

"Public Enemies" is not without its share of thrilling scenes. The movie starts in the middle of a prison break, set under a big blue sky. It continues through a series of fantastic bank robberies, each one more glamorous and exciting than the last. There are sleek getaway cars, horse race bets and back-room poker games galore.

However, the movie touches the audience most in the more quiet scenes of love and betrayal. When Dillinger's friends turn their backs on him, one by one, the portrait of this man becomes more than just an adventure. It is a story of love and loss and of the American dream (no matter the circumstances surrounding it).

Mann has created a story that goes beyond the blockbuster gangster flick. He has directed a new kind of gangster story to fit the times, one that makes room for greater ambivalence, and lawmen and outlaws who are closer to one another than either side would like to admit. ☆

R

140 minutes

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

**Army Sgt.
Emily Greene**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Amidst the typical summer blockbuster movies, "Public Enemies" stands apart from the crowd with its air of impending doom.

Directed by Michael Mann (of "Seven" fame), "Public Enemies" is a grave portrayal of a snapshot in time where the country was depressed and the outlaw was a hero. Much of what makes the film pleasurable is the American public's fascination with the noble gunman, but what keeps the film gnawing at the consciousness is the steadily darkening skies that drain the story of easy thrills.

Based on earlier films, the viewer might expect that this vision of the outlaw-hero would serve as a prelude to another

AN ULTIMATE FAREWELL



Navy Ensign Angel Aviles reaches for a Frisbee during the Ultimate Frisbee competition.



Navy Cdmr. Wendy Halsey prepares to throw a disc to a team member.



Back row, left to right: Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Anthony Williams, Lt. j.g. Jonathon Charfauros, Cdmr. Jeffery Johnson, Petty Officer 1st Class Shawn Poff, Cdmr. Wendy Halsey and Ensign Angel Aviles. Front row, left to right: Ensign Henry Pollock, Lt. j.g. Christopher Ely and Petty Officer 1st Class Mario Perez.



JTF Guantanamo photos by
Army Sgt. 1st Class Steven Rougeau

Public Works Department hosted an Ultimate Frisbee Tournament commemorating Navy Cdmr. Jeffrey Johnston's retirement, July 17. The event, which allowed Troopers to conduct physical fitness, took place at Cooper Field. The competition comprised of two nine-player teams, and the first team to score ten points was declared the winner.



Troopers participate in the tournament as morning physical fitness training.



Appropriate attire for the galley

**Army Sgt.
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

After running several miles, you walk into the galley and put your sweaty hands on the counter as you get in line. Going through the line, you go to the salad and fruit bar. You reach for a scoop of pineapple, and as you reach, a drop of sweat falls into the same container as the pineapple – a drop of sweat waiting for someone else to put it on their plate, all because you failed to comply with the galley regulations on proper attire.

“We are like any other restaurant in the commercial world,” said Navy Warrant Officer Kathy Wiseman, the food service officer-in-charge at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. “We have to have a dress code. We cannot just let people come in [physical training] gear. It is unsanitary for people to come in tank tops and spaghetti straps. Seeing someone else’s arm pit hair isn’t appealing when people are eating.”

Even though the rules and regulations of galley attire, which are created with information from the Navy Bureau of Medicine, are posted in front of every galley, there are several misunderstandings when it comes to dressing appropriately for the dining facility. One such misunderstanding

is the “flip-flop” controversy.

“Flip-flops are flip-flops and shower shoes are not flip-flops,” said Navy Chief Petty Officer Eric Peters, the food service operations non-commissioned officer-in-charge for all galleys at NAVSTA. “Flip-flops are authorized, shower shoes are not.”

If you wear shower shoes to the chow hall, you will be sent away. Shower shoes are the thong flip-flops that Troopers wear in showers, often black.

Another issue involves the wear of physical fitness uniforms in the galleys.

“[The] PT uniform is not authorized clothing for the galleys, because it can be assumed that you are coming from working out,” Peters clarified. “You don’t want people sweating over and on the counters after they were on the ground doing push-ups.”

The galley has a wide mission. They support all the Troopers, detainees and guests. The galley staff, among many other things, wants to maintain a family friendly environment, which is why clothing with offensive language or pictures is not authorized.

“People need to use their judgment,” Peters said. “If you stink and your feet stink, you are going to disrupt everyone here.”

The galley attempts to enforce all rules and regulations, but according to Peters, during lunch is when they attempt to really set the tempo of what is and what is not allowed for wear in the dining facility.

“Plain white T-shirts are considered undergarments,” Peters said. “Wearing undergarments to the galleys is unauthorized [as outerwear].”

Not only are these rules enforced for those who enter the dining facility, they are also enforced for galley employees.

“We hold ours cooks to a high hygiene standard,” Wiseman explained. “We inspect them everyday to make sure their finger nails are clean, and they are wearing a clean uniform.”

Although the standards of the galleys might be an inconvenience at times, it is all for a reason.

“We want this to be a nice place for people to come in and relax,” Wiseman explained. “We want the atmosphere to be as sanitary as possible and a good climate, so if people don’t wear PT gear and shower shoes, we should be in good shape.”

The full list of all galley attire standards of appearance can be found by the entrance to the galleys. If you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding the galley’s policies, e-mail Peters at eric.peters@usngtmo.navy.mil. ☆

Authorized



Not Authorized



United Through Reading keeps families connected

**Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class
Justin Smelley**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Being deployed can be hard for parents and children when you start to realize how much you miss the little things – like the bed-time stories you tell your children before you tuck them in at night.

The program United Through Reading, started in February, 2008, can help your young ones feel your presence at home, as you read them a story every night or whenever they want to see you. All they have to do is pop in a DVD.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Yvette Jackson, the main coordinator of the program for the Joint Task Force, explained the process.

“Come inside the room, have a seat and I’ll press record,” Jackson said. “I walk out so you can read, sing, or do anything you want to in front of the camera. At the end we finalize it and then give you the DVD and you can mail it home.”

The United Through Reading program was originally founded in 1989 by Betty J. Mohlenbrock – teacher, mother and wife of a military flight surgeon. Her plan was to keep military members connected with their families by reading stories on video.

Since the program was developed, it has helped over half-a-million people stay in touch with their families through their videos. Locally, the program has helped many service members.

“I always used to read bedtime stories to my kids and that’s one of the things I miss about not having them around,” said Army Pfc. Stephen Pollett.

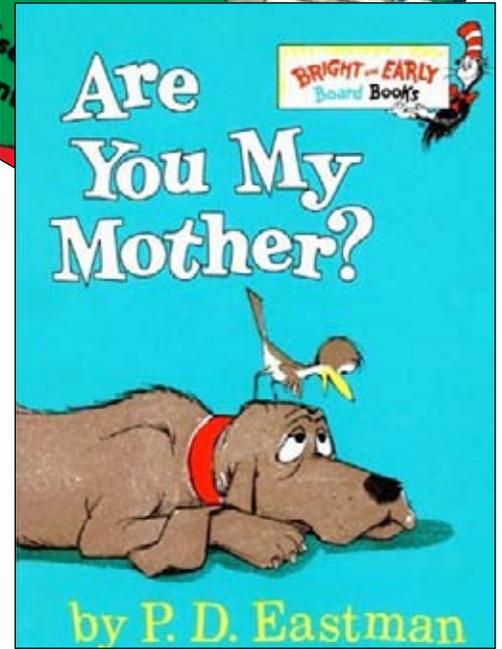
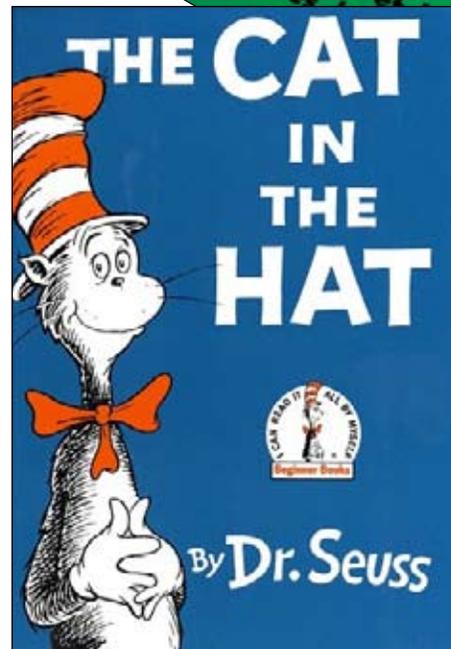
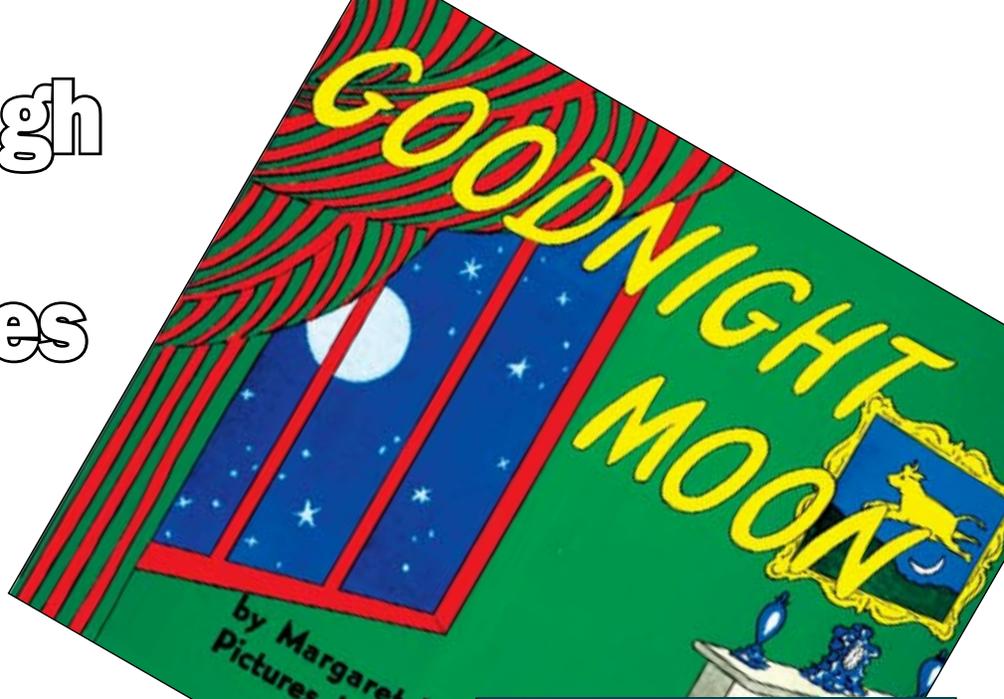
Even if you don’t have children to read to, the program is open to anyone who wants to send something home.

“I had one lady who came in and her sister was getting married, so she did a toast since she couldn’t be there,” Jackson said.

The program takes place once-a-month for four hours. It runs on a 30-minute time interval, so that two people can get complete products recorded every hour. Each person receives 15 minutes in front of the camera to read their story and then the remaining 15 minutes is used to finalize the DVD.

The program is completely free and DVDs and books are provided on site. Books provided at the JTF side are in English and Spanish. The only cost for the participant is postage to send the video home.

For more information, contact MA1 Jackson at ext. 8750 or check the Web site: www.unitedthroughreading.org. ★



Army Pfc. Stephen Pollett reads “Goodnight Moon,” on camera, to send home to his children as a way to keep close to them during his deployment with JTF Guantanamo. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Justin Smelley



Check and balance

Air Force Senior Airman Ryan McClung and Tech Sgt. Stacy Branham, members of the West Virginia Air National Guard, deployed here in support of the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, inventory equipment as they prepare for the end of their deployment. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black

Alcohol Use Policy at JTF-Guantanamo

- The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by a person under 21 is strictly prohibited.
- Public consumption of alcoholic beverages is permitted only in the following areas: Downtown Lyceum during movies, public beaches, outdoor dining areas of base clubs, parks and ball fields during sporting events and command functions – check policy for times or specifics.
- Operating any vehicle under the influence of alcohol is strictly prohibited.
- A single incident of alcohol abuse may result in any of the following: the loss of driving privileges, adverse administrative action, non-judicial punishment or punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.



For more information, please refer to JTF-GTMO Policy Memorandum #5, Use of Alcohol

<https://intranet/resources/pubs.html>

Transportation renovation

■ *Improvements at Ferry Landing scheduled to begin Aug. 1.*

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Sharay L. Bennett
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Due to the upcoming temporary closure of Windward Ferry Landing, the Army Landing Craft Unit and Utility Boat will replace the ferry as the main source of transportation to and from Leeward, beginning Aug. 1.

“Ferry Landing is currently in a depreciated state and needs to be replaced,” said Navy Senior Chief Victor Gonzales, assistant port operations officer. Construction is slated to last until October. A specific end date has not been given at this time. During this reconstruction, personnel should expect some changes in transporting vehicles and cargo to the Leeward side. The ferry boat schedule will remain the same.

Loading for the LCU is located between Ferry Landing Beach and the gazebo at Ferry Landing. Since the LCU is much smaller than the ferry, it is limited to 38 passengers and 13 vehicles, depending on vehicle size. The loading of vehicles will be on a case-by-case basis.

There will be loading for lanes 1 and 2. There will not be Lane 3 privileges, so personal vehicles, government cars and mini-vans are prohibited. However, government trucks and SUVs will be permitted.

Priority loading for Lane 1 will consist of government emergency vehicles engaged in an emergency operation, government



The Army LCU, much smaller than the Ferry, holds up to 38 passengers and 13 vehicles, depending on vehicle size. The LCU will replace the Ferry during the renovations at Ferry Landing, which will begin Aug. 1. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Sharay L. Bennett

vehicles carrying perishable and frozen foods in a non-refrigerated truck, Air Mobility Command Terminal baggage trucks and U.S. mail vehicles. Official military vehicles carrying senior officers O-6 and above, vehicles authorized by the Port Services Officer, and Contraband Inspection Units and Navy Courier vehicles with prior approval from the Port Operations officers will also have priority.

Government or contractor vehicles utilized for official business or contract compliance will be the priority for loading at Lane 2.

Personnel transiting the LCU in vehicles must remain in the vehicles for the duration of the transport.

“It is important to note that luggage will not be carried onto the LCU,” Gonzales

said.

All luggage must be checked in at the Windward terminal the day before travel. This applies to anyone who is traveling. Space Available travelers should check the list the day before traveling and have their luggage checked as well.

The U-Boats will continue to run as usual, and an additional U-Boat will be provided for those traveling on the AMC rotator on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

“Parking at Ferry Landing should not be affected, however, there will be areas blocked off for supply storage and [construction equipment],” Gonzales said.

Guantanamo Bay residents are asked to be patient during the transition and any questions or concerns should be directed to Gonzales, at ext. 4829. ☆

Boots on the Ground

by Army 1st Lt. Christopher Cudney

What do you do to beat the heat at GTMO?

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Rober Behan



“I stay inside in the air conditioning.”

Army Staff Sgt. Horace Cooper



“I go to the beach and drink a lot of water.”

Army 1st Lt. Wanda Acevedo



“I drink cool water and look for the shade.”

Navy Cmdr. Scott Johnston



“I go diving.”

CHANGE

**Army Capt.
Eric Bey**

525th MP Battalion Chaplain

After 24 years of service to the Army, I have witnessed a lot of change. I have seen relationships that seemed to have the strongest foundation, only to hear that they went downhill. I've heard of elaborate plans people had with the tens of thousands of dollars that they saved while on tour in Iraq only to hear later, when they got home, there wasn't a red cent in their accounts. I remember those who had such plans and never made it back. I have seen business ventures and restaurants come and go for a myriad of reasons.

We are not strangers to change. We are in the service of our country, but even our country has changed. Everyone at some point or another has received a new leader who comes in and makes all kinds of changes. For the most part, change is not welcomed, but it stays anyway until it becomes the new way things are done. It will remain so until someone comes up

with another way to do it.

It is said that the only thing that never changes is change itself. Many people believe that change may be the only constant in this world, but there is something more steady and constant than change.

He is the One that change cannot affect. He is the Lord God of heaven, earth, sea and everything in them. He declares on oath, "I the Lord do not change." So you may ask yourself, "What does that have to do with the price of tea in China?" The answer is this; when everything is moving, shifting and changing, the only immutable and immovable constant is God.

He is the anchor to the whole mess. He is that which makes every trial and tribulation bearable. He is our bastion of hope; our solid rock! He has the awesome ability to work all things for our good because of His foreknowledge and providence.

Trust me, as one who has been through rough seas, earthquakes, tornados, heartaches and breaks, the only thing you want in times like those is a safe harbor, a steady door frame, a storm shelter or a

friend that sticks closer than a brother.

God is all those things and more. So when your significant other drops the "Big D" papers on you, remember that it is He that never leaves you or forsakes you. When your investments fail with the economy, it is He who rewards your faithfulness with riches in heaven that cannot be stolen or destroyed. When your health fails, call upon Him for He is the great physician, and He heals all your diseases. When you're confused and it appears that you've lost your way, He is the way, the truth and the life. He says to trust in Him and not lean on your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path. When the cares of this life overtake you remember His words and to cast all your care upon Him; He cares for you.

Join me and welcome change with the attitude of, "Come what may." I hold fast to an unshakable faith in the One who has proven Himself unchanged and faithful, able and willing to come to our aid with everything we need for life and godliness. ☆

JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

Catholic Mass

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

Spanish Catholic Mass

Sunday: 5 p.m.
at NAVSTA Chapel

Protestant Worship

Sunday: 9 a.m.

Spanish Protestant Worship

Sunday: 11 a.m.

Bible Study

Sunday: 6 p.m.

Wednesday: 7 p.m.

Army Sgt. Ricardo Ortiz Espada, a member of the Puerto Rico National Guard Headquarters and Headquarters Company with JTF Guantanamo, has been an avid runner since he was eight-years-old. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell



Get set, GO!

Army Capt. David Ross

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Running is a requirement for everyone in the military service. However, running as a favorite pastime for 40 years - to include several marathons - is something out of the ordinary.

Puerto Rico Army National Guard Sgt. Ricardo Ortiz Espada, a transportation non-commissioned officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company Joint Task Force Guantanamo, sees running as a benefit to everyone able to participate.

Espada began running at the early age of eight, and at 14, he participated in the 1982 Central America and the Caribbean Summer Games – held in Havana, Cuba.

Espada runs just because he enjoys it.

“I came in 3rd place winning the Bronze Medal,” Espada said.

After the success at the Caribbean Summer Games, Espada

continued with his passion of running by competing in track and field events in the 100-and-400 meter races. By the time Espada joined the military, he was such an accomplished, disciplined runner that in basic training he ran the two-mile course in nine minutes, five seconds. Because of his ability, he was invited by the Puerto Rico National Guard to run in a 10K where he finished first place with a time of 30 minutes, 17 seconds.

Espada joined the PRARNG marathon team and dedicated himself to staying in the best physical shape and achieving the highest scores on the Army Physical Fitness Test. Espada continued his excellence by running a 42K marathon in Nebraska where he finished in seventh place with a time of two hours, 42 minutes.

Currently serving with JTF Guantanamo, Espada assists HHC with their physical fitness program.

“He always helps Soldiers who are struggling with physical training by running alongside them and being an encouragement,” said Army Spc. Damaris Quintana.

Espada runs four to five miles every day, except Sundays. Even on rainy days you will find him in the gym on a treadmill. He encourages everyone to run for the benefit of their health and says it is so easy these days because of technological advances with machines and gyms.

Due to the high temperatures and humidity in Cuba, Espada runs early in the morning or late in the evening, just as he does back home in Puerto Rico.

Espada has used his time in the service to improve life skills such as running, his use of the English language and learning about computers.

When asked about how to avoid leg and foot injuries, Espada explained the importance of changing running shoes often and insoles even more often.

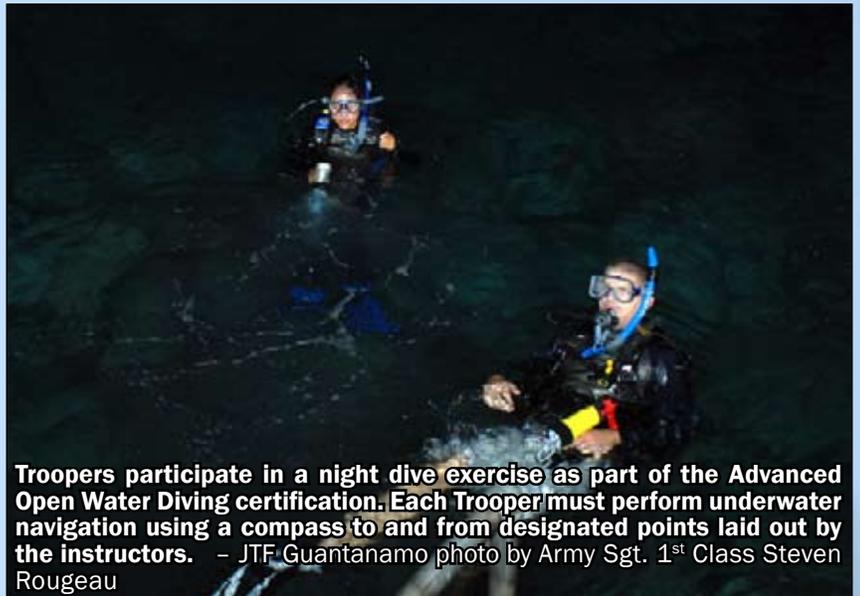
Espada’s advice to anyone who wants to improve their running performance, or become an avid runner, is to use your time wisely, run often and be disciplined about it. ☆



Army Sgt. Ricardo Ortiz Espada stretches before setting off on a run. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Capt. David Ross



Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Thomas Marsh conducts a daily boat inspection on a Response Boat Small. Marsh, a boatswains mate, is assigned to the JTF Guantanamo MSST 91101. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Gholston



Troopers participate in a night dive exercise as part of the Advanced Open Water Diving certification. Each Trooper must perform underwater navigation using a compass to and from designated points laid out by the instructors. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Steven Rougeau



Around the



JTF



Army Spc. Jason Adams, a member of the 193rd Military Police Co., disables a radio antenna as part of his training for the MP Warfighter Competition. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz