

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Info on the airwaves

Radio GTMO; giving you the news you need

The drier side of things

MSST landside mission



Fundamental concepts lead to mission success

**Navy Master Chief Petty Officer
Scott Fleming**
JTF Command Master Chief

Remember basic training with the yelling, the five-minute meals and the perpetual parade of push-ups? For some, those memories go back decades, and for others, they were probably less than a year ago. I'll venture a guess though . . . no matter how much water has passed under the bridge, those events likely seem like yesterday to most of us because of the indelible impression they left on our lives.

The concepts we learn during our first 6-12 weeks in military service ultimately determine our true success far down the line. Think about it – military bearing, attention to detail, discipline to follow instructions, accountability, sacrifice, endurance and a host of other fundamental skills define your existence during basic training. Then you graduate and acquire some technical proficiency that primarily dictates your identity thereafter. Regardless of your vocation, however, you never stop going back to your boot camp experience for those essential core tenets that determine the difference between merely being on board and faithfully being on point.

Sometimes we lose sight of that ideal because it's tempting to dismiss the simple things as irrelevant or trivial. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our nation's most revered heroes, in the decisive moments of their triumphs, most likely gained more strength and courage from these basic principles than they did from any tactical or technical epiphany. Many of us will never face harrowing situations with life and death hanging in the balance, but the theory is equally applicable in the course of our well-worn daily routines.

There is perhaps no more elementary act in the armed services than correctly standing at attention – heels touching, feet at a 45-degree angle, thumbs on the trouser seams, back straight, head erect. Yet, despite the simplicity, it encompasses so many of the values we hold near and dear to our hearts, including composure, respect for order and dignity. There are countless examples of similar tasks that, at face value, appear to be nothing more than a single, insignificant action, but with a hard look, reveal profound insight about character, commitment and conviction.

Senior or subordinate, leader or follower – the way you train, execute, direct or enforce basic blocking and tackling skills forges the foundation for virtually everything relevant to mission success. It sounds cliché, but is validated each day in thousands of organizations that succeed spectacularly or fail miserably. The little things really do matter, and when shelved in the interest of expediency or convenience, result in exponential detriment to mission readiness. From uniform appearance and physical conditioning to administrative minutiae and standard operating procedures, the devil irrefutably lurks in the details.

In a previous assignment, we frequently referred to “direct reflection” in the context of how troops consistently manifest the traits of their leaders. As the theory goes, if Joe is jacked up, there's a pretty good chance Joe's NCO or LPO is equally inept or ineffective. There are exceptions – as is normally the case – but plausible deniability for the conduct and performance of unit personnel rarely seems to hold a lot of water. It inevitably comes back to reinforcement of fundamental standards, clear communication of expectations, and accountability for actions – all those silly things we learned in boot camp. ☆



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COVER:

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Forrest Jones competes during the flag football tournament, Aug. 21. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass

BACK COVER:

A Soldier with Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 525th Military Police Battalion does push-ups prior to a company run, Aug. 20. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Carmen Gibson

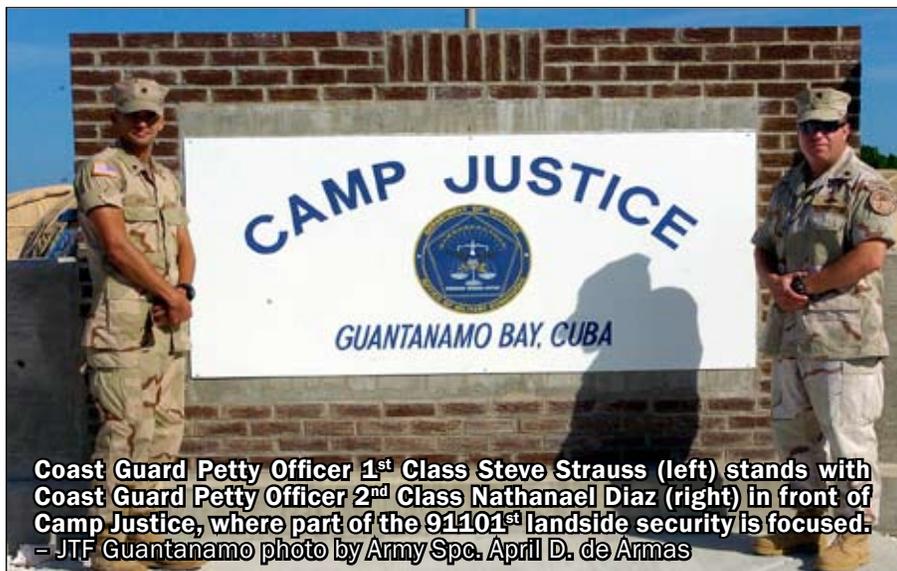


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Coast Guard security: On land and at sea



Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Steve Strauss monitors the area around the Expeditionary Legal Complex as part of daily security checks.
- JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. de Armas



Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Steve Strauss (left) stands with Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Nathanael Diaz (right) in front of Camp Justice, where part of the 91101st landside security is focused.
- JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. de Armas

**Army Spc.
April D. de Armas**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

When most people think about the U. S. Coast Guard, they think about boats trolling waterways to protect U.S. coastlines. However, members of Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team 91101, stationed at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, will tell anyone who asks, landside security is just as important to their mission as water security.

“The Coast Guard has been involved in landside security missions since World War II,” said Coast Guard Lt. Patrick Hayes, operations officer for MSST 91101. “After the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center, law enforcement ashore has been ramped up to help protect the shipping interest of the goods entering the U.S.”

MSST 91101 not only provides waterside security for Joint Task Force Guantanamo, they also provide landside protection at the Expeditionary Legal Complex which facilitates military commissions hearings for detainees at GTMO.

“We work hand-in-hand with the 480th Military Police Company, also assigned to the JTF, to provide a necessary layer of protection for JTF Troopers and detainees during Commission hearings,” said Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Jason Berger, landside security team leader for the MSST.

National media representatives visit Naval Station Guantanamo Bay on a regular basis to tour the detention facilities and observe military commissions proceedings. These proceedings are covered heavily by media sources from around the globe.

“We man the towers and bunker 24/7,” Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Steve Strauss, the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of landside security, said. “We feel it is necessary to protect the area to ensure the media have the proper access as well as to protect the Troopers and detainees.”

Security measures include conducting security patrols and operating various check points where identification is viewed to ensure proper access or clearance to the area.

“Part of my job is to ensure that everyone is properly identified before entering the area and to make rounds [to visually maintain security] outside the ELC,” said Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Nathanael Diaz, a member of the security patrol. “I feel it is a very important part of the mission here at GTMO.”

Strauss said MSST 91101 will continue to provide waterborne and landside security for the duration of their deployment to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and will pass the torch on to the next unit when it is time.

“Until that time, we are glad to be part of the JTF and to work with all of the Troopers and look forward to continued service,” he said. ♠



Utah engineers train at GTMO

Air Force Staff Sgt. Merrill Brown, a carpenter with the 151st Civil Engineering Squadron, a Utah Air National Guard unit based in Salt Lake City, makes repairs to a dock during training at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Aug. 24. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Emily Monson

**Army Staff Sgt.
Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Not just anybody gets the opportunity to board a plane and visit Joint Task Force Guantanamo. For approximately 35 Utah Air National Guardsmen with the 151st Civil Engineering Squadron, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay provides an exotic and unique location to conduct their two-week annual training.

“The [National Guard Bureau] has certain projects available in different states and countries,” said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Doug Lukes, the chief of operations for the mission. “We were given different options and we chose GTMO.”

The Salt Lake City-based engineers arrived at GTMO, in mid-August and have kept busy working on projects to enhance the quality of life for Troopers throughout the base – including making repairs to docks and bleachers, sheet rocking buildings on the Leeward side of the island and tracing electrical circuits at the naval hospital. The variety of projects allows all of the unit’s carpenters, electricians and heavy equipment operators to use and hone their individual skills.

“[The people at GTMO] have provided anything to us that we don’t have,” said Lukes.

These projects have given the guardsmen an opportunity to work on skills they would not normally have the chance to practice at their home station. The guardsmen have had to find ways to work around challenges here – such as repairing the end of a dock from a boat – which none have ever done before.

“Normally, we would be doing more on-base, smaller projects,”

said Lukes. “We wouldn’t be getting the hands-on that we have been able to get here.”

According to the guardsmen, their training back home generally consists of interior work inside small rooms. Working in a different atmosphere and with different equipment is proving to be a positive experience as they tackle projects outdoors with larger lumber and materials.

“The whole experience has been a learning experience,” said Staff Sgt. Merrill Brown, who is working as superintendent of a project for the first time.

Along on this deployment, are five firefighters from the same unit who volunteered to assist with the engineering mission. For them, the experience provides an opportunity to learn a new skill. According to Air Force Airman 1st Class Michelle Manuel, the firefighters are learning what their strengths are in the carpentry and structures field.

“If you’re good at something, you do it,” said Manuel, who’s been in the Air National Guard now for just a year. “If not, someone will show you how to do it.”

Manuel can relate some tasks to her firefighting skills. Using tools to tear boards off the dock was similar to performing vehicle extractions. Other tasks – such as nailing and using certain tools – are not as familiar.

“I’ve never done anything like this,” said Manuel. “It’s all brand new to me.”

Their time here hasn’t been all work though. The Troopers have been able to take some time to enjoy the recreation activities the naval station has to offer, such as fishing, boating and snorkeling. ♡



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Timothy Tolliver, an interior communications electrician with the U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Defense Media Activity Broadcast Detachment, checks the signal strength and connections for Armed Forces Network satellite feeds at the Radio GTMO station, Aug. 19. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. David McLean

Video didn't kill radio star

**Army Spc.
David W. McLean**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Hidden between the dozen or so Spanish-speaking Cuban stations are wedged three classic American radio station channels run by Sailors at the Defense Media Activity Broadcast Detachment, Guantanamo Bay. The channels sound different than stateside stations with a broader variety of music, and a lack of commercial advertisements replaced instead with creative, colorful, public service announcements. But the crew at Radio GTMO does more than play music; they serve a vital role in their mission for the entire installation.

"The Defense Media Activity Broadcast Detachment provides U.S. radio and television news, information and entertainment programming to military service members, Department of Defense civilians and contract employees, and their families," said Navy Chief Petty Officer Jennifer Walker, chief petty officer-in-charge at the detachment. "We do our part to get information out to everyone, and it isn't just radio."

The staff at Radio GTMO broadcasts radio signals on three channels and uptakes the satellite transmission for the Armed Forces Network television channels.

"We have your daily news updates that

come out of this building, combined with 'All Hands Radio News' stories that are played," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jamel R. Jones, an interior communications electrician with the DMA. "We run all the AFN channels as they are routed through our station into Phoenix cable, and they distribute the signal."

The DMA provides familiar sights and sounds to troops and families stationed overseas and gives essential information to the Guantanamo Bay community for events or in times of emergency.

"We are one of the main sources of information during hurricane season," Jones said. "We are up live 24 hours a day during a hurricane. We pass on information that we receive to keep everyone safe and try to keep people occupied with some music."

Music is one of the most noticeable attributes of the station, but the complex set of tasks requires different Navy ratings to handle the many jobs required to complete the mission. Mass communication specialists and interior communication electricians handle opposite aspects of the mission, but they work together and share the responsibilities inside the station. The MCs produce and manage the content of the broadcast and the ICs keep the equipment and signal working.

"In general, working on the radio is the biggest highlight of my job," said Navy

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jesse R. Sharp, a mass communication specialist with the DMA. "Joining the Navy, I never thought I would get a chance to do anything like this. I knew I was going to be a journalist, but I handle most of the software troubleshooting for the programming we have here. I'm the guy who maintains the on-air capability."

On-air programming features DMA staff blended with volunteer Troopers and civilians who create shows with a mix of musical tastes and themes. "Cold Coffee," "Sundown RockOut," "Mid-Day Meltdown," "Ace's Hip Hop Show," "Friday Night Party Mix," "Saturday Morning Cartunage," "The Main Event," "The Cut," "Open Line" and others are on the radio waves week after week and bring a healthy slice of American culture and information to a distant land.

Whether listening to the radio or watching television, the Defense Media Activity Broadcast Detachment at Guantanamo Bay works to keep everyone informed and entertained.

Tune in to the Mix 102.1 FM, the Blitz 103.1 FM, and 1340 AM Talk Radio to hear news, information, music and sports every day.

For more information about the Defense Media Activity Broadcast Detachment Guantanamo Bay, call ext. 2300 or 2351. ★

Running with the wolfpack

■ NEGB claims preseason flag football championship

**Army Sgt.
Andrew Hillegass**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

With football teams preparing for another hard-hitting season back in the states, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's Morale, Welfare and Recreation sports department kicked its season into gear hosting a preseason flag football tournament Aug. 14-21.

When the rubber dirt had settled, the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion's Wolfpack was the last team left standing in the double-elimination tournament, claiming the 2009 preseason flag football championship.

The league featured a wide array of personnel from throughout the base. The final game would see the NEGB Wolfpack face off against the Pirates.

Both teams showed up ready to play. The Pirates drew the first blood, scoring on their first drive to give them a 7-0 lead against the Wolfpack. In contrast, the Wolfpack's first drive ended quickly when an errant pass was intercepted by the Pirates.

With the ball deep in Wolfpack territory, the Pirates were looking to build a commanding lead early in the game. However, the NEGB's defense stood tall and shut down the Pirates' offense.

It would be the Wolfpack to strike next with a long and deep drive into the Pirates territory. This set the Wolfpack up for an easy score, tying the score up at 7-7.

The teams would go back and forth several times with neither team able to gain any momentum, until the Wolfpack punched into the end zone one more time just before time expired in the first-half. They missed the extra point, but held onto a 13-7 lead going into the half.

The Wolfpack controlled the ball for a majority of the second half, denying the Pirates a chance to make a comeback. The Wolfpack would benefit from a safety and add one more touchdown before the final seconds rolled off the clock giving them the 21-7 victory and the championship.

The tournament was a precursor to the 2009 Captain's Cup Flag Football League which is set to begin Sept. 14. The league will consist of a men's and women's division. Teams interested in playing need to sign-up prior to 5:00 p.m., Sept. 10 at G.J. Denich gym. The games will be played each week at Cooper Field at 6:30 p.m. For more information about the league, please contact the MWR sports office at ext. 2113. ☆



Navy Seaman John Woods, quarterback for the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion's flag football team, pitches the ball away during the preseason tournament, Aug. 21.

— JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass



Members of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion's Wolfpack flag football team celebrate their victory, Aug. 21, at the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay preseason tournament. — JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass



When all else fails, so does this movie

**Army Sgt. 1st Class
VeShannah J. Lovelace**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Are you serious? That is what I left the theatre thinking after dozing in and out of consciousness for nearly two hours. For some, “G.I. Joe” may have been well worth the 25-year-wait, but for me, the response was just “eh.”

“G.I. Joe,” the movie, is a spin-off of the 1980s comic book and cartoon of the same name. The movie centers around an elite military unit comprised of special operatives known as G.I. Joe, who take on an evil organization led by a diabolical arms dealer. The team, led by General Hawk (Dennis Quaid) is comprised of Duke, Ripcord, Scarlett, Snake Eyes, Breaker and Heavy Duty. James McCullen, followed by his team of highly trained, evil misfits – including the Doctor, the Baroness, Storm Shadow and Zartan – stage a plot to steal back warheads they originally sold to NATO in an effort to weaponize them and destroy the Eiffel Tower, thus causing panic and bringing about a new world order. This massive scheme, of course, is foiled by the bravery and heroism of the Army super power known as G.I. Joe whose motto is “when all else fails, we don’t.”

Before I totally rip this movie allow me to first start off by pointing out the positive aspects. The entire cast is comprised of well-formed eye candy both genders can enjoy. Whether you were rooting for the good guys or the bad guys, your eyes were kept thoroughly and completely engaged.

And the action hero names were mega-cool. I can imagine being 12 years old and playing G.I. Joe with my friends, shouting out, “I get to be Storm Shadow,” or, “ooh ooh ooh, I’m Ripcord!”

G.I. Joe was created by Hasbro, who in turn, used the product to coin the phrase “action figure.” Being so, Hasbro would be very proud of the action sequences throughout this film. The action scenes were exciting and exhilarating enough to keep you on the edge of your seat from beginning to end. I would venture to say throughout the movie there was a build-up to the sword fight between Snake Eyes and Storm Shadow and the audience was not left disappointed – except for the fact that Snake Eyes’ identity was never revealed and he never broke his vow of silence.

Why didn’t I like this movie? For starters, the story line. There was so much going on throughout this movie that I could scarcely keep up. No movie should have more than five story lines going on at one time. It was much too confusing. I had to resort to looking this movie up on the Internet Movie Database afterwards just to figure out what I couldn’t understand while watching/sleeping through this film.

Next, there were the computer graphics, which were way overdone. Maybe if I hadn’t long ago escaped my adolescent years, I could have appreciated all the generic attempts at making this flick look futuristic. Then again, it helped take your attention away from the fact that all the costumes looked plastic. Do Soldiers really

fight wearing body mold?

As for the acting, it’s a good thing the cast was so good-looking, because it took your focus off the fact that only a handful of them actually had any acting ability. Ripcord, played by Marlon Wayans, proved that even action heroes have corny pick up lines as he spent the entire movie trying to pick up on Scarlett during the most inappropriate times. Even Dennis Quaid, the veteran of the crew, managed to disappoint with his forced posing and silly colloquialisms throughout the entire film. Really, do generals usually wear an ill-fitting beret everywhere, indoors and out, stand with their feet shoulder-width apart and their hands on their hips and speak never really looking directly at anyone but with their heads tilted slightly to the left and up to the sky?

Don’t get me wrong –again I’m not 12 – and I generally don’t like fake, futuristic, cartoon spin-off, computer generated, fake Army action flicks. So maybe I’m just biased and wouldn’t know a good action, adventure, sci-fi, thriller if it fell in my lap. But I do know that a truly good movie, regardless of the genre, should be able to capture and hold the interest of even the biggest skeptic. “G.I. Joe” just didn’t make me a believer. ☆

PG-13
118 minutes

Rating: ★★☆☆☆



FOUR MILES, EASY RUN



JTF Guantanamo photos by
Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass
Army Spc. Cody Black



Troopers from the 525th Military Police Battalion completed a four-mile battalion run, Aug. 17, around Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

The battalion is commemorating the 68th anniversary of the military police corps on Sept. 26.

The military police corps recently revised its mission statement to include increasing duties supporting combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Military Police Corps provides expertise in police, detainee and stability operations in order to enhance security and enable mobility.

The battalion will host several more runs in the coming weeks as part of a goal of collectively running 68 miles by Sept. 11, 2009.





Jumping on the social media bus

■ *Department of Defense joins government organizations engaging in social networking*

**Army Staff Sgt.
Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Facebook, the most popular social networking site in America and many other countries, accomplished in months what radio and television, as communications tools, took years to carry out. The adding of 100 million users in less than nine months says something about the power and reach of social media. Until just recently, many people thought social media and social networking was a just a fad. Today, even the Department of Defense is realizing that, in fact, social media is quickly becoming one of the most important communication tools of our generation.

With the recent unveiling of the new Department of Defense Web portal, www.defense.gov, the government is featuring, and even encouraging the public and military members to become involved in sharing the U.S. military story through Web sites such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

How does this apply to Troopers at Joint Task Force Guantanamo?

Have you ever felt like the media just has it all wrong or that the great things that you and your fellow Troopers do each and every day never really get told? Social media sites are an excellent resource to provide transparency of the JTF mission to the world.

Social networking is no different than any other form of communication we use, according to Navy Lt. Cmdr. Brook DeWalt, JTF director of public affairs. Whether phoning home, writing a letter, writing a blog, a tweet or posting a comment on a Web site, common sense should prevail.

“Troopers need to think about the consequences of any information they pass on via any venue,” said DeWalt.

Operations security is a large concern at JTF Guantanamo. Releasing specific

information such as standard operating procedures and specific times and locations of events and procedures that take place here could put not only the JTF Troopers and detainees, but everyone who lives at the naval station, in danger.

Just as U.S. military intelligence analysts use social media sites to gain information about our enemies, our enemies too, use social media to try to gather intelligence and plan future operations. Any information you wouldn't feel comfortable giving out to strangers in person or over the phone shouldn't be put out on the Web.

There are, however, plenty of things Troopers can communicate to their family, friends and the American public which do not violate operations security. Troopers should feel free to talk about what they do, while staying in their lane. Above all, Troopers should have respect for what they say and how they say it.

“Any communication should be done with the awareness and appreciation that there is much sensitivity about what we do here and words can easily be taken out of context,” said DeWalt.

Rules for official computer use also apply to military personnel who engage in social networking. Although occasional personal e-mail use may be allowed throughout the work day, government computers should be utilized for official business while on duty. Computers at JTF Guantanamo are blocked through the network from accessing most social networking sites, according to Air Force Maj. Vernon Hansen, the deputy director for J-6.

“We block these sites not only because government resources should be used for official use only, but also because [at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay] we do not have access to a fast connection like we would anywhere else. Accessing social networking sites and uploading large files slows the entire network.”

Remember to be responsible with your

time and know that your supervisors may monitor your computer usage. Some social networking sites are accessible through the Morale, Welfare and Recreation computer stations throughout the naval station.

The number of leaders within our organization who utilize social networking is growing, according to DeWalt, and will continue to grow because of the influence of senior military leadership – including Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Navy Adm. Mike Mullen – who are embracing social networking as a tool to engage the Troops.

Social media is a growing source of news and information for the average person. Almost 96 percent of the current generation has joined a social network. Social media provides an opportunity to engage the public, the media and each other as service members.

According to DeWalt, to communicate effectively in today's society, you need to engage in social media.

“The reality is that social media is a huge communication tool on a global scale personally and professionally,” said DeWalt. “The Joint Task Force is looking at ways we can further engage the public through social media at a critical time when the Department of Defense is looking at policy on overall access to social media.”

Troopers who have any questions about engaging in social networking should consult Policy Memorandum No. 25, Participation in Public Affairs Activities and General Order No. 2, Operations Security for JTF GTMO Personnel. Any additional questions can be addressed through the chain of command.

As technologies advance and policies become more defined, additional military guidance will be forthcoming. Until then, consider the power of social networking and how to best engage audiences on both a personal and professional level. ☆



Blending tradition, teamwork

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Albert Gass salutes Army Capt. Jose Izquierdo outside Camp Delta, Aug. 28. Troopers from all services work together at JTF Guantanamo in what is truly a “joint” mission to provide safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

**Army Sgt.
Carmen Gibson**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Joint Task Force Guantanamo relies on the cohesion of several different branches of military service in order to complete the mission of providing safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees. In this blended environment, sometimes the differences in traditions, customs and courtesies between branches can seem overwhelming.

For instance, a junior enlisted Soldier in the Army is required to stand at parade rest while addressing a non-commissioned officer. Navy personnel however, do not have this tradition. In the Navy, Sailors must render honors to the ensign, or the flag, and request permission each time they board and leave a ship.

The rate of E-9 is one of the highest levels an enlisted service member can reach and demands respect from all subordinates, however the specific insignia designating the position differs among the separate branches. If unfamiliar with the varied rank structure, a Trooper could unknowingly demonstrate a lack of respect for senior authority. In a joint environment where many young service members are working in close proximity with their counterparts for the first time, how can this be avoided?

“Sometimes it just comes down to discipline,” said Army Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Raines, 525th Military Police Battalion command sergeant major. “We’ve just got to get back to the basics. To know the difference between a senior in any branch and show them the same courtesies we would show our own leaders.”

“

We all salute the same flag and we are all part of the same team.

**– Navy Master Chief Petty Officer
Scott Fleming**

While it is the differences in traditions and customs that define the separate branches, and immortalize them in history, it is their common bonds that bind them together. The military standard for rendering honors to an officer seems pretty straightforward, however, the Army is the only service where a salute is still required when not wearing a cover. When the National Anthem is played, uniformed Troopers will salute the colors. If in civilian attire, the individual will remain standing at the position of attention for the entire duration of the anthem. Military ranks will be used when addressing senior, peers, and subordinates in the workplace.

When these common guidelines for respect are followed, the separate branches that combine to form JTF GTMO strengthen the bond between them and demonstrate a higher level of professionalism at all times.

“From completion of boot camp to completing 30 years of military service, these core principles are universal,” said Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Scott Fleming, Joint Task Force Guantanamo command master chief. “It’s common sense. We all salute the same flag, and we are all part of the same team.”

By uniting the traditions, customs and courtesies of each branch of service and simultaneously maintaining the highest level of respect for how they differ, the working parts of JTF GTMO continue to grow as a team. Fortunately, it is the responsibility of everyone from the lowest to the highest level to ensure this growth continues.

“Troopers need to come in with a broader perspective,” said Fleming. “Hopefully the actions fueled by that perspective will solidify the total respect for customs and courtesies as a whole.” ☆

Ramadan observances require consideration

During Ramadan, Muslims conduct extra prayers and spend extra time in meditation. Remember to show respect and courtesy when around Muslims who may be fasting or praying. Observe silence when passing by or through detention camps. Turn down radios, silence cell phones and hold conversations elsewhere.

**DETAINEES
IN VICINITY**

**MAINTAIN
SILENCE**

Navy College Office offers hours at JTF



A representative from the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Navy College Office is present at the JTF Trooper One-Stop every Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to conduct counseling, educational assessments, tuition assistance administration and answer any questions regarding educational assistance to all Troopers, regardless of service branch.

For more information, contact:

Candice Rice, director, at ext. 2227 or e-mail candice.rice@usnbgtno.navy.mil.



Puerto Rican leadership visits the JTF

Army Brig. Gen. Antonio J. Vicens, the Adjutant General of Puerto Rico, addresses Soldiers of the 480th Military Police Company during an all-hands meeting at Troopers' Chapel, Aug. 24. Vicens was visiting Soldiers from the Puerto Rico Army National Guard who are deployed to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann

Boots on the Ground

by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

Do you use social networking? Why?

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Daniel Clifford



"I mostly use Google. It has been the norm for my wife and I over the past couple of deployments."

Air Force 1st Lt.
Craig Johansen



"I mostly just stick with e-mailing people."

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Dennis Fetter



"Yes, I often use 'Together We Served' to stay in touch with former shipmates."

Navy Seaman
Jordan Grainger



"Yeah, I use Yahoo, Facebook and AIM. They are cheap, convenient ways to communicate."

Pray for our leaders



**Air Force Maj.
Robert Sullivan**

JTF Deputy Command Chaplain

It's easy to criticize others when you are not responsible for the outcome. It's easy to blame someone else, when you never lift a finger to help. It's easy to get on the gossip line and talk about the mistakes of our leaders; but when was the last time that you got on the prayer line and earnestly prayed for them? Instead of adding to the problem; be a part of the solution. Ask yourself: how can I help? And take the time to pray for our leaders.

We should pray for our president; we should pray for all of our national and local leaders. In 1 Timothy 2:1-2, the Apostle Paul said, "I exhort therefore that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life

in all godliness and honesty." Don't just complain about what the Democrats and Republicans are doing or failing to do. It's your job to pray for them. If you feel that they are not fulfilling their responsibilities as they ought to, call or write them and remember to pray for them. Stop feeding the ugly monster of division that is seeking to destroy our nation. The Lord Jesus Christ said in Matthew 12:25 "...Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand."

We need to be united in prayer for our leaders and even our nation. We should take heed to the encouragement from President Abraham Lincoln when he established a National Day of Prayer. He said, "...All this being done, in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope, authorized by the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the Nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings, no less the pardon

of our national sins, and the restoration of our now divided and suffering Country, to its former happy condition of unity and peace." Every leader's heart is in the hand of God, we must remember them in prayer.

We should pray because God can guide the leader's heart. King Solomon said in Proverbs 21:1, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will." If our nation will fall to its' knees in prayer, we will be amazed at the changes that God will make for us.

Finally, what better way to honor our leaders than to pray for them? The Apostle Peter said in 1 Peter 2:17, "Honor all men, love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king." We should be people of honor. We should honor everybody. We should honor President Obama and all our national and local leaders. Just pray, pray and pray for our leaders everyday. ☆

JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

Catholic Mass
Sunday - Friday:
6:30 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.



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Danielle Mugford, treasurer of the Junior Sailor Association, presents the current budget to the group during a meeting, Aug. 18. — JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Carmen Gibson

Trooper makes most of time away from work

**Army Sgt.
Andrew Hillegass**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The buzzer from the alarm has been screeching in your ears for the last 15 minutes and it is showing no sign of quitting. After debating with yourself you finally put your body into a vertical position and begin your day. Some of us even start to countdown the hours left in our day before we are even out the door.

However, there are Troopers deployed to Joint Task Force Guantanamo who do not look at their downtime as a chance to turn off the brain and do nothing. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Danielle Mugford, who is assigned to the Joint Intelligence Group, is one example of a Trooper who is making the most out of her personal time while she is deployed.

“I can’t think of anyone else who dedicates as much of her off time as Mugford does,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Charity Hargis, Mugford’s supervisor. “Any time I need someone to help out, she is always the first person to volunteer.”

Since arriving at the JTF in January, Mugford has maintained a packed schedule that on many days stretches into the late evening. She keeps busy by participating in the Junior Sailor Association, sports and completing her associate’s degree.

Danielle’s involvement with the JSA, a professional organization open to all personnel E-1 to E-5, continues the time commitment to volunteering she has had since enlisting. Aside from volunteering to the Guantanamo community, the association also allows her to grow professionally.

“It is great for building skills like networking, leadership, organizing and fundraising. It’s these things that we don’t always realize are important. It’s once you get involved and learn how to do them and you realize how they strengthen you as a leader for other Troopers,” praised Mugford.

Since joining the JSA she has also helped reshape the organization’s focus to become more involved in other events aside from strictly volunteering, such as poetry readings and video game tournaments.

She is also quick to point out that the JSA looks toward the

Troopers when it comes to the free events that they host. “If we hear of a want for a particular event then we look at how we can support that,” Mugford added.

It is that type of proactive attitude that also drives her to compete in many of the sports that are offered on base.

“So far this year I have played two seasons of soccer and I am currently part of co-ed softball. I also plan on doing the women’s flag football when that starts,” said Mugford.

This level of participation is in stark contrast to her initial time in the Navy, when she was not as active.

“In college I played sports; and I wanted to continue to be active once I joined the Navy. However, out of my first 13 months on a ship I spent at least six of them out at sea,” said Mugford.

Another integral part of Mugford’s down time here at Guantanamo is her commitment to finish her college degree, one of her main reasons for joining the Navy.

“I was going to college in North Carolina for more than three years and felt like I was wasting my time and money because I didn’t know what I wanted to do. So I stopped going to college and said I would work for a little bit, then go back to school,” said Mugford.

She decided that the best way to cover the cost to finish her degree would be to join the Navy. However, with much of her early career spent at sea she did not have the time to complete this goal. That was until she deployed to the task force.

“I took two classes last semester and I am currently taking two more right now,” said Mugford.

She is now focused on her future, and confident that she will achieve her goals. Mugford added emphatically, “I will get my degree before I get out of the Navy.”

“If you get involved and stay active, the time passes faster; but if you stay in your room and don’t do anything, the time is going to drag,” concluded Mugford.

Mugford’s impression on her fellow Troopers here has not gone unnoticed. “I have been so impressed with her [Mugford] that I have requested for her to follow me to my next duty station,” said Hargis. 🍀



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Nyobi Brogdon and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Kyle LaFond, both with the Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team, replant the flower boxes outside their office, Aug. 24. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Carmen Gibson



Air Force Staff Sgt. David Thain, a heavy equipment operator assigned to the 151st Civil Engineering Squadron, levels the ground in preparation for a storage unit to be installed, Aug. 19. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann



Around the  the

JTF

Army Brig. Gen. Rafael O'Ferrall, Joint Task Force Guantanamo deputy commander, looks on as Soldiers from the Puerto Rico Army National Guard's 191st Regional Support Group unveil their unit sign at the Camp America sign, Aug. 20. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass

