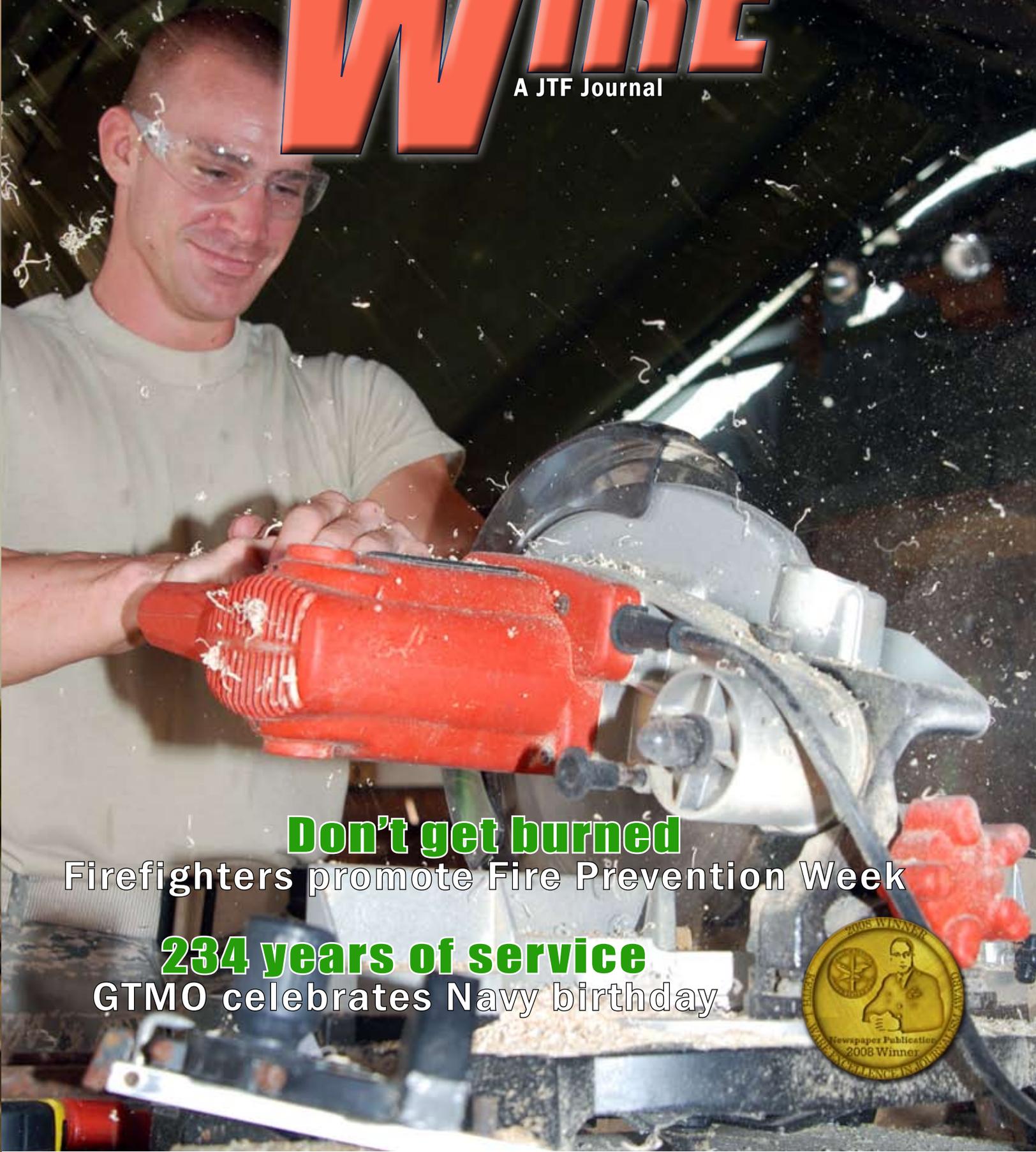


# THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



**Don't get burned**

Firefighters promote Fire Prevention Week

**234 years of service**

GTMO celebrates Navy birthday



# Share what you know

**Army Master Sgt.  
Luis Velazquez**

JTF Guantanamo J4 Property Book Officer

For a moment, I ask you to consider the following challenges taking place every day in our daily military life. A second lieutenant is looking for the latest doctrine and tactics, techniques and procedures for convoy operations. A petty officer deployed in Iraq is having difficulty opening online technical manuals and ordering repair parts. A colonel wants to know how human resource management is being integrated into current detainee operations. A first sergeant is looking for sample standard operating procedures he can leverage as his unit prepares to deploy.

Topics may vary, but even in these few examples, one resounding theme stands out: We need to improve on sharing what we know with others in the operating and combined forces of Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

The volatility of the operational environment, coupled with advancements in technology, have outpaced our historical approach of relying solely on e-mail, traditional Web sites and physical gatherings as primary means of exchanging knowledge. These methods still play an important part, but we all know inboxes are full, too many Web sites exist and location-specific events cannot adequately satisfy our daily mission knowledge needs. If they did, we would not encounter the many knowledge gaps exemplified above.

Today, active and reserve component commanders, staff and Troopers want to readily collaborate with each other and with members of other military organizations, in settings commensurate with their operational missions, functions and operating tempo. They need simple but effective tools that provide access not only to those who “know what” but also to those who “know how” and “know who” by using virtual rolodexes of subject matter experts, coaches and mentors.

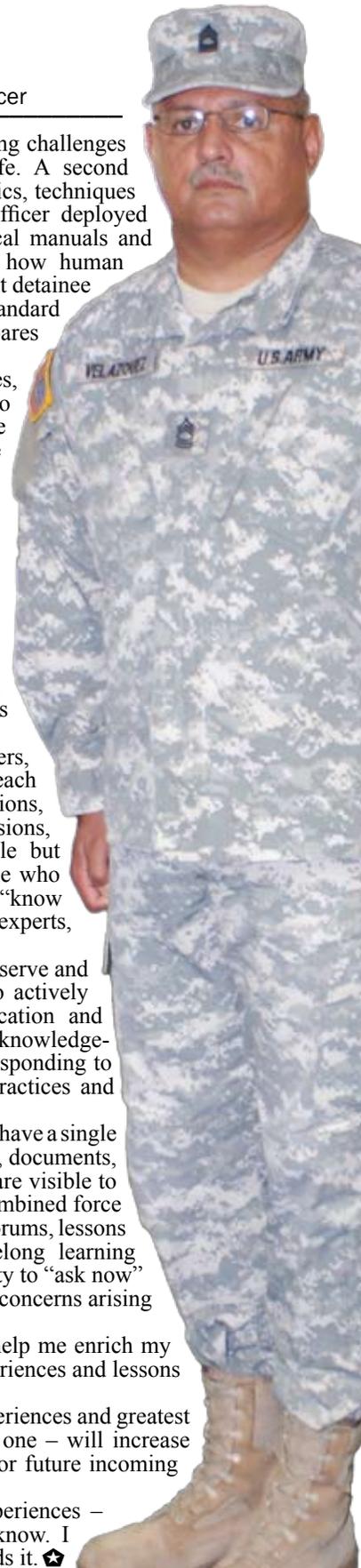
Likewise, those of us in the combined force who serve and support operational sustainment at GTMO need to actively contribute our wealth of doctrine, training, education and combat development expertise by engaging in these knowledge-sharing venues, with an ear toward listening and responding to questions, and sharing operational insights, best practices and lessons learned.

Commanders, staff, Troopers and contractors now have a single entry point to a number of interdependent Web sites, documents, repositories and collaboration enablers. Hot topics are visible to all, with easy navigation to unique operating and combined force domains. Direct access to communities, discussion forums, lessons learned interviews, multimedia products and lifelong learning courseware is available, and every user has the ability to “ask now” to get immediate responses to critical questions and concerns arising in the filed.

Every time I look for a specific topic that will help me enrich my knowledge, I start by consulting Troopers with experiences and lessons learned in the field and previous deployments.

I don't have any doubt that the acquisition of experiences and greatest moments working in a joint task force – like this one – will increase our combined knowledge and make things easier for future incoming Troopers.

I challenge each of you to use all of your experiences – whether they were good or bad – to share what you know. I can assure you, there's a Trooper out there who needs it. ★



## JTF GUANTANAMO

### Commander:

Navy Rear Adm. Tom Copeman

### Command Master Chief:

Navy Master Chief Petty Officer  
Scott A. Fleming

### Office of Public Affairs

#### Director:

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Brook DeWalt: 9928

#### Deputy Director:

Army Maj. Diana Haynie: 9927

#### Supervisor:

Army 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Shellie Lewis: 3649

## The Wire

### Executive Editor:

Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Chris Cudney: 2171

### Command Information NCOIC:

Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michael Gholston: 3651

### Editor:

Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens: 3594

### Staff Writers:

Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class VeShannah Lovelace

Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass

Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

Justin Smelley

Army Spc. David McLean

Army Pfc. Christopher Vann

## Contact us

**Editor's Desk:** 3594 or 2171

From the continental United States:

**Commercial:** 011-53-99-3594

**DSN:** 660-3594

**Email:** [thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil)

**Online:** [www.jftgmo.southcom.mil](http://www.jftgmo.southcom.mil)

### COVER:

**Air Force Senior Airman Jacob Cooper, with the 474<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, operates a miter saw, Oct. 2.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Carmen Gibson

### BACK COVER:

**A rainbow covers the morning sky during the MWR fishing tournament, Oct. 4.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair



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.

**Navy Rear Adm. Tom Copeman speaks to Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers during an all-hands call, Sept. 30.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. deArmas



## Message is clear; mission continues

**Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

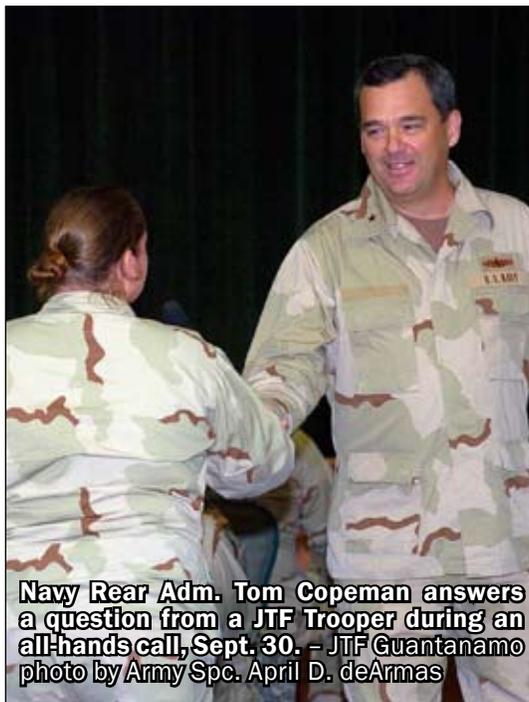
Joint Task Force Guantanamo commander Navy Rear Adm. Tom Copeman recently held a series of briefings for Troopers at the JTF to provide an update on the mission here, and to communicate his expectations of Troopers as they continue to offer safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees now and in the future.

“Until such time that somebody changes that for us, we’re continuing our planning to be able to reach that goal,” said Copeman. “From the JTF standpoint in Guantanamo, we’re all set to meet that. There are obviously a lot of issues [outside of Guantanamo] that have to be overcome to make that happen.”

During his briefing, Copeman explained that recent acknowledgements by senior government officials that the detention facilities might not close by the proposed Jan. 22, 2010, deadline does not change the mission for Troopers at JTF Guantanamo.

“We will continue to provide safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of the detainees until the last detainee is gone, whenever that may be,” said Copeman.

Copeman discussed the effect continued operations would have on staffing and Trooper rotations. Although a significant amount of detailed planning continues to take place on how to close the detention facilities, most of the work cannot happen



**Navy Rear Adm. Tom Copeman answers a question from a JTF Trooper during an all-hands call, Sept. 30.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. deArmas

until the detainees have left and the facilities are empty.

“Most of the real, real, hard work occurs after the last detainee leaves here,” said Copeman. “We have to continue medical, logistics [and all the operations associated with caring for the detainees] up until the last one leaves.”

Even as detainees continue to be released from Guantanamo and repatriated to other countries, the number of Troopers at the JTF will not change drastically.

“Whether you have one guy or 20 guys

in the cell block, you still have to have a/c, power, guards and feeding [for that block],” said Copeman. “We are manned up to the camps, not manned up to how many detainees we have.”

Copeman told Troopers here to expect to finish out their current tours. He said that there were no plans to extend Troopers due to the January deadline, but that incoming rotations would continue to come in as planned.

“Rotations that are planned all through the next calendar year will continue until such time that somebody says no more, or here’s the new plan,” said Copeman.

He also told Troopers to be ready to train their replacements or to be ready to train a force, as yet unknown, that could take over detention operations at a facility in another location, should that be ordered from higher authority. Regardless of whether the new guarding force for the detainees is civilian or military, they will require the training and knowledge from those with experience.

“JTF Guantanamo is the place of expertise for this detention mission,” said Copeman.

Regardless of what decision is made about where the detainees will go and when the detention facilities here will close, the mission of the personnel at Joint Task Force Guantanamo stands the same. Until the last detainee boards a flight off the island and the facilities are ready to be closed, Troopers at Guantanamo Bay will continue their mission here in the professional manner expected of them by their leadership, our government and the people of the United States. 🇺🇸

# Firefighters advise: don't get burned

**Army Staff Sgt.  
Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

According to the National Fire Prevention Association, cooking continues to be the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries and smoking materials, such as cigarettes and cigars, continue to be the leading cause of fire deaths in the United States. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, though isolated from many big-city woes such as traffic and high crime, is not immune to the dangers of fires. In the last year, firefighters at the naval station have responded to two fires at the Tierra Kay housing area.

"Troopers have used tables for ash trays or left cooking unattended," said Steven Deida, a Naval Station Guantanamo Bay fire inspector.

Although fire safety should be observed at all times, the week of October 4-10 is set aside as National Fire Prevention Week. The week was first proclaimed in 1920 and is the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire in 1871 that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. Also, during that same week in 1871, the Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history, roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people and scorching 1.2 million acres.

Fire Prevention Week is a chance for fire officials throughout the country to stress the importance of fire safety and prevention in their communities. This year's message was, "Stay fire smart, don't get burned."

See **FIRE PREVENTION/16**



**(Above) Firefighters from the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay fire department practice for a community fire demonstration scheduled for Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 3. (Left) Firefighters discuss the procedures for using a Mobile Air Fire Trainer to conduct a fire demonstration prior to Fire Prevention Week at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. The Guantanamo Bay fire department is working to inform the community of fire prevention awareness. - JTF Guantanamo photos by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens**

# Navy celebrates 234 years

**Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class  
Justin Smelley**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

It's hard to believe that the Navy has been going strong for the last 234 years. To think that a meeting more than 200 years ago in Philadelphia would change how the United States would control the seas all around the world.

The Navy was born October 13, 1775, when the Continental Congress voted to arm two sailing vessels with 10 carriage guns, swivel guns and a crew of 80. The ships were sent out on a three-month cruise to intercept transports carrying munitions and supplies to the British Army in America. During the War of Independence, the Continental Navy deployed more than 50 armed vessels that destroyed more than 200 British ships and diverted many more.

Congress passed the Naval Act of 1794, which ordered the construction of six frigates to end pirate activity off the Barbary Coast. The first three of the frigates were USS United States, USS Constellation, and USS Constitution, which were put into service three years after the naval act was passed.

Navy vessels advanced drastically since the first frigates made of wood. The newer ships of the Civil War era included steam-powered ironclad warships. After the use of ironclads, navy vessels transitioned from all-wood to all-metal ships. Beginning in the 1880's, the Navy started a modernization program which brought us up to speed with navies of countries all around the world.

In 1907, the Navy proudly displayed several new ships in a 14-month cruise around the world. The ships were known as the Great White Fleet and were ordered by President Theodore Roosevelt to demonstrate the Navy's capability to extend into the global theater.

After showing its power, the United States Navy has been a big presence in every war in which America has been involved. Today, Sailors do more than just man the ships. There are Sailors deployed across the globe, helping out in any theater in which they are needed. The modern Navy not only supports and shows presence during war, but also helps with national security, maritime security and humanitarian assistance during natural disasters.

"The Navy's changed drastically since I first came in in 1982. I think what's changed the most is the caliber of the enlisted and junior enlisted sailors. They are highly educated, and more motivated than ever before," said Navy Cmdr. Richard Hess, the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion commander.

In 234 years, the Navy has gone from wooden ships powered by sails to steel aircraft carriers that are nuclear powered. Our Sailors have gone from being on ships to working with joint forces on the ground in countries all around the world. The future of the United States Navy couldn't look brighter as we sail forward.

Happy 234<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Navy, and may you see 234 more as you continue to cruise the seas of the world. ★

# Runners hit the pavement for 5K

**Army Spc.  
David McLean**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual NEX/MWR Customer Appreciation Weekend 5K kicked off early Saturday morning with participants running, jogging and walking to claim prizes and pride before many of the day's demonstrations and events. Daniel Dean (18:19) and Jen Iosue (21:47) took the top male and female honors as more than 200 participants hit the pavement in four age groups to win NEX gift cards, running shoes, iPod shuffles and free New Balance t-shirts.

The race was divided into four age groupings to give more opportunities to a diverse crowd to compete and win.

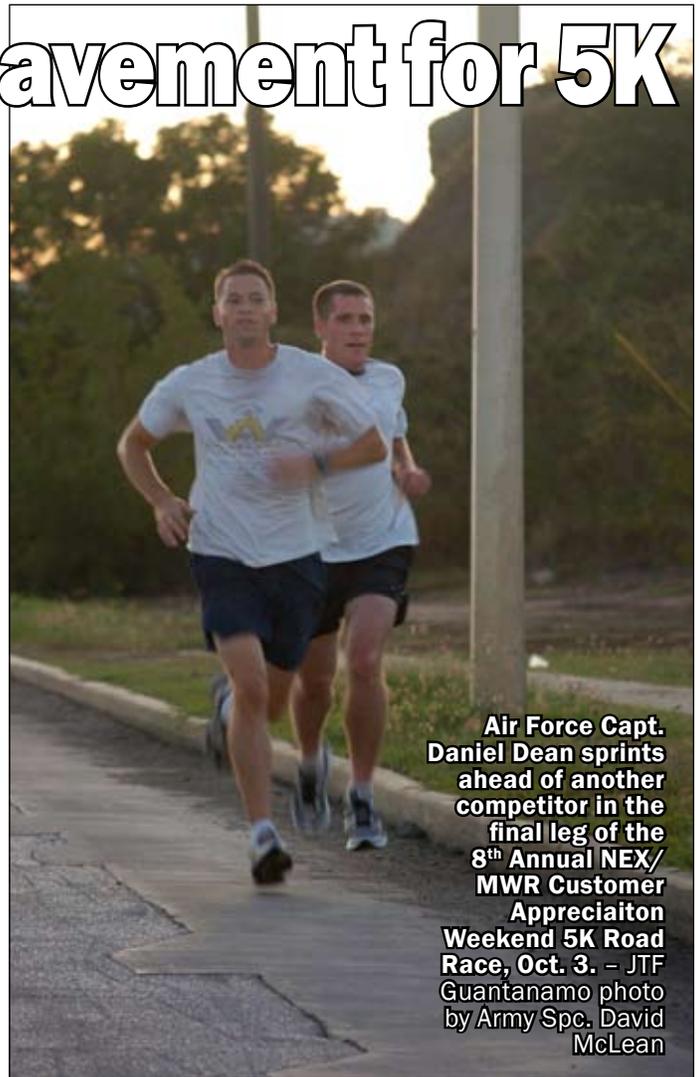
"I wanted to get the first place prize," said Ashe Snedeker, winner of the 6 to 14 age group. Hoping for the iPod, he said he was content to get a new pair of shoes and enjoyed the workout. "It gives me good exercise, and helps me stay in shape."

Not all runners were gunning for a prize, but for personal delight in the competition.

"I ran it for my friend, Christina," said Daniel Dean, top overall finisher. "She is a very competitive person for me and I wanted to do the best I could for her."

Regardless of the reason, the event has been going strong for eight years and has been sponsored by New Balance since its inception. The 5K was started to give an alternative activity to the more fitness inclined Troopers during the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Oktoberfest event, and the athletic shoe sponsor has been there to provide free t-shirts, prizes and encouragement.

"I really enjoy seeing the folks down here year after year," said Brian Garnett, a New Balance sales representative. "The sacrifices that all the people down here make to keep our country free, the least we can do is make some gifts available and sponsor this event for all the hard working service members. I have been here since the beginning, and coming down here for this event is the highlight of my year." ☆

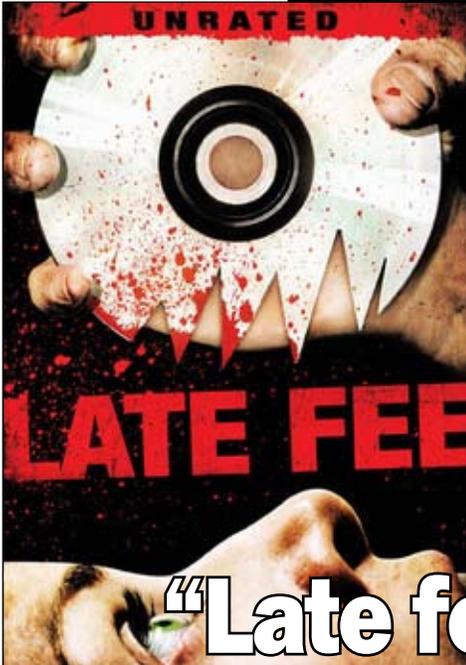


**Air Force Capt. Daniel Dean sprints ahead of another competitor in the final leg of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual NEX/MWR Customer Appreciation Weekend 5K Road Race, Oct. 3.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. David McLean



**Runners take off at the start of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual NEX/MWR Customer Appreciation Weekend 5K Road Race, Oct. 3.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. David McLean

**Actresses Stephanie Danielson and Georgia Haege introduce their film, "Late Fee" at the Downtown Lyceum, Oct. 2.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Carmen Gibson



# "Late fee" fails to impress

**Army Sgt. 1st Class  
VeShannah J. Lovelace**  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

"Late Fee" is an anthology horror film which "premiered" at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay during the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Navy Exchange Customer Appreciation Weekend, October 2. Two stars from the film, Stephanie Danielson and Georgia Haege, visited Guantanamo to introduce the movie and sign autographs.

I have two questions concerning this movie. How much did it cost to produce? And in this economy, was that a wise investment?

To be fair, the movie was made in just 13 days time. But to say the premise of the movie is weak would be an understatement. A couple, simply named the boy and the girl, decide to rent a couple of horror flicks and spend a cozy Halloween night at home cuddled up on the couch. The owner of the video store reluctantly rents two movies to them and stresses the fact that the movies must be returned by midnight or they'll have to pay

a stiff late fee.

For the next hour, the audience is forced to endure watching the two movies the couple rented, "The Pick Up" and "Damnation." The acting was so bad and amateurish it was actually comical. I'm guessing this is what was meant when the actresses introduced the film as a "horror slash comedy." If the acting wasn't bad enough, the makeup certainly was. The makeup and "gore" was reminiscent of the 1970s in its primitiveness. The gore was designed more so to gross you out than it was to actually scare you.

"The Pick Up" was about a hooker who lured her victims to a seedy "no-tell motel" where she literally devoured them with her lower extremities. I supposed by some this could be considered sexy?

"Damnation" was equally as absurd and starred the same actors as "The Pick Up." This tale was about a female police officer who arrested "alleged" traffic violators, then tried them in a makeshift courtroom located in a dungeon and sentenced them to cruel fates by spinning a "wheel of death."

After watching these two movies, the boy and the girl realize it is after midnight, but they don't take the 'late fee' seriously until the owner of the video store shows up at their house with his entourage of ghastly killers.

This movie was supposed to be a tribute to horror classic "Tales from the Crypt." The producers of "Tales from the Crypt" should sue for defamation for even hinting at similarities. I felt like I was actually losing brain cells sitting through it. But, if low-budget, B-rated horror films are your thing, "Late Fee," is still available for sale at the NEX. ☆

**Editor's note: Even though the movie didn't make our list of favorites, we appreciate the time Danielson and Haege took from their schedules to show their appreciation for the service members stationed at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.**

**Not Rated**

**90 minutes**

**Rating:** ★☆☆☆☆



**Actresses Stephanie Danielson and Georgia Haege sign autographs at the NEX atrium, Oct. 3.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens

# Medal of Honor recipients visit GTMO



Medal of Honor recipient Retired Army Col. Donald Ballard signs a photo of himself during Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's Navy Exchange Customer Appreciation Weekend, Oct. 3. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass



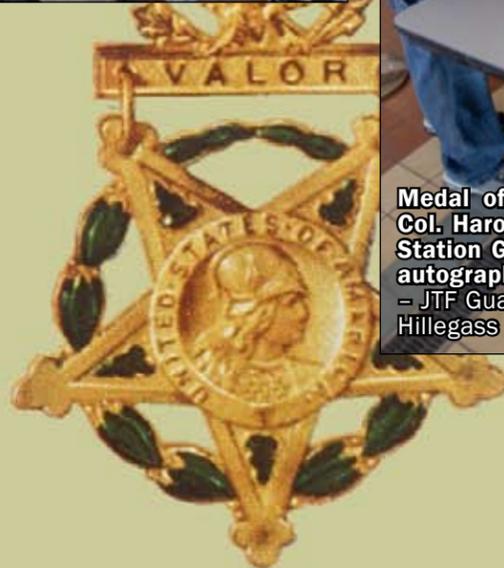
Medal of Honor recipients Retired Army Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Stumpf (left in red), Retired Army Col. Donald Ballard (center in white) and Retired Army Lt. Col. Harold Fritz (right in red) eat lunch with Troopers during their visit to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Oct. 3. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens



A Sailor salutes Medal of Honor recipient Retired Army Lt. Col. Harold Fritz during an autograph session at the NEX atrium, Oct. 3. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass



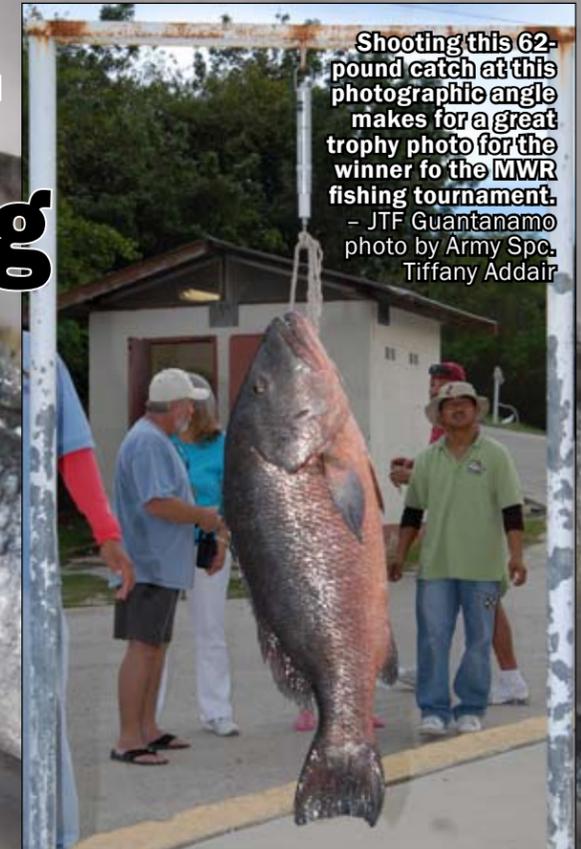
Medal of Honor recipient Retired Army Lt. Col. Harold Fritz shakes hands with a Naval Station Guantanamo Bay resident during an autograph session at the NEX atrium, Oct. 3. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass



# Gigantic grouper wins MWR fishing tournament



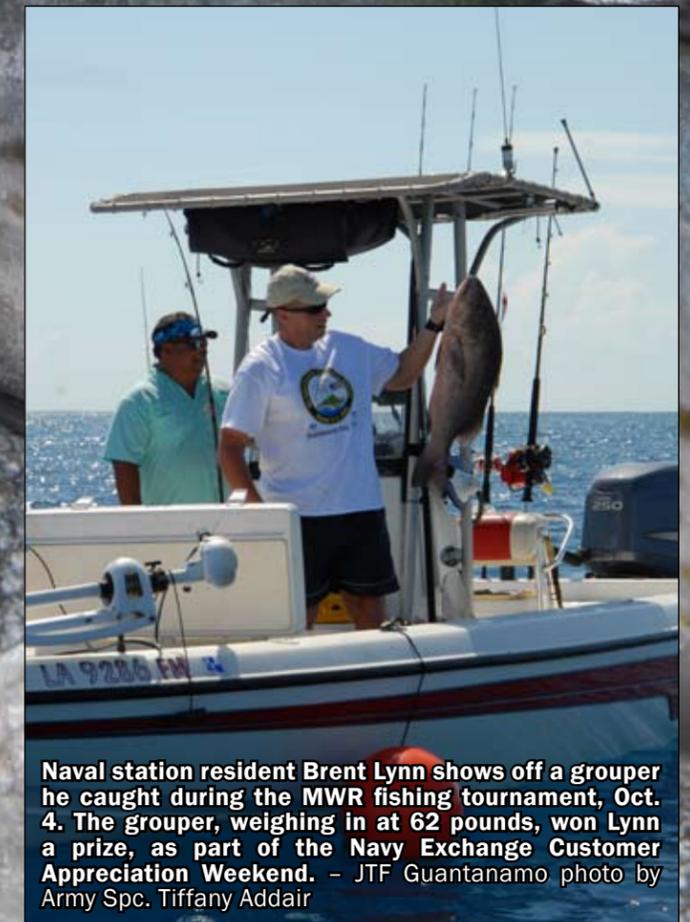
Captain Jose Wejebe of ESPN2's "Spanish Fly" fishing show interviews a Marine prior to a fishing tournament sponsored by MWR, Oct. 4. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair



Shooting this 62-pound catch at this photographic angle makes for a great trophy photo for the winner to the MWR fishing tournament. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair



A Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper prepares his fishing rods at the beginning of the MWR fishing tournament, Oct. 4. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair



Naval station resident Brent Lynn shows off a grouper he caught during the MWR fishing tournament, Oct. 4. The grouper, weighing in at 62 pounds, won Lynn a prize, as part of the Navy Exchange Customer Appreciation Weekend. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair



# COUNTRY MUSIC COMES TO GTMO

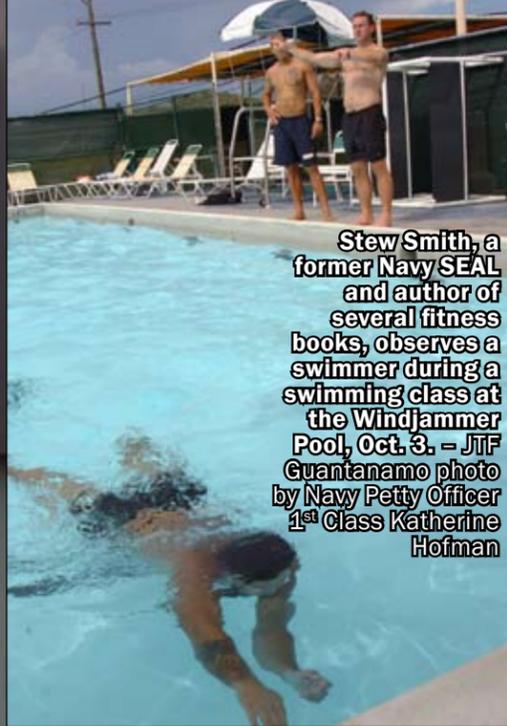


JTF Guantanamo photos by  
Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens and  
Spc. April D. de Armas

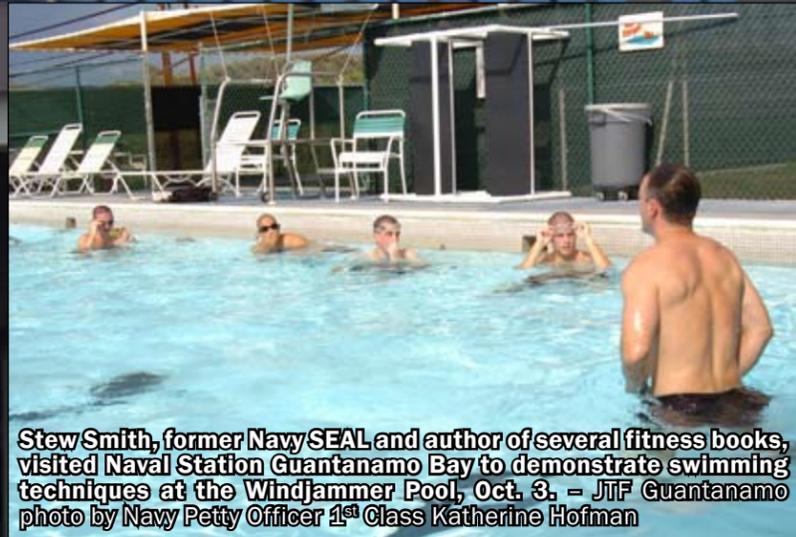
Musical acts for the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay 8th Annual Navy Exchange Customer Appreciation Weekend included country artist Tracy Lawrence and "Nashville Star" finalist and Sailor, Tommy Stanley. The two performed Oct. 4 for a crowd of residents in the Navy Exchange parking lot.



# Combat Swimming

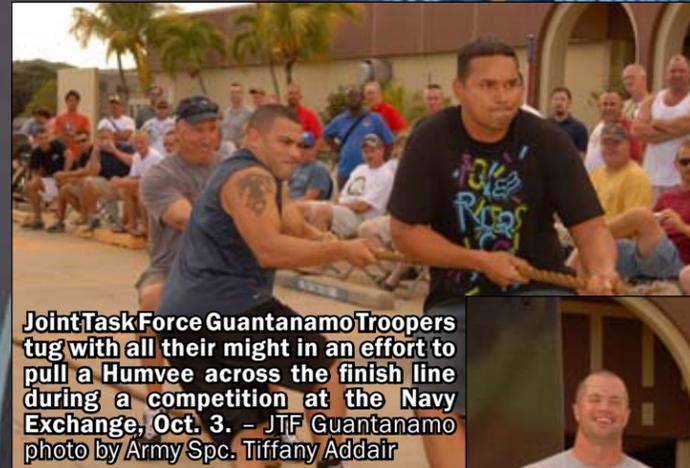


Stew Smith, a former Navy SEAL and author of several fitness books, observes a swimmer during a swimming class at the Windjammer Pool, Oct. 3. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Katherine Hofman



Stew Smith, former Navy SEAL and author of several fitness books, visited Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to demonstrate swimming techniques at the Windjammer Pool, Oct. 3. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Katherine Hofman

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION WEEKEND  
PRIZES ★ GIVEAWAYS ★  
Oct. 2 - 4, 2009



Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers tug with all their might in an effort to pull a Humvee across the finish line during a competition at the Navy Exchange, Oct. 3. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair

Air Force Master Sgt. Michael Moffett with the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, muscles a Humvee past the finish line during the Humvee pull competition, Oct. 3. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair

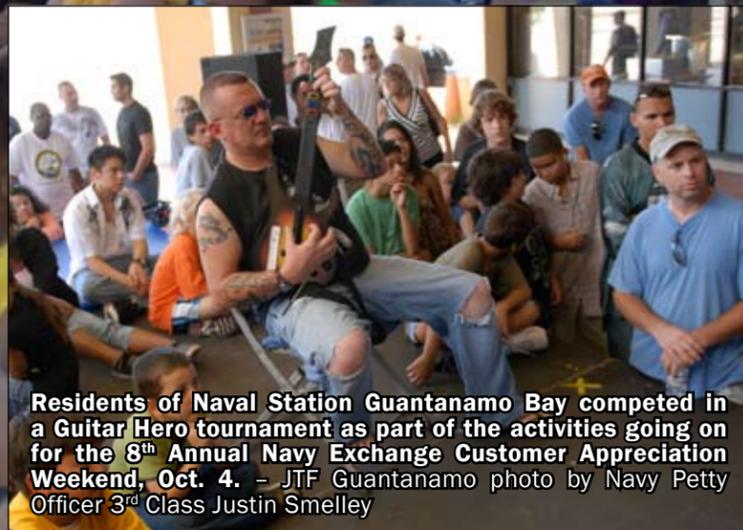


Air Force Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class John Seibel, Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Timothy Tolliver and Air Force Master Sgt. Michael Moffett received brand new Toshiba laptop computers after winning the Humvee pull competition during the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Navy Exchange Customer Appreciation Weekend. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair

# Humvee Pull



# Guitar Hero



Residents of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay competed in a Guitar Hero tournament as part of the activities going on for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Navy Exchange Customer Appreciation Weekend, Oct. 4. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Justin Smelley

# Sideswipe



Members of the Sideswipe Performance team, a martial arts-based group out of Los Angeles, Calif., perform and teach classes at the Navy Exchange atrium during the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Navy Exchange Customer Appreciation Weekend, Oct. 3. The group blends traditional martial arts such as Karate and Tae Kwon Do with gymnastics and acrobatics and entertains audiences across the country. - JTF Guantanamo photos by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Russell and Sgt. Carmen Gibson



# Helping Troopers to kick the habit

**Army Sgt.  
Andrew Hillegass**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Throughout history, the image of the military leader and his trusty cigar or smoking pipe have become synonymous with the United States Armed Forces. From Gen. Douglas MacArthur and his signature corncob pipe to Soldiers receiving cigarettes in C-rations during World War II, the military almost seemed to glamorize smoking among its members.

However, this attitude is in direct conflict with the rest of the country and its anti-smoking movement in bars and restaurants. It is a habit that, as anyone who has tried to quit will tell you, is a very difficult one to kick.

Troopers who are deployed to Joint Task Force Guantanamo are not without hope if they decide that now is the time to kick their smoking habit. Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Valentin Leonardo, who works at the Joint Trooper Clinic, is a man with many resources available to help Troopers kick their habits.

“For anyone looking to quit smoking while deployed here to Guantanamo, we have two main resources available; we can treat them with nicotine replacement products like the patch, gum or lozenges; or we can prescribe them medication to help them stop smoking,” said Leonardo.

One of the newest medications available to individuals looking to quit smoking is the drug Chantix. The drug manufactured by Pfizer is designed to block the effect that nicotine has on your brain and enables you to ease yourself off of a nicotine product.

Leonardo acknowledges the difficulty for personnel deployed to the JTF, as he has seen many people seek out treatment after they relapse while down here.

“There are a lot of people who deploy here and pick up smoking once they arrive. It can be related to the stress of the job or, believe it or not, for some people boredom is a huge trigger,” said Leonardo.

Over the last several months Leonardo and his staff have assisted more than 100 Troopers in their battle against nicotine. But he is also quick to warn those who might be looking to start treatment to prepare them.

“It takes mental preparation; you can’t just wake up one day and decide to quit cold turkey. If you mentally prepare before deciding to quit, then you will be more successful,” said Leonardo.

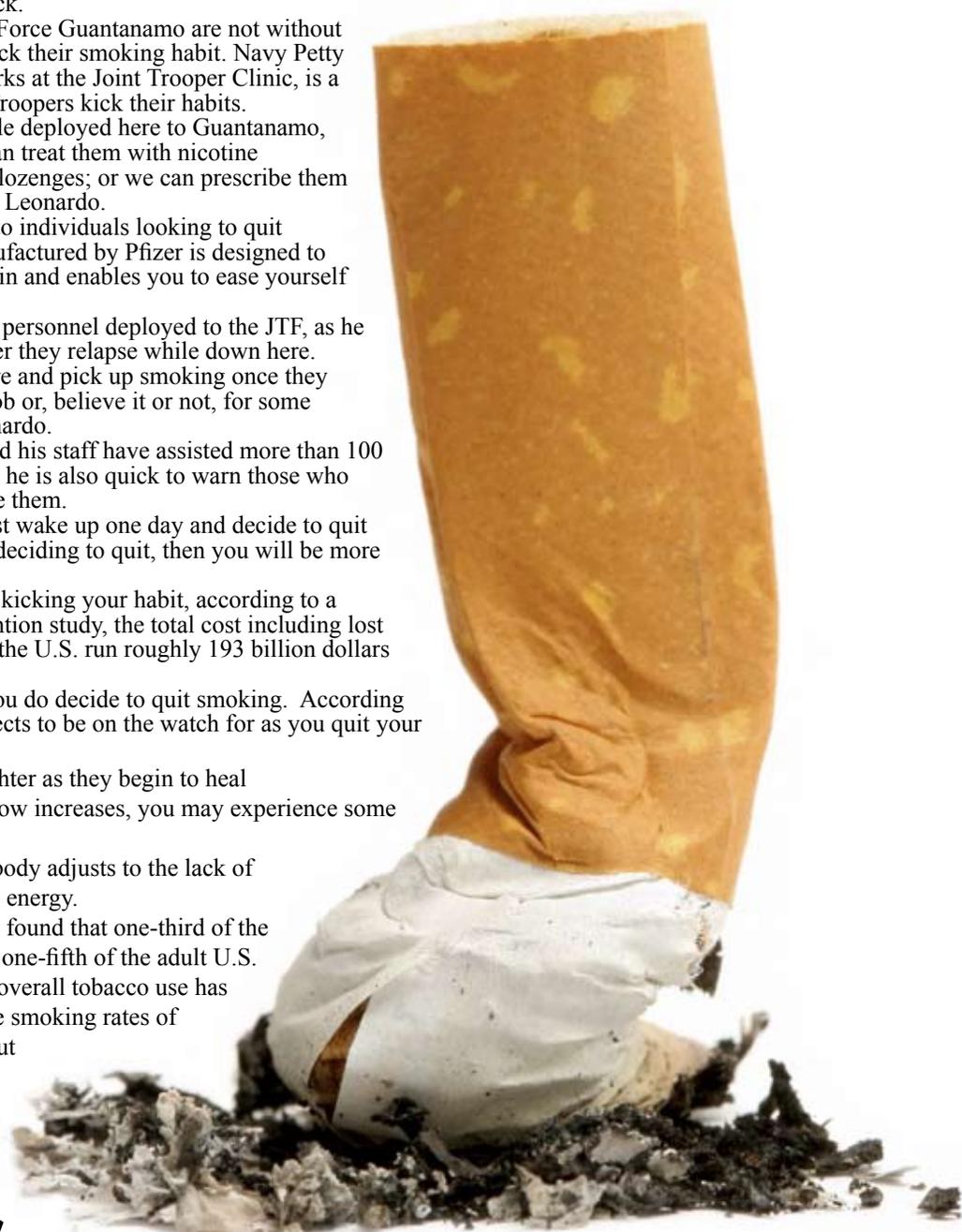
Aside from the obvious health benefits to kicking your habit, according to a 2008 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study, the total cost including lost productivity and health care expenditures in the U.S. run roughly 193 billion dollars each year.

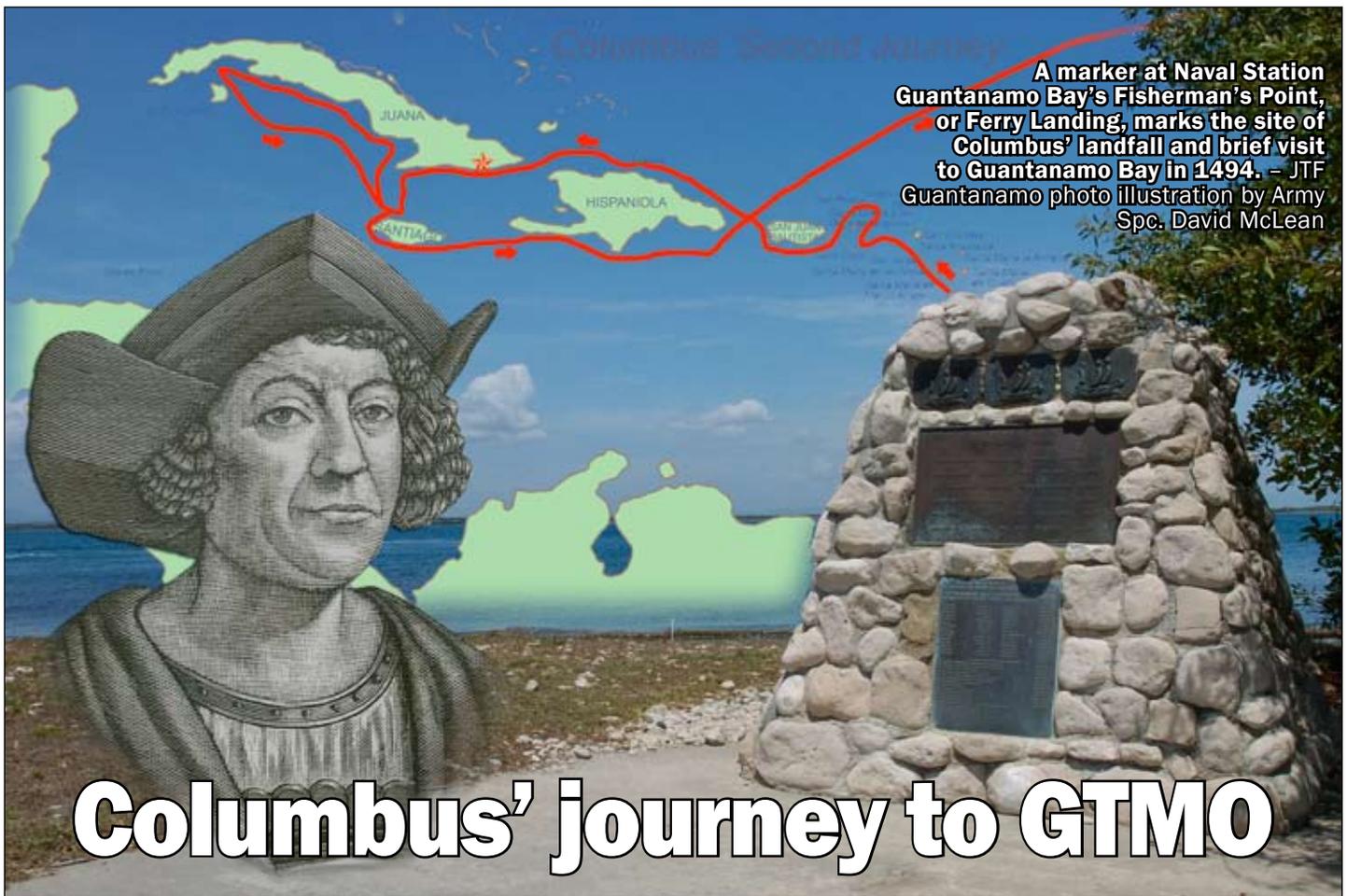
There are some things to be aware of if you do decide to quit smoking. According to the Mayo Clinic, here are some health effects to be on the watch for as you quit your nicotine habit.

- Coughing—your lungs may feel tighter as they begin to heal
- Lightheadedness— as your blood flow increases, you may experience some dizziness
- Change in sleep patterns—as your body adjusts to the lack of nicotine you will begin to feel more energy.

A 2005 study by the Institute of Medicine found that one-third of the active-duty military smoked, compared with one-fifth of the adult U.S. population. While the study also found that overall tobacco use has declined from 1980 to 2005; it also found the smoking rates of personnel returning from war zones was about 50 percent higher than those who did not deploy.

For more information on smoking cessation at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, contact Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Valentin Leonardo at the JTC at ext. 3395. ✪





**Army Spc.  
David McLean**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Hispanic culture in the Western Hemisphere owes its history to an adventurous Italian and his quest for gold and a new trade route to the East. Christopher Columbus is honored for his discovery of the Americas, which helped to shape the history and culture of the Caribbean, and has left an indelible mark on the Western Hemisphere.

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's Fisherman's Point, or Ferry Landing, shares a tie to Columbus' explorations, marked with a stone monument to history.

Columbus was born to a middle-class family of weavers in Genoa, Italy, and travelled extensively to Africa and the Mediterranean, learning how to sail and navigate. He had plans to find a trade route to Japan or China by a westward passage, and needed a royal financier to provide for his trips. After being rejected by King John II of Portugal, he approached Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain for money. Eight years later, the Spanish royals finally agreed, and Columbus was on his way across the Atlantic.

Columbus' first voyage began on August 3, 1492. He was given three ships: the Niña, the Pinta and the flagship Santa Maria. They headed west from the Canary Islands and on October 12, land was spotted. They first landed on an island Columbus named San Salvador, and he mistakenly proclaimed he had found Asia. Columbus and his ships visited several other islands including Cuba and Hispaniola (present day Haiti and the Dominican Republic.) On December 25, the Santa Maria ran aground and they were forced to abandon her. Thirty-nine men were left behind at the settlement named La Navidad, as Columbus returned to Spain in March of 1493.

The second voyage was to be a large scale colonization and exploration project. Outfitted with a large fleet of 17 ships, with 1,500 male colonists and domesticated animals aboard, Columbus sailed from Cádiz in October of 1493. Columbus' orders were

to expand the settlement on Hispaniola, convert the natives to Christianity, establish a trading post and continue his explorations in search of the Orient.

His landfall this time was made in the Lesser Antilles and his new discoveries included the Leeward Islands and Puerto Rico. The Italian navigator arrived at Hispaniola to find the first colony destroyed by the indigenous natives. He founded a new colony nearby, and then sailed off in the summer of 1494 to explore the southern coast of Cuba.

On April 30, 1494, Columbus and his crew found a large, crescent-shaped harbor and made landfall near Fisherman's Point here at Guantanamo Bay. They were searching for gold, but found only a handful of Taino tribesmen and a few huts. Before leaving the next day, he named the bay "Puerto Grande," and then spent the next few weeks exploring the treacherous shoals around Cuba, searching in vain for the mainland before returning to Hispaniola.

Columbus' second voyage marked the start of colonialism in the New World, and the Spanish colonies infused European culture into the region. This culture still thrives throughout the Caribbean, Central and South America.

"He is the brick that the entire Hispanic heritage was built upon," said Army Maj. Reuben Soto with the Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Joint Detention Group. "He was the first one who brought culture and all things that composed Latin heritage to America. He impacted others who came after him as well."

Some of those who sailed with Columbus on his second voyage went on to play very important roles in the history of the New World. Diego Velázquez was a conquistador who later became governor of Cuba. Juan Ponce de León would become governor of Puerto Rico, but was most famous for his journey to Florida in search of the Fountain of Youth.

Columbus inspired explorers into a race between European nations to find and colonize the western world and harvest its resources. Columbus' discovery brought him wealth and fame, but he was able to give the region a culture and history that will remain for all time. ♠

# Fire prevention week: October 4-10

## FIRE PREVENTION from 4

Smoke alarms are essential to fire safety and survival. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, having a smoke alarm cuts the risk of dying in a home fire by half. Although most homes at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay are outfitted with smoke detectors, it is important that Troopers and residents check their smoke detectors regularly to make sure they are in good working order. Experts recommend testing your smoke alarms monthly and changing the batteries at least once a year.

Always know the evacuation route or escape plan for the places you live and work. Fire escape routes should be posted in all buildings. Make sure to plan for two ways to escape from each room and pick a place to meet after you escape to make sure that everyone gets out. Never open a door that feels hot, escape another way. Always escape first and then call for help.

“Always know where you are and where the exits and extinguishers are,” said Deida.

“Stay vigilant and know your



**Firefighters from the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay fire department fight flames during a training exercise in preparation for Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 5. - JTF Guantanamo photos by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Russell**

surroundings,” said Deida. “A fire can start any time of the day.”

The Naval Station Guantanamo Bay fire department is holding an open house Oct. 10 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Fire Station One. The open house will feature

goodies, giveaways, fire safety tips and demonstrations. All naval station residents are invited to attend, and Sparky will be on hand for the kids. For more information on Fire Safety and Prevention, call ext. 4178 or ext. 4179. ☆



## FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

① HOLD UPRIGHT, PULL RING (SAFETY) PIN



② START BACK 8-10 FEET  
AIM AT BASE OF FIRE



③ SQUEEZE LEVER  
SWEEP SIDE TO SIDE



→ Familiarize yourself with the fire extinguisher operation and locations around your home and work.

→ Inappropriate use of fire extinguishers could be subject to fine or penalties.

For more information, please email [safety@jftgmo.southcom.mil](mailto:safety@jftgmo.southcom.mil)



## United through reading

Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Walter Sladek sets up a camera to videotape Navy Chief Petty Officer Robert Butcher reading a book to send home to his child while deployed to JTF Guantanamo. The United Through Reading program is a powerful way to ease the stress of separation on children of deployed Troopers. During the month of October, Troopers can participate using specially-marked copies of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," provided by the Pearson Foundation. For more information, contact Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Katherine Hofman at ext. 3589 or Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class D.P. Gob at ext. 3114. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Katherine Hofman

## Boots on the Ground

by Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Justin Smelley

*What is your favorite scary movie?*

**Army Spc.  
Anthony Berkowitz**



**"Halloween,"** because it was more realistic compared to other films."

**Marine Corps Cpl.  
Julius Fairfax**



**"Nightmare on Elm Street,"** because my grandpa used to scare us by telling us that Freddy lived next door."

**Army Sgt.  
Sonaina Singia**



**"Silence of the Lambs,"** because Hannibal Lecter is a creepy guy."

**Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class  
Jason McElroy**



**"The Grudge,"** it was the first movie that really scared me because of the little girl."

# The four chaplains

**Navy Lt. Cmdr.  
Lee Hellwig**  
NEGB chaplain

Courage is a virtue nurtured by narrative. By that, I mean ordinary people like us may be inspired to act with courage if we are provided with stories of how other people have faced danger or difficult circumstances and rose to the occasion to do what is right. One of the most inspiring stories I know concerning courage is the story of “The Four Chaplains.”

On the evening of Feb. 2, 1943, USAT Dorchester, an Army transport ship, was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 military members, merchant seamen and civilian workers. Once a luxury coastal liner, the vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship during World War II. The Dorchester, one of three ships in its convoy, was steaming from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland, escorted by three Coast Guard Cutters.

German U-boats were known to prowl those waters and had already sunk several ships. On Feb. 3, at 12:55 a.m., a German submarine spotted the Dorchester and fired three torpedoes. One hit the starboard side, amid ship, far below the water line. With the ship taking on water fast, the captain gave the order to abandon ship. In less than 20 minutes, the Dorchester would slip beneath the Atlantic’s icy waters.

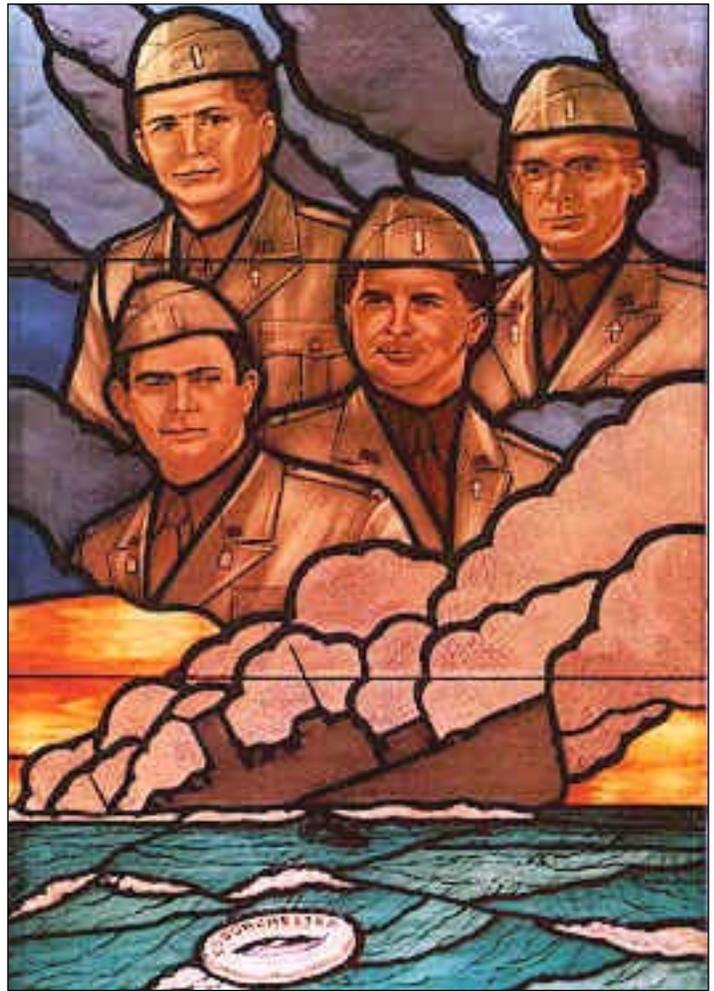
Men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, over-crowding them to the point of capsizing. Other rafts drifted away before soldiers could get into them. Through the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness. Those chaplains were Army Lt. George L. Fox, a Methodist chaplain; Army Lt. Alexander D. Goode, a Jewish rabbi; Army Lt. John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic chaplain; and Army Lt. Clark V. Poling, a Dutch Reformed chaplain.

Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the Troops. There they tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded and guide the disoriented toward safety. “Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four chaplains offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live,” recounted Wyatt R. Fox, son of Reverend Fox. One witness, Pvt. William B. Bednar, found himself floating in oily water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. “I could hear men crying, pleading and praying,” Bednar recalls. “I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going.”

Another Sailor, Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, tried to reenter his cabin but Rabbi Goode stopped him. Mahoney, concerned about the cold Arctic air, explained he had forgotten his gloves. “Never mind,” Goode responded. “I have two pairs.” The rabbi then gave the petty officer his own gloves. In retrospect, Mahoney realized that Rabbi Goode was not conveniently carrying two pair of gloves, and that the rabbi had decided not to leave the Dorchester.

When most of the men were topside, the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight. When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed their own and gave them to four frightened young men. As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains--arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers.

Of the 902 men aboard the USAT Dorchester, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors. When the news reached the U.S., the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and heroic conduct of the four chaplains.



“Valor is a gift,” Carl Sandburg once said. “Those having it never know if they truly have it until the test comes.” That night, Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington passed life’s ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selfless sacrifice.

The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were later awarded posthumously to the next of kin of these chaplains. A one-time only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961. Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements that required heroism performed under fire. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

The courage of these four men is a true testimony to their faith in their God.

When at peace with God, it is easier to summon the courage necessary to do the right thing, even if it may cost you your life. The example of these four chaplains can offer us much to think about regarding the challenges we face. ☆

## JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

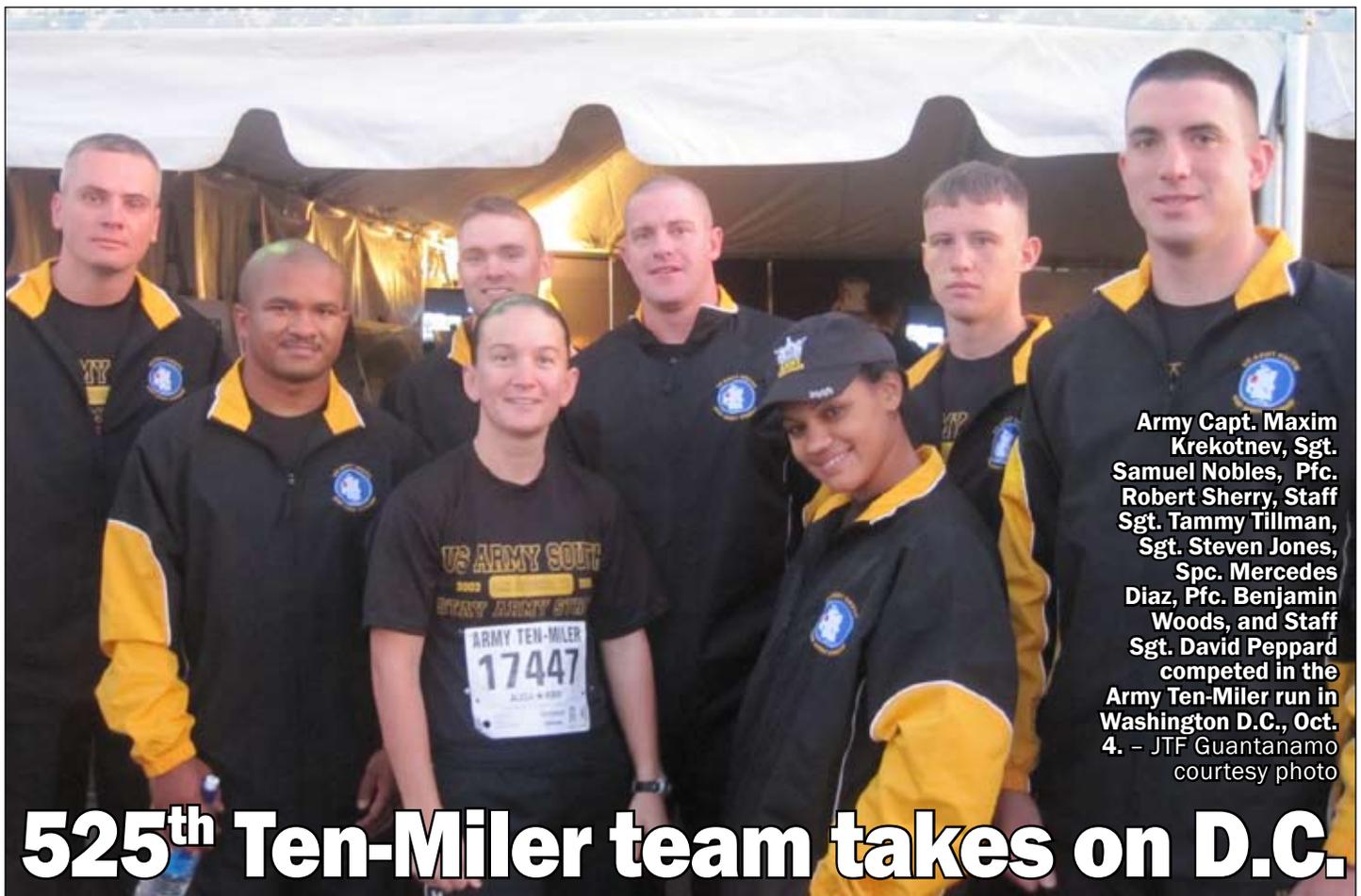
**Protestant Worship**  
Sunday: 9 a.m.

**Catholic Mass**  
Sunday - Friday:  
6:30 a.m. Mass

**Spanish Protestant  
Worship**  
Sunday: 11 a.m.

**Spanish Catholic Mass**  
Sunday: 5 p.m.  
at NAVSTA Chapel

**Bible Study**  
Sunday: 6 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7 p.m.



**Army Capt. Maxim Krekotnev, Sgt. Samuel Nobles, Pfc. Robert Sherry, Staff Sgt. Tammy Tillman, Sgt. Steven Jones, Spc. Mercedes Diaz, Pfc. Benjamin Woods, and Staff Sgt. David Peppard competed in the Army Ten-Miler run in Washington D.C., Oct. 4. - JTF Guantanamo courtesy photo**

# 525<sup>th</sup> Ten-Miler team takes on D.C.

**Army Pfc. Christopher Vann**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Joint Task Force Guantanamo's 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion sent eight individuals to compete as a team in Washington, D.C., for the Army Ten-Miler run, Oct. 4. The "MPs of the Caribbean" team – consisting of six males and two females – placed 17<sup>th</sup> among 38 active duty Army teams, and placed 178<sup>th</sup> overall out of 502 teams.

Each year, tens of thousands of runners and spectators descend upon Washington, D.C., to join in this prestigious event. Produced by the Joint Force Headquarters – National Capital Region and the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, the Army Ten-Miler proceeds benefit Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation, a comprehensive network of support and leisure services designed to enhance the lives of Soldiers and their families.

The race starts and finishes at the Pentagon, passing by D.C. landmarks including the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument and the Capitol Building. The mission of the Army Ten-

Miler is to promote the Army, build esprit de corps, support fitness goals and enhance community relations.

Army Spc. Mercedes Diaz, a Trooper deployed with the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, competed with the "MPs of the Caribbean" team. "The event in itself was an exhilarating experience. We had people come from all over, different branches and civilians representing their deployed spouses. The wounded Soldiers were also there and that in itself was the biggest excitement and adrenaline rush," said Diaz.

"To see them out there doing their thing and getting through 10 miles, they, to me, were the true winners," said Diaz. "Our team as a whole did a great job placing 17<sup>th</sup> out of the active duty teams, but it seemed like a small accomplishment compared to the wounded warriors' team," said Diaz. Diaz concluded that the event was an experience she will never forget.

Army Staff Sgt. Tammy Tillman, also on the team, said that the initial tryouts for the battalion's Army Ten-Miler team were held Mar. 20. "At that time, the battalion selected six top male run times and two top female run times, so it was very competitive."

When asked about training, Tillman answered "CPTK, [Capt. Maxim Krekotnev], our team captain, had set up a matrix where we would try to run a certain amount of miles every month as a team and individually. We had a few group runs, but with everyone working a different schedule, whether it was midnight shift or day shift, everyone has been training more or less on their own until the race day. Most of the training consisted of a lot of distance running; six miles, nine miles and 10 miles. I believe everyone had their own preference. I personally tried to run every week as much as possible, to break in my (new) sneakers."

"My overall impression of the entire event was, the whole event surpassed all my expectations and it was very energetic. I was amazed by all the people who were there to support and run. I had never seen so many people in my entire life – 30,000 runners. It was an exhilarating experience, just watching this large crowd run as I was running."

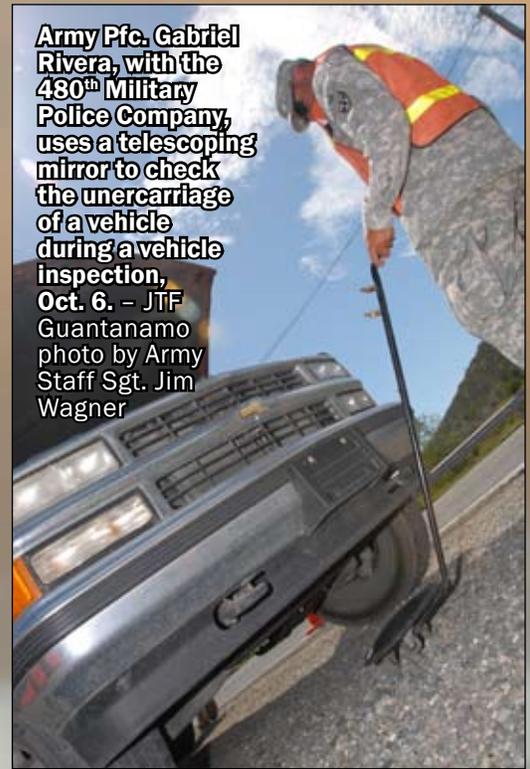
Tillman concluded, "Our team may have not gotten first place, but they did a great job, and at least we all can now say that we ran on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Army Ten-Miler." ☆

## Individual results

**Capt. Maxim Krekotnev, HHC 525<sup>th</sup>, 1:10:08**  
**Pfc. Benjamin Woods, 189<sup>th</sup> MP Co., 1:12:02**  
**Sgt. Steven Jones, 193<sup>rd</sup> MP Co., 1:12:42**  
**Pfc. Robert Sherry, HHC 525<sup>th</sup>, 1:15:57**

**Sgt. Samuel Nobles, 193<sup>rd</sup> MP Co., 1:24:04**  
**Staff Sgt. David Peppard, 193<sup>rd</sup> MP Co., 1:32:54**  
**Spc. Mercedes Diaz, HHC 525<sup>th</sup>, 1:36:19**  
**Staff Sgt. Tammy Tillman, HHC 525<sup>th</sup>, 1:39:57**

Army Pfc. Gabriel Rivera, with the 480<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, uses a telescoping mirror to check the unencumbered carriage of a vehicle during a vehicle inspection, Oct. 6. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jim Wagner



Troopers do the "chicken dance" as part of the Oktoberfest festivities, Oct. 3. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Emily Greene

Around the  the  
**JTF**



Army Sgt. Maj. Armando Estrada, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Rafael Roman, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Miguel Bonilla, Sgt. Jose Rojas, Staff Sgt. William Cruz and Maj. Andres Ausua (seated behind Cruz), members of Puerto Rican Fever, an all-Soldier steel drum band, performed for children at W.T. Sampson Elementary School during Hispanic Heritage Month, Oct. 6. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Edward Flynn