

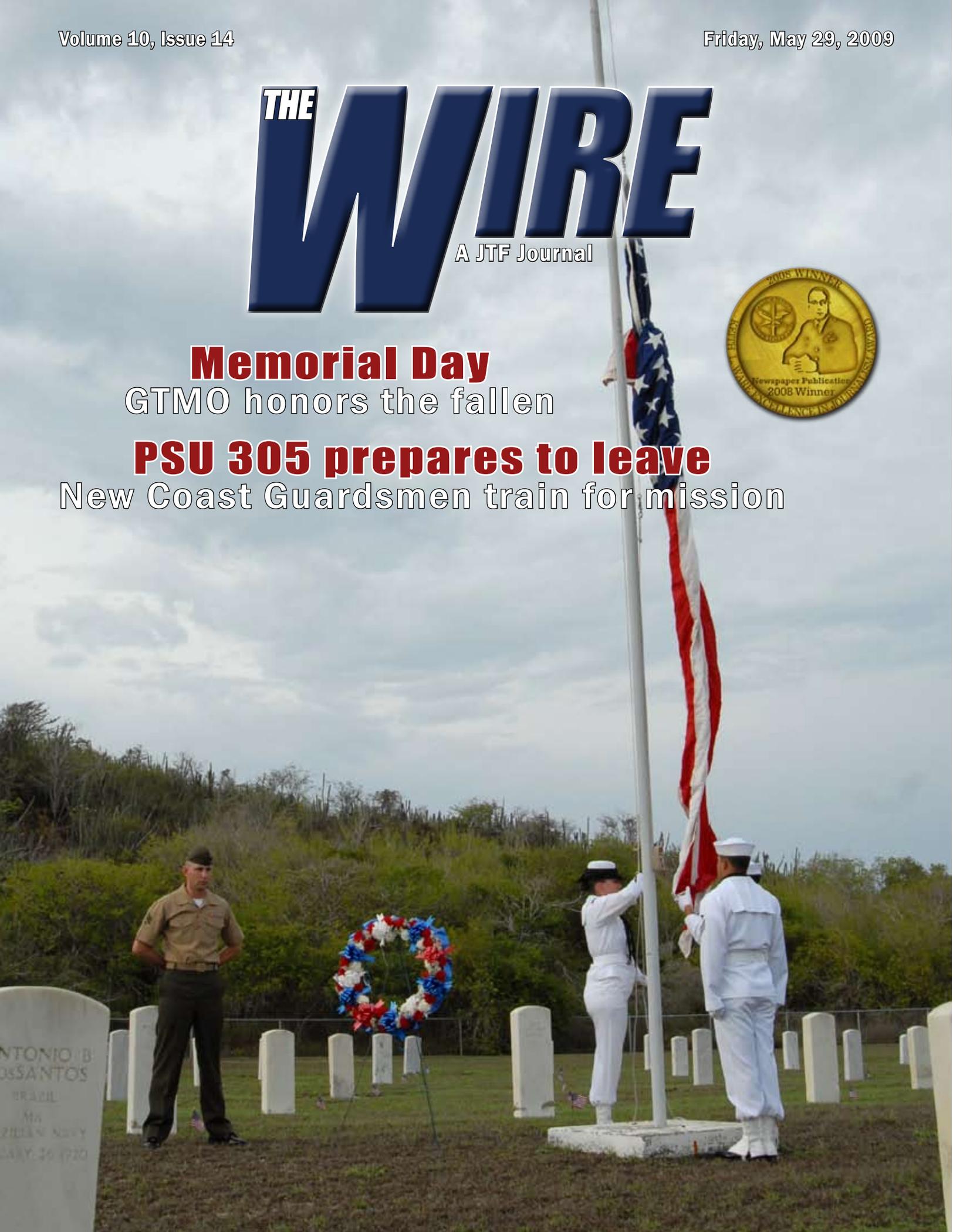
# THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



**Memorial Day**  
GTMO honors the fallen

**PSU 305 prepares to leave**  
New Coast Guardsmen train for mission



# Memorial Day

## Message from the leadership

**Robert M. Gates**  
Secretary of Defense

“On May 5, 1868, General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, asked that America remember those lost in the Civil War by ‘gather[ing] around their sacred remains’ to ‘garland the passionless mounds... with choicest flowers’ and ‘raise above them the dear old flag they saved.’

“Since then, we have set aside one day each year to honor all those who have died in service to our country. Across the United States, military support groups, veterans associations and patriots mount public tribute to those who served and sacrificed. By honoring our men and women in uniform with events like this, groups such as the American Veterans Center keep alive the memory of those who paid the ultimate price.

“Some wear a red poppy, in the spirit of the poet Moina Michael, who wrote that flower “grows on fields where valor led.” Others continue to adorn graves with flowers and candles. And each year, the soldiers of “The Old Guard” place small American flags at each Arlington National Cemetery gravestone and patrol around the clock during Memorial Day weekend to ensure that each flag remains standing.

“It is important to think of the fallen on this day, but we should also keep in mind all of our servicemen and women throughout the year. They and their families continue to sacrifice for our country and deserve our recognition and support. We should heed the advice of General Logan, who wrote: ‘Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.’”

**M.G. Mullen**  
Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

“On Memorial Day, and every day, we honor Americans who volunteer to serve a cause greater than themselves – Americans just like Phillip Myers.

“Growing up in Hopewell, Virginia, Phillip was, some say, just ‘like any other teenager.’ He went to school, loved cars and music, and for a few years after high school, he held a job near home. Phillip joined the Air Force in 1999 as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician because, as he once half-joked, “it paid more.” But everyone around him knew differently – he was merely following his dreams.

“Spending all 10 years of his service overseas, including tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, his father said Phillip always looked out for the people serving under him, and that ‘if he thought a job was too dangerous, he’d get out and check it himself.’ He had previously received both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for valor, but Phillip wasn’t motivated by accolades. He knew he was just looking out for his people, and trying to get the job done.

“On April 4th, 2009, near Helmand Province in Afghanistan, Technical Sergeant Phillip Myers died doing what he loved to do – protecting the lives of others – while disarming an improvised explosive device.

“It was nearly 65 years ago when Ernie Pyle, the famous wartime reporter, captured a similar spirit of seemingly ordinary young men, extraordinarily fighting and dying on the beaches of Normandy: they were ‘fighting for each other.’ We are reminded that the story of Phillip Myers is a special but timeless one – the story of Americans simply doing what they love, on behalf of those they care for most.

“Memorial Day is about families and friends, bound by service, commitment, and sacrifice. As you gather this holiday weekend with those you love, please remember Phillip’s family, his wife, daughter, and son, and thousands of other families of the fallen, just like them – for whom this day will be forever sacred.

“On behalf of the more than two million Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coastguardsmen, and their Families, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and I wish you a very enjoyable and safe Memorial Day.”

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### COVER:

**The colors are raised at Cuzco Cemetery during a Memorial Day ceremony, May 25.** – 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.



Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Roberto Rondain, a supply manager with Joint Task Force Guantanamo, gets his blood pressure checked at the safety stand-down, May 21. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann

# Safety a concern for summer months

**Army Staff Sgt.  
Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

June is National Safety Month and the focus at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay is Trooper safety. The naval station and Joint Task Force Guantanamo recently held a Safety Stand-down, May 21, to raise Troopers' awareness of safety issues.

According to the National Safety Council, in 2005, 117,809 people died due to unintentional or accidental injuries. Many of these injuries could have been prevented by observing proper safety techniques.

As the summer months approach, specific safety concerns come along with the warmer weather.

"It's getting hotter and hotter every day," said Army Capt. Robert Flores-Martinez, the Joint Task Force safety officer. "Troopers need to make sure to wear protective clothing and sun block and to drink plenty of water."

In addition to hydrating and wearing protective clothing, when spending long

periods of time outside or going to the beach, Troopers should always use the buddy system.

When in the water, Troopers should always swim with a buddy. Boaters should also exercise caution while operating watercraft, especially in areas where swimmers or divers are present.

With warmer weather also comes destructive weather. Thunderstorms and severe weather can threaten at a moment's notice. When lightning strikes, stay indoors. Check with your chain of command to ensure you know your unit's procedures for destructive weather and who to contact in case of an emergency.

"Don't wait until the last moment to make preparations for hurricane season," said Flores-Martinez. "It's everybody's responsibility to be ready."

Another safety concern in the summer months is alcohol use. Troopers should remember some simple tips for drinking responsibly:

- Eat before and during drinking.
- Before you celebrate, designate. Identify a responsible driver or use public transportation.

- Don't chug your drinks; drink slowly and make your drinks last.

- Alternate between alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

- Remember the word HALT. Don't drink if you are Hungry, Angry, Lonely or Tired.

- Do not lose control of yourself. Remember, it's always OK not to drink.

- Avoid binge drinking or other high-risk drinking behaviors.

"Troopers need to be aware that their choices can reflect on everybody," Flores-Martinez said.

Always know who to contact in case of an emergency. At Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Troopers can contact the Morale, Welfare and Recreation taxi service at 75586 or 90435. In case of a medical emergency, contact the naval station emergency room at 72690 or call 911. For any other emergencies, contact the base police office at ext. 4105.

Simple precautions can prevent many injuries. Always use good safety practices not only at home, but also while participating in recreational activities and while you are working. ★



# PSU 305 trains relief

Coast Guard Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Floyd Campbell and Chief Petty Officer Joshua Mann discuss training aboard a Coast Guard Response Boat, Charlie Class. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. deArmas



Coast Guard Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class David Shearman, with Port Security Unit 305, performs left-seat, right-seat training with Coast Guard Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Pete Loreaux, with Maritime Safety Service Team 91101, May 13, 2009. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black

## Army Spc. April D. de Armas

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The U.S. Coast Guard Port Security Unit 305 leaves soon but there is still one very important thing to do before they can pack their last bag and head home to Virginia. They must train their relief.

Maritime Safety and Security Team 91101 from Seattle, Wash., will be taking the helm and will head-up port security at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay for the next six months. During their first couple of weeks, the MSST will ride along with PSU 305 and get hands-on training that will help them carry out their mission.

The Coast Guard serves a very important mission for Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. They provide security for the waterways into and out of the naval station.

Coast Guard Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michael Conley is one of the Coast Guardsmen with PSU 305. He is assisting in some of the training the new unit is doing.

“I will be giving a general briefing to the new unit,” said Conley. “I will provide them with information about some of the different units they will be meeting and working with at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, such as the Joint Detention Group and the Joint Visitors Bureau.”

Conley said the information and training the new unit receives over the next few weeks will prepare them for the

ongoing mission here.

Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Joshua Mann is one of the newcomers with the MSST and has been with the Coast Guard for 13 years.

“I am excited to be here,” said Mann. “I am ready to get started so we can complete our mission and maybe have some fun while we are here.”

The MSST spent several months preparing for their deployment to Guantanamo Bay.

“Along with the active duty members of our team, we activated several reservists, so we had to make sure everyone’s qualifications on the weapons and the boats were current,” said Mann.

Mann feels his team is well prepared and ready for their mission.

Coast Guard Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Floyd Campbell is a member of PSU 305 and is also involved in training the MSST.

“I will be giving them a water tour of the bay area and off-shore sites,” said Campbell. “I have enjoyed my time here but I am ready to pass the wheel to the MSST.”

Both Campbell and Conley said they have had a lot of fun with their jobs here but are ready to go home and be with families and friends.

Campbell and Conley both feel the MSST will be fully prepared to handle the mission given them as they take over port security at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. ★



**Army Master Sgt. Eustaquio Antonetti, the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of transportation and maintenance, conducts preventive maintenance checks and services on a JTF vehicle, May 26. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz**

**Army Sgt.  
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The transportation and maintenance section in J-4 continues the ongoing mission of maintaining Joint Task Force Guantanamo's vehicles and licenses.

"We are here for maintenance," said Army Master Sgt. Eustaquio Antonetti, the non-commissioned officer in charge of transportation and maintenance. "It is mostly preventive maintenance."

The majority of the issues Antonetti and his shop handle are accident cases, which can be prevented.

"Troopers need to make sure they conduct weekly preventive maintenance checks and services," Antonetti explained. "By doing this, there will be a limited number of accidents."

"Our mission is not only to maintain vehicles," Antonetti continued. "It is also to encourage safety habits."

The transportation and maintenance section is also responsible for issuing licenses to all Troopers at JTF Guantanamo.

"Everyone has three qualifications," said Army Pfc. Tania Torres, a unit level linguistic system ground dispatcher. "Everyone can drive a 10,000-pound commercial vehicle and below, a 15-passenger van and below and a 1-1/4 ton vehicle and below."

Torres is also responsible for fuel keys, transporting vehicles to and from contracting companies that perform assigned work orders and keeping track of vehicles' mileage.

The shop is also responsible for dispatching the vehicles.

"We dispatch or re-dispatch the vehicles every 60 days," said Carol Hale, a dispatch agent. "This is done for maintenance reasons and to keep track of the vehicles."

When the main driver validates the dates, the vehicle control officer is contacted.

"Every week I send out a 10-day 'heads-up' report," Hale continued. "The report tells which vehicles are out of dispatch or need to come in to be re-dispatched."

There are over 40 loan vehicles that have to come in on a weekly basis for inspections and mileage updates.

According to Navy Lt. j.g. Kelly Schoenly, there are random roadside inspections every two months to ensure that JTF vehicles are being properly maintained.

The transportation and maintenance mission at Joint Task Force Guantanamo continues to play a key role in the ongoing success of conducting safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees.

"I am very proud to work here," said Antonetti. "My Troopers know their job." ★



# Silva places 1<sup>st</sup> in Memorial Day 5K

Troopers from Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay participated in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Memorial Day 5K, May 25. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

## Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Whether it is the desire to win a medal, the joy of running or in the spirit of Memorial Day, numerous Troopers from Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay participated in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Memorial Day 5K, May 25.

Air Force 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ryan Silva was barely able to hold off Navy Lt. Patrick Saluke during the race. Silva won by a two-second margin with a time of 17 minutes, 37 seconds. Saluke's time was still better than the time he posted in last month's victory at the Chief Petty Officer Association 5K at 17:39.

The two junior officers said that their friendship enables healthy competition.

"When I came out here, I was looking for redemption," Silva said. "Pat damaged my fragile ego during the CPOA 5K and I have been crossing the days off my calendar for this run," he joked.

The third place finisher was Chris Duplessis with a time of 19:00. The top three women were: Kristen Wallace with 19:47; Karen Appel with 23:08; Janitsa Rodriguez with 23:30.

Even though Silva and Saluke enjoyed the event as a competition, it was much more than that.

"These runs help maintain good camaraderie for [service members]," Silva said. "It is cool how we can all come together and run for an important cause like Memorial Day in support of all the men and women before us."

MWR strives to host a 5K on a monthly basis.

"We know most people look forward to these runs," said Ryan Rollison, MWR fitness coordinator. "We like to do 5K's on people's days off, so everyone can participate."

This is Rollison's first year living on a military base.

"I have never lived on a military base before," Rollison said. "So everyday feels almost like Memorial Day."

Rollison has family ties to the military and gratefully appreciates all those who serve our country.

"It is an honor to support the [Troopers here]," Rollison stated humbly.

MWR has several fitness events scheduled for the upcoming months. Events include a 300 Challenge and a bench press competition. For more information regarding MWR fitness events, call Ryan Rollison at ext. 75576. ★



**Air Force 1st Lt. Ryan Silva conducts a cool down stretch after winning the Memorial Day 5K with a time of 17:37.**  
– JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz



# “12 Rounds” you’ve already seen

**Army Sgt.  
Emily Greene**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

There is an informal rating scheme for movies; movies that must be seen on the big screen, movies that you watch in the theater if a friend wants to see it, movies you wait and buy on DVD, movies you rent, movies you watch on TV. “12 Rounds” falls into the category of “movies you wouldn’t watch if someone gave it to you.”

Directed by Renny Harlin of the second “Die Hard” movie, this film takes the silliest sequences from every other action flick and mashes them together to create a cheese-fest of chase scenes and bad one-liners.

John Cena stars as Danny Fisher, a New Orleans cop who single-handedly thwarts goofy criminal mastermind, Miles Jackson (Aiden Gillen) and puts him behind bars forever or so he thinks. Once Miles breaks out of prison, steals Danny’s girlfriend and blows up his house he spends the rest of the movie running to stop a variety of moving vehicles, crashing cars and fire trucks and looking really stressed out.

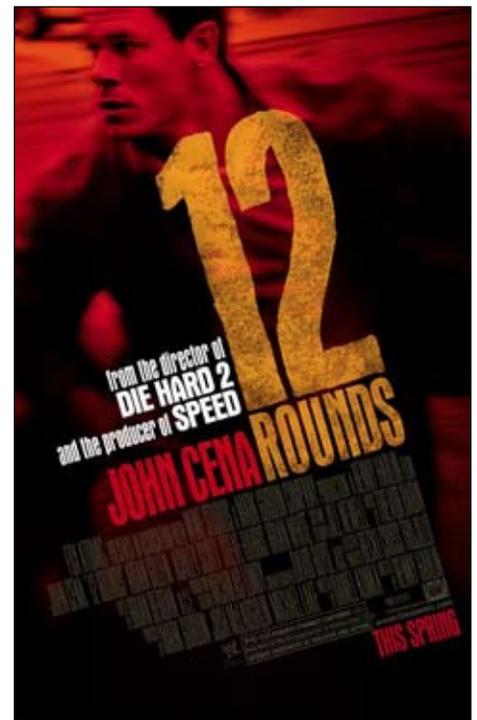
Gillen’s performance as the villain is less than impressive. The viewer is expected to believe that this annoying little guy with a weird hybrid American/Irish accent has not only the New Orleans PD, but the FBI outsmarted. He arranges a series of highly implausible tests for Danny to win back

his girl, all the while scheming to make out like the bandit he is.

In all fairness, however, actors can only work with what they are given in a script. This one, written by Daniel Kunka, didn’t give the cast much leeway. Not only can all the big lines be heard in just about any other action film chosen off the Blockbuster shelf, they weren’t that good the first time around.

The saving grace of this movie should have been the disaster sequences. After all, you can normally depend on an action film to have a few satisfying crashes, something will blow up, and someone will hang from a helicopter as it circles above the city. “12 Rounds” has all of these and even throws in a trolley and a chase through a random house, whose occupants are mildly surprised to see a bunch of guys run through. However, none of these de rigueur scenes manage to excite. This may be because there is one every 5 minutes or so and all of them are awkwardly written into the plot. Pity.

“12 rounds” of this arbitrary nonsense is enough to cause any viewer to take special interest in the weather, what is on the news, or might even inspire someone to suddenly decide she needs to wash her hair. However, annoying as this little film was, at least the viewer had a gauge to measure just how much longer they had to endure the silly test of smarts (and brawn). ☆



**PG-13**  
108 minutes

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

# Remembering the missing

## ■ “Missing man” tables honor MIA/POWs

**Army Sgt.  
Emily Greene**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

You pass it every day at the galley. Maybe you have taken a moment to pause and read the words in the frame, or stopped to pay a small tribute. Maybe you have been reminded of the service members missing from our midst.

In galleys around Naval Station Guantanamo Bay there are small tables that serve to remind Troopers of their comrades in arms who are prisoners of war or missing in action. Set for one, the tables symbolize members of the military profession who are unable to join us in the breaking of our daily bread.

The script in the frame placed on each table reads, “This table set for one is small, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against his oppressors. The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country’s call to arms. The single rose displayed in a vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades-in-arms who kept the faith awaiting their return. The red ribbon tied so prominently on the vase is reminiscent of the red ribbon worn upon the lapel and breasts of thousands who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing. A slice of lemon is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate. There is salt upon the bread plate symbolic of families’ tears as they wait. The glass is inverted, they cannot toast with us this night. The chair, the chair is empty, they are not here.”

Romeo Izon, facilities manager at Seaside Galley in Joint Task Force Guantanamo, said it is a Navy tradition to have POW/MIA tables at galleys worldwide.

“Although there are people who cannot join us for meals, this is one small way we can remember them,” Izon said. “They are still with us in spirit.”

Navy Chief Petty Officer John Poole, a master-at-arms with the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, is familiar with the tables. He said he has seen them throughout his career.

“They are a good way to remember our fallen, wounded and missing service members,” said Poole. “It is important that we never forget them.”

Army Pfc. Emmanuel Santiago, a military policeman with the 480<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, said whenever he sees the



**The “Missing man” table at Seaside Galley, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay stands in remembrance of missing service members and prisoners of war. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Emily Greene**

table at the Seaside Galley it reminds him to pause for a moment and remember.

“Thinking about the sacrifices other people have made makes me so proud,” Santiago said. “I am proud of past heroes; proud to wear the same uniform.”

Army Staff Sgt. Jose Serrano, also a military policeman with the 480<sup>th</sup> MP Co., said when he passes the empty chair and the glass turned down he is reminded of how blessed he is.

“There are people who are still missing and who would love to be here where I am today,” Serrano said. “I am able to go home and see my family and they are not.”

“Missing man” tables are an important part of military tradition and are a small, but significant way for service members to remember their brothers in arms. They are a way to ensure that the brave men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country are never forgotten. ★



**Navy Capt. Steven Blaisdell, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay commanding officer, Navy Rear Adm. Dave Thomas, Joint Task Force Guantanamo commander and Navy Capt. Bruce Meneley, Guantanamo Bay Navy Hospital commanding officer, place a wreath at Cuzco Cemetery during a Memorial Day ceremony, May 25.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens

# Honoring the fallen

**Army Staff Sgt.  
Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

They come from different countries, their deaths spanning the more than 100 years since the first U.S. presence at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. They were U.S. service members, Cubans, exiles from other countries, workers who supported base operations and babies of those stationed here. Each grave marker at Guantanamo Bay’s Cuzco Cemetery has a unique story, many long forgotten except by those left behind.

Each year on one day – Memorial Day – the otherwise undisturbed cemetery is open to the public for a chance to remember those buried there and all of those who’ve died in service to their country.

Service members from Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay gathered in the early morning, May 25, to honor the sacrifices of service members past and present who’ve given their lives in support of freedom.

Memorial Day is historically observed on the last Monday in May to commemorate those who died while in military service. The holiday was originally enacted to honor Union Soldiers after the American Civil War but was expanded after World War I to include American casualties of any U.S. military conflict.

The National Moment of Remembrance was established by Congress in 2000, asking that at 3:00 p.m. local time, all Americans “voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to ‘Taps’.”

The poem, “In Flanders Fields,” written during World War I by Canadian physician and officer, John McCrae, inspired the selling of poppies to fund veterans associations and projects and is often read in Allied countries to commemorate Memorial Day, otherwise known as Decoration Day. The poppy is also a common symbol of Memorial Day in many countries.

See **HONORING/12**



**Marines from the Marine Corps Security Forces Company render a rifle salute during a Memorial Day ceremony, May 25.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens



**An American flag is unfolded in preparation for the raising of the colors, May 25, at Cuzco Cemetery. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens**



**Flags from different countries mark the nationalities of those buried at Cuzco Cemetery. The flags were placed in honor of Memorial Day. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens**

### Honoring from 11

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.  
Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

Guantanamo Bay is steeped in history due to its strategic location in the Caribbean. The first American casualties here occurred during the 1898 invasion of Guantanamo Bay during the Spanish-American War. On June 6, the U.S. cruiser *Marblehead*, captained by Commander B.H. McCalla and an auxiliary ship, the *St. Louis*, moved into Guantanamo Bay. U.S. Marines established a camp here and, together with Cuban forces, defended the camp from the Spanish. Six Americans were killed at this time: Pvt. William Dumphy, Pvt. James McColgan, Assistant Surgeon John Blair Gibbs, Sgt. Charles H. Smith, Sgt. Maj. Henry Good and Pvt. Goode Taurman, becoming the first U.S. casualties of the war. The base at Guantanamo Bay was used throughout the war and, five years later, in 1903, was acquired by the U.S. through a formalized lease agreement.

Cuzco Cemetery holds many of the keys to the base's rich history and continues to be a place where those who have supported its operations are laid to rest. The cemetery is maintained by the Sailors at Guantanamo Bay's naval hospital so the medical personnel who watched over their patients in life can continue to care for them after they've gone.

A slow rain kept the mood somber as those gathered left through the gates, leaving behind the gravestones of those whose final resting place lies on an island where battles were fought and history was made. ★



## PSU 305 hands over responsibility to MSST 91101

U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Andy Zavanelli, executive officer for Port Security Unit 305, announces a transfer of authority for the anti-terrorism and force protection mission during a ceremony at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, May 28, as Rear Adm. Dave Thomas, commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo stands by. Coast Guard Marine Safety and Security Team 91101 is assuming responsibility for the anti-terrorism and force protection mission here from PSU 305, which has been assigned to the JTF since November. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Coast Guard Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class John D. Miller

## Boots on the Ground

by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

*What is the best movie you have seen at GTMO?*

Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Dale Senter



“Star Trek!”

Navy Lt. Cmdr.  
Shane Marion



“Quantum of Solace.”

Army Spc.  
Waddell Tollison



“Star Trek.”

Army Staff Sgt.  
Luis E. Ortiz Medina



“Braveheart.”

# Opportunity Costs

**Navy LCDR  
Clint Pickett**

JTF Command Chaplain

Most of us spend more or less time taking a look at how our checking account is doing, or maybe how our retirement fund is coming along. I often wonder, however, how many of us take time out to calculate our opportunity costs. What are opportunity costs? I am glad you asked!

Whether we think about it or not, we all deal with opportunity costs each and every day. The NetMBA Web site has this to say about opportunity costs, "Scarcity of resources is one of the more basic concepts of economics. Scarcity necessitates trade-offs, and trade-offs result in an opportunity cost." Basically, the opportunity cost of a decision we make is based on what must be given up as a result of our decision. Any decision that involves a choice between two or more options has an opportunity cost.

If we take \$1,000 out of the bank to invest in the stock market, the opportunity cost is the interest we could have made if we had left the money in the bank.

Hopefully, the stock market will be a better deal in the long run, but we know what can happen nowadays.

In talking with a lot of different people, and in looking at my own life, I deal a lot with the idea of opportunity costs. Most of the time it isn't about finances. Money

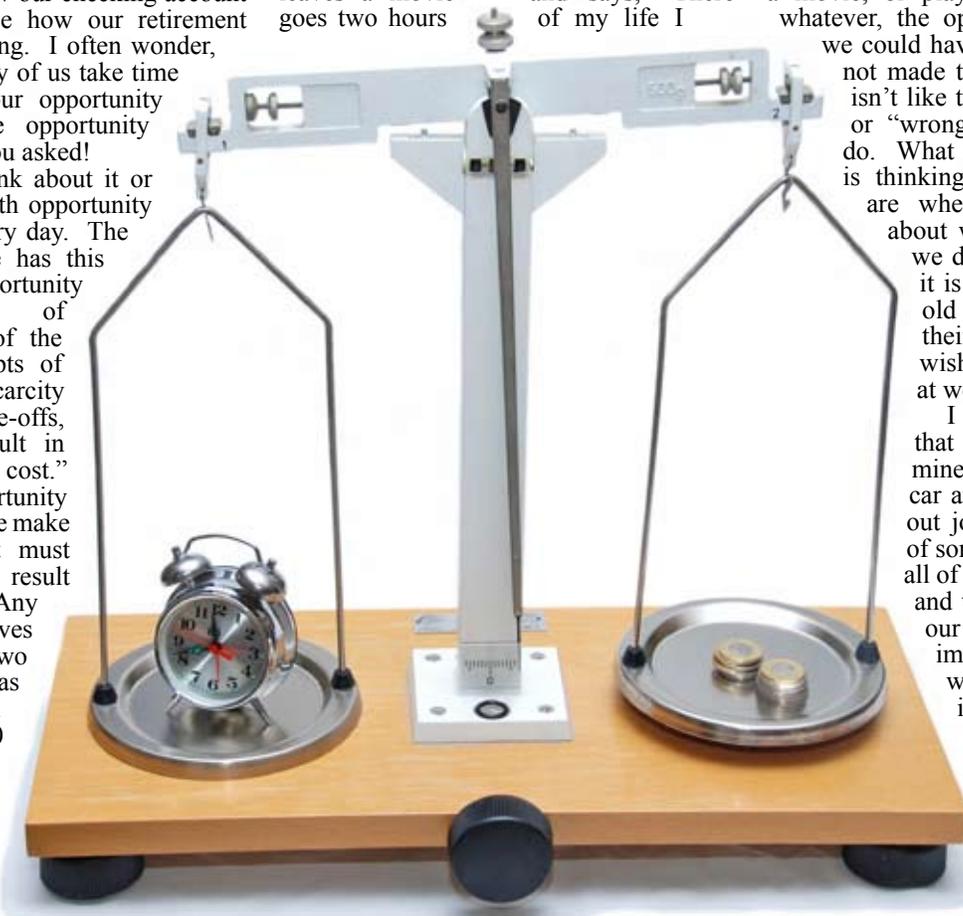
isn't the only scarce thing we deal with in our lives. Time is definitely a limited resource. I don't care if you are rich or not, all of us have just 24 hours in a day. Once it is gone, it is gone. Like when someone leaves a movie and says, "There goes two hours of my life I

had the tour to do over. It was interesting to me that a number of times, people wrote that they "would drink less." Nobody says they would drink more.

When we spend an evening watching a movie, or playing a video game, or whatever, the opportunity cost is what we could have been doing if we had not made the choice we made. It isn't like there are "right" choices or "wrong" choices in what we do. What matters the most to me is thinking about what the costs are when we make decisions about what to do. Too often, we don't think about it until it is too late. I think of the old saying that no one on their deathbed ever said, "I wish I had spent more time at work."

I got the news this week that the wife of a friend of mine had been struck by a car and killed while she was out jogging. When we hear of something like that, I think all of us pause for at least a bit and think about how limited our time really is and how important it is to consider what is really important in our lives. We give an extra hug to our children the next chance we get. We write a thank-you note to a friend, or we make a phone call to someone we know who is going through some tough times.

All of us are indeed created equal in that we have – 24 hours or 1,440 minutes – each and every day. I can pretty much guarantee you that you will be "richer" if you think about your opportunity costs each day, and make sure you are spending your time on what is important ♡ you!



will never get back!"

The opportunity cost is what we could have gotten done with our time instead of doing whatever it is we decided to do. We pass out questionnaires to JTF personnel who are leaving and we ask them, among other things, what they would change if they

## 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.



**Air Force Tech Sgt. Sonya Faucette reads a story to children in Ms. Lopez's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class at W.T. Sampson elementary school, May 28. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens**

# Trooper gives time, talents to GTMO



**Air Force Tech Sgt. Sonya Faucette teaches a lesson with Ms. Lopez's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class at W.T. Sampson elementary school, May 28. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens**

## **Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

A Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper is gaining experience here for the career she plans to pursue after retirement, as well as volunteering time to the children of those stationed at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. Air Force Tech Sgt. Sonya Faucette, a supply liaison with the Commissions Support Group, volunteers her time with Ms. Lopez's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math class at W.T. Sampson Elementary School.

With 17 years of service as a supply specialist in the Air Force, Faucette is pursuing a degree in elementary education and plans to become a teacher after retirement. Faucette is in her junior year of school and since arriving in GTMO in January, has completed six additional credit hours toward her degree.

Faucette spends her days at Joint Task Force Guantanamo ordering supplies for the military commissions process and in support of housing those who support the commissions. For one hour each week, however, she takes time from her day to help teach and tutor children at the naval station's elementary school.

"For the first couple of weeks, I just helped the kids with their multiplication tables," said Faucette. "One week, the lesson I had in my college class lined up

with the lesson the kids were doing and I asked if I could present the lesson to the class."

The opportunity gave Faucette a chance to experience what it's like to stand in front of a classroom.

"I was nervous before the first lesson," she explained. "But after the first word, I settled right into it."

In addition to teaching and tutoring, Faucette also volunteers her time at the naval station chapel, helping out in the nursery and is involved with her church back home. She says she enjoys being around children and it helps her to deal with being away from her husband and 4-year-old son.

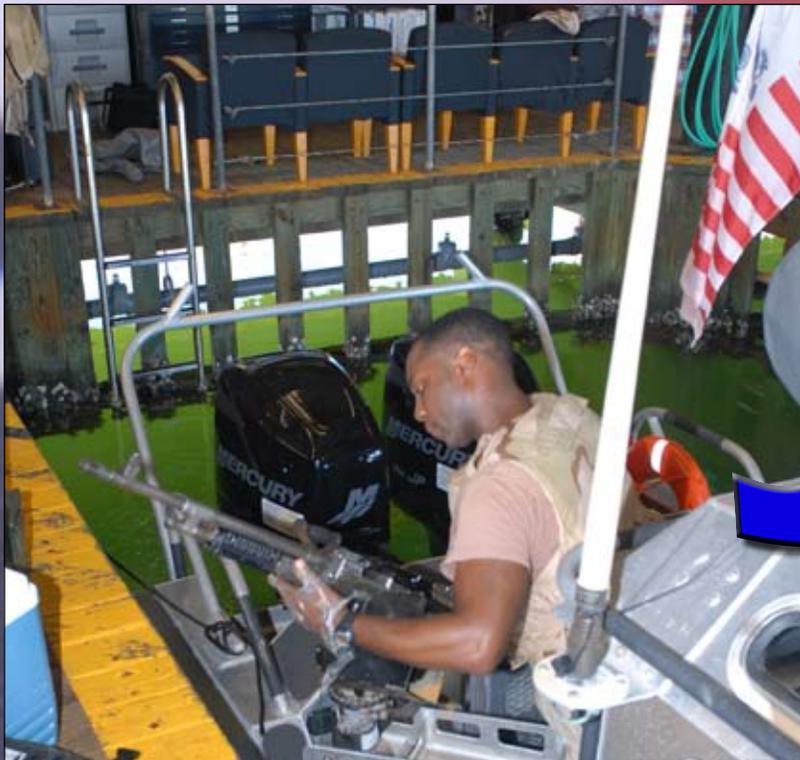
"Wanting to be a teacher, I continually find myself [doing things that put me] in that role," Faucette said.

According to Faucette, she has always wanted to be a teacher. She says she has learned a lot from the children she teaches here.

"When I was in school, we didn't seem too eager to learn," she said. "It's amazing how fast these kids learn and the knowledge that is presented to them at such an early age."

Faucette is considering teaching for the Department of Defense so she can travel and continue serving in a military community.

"This experience will help me to be more realistic on what I plan to expect when I start teaching," Faucette said. ★



**Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Isaac Blakeley, a port securityman deployed with Port Security Unit 305, removes an M-240 squad machine gun, May 13. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black**

# Around the JTF



**Army Lt. Col. Alexander Conyers, 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion Commander, replaces Army 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. William L. Gambles' name tape after being laterally promoted from master sergeant to first sergeant at Trooper's Chapel, May 26. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Addair**



**Troopers from the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion and visiting cadets from the U.S. Military Academy tour a docked Coast Guard cutter, May 24. The cadets are visiting Joint Task Force Guantanamo to work with junior officers from the 525<sup>th</sup> – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Joshua Frye**