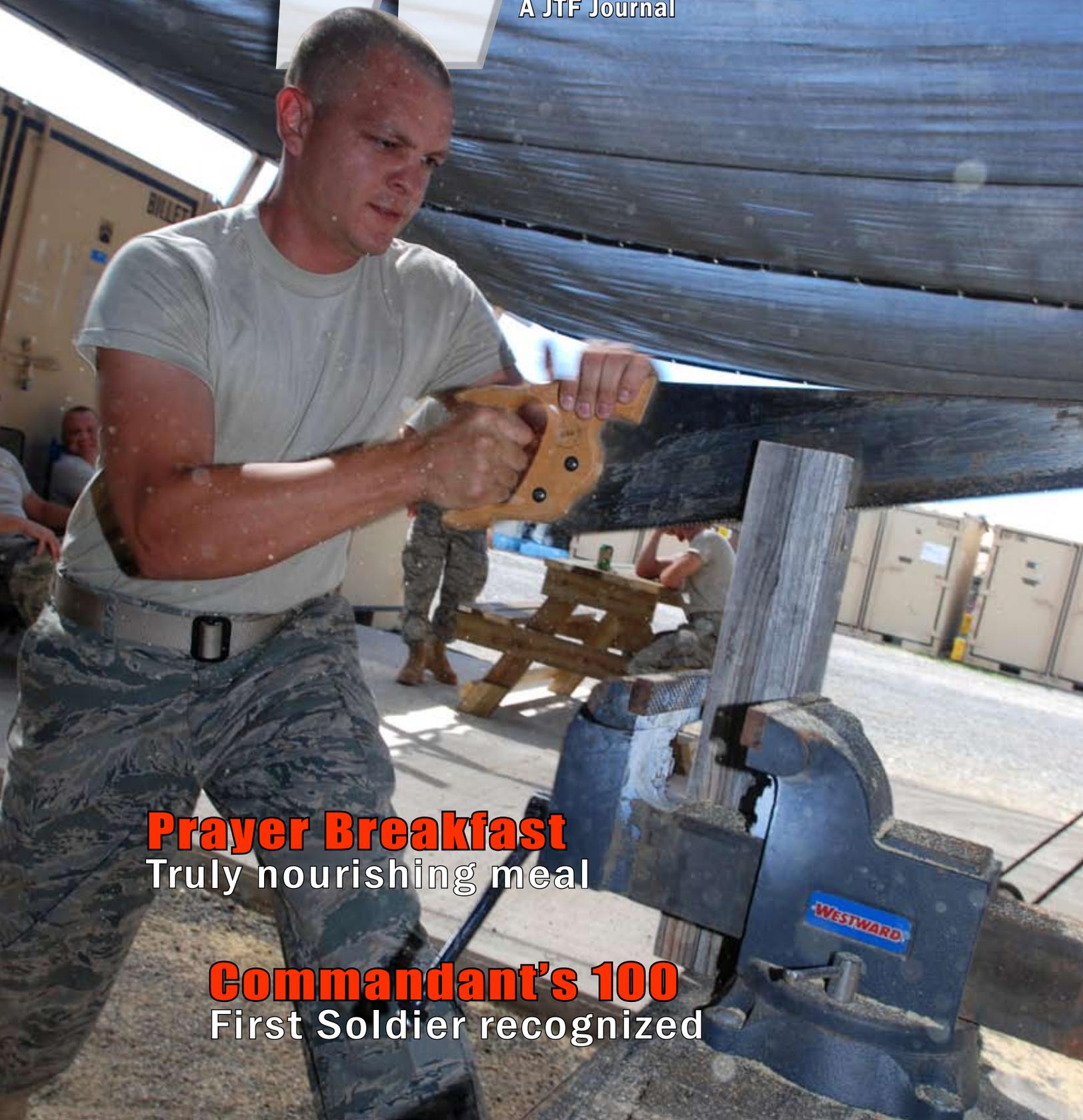


THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Prayer Breakfast
Truly nourishing meal

Commandant's 100
First Soldier recognized

Motivate, achieve

**Army Master Sgt.
Timothy Redd**
Camp V Operations NCOIC

Serving in the Army for the past 18-plus years I've seen numerous structural changes such as promotions, leadership, deployments, peacekeeping missions, and the fight on the Global War on Terrorism.

I truly believe non-commissioned officers in today's military are the backbone of its fighting force. It's not just a slogan but it's the duties, assignments, mission completion and good work ethic that we are challenged with on a day-to-day basis. Nothing happens without the involvement of the NCO. Officers make the orders, but the NCOs are the ones who carry them out and make sure the mission is complete. There is a standard that the NCO is held to by the Troopers we lead, train and mentor, but we are also held to a higher standard by the commanders appointed over us. We as a fighting force will always need good NCOs to steer our military in the right direction and maintain the integrity and professionalism that our leaders expect of us.

Sometimes I look back on what I did to be successful. I had to be a loyal and obedient Soldier and I had to be at the right place and time when directed by my leaders. I always gave my NCOs and officers the courtesy and respect they demanded by doing what I was told, knowing what was right and wrong and learned my job in garrison and in field environments. Education was a must, as well as taking on difficult assignments. Most importantly, I was responsible for my actions.

It is very important for us as a fighting force to keep our Troopers well-trained and educated. I realize no matter how much time you have in service you should continue to focus on career progression through continuing college education, and military occupational specialty courses. Education never stops and there is always room for improvement.

It gives me satisfaction to see Troopers succeed in the military as well as in their careers after the military. It feels good to receive letters, phone calls and e-mails from Troopers saying "thanks" for taking time out for them or just giving them good advice to follow.

I focus on mentorship. It's an investment in our future leaders, training them to be the best. In the early 1990s we lost good NCOs with a lot of knowledge and experience due to early retirements and retention control. This hurt our fighting force and forced a lot of younger Soldiers to advance with little or no training. The mission has changed in numerous ways due to the attacks on Sept. 11, but we, as leaders, still have the obligation to teach and train our future leaders to be the best. Performance breeds Performance! When leaders perform well, they in turn motivate subordinates to achieve, even exceed, goals and expectations. ★



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COVER:

Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Gates, a structures non-commissioned officer deployed here with the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, cuts pieces of wood for a custom-made bench, Feb. 26. – JTF Guantanamo
Photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson



The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regards to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by the Document Automation & Production Service with a circulation of 1000.



Hope in the future

Air Force Chaplain Col. Conrado E. Navarro speaks about his experience leaving communist Cuba at age seven, as part of a broader message on hope in the future during a prayer breakfast Thursday, Feb. 26 at Seaside Galley. Navarro was among approximately 25 chaplains from U.S. Southern Command attending a conference at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

**Army Sgt. 1st Class
Vaughn R. Larson**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

“If you’re not here mentally and spiritually, you’re nowhere.”

Air Force Chaplain Col. Conrado E. Navarro made that observation last Thursday during a prayer breakfast at Seaside Galley. The personnel, budget and readiness division chief of the Air Force’s Chief of Chaplains office drew from personal experience to make his point about making the most of where you are.

Navarro fled mainland Cuba on Oct. 10, 1962, with his mother and step-father, but the flight to freedom nearly didn’t happen for the 7-year-old. His biological father had not signed papers approving young Navarro’s departure, prompting a frantic attempt to find his father and a lawyer to notarize the paperwork.

“People were already boarding the plane and I thought we were going to miss our flight,” Navarro recalled. “Out of nowhere came this tropical storm, and the flight was delayed.”

The passengers deplaned, allowing enough time for Navarro’s father and a lawyer to arrive in separate taxis. The paperwork was approved, and Navarro left for the United States, eventually settling in New Jersey.



Not until years later, in a letter from his sister who still lives in mainland Cuba, did Navarro learn the cost his father paid for that day. His father legally disowned young Navarro by signing that paper, resulting in charges of counter-revolutionary actions and a 30-year prison sentence. His father was released after two years, but was rearrested decades later and died in prison of a heart attack on Navarro’s birthday.

“How little did I know that coming to the United States with the price that was paid was the best thing that could have happened to me and my family?” he told the audience.

Navarro noted that most Cuban refugees left for a season, with the intention of returning. He referred to Jeremiah 29:11, in which God told the Israelites to prosper where they were in Babylonian exile.

“God’s purpose was for the Cubans to prosper in the United States,” he explained, noting how his own life was blessed after fleeing Cuba. For example, he said he would never have met his wife Nilda had they both stayed in Cuba.

Navarro recalled how his mother and step-father wept as they left Cuba, and also related trying to pick a large caterpillar from the carpet. The caterpillar clung to the carpet with its legs and mandibles, he said, unaware that it would be safely deposited in a tree. Focusing on what you’ve left behind can prevent you from prospering where you are going.

“God has you here for a purpose,” Navarro said. “It is your job to find out why.”

Navarro was among approximately 25 U.S. Southern Command chaplains to visit Naval Station Guantanamo Bay for a conference last week. 🇺🇸

Representing the Colors

■ First of Commandants' 100 recognized at Joint Task Force Guantanamo

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

For some, a belt buckle may be just another fashion statement, but for Army Brig. Gen. David Phillips, the buckle is symbolic of sacrifice, honor, courage, duty and freedom.

Phillips, chief of the military police corps regiment, as well as the commandant of the U.S. Army Military Police School, visited Guantanamo Bay during a capstone tour and took time out of his day to meet members of the 525th MP Bn., and present a very special award.

"I'm so proud of what the [525th Soldiers] are doing here. They are representing the military police corps regiment and they are at the spear point," Phillips said. "Anything goes wrong and we read about it – we don't read about what they do well. I wanted to recognize the heroes who aren't in the headlines. Look at what a great job they have done."

Phillips explained that stories about Troopers in Iraq and Afghanistan are in the newspapers all the time and when Guantanamo Bay is in the newspaper, it's usually because somebody is raising issue with it.

"No one is identifying the young American men and women who are down here taking care of things in accordance with the rule of law, in accordance with the Geneva Convention and dealing with some very difficult situations day in and day out," he emphasized.

Phillips went on to talk about the events of Sept. 11, 2001, asking Soldiers if they remembered where they were when they heard about the attacks. Each Soldier he called on knew precisely what they were doing.

Phillips was at the Pentagon.

"We got to the place where we believed our office used to be and we tried to see if we could find any movement," he said. "There was no one coming out. There was one thing I did see that represents the reason you're here today, the reason we were attacked."

Phillips unfurled a national ensign which he retrieved from the floor of the Pentagon when he raced into the burning building looking for survivors.

"I made a promise to those who perished on the morning of Sept. 11, that wherever I travel while I'm on active duty, I would bring this."



Army Brig. Gen. David Phillips shakes Army Master Sgt. William Gamble's hand after presenting him with the Commandants' 100 belt buckle. "Yes, I do wear the buckle," said Gamble.

The colors have been to Iraq, and have traveled around the world with Phillips.

"There are people who want to take away what these colors represent," he said. "I brought it out of the building and have carried it since then. Hundreds of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines have re-enlisted or have been presented awards in front of these colors."

"The colors don't belong to me," Phillips said explaining that upon his retirement they will go to the Military Police Corps museum.

"They belong to you," he said. "I wanted

to bring them here today to re-emphasize why all of you are here."

Phillips explained a new program he began within the regiment targeting the top 100 Soldiers within the career field.

"It doesn't matter if they're officer or enlisted; I wanted units to identify one or two Soldiers who are the epitome of what those colors stand for. During my time as commandant I will only recognize 100," Phillips emphasized.

The award program, called the

See **AWARD/13**

Enhancing the mission

**Army Staff Sgt.
Gretel Sharpee**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

To tell Joint Task Force Guantanamo's story you need a group of talented and qualified Troopers; and that is just what can be found with the Florida Army National Guard's 107th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. The 107th will replace the 112th MPAD of Madison, Wis.

"Our biggest job is to get the [Joint Task Force] story out there," Maj. Diana Haynie, 107th MPAD commander said. "We know we have some big shoes to fill, but we have some very creative Soldiers and we are looking forward to adding and enhancing the current products already here."

The 107th MPAD is comprised of three different sections, each with unique responsibilities. Command Information, which includes broadcast and print sections, provides the JTF with the weekly publication *The Wire* as well as video and radio products. This section will be busy over the next year.

"I am very excited to put our mark on such an outstanding publication," said Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens, the incoming editor for *The Wire*.

"I think the JTF command publication is important because it gets the Troopers' story out since they are the ones doing this mission," said Army 1st Lt. Christopher Cudney, Command Information officer-in-charge.

The Public Information section interacts with the public through the Joint Task Force Guantanamo web site. They also market stories, photos and video products produced by 107th Soldiers.

"We want to be transparent to the public and allow them to see what it is we do here," said Capt. David Ross, officer-in-charge of Public Information. "We work for the American public and it is our responsibility to show them what is going on here."

Another important responsibility of the Public Information section is providing photo coverage to visiting distinguished visitors.

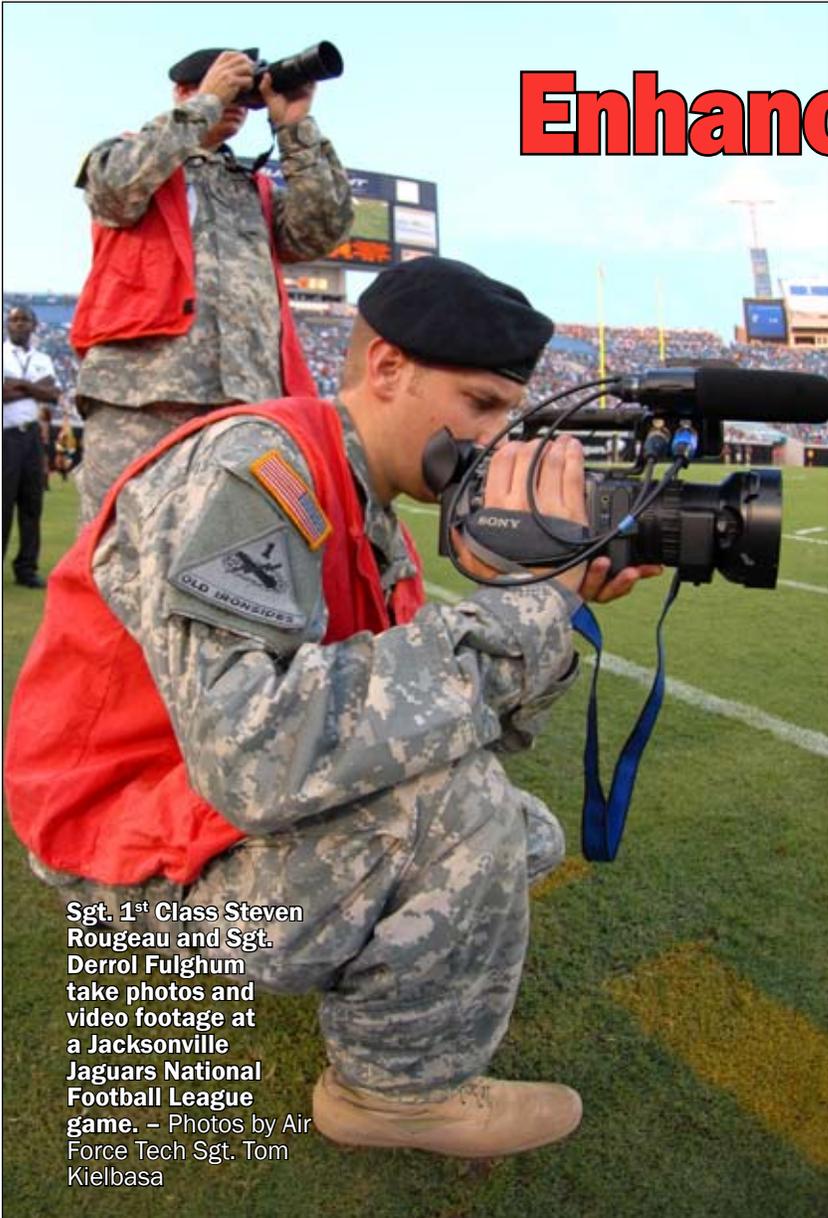
The third section of the 107th MPAD is Media Relations. They are responsible for scheduling and clearing civilian media groups to tour the facilities here in the JTF. They also coordinate the media for the military commissions.

"Providing the media a firsthand look at day-to-day operations allows them a clear cut view on how we do things," 1st Lt. Cody Starcken, the officer-in-charge of media relations, said.

Before arriving in Guantanamo Bay, Soldiers of the 107th took part in pre-mobilization training both in Florida with visiting members of the 112th MPAD and at Ft. Lewis, Wash., with First Army.

"As a first sergeant, I am really looking forward to our Soldiers growing in their [military occupational specialty] skills because they are a talented group and this gives them a chance to show that," said 1st Sgt. Shellie Lewis. 🇺🇸

Pfc. Becky Robinson and 2nd Lt. Allison Givens check their photos during a Jacksonville Jaguars game. The 107th MPAD was able to attend the game as photographers and videographers on the sidelines as part of training on a drill weekend.



Sgt. 1st Class Steven Rougeau and Sgt. Derrol Fulghum take photos and video footage at a Jacksonville Jaguars National Football League game. – Photos by Air Force Tech Sgt. Tom Kielbasa





Keeping fit

Troopers participate in a pilates class at Marine Hill fitness center, which is part of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation fitness programs here at Guantanamo Bay.

**Army Sgt.
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation fitness program on post is here to support mission readiness by providing multiple options for service members to maintain physical fitness.

“My number one focus is to make sure the active-duty member is ready for the mission, whatever that may be,” said Karissa Sandstrom, fitness director. “We are also here to make sure family members, retirees and civilians are taken care of.”

The program offers multiple group exercise classes as well as individualized training with a personal trainer. There are more than 20 different classes each week taught by five instructors at the Marine Hill Fitness Center. The classes include:

Yoga – Tones up the muscles and circulatory system. It massages the glands and internal organs, helps to lessen fatigue and the aging processes; deepens breathing and can extend endurance, and increase flexibility. Yoga also increases will power and mental outlook, as well as helps in relaxation of everyday strains and stresses. (Monday, Wednesday and Friday 5 p.m. and Saturday 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.)

Pilates – Focuses on the core postural muscles that help keep the body balanced and are essential to providing support for the spine. It also teaches awareness of

neutral spine alignment and strengthening the deep postural muscles that support this alignment, which are important to help alleviate and prevent back pain. (Tuesday and Thursday 6 - 7 p.m. and Monday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

Spinning – Concentrates on building leg muscles. The class is highly motivational and a very energizing experience. (Monday, Wednesday and Friday 6 - 6:45 a.m. and Tuesday and Thursday 6 - 7 p.m.)

Step Aerobics – Uses a platform, lively music and choreography in order to burn tons of calories with half of the impact as running, and it gives the lower body an amazing workout. It also includes 10-15 minutes of upper body workout and abdominal exercises, allowing for a full body workout. (Tuesday and Thursday 5 - 6 p.m.)

Cardio-Kickboxing – Improves and maintains cardiovascular fitness, increases strength and flexibility, improves coordination and balance, and sharpens reflexes. It also relieves stress by allowing the body to release aggression. The class includes a variety of punches, kicks, knee strikes and other self-defense moves interspersed with a bouncing pace. (Monday, Wednesday and Friday 6 - 7 p.m. and Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

Aqua Aerobics – Improves strength, tone and increases flexibility of all muscles by using water resistance. The fast-paced program uses music designed to increase aerobic capacity, aid weight control,

burn calories quickly and tone the body. Swimming ability is not required. (Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Other classes include Step-N-Sculpt (Wednesday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.), and Stability ball training (Tuesday 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.).

“Group classes are great, because they enable a level of motivation and energy that comes from other classmates, unlike a typical personal workout,” Sandstrom said.

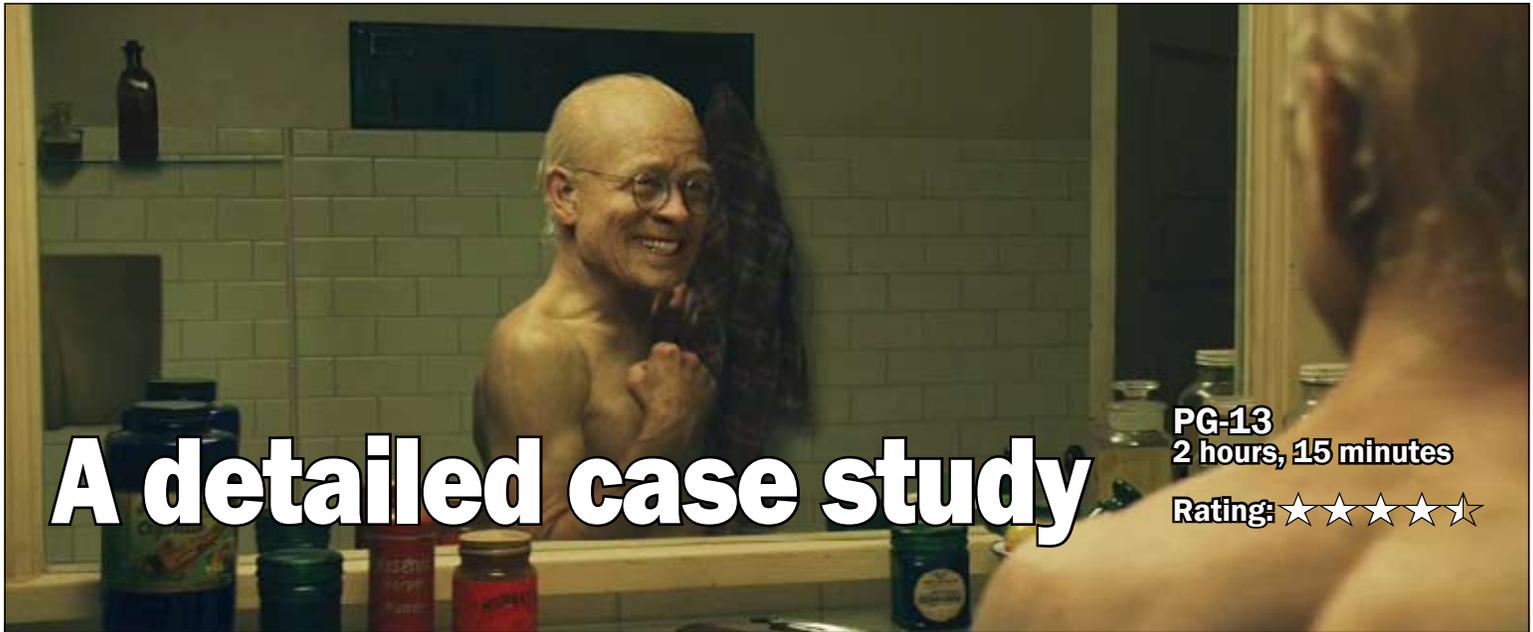
Personal trainers are available to give an initial fitness assessment to find out a Trooper’s strengths, flexibility, body fat percentage and measurements. After the assessment, the personal trainer provides the individual with a workout program, which consist of both cardiovascular training and strength training.

Often the trainer is able to work out with the individual during various times of the week.

“The flexibility of the MWR fitness is a priority and a necessity in order for the program to be successful,” Sandstrom said.

Also included into the MWR fitness schedule is a monthly 5K or a “fun run,” two half marathons a year, a full marathon every year, the GTMO extreme adventure race and a youth fitness program, for children between the ages of 10-15.

In order to schedule for a personal trainer or to ask questions regarding events or programs call 77262 or 75576 for more information. ★



A detailed case study

PG-13
2 hours, 15 minutes

Rating: ★★★★★

Army Spc. Eric Liesz

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

I fully admit that I am a die-hard fan of director David Fincher's work. From "Se7en" to "Fight Club" to "Zodiac," I'd watch anything that man put to celluloid. Like clockwork, his latest film – "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," based on F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1921 short story – delivers a bizarre tale in an epic scope.

The film is a heavily narrated retelling of Benjamin Button's life. The fluid and calming voiceover accounts for most of Brad Pitt's lines as the title character. Pitt has been in two previous Fincher films, so the pair seem to have a symbiotic understanding on what a scene calls for.

Pitt was nominated for a best actor Academy Award for his role – and he deserved it. Pitt's on-screen Button is mostly observing others around him, as if it's Button that is curious, not his ... "condition."

However, his condition is as curious as a grin without a cat. Born as New Orleans celebrates the end of World War I, Button appears to be an elderly baby. His skin has no elasticity; he's developed glaucoma; baby Benjamin even has severely brittle bones. Mortified, his father Thomas Button (Jason Flemyng) abandons

the infant at the steps of a nursing home. Run by Queenie (Taraji P. Henson – worth her Oscar nod for supporting actress), the home for dying elderly is a perfect fit for the old-boy.

Button soon starts to take in his surroundings, rarely putting in his two cents and quickly meeting Daisy (Cate Blanchett). Button is introduced to Daisy as a friend of Queenie, so his condition doesn't need explanation, though he's only a few years older than she. From the moment they meet, it's obvious Button is infatuated.

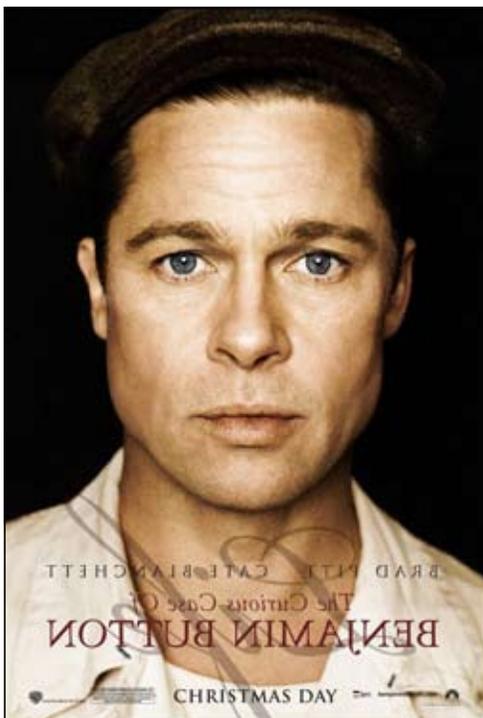
The film takes its remaining two hours to go through Button's 85-year life. He meets many colorful characters, from a patriotic tugboat captain (Jared Harris), to a British woman who's determined to swim the English Channel (Tilda Swinton).

Throughout these years, Button and Daisy communicate and sometimes meet while she's busy with her dancing career.

The visual effects throughout the entire film are masterful. Pitt's face was often digitally and cosmetically aged, then imprinted on his child stand-in. Swinton goes through her entire 80-plus year life, with each scene subtly advancing her age.

The one real flaw of the film is its scope. It deliberately tries to be mundane in its surroundings, letting the actors and makeup artists develop the odd story. However, with the film's mood constantly so mellow or depressing, the two hour, forty-five minute running time will wear on you. It's intended to be a quiet film, even if it had a \$160 million budget and stars Brad Pitt.

Most scenes in the second act seem superfluous compared to Button and Daisy's love story, but they build the film's overall story of a full-bodied, curious life. It's not a simple love story; more like a beautifully sepia-toned Greek tragedy. ★





GTMO EXTREME ADVENTURE RACE

JTF Guantanamo photos by
Army Spc. Eric Liesse

First place: Team Go Fast

James Richardson, Mario Derez, Kimberely Higdon

Second place: Team Scary Kids

William Corso, Erika Scofield, Nick Brooky

Third place: Team Joint Destruction

James Ryley, Chris Aodl, Ashley Hockycko



Swimming one mile, running six miles, canoeing eight miles and biking eight miles – are you tired yet?

For more than 15 participants of the GTMO Extreme Adventure Race, all of those distances were accomplished before noon last Saturday.

In teams of three, with at least one female per-team, participants started the race at the Marina for a one-mile swim.

Immediately after, teams headed towards the Ridgeline Trail for the six-mile run which ended at the Marina for eight-mile canoeing. If by that time participants still hadn't had enough, the race ended with an eight-mile bike ride on both paved roads and trails.

Travel made easy

■ Create, edit and approve official travel itineraries in less time

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Say farewell to the paper trail that used to follow service members and government employees when traveling for temporary active duty.

Defense Travel System, a relatively new and completely efficient way to manage official travel, is gaining speed as it becomes the standard practice across all branches of service – active and reserve – and the Department of Defense.

“DTS is used for all official travel,” said Navy Chief Petty Officer Chris Chapman, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the joint intelligence group administrative section. “The most important thing about DTS is that you can arrange your own travel and make changes to your itinerary at any time, instantaneously.”

Whether you need a rental car, hotel room or need to book a flight, it can be managed in DTS.

“DTS replaced the travel voucher,” Chapman added. “It replaced the manual method for official travel. The old method used to take up to 30 days before the traveler would be reimbursed for their travel.”

The new method of filing and claiming travel reimbursement through DTS means that money paid out during official travel is

repaid sooner than with the old paper method.

“What’s neat about DTS is that if you have a service member who will be on temporary duty for 45 days or longer, you can automatically set up payments so the traveler doesn’t have to worry about payment,” Chapman said. “They can send their receipts and any information to an approval agent at their home unit so the traveler doesn’t have to wait.”

Instead of waiting up to 30 days for repayment, which was common with the old method, DTS payments are often made within 72 hours.

This Web-based program can be accessed anywhere, though it does require the use of a Common Access Card. Should your travel plans change during your trip, making changes to the itinerary within DTS is easy, even if you don’t have access to a computer.

“If you don’t have Common Access Card use on a computer while traveling, you can call the commercial ticket office and they can apply the changes,” Chapman added.

“Efficiency is a big advantage of this program,” said Lefty Wright, management analyst with the J-8 finance and budget section. “The user creates their own itinerary

and the whole process can take less than an hour to enter the data and have it approved.”

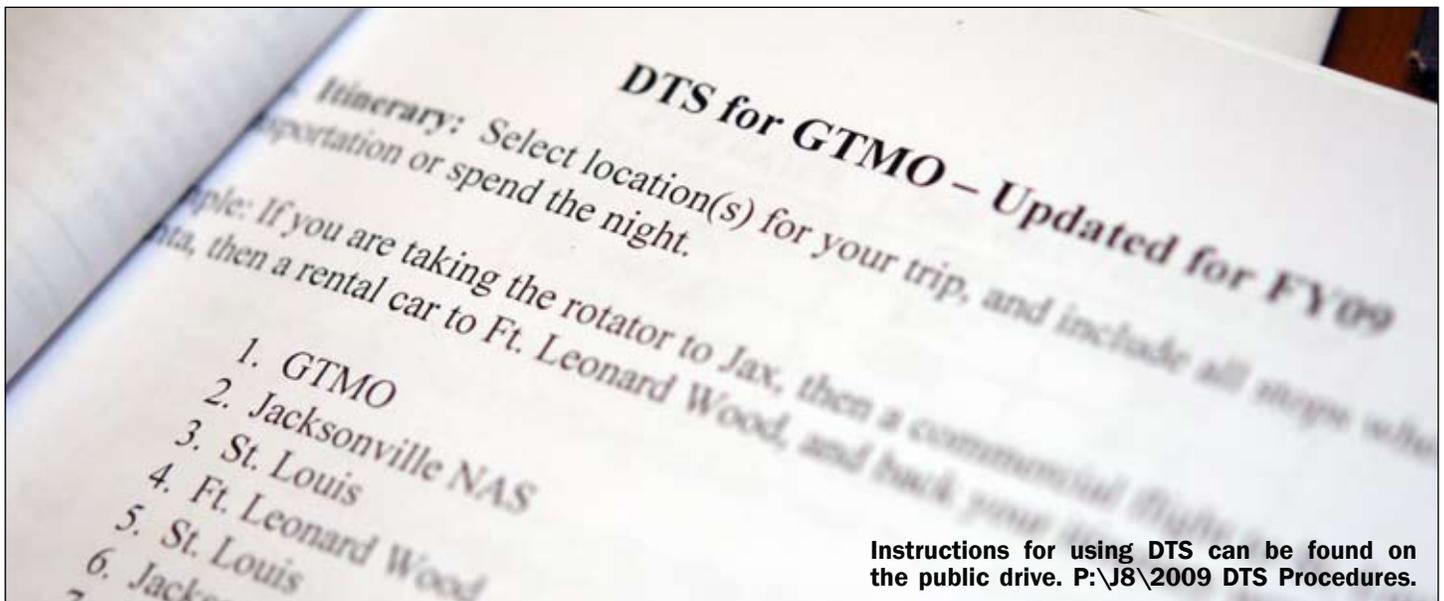
Split disbursements for government travel cards are even handled within the system.

“Since using DTS and having a government travel card is mandatory, the system will automatically separate what is paid to the travel card, and what goes back into your pocket,” Wright added.

Joint Task Force Guantanamo offers DTS classes for all JTF members in an effort to educate everyone on how to create and manage their official travel itineraries.

“In order to sign up for the DTS course you must be registered in DTS,” Wright said. We explain the history of DTS and what it does, and then we practice it – just don’t forget to bring your CAC.”

The course, taught by Wright and Chapman, is two hours long and is held twice-weekly. Sign up by e-mailing Lefty Wright with your contact information, including your unit, rank and the day you would like to take the course. ★



Instructions for using DTS can be found on the public drive. P:\J8\2009 DTS Procedures.

GTMO galleys: best of the best



Pentad Corporation employees, Navy personnel and Ney inspectors, after the final inspection for the Navy Capt. Edward F. Ney Memorial Award, got together for a group photo at Gold Hill Galley, October 2008. - Contributed photo

Army Spc. Megan Burnham

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

At long last, galley personnel working at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay were recognized for their continuous hard work by receiving the 52nd annual Navy Capt. Edward F. Ney Memorial Award for maintaining high quality of life in the food service industry.



“It was a total team effort of the entire command and the Pentad Corporation, and without the employees that work here and the pride they instill on the quality of work they do everyday, there was no way we could have won this award,” said Navy Chief Warrant Officer Kathy Wiseman, food services officer. “[The staff] doesn’t work just to win awards but to support the team and the Troops everyday.”

The Ney Memorial Awards program was started in 1958 by the secretary of the Navy and the International Food Service Executives Association (IFSEA) to improve Navy food service programs and recognize those who sustain the desired professional image and cleanliness of Navy galleys. The award was named and dedicated to Navy Capt. Ney who had served, between 1940 and 1945, as head of the Subsistence Division of the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts.

The evaluation process consists of four unannounced visits throughout

Roy Johnson, a Gold Hill Galley server, places requested food items on plates for all Guantanamo Bay personnel who came to the galley for lunch Monday, March 2. The galleys’ efforts resulted in their receiving the 2009 Navy Capt. Edward F. Ney Memorial Award.

the year by Navy Supply officials to inspect every aspect of the food service process. When the inspectors came to Guantanamo Bay they inspected all the galleys here: Gold Hill Galley, Seaside Galley, Kittery Café, and the Leeward Galley.

“We’re graded on financial, storeroom inventory validity, sanitation, quality of food, quality of preparation, how we wash our dishes and our safety procedures. We were graded on everything,” Wiseman explained. “We could’ve received A’s on every category but if it hadn’t been for the A’s in customer service from the surveys that [Guantanamo Bay residents] filled out saying we were doing a good job, we wouldn’t have received this award.”

Much credit was given to the galley personnel who work diligently and professionally to maintain the quality of life that the galleys aim toward in supporting the Troops and everyone who comes to eat at any one of the galleys.

“We have a group of good people and that’s the reason why I’ve worked [at Gold Hill] since 2003,” said Gil Peregrino, administrative manager for Pentad Corporation Guantanamo.

“The personnel here are good. They do what they are told and they get the job done with very little supervision needed,” added Robert Thackwray, Gold Hill Galley manager.

The Capt. Edward F. Ney Memorial Award was first awarded to Guantanamo Bay in 1958 for the Leeward Galley. It

See **NEY/12**

Culinary excellence

NEY from 11

later received the award in 1960. The 2009 award will be Guantanamo Bay's third award overall. Managers of the galley will be traveling to Atlanta in April to receive this award.

"There will be a conference included where we will learn more [in food services] and continually get better," Wiseman said. "In winning this award, it has allowed us to bring a master chef in general cooking for a short time to train our cooks and teach them a lot of new techniques."

The galley staff are very excited to receive this award and will continue to work hard in preparation for an inspection in March for the 2010 Capt. Edward F. Ney Memorial Award.

"We are very excited to give an award to everybody in response to their hard work," said Alberto Prado, lead cook/supervisor.

"It was one of my dreams to receive an award at this level and it's an honor with how competitive it is, so this is a great feeling," added Navy Chief Petty Officer Carlos Washington, leading culinary specialist at the Gold Hill Galley. ★



Alberto Prado, lead cook and supervisor of the Gold Hill Galley, places the finishing touches on Monday's lunch menu before Troopers arrive around 11 a.m. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Megan Burnham

Spearfishing Safety

Spearguns are dangerous weapons when handled improperly.

- **Never load or fire your speargun out of the water for any reason. The shaft may break the line and travel several hundred yards.**
- **Never point your speargun at anyone at anytime.**
- **Always handle your speargun as if it were loaded and ready to fire.**
- **Always keep the spear tip pointed away from your body.**
- **Always put the safety "ON" before loading your spear gun.**
- **Always look behind what you are shooting at! A rock might cause the spear shaft to bounce back at you, or another diver may be behind your intended target.**
- **Always anticipate recoil! A large, or even a small speargun is capable of removing teeth and breaking face masks - and potentially your nose!**
- **Always unload a speargun under the water before removing from the water.**

For more information, please e-mail safety@jftgtmo.southcom.mil

Army Brig. Gen. David Phillips holds the flag he rescued from the burning rubble within the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.
 - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell

JTF Trooper first to receive MP honor

AWARD from 4

Commandants' 100, identifies excellence among the military police regiment.

"I wanted to present the first Commandants' 100 belt buckle and certificate that would identify the individual as one of the top 100 Soldiers within the regiment here - at Guantanamo Bay - where people forget what you deal with and what you're doing every day," Phillips said.

Army Lt. Col. Alexander Conyers, 525th Battalion Commander and Army Command Sgt. Major Gary Fowler, 525th Command Sgt. Major, presented Army Master Sgt. William Gamble to Phillips, before he received the award.

"Master Sgt. Gamble is the face of the

camps," Conyers explained. "Every day he is in the camps, standing tall, enduring the threats, verbal assaults and racial slurs. He does the job, enforces the standards and takes care of Soldiers. He represents everything that we do here, he does it well and he does it for the Troops. That is why he represents the flag."

With more than 200 Troopers working for him inside the camps, Gamble is in demand day and night.

"He has to answer to any issues that happen inside the camps," Conyers continued. "Gamble is accountable for the actions of the Soldiers and the detainees. He maintains discipline, control and he's able to take care of Soldiers while taking care of

detainees. He does it every day in the face of many challenges, with excellence."

In addition to Gamble's professional and personal excellence, his family was recognized for their support of him, and the Army.

"It's not just Master Sgt. Gamble, it's his family as well," Fowler said. "They're an all-around great American family."

Gamble felt honored and humbled to receive the first award in the Commandants' 100.

"It was wonderful to be recognized by my peers and superiors for the job I do day in and day out," Gamble said. "I don't do it for the recognition; I do it for the love of the job and the Soldiers." 🇺🇸

Boots on the Ground

by Army Spc. Eric Liesse

Which album and/or book are you really "into" right now?

Army Staff Sgt. Alven Martinez



"I don't read too much, but 'The Da Vinci Code' is what I really like right now."

Navy Lt. j.g. Brian Boyer



"Kenny Chesney's 'Lucky Old Sun.'"

Army Spc. Ninoska Lopez



"'Mil una Noche' by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. It's about life."

Army Sgt. Jonathan Vasquez



"I'm reading the Gitmo documentary book. It's at the [Navy Exchange]."



Leaf of Hope

**Air Force Lt. Col.
Randy A. Marshall**

SOUTHCOM Deputy Command Chaplain

Remember the story of Noah? The account of this ancient mariner is well-known. Most of us can recount the beginning of the story – Noah is commissioned to build an ark and gather the animals. We also know the end of the story – the ark settles on the top of a mountain and God sends a



rainbow.

What most cannot recite however is the middle of the story, the time between the obedient decision to build the ark and the completion of the mission. Both in Noah’s life adventure – and our own – we must be careful not to race to the rainbow and miss life “in the meantime.”

When Noah, his wife, three sons and three daughters-in-law shut the door of the massive floating menagerie, they were not sure what the future held. Genesis, chapter 6, gives a very detailed account of God’s ark building specifications, animal logistics movement and ration procurement.

Finally, when everything was in place and God gave the word, the door of the floating barge was closed. The flurry of activity was done, the rain was falling, the water was rising. Without any navigation system, all Noah could do was hold on and wait. One detail that you may not remember about this account is that though it rained for 40 days and 40 nights, Noah was stuck in the dark recesses of the 45-foot-high, three deck structure for one year and 17 days. Poor Noah didn’t have a clue about the length of his assignment. He simply obeyed and waited for his next order.

We all stand in the sandals of Noah. As the old saying goes, “We don’t know what

the future holds but we know *Who* holds the future.” In our own deployments, we can meticulously prepare, work hard and look forward to the rainbow of completion. Ultimately, however, we simply live in the meantime attempting to remain faithful, even when we experience frustration, darkness, and an occasional stink.

A key verse in the account is in Genesis 8:1 that says, “But God remembered Noah...” Though Noah may have felt forsaken, in reality, he was never forgotten. At the right time, God caused a wind to pass upon the earth. The water began to recede. Not knowing the condition of the earth outside, Noah eventually sent out a dove who returned with a freshly picked olive leaf. That may not sound like much, but it was front-page news for Noah. The end of the journey was near. Soon he would experience the joy of the rainbow with his feet upon dry ground. In the meantime, however he clutched the leaf with its corresponding promise.

Today, a leaf of hope can come through a scripture verse, a phrase of a song, an encouraging word, and a number of other ways. Make a point this week to recognize some personalized God-leaves. While you are at it, share them with others – we need all the help we can get while we live in the meantime. ☆

JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

Catholic Mass

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

Wednesday: 11 a.m.
Spanish Mass

Protestant Worship

Sunday: 9 a.m.

Spanish Protestant Worship

Sunday: 11 a.m.

Bible Study

Sunday: 6 p.m.

Wednesday: 7 p.m.

Musical musings from a JTF Soldier

**Army Spc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Musicians come from all backgrounds, and many take unexpected paths on their way to filling arenas for live shows. Army Sgt. Daniel Jaggie's unique path to stardom took him through Joint Task Force Guantanamo to the 525th Military Police Battalion's Preventative Medicine Office.

Jaggie, an aspiring professional musician, writes and performs his own material, plays and teaches guitar and even sings. With 12 years on his guitar and three years writing and performing his own music, Jaggie says he's ready to truly start his musical career with his debut, self-titled album which is coming out soon. The album has five songs – all self-produced and marketed without the help of any record label.

"Once you've heard yourself on recordings, it's hard to have your confidence shaken," Jaggie said about his beginnings in music. However, he was quick to make sure everyone understands he's still grounded. "There is a fine line between being arrogant and being confident."

Though lately, Jaggie creates plenty of music with an acoustic guitar, it was pure metal that got him playing the instrument.

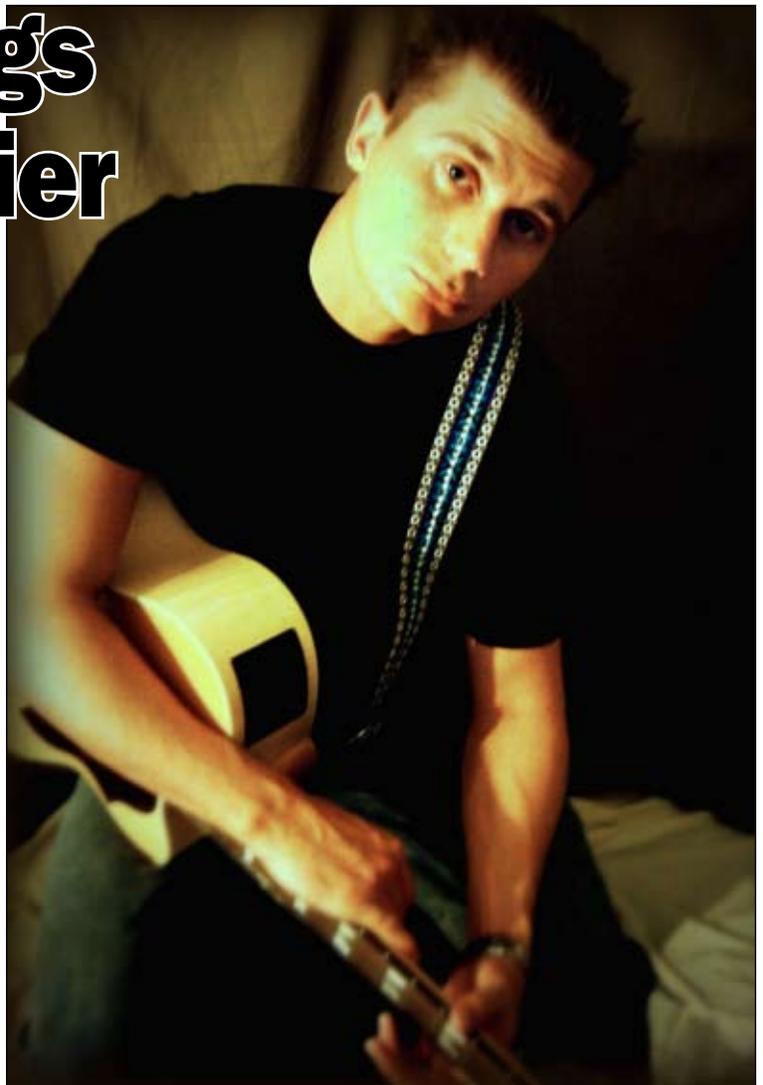
"I started to play guitar because of Metallica," Jaggie said. However, after studying classical music and jazz music at university, Jaggie said his guitar tastes broadened to legends from Jimi Hendrix to Stevie Ray Vaughan and Wes Montgomery. For his recent song writing, Jaggie has taken after more modern acts such as Chris Cornell of Soundgarden and Audioslave, as well as Dave Grohl of Nirvana and The Foo Fighters.

Jaggie said he played lead guitar from age 21 to 22 in a smattering of bands in his area, playing anything from country music, southern rock to heavy metal. He was also giving guitar lessons at the time.

Since his earlier years as a performer, Jaggie has branched into his own shows.

"After I gain respect with some covers, I throw in some of my own stuff," Jaggie said of his shows. He is also in talks to start performing more regularly on-island here, hopefully starting this month at O'Kelly's Irish Pub.

Jaggie classifies his music as modern rock with most of his current



Daniel Jaggie, an U.S. Army sergeant with Joint Task Force Guantanamo's 525th Military Police Battalion, is currently promoting his debut, self-titled album. Jaggie has been playing guitar for about 12 years, while writing and performing his own material for about three years. – Photo provided by Daniel Jaggie

material being acoustic rock, as he mostly writes using his acoustic guitar due to the limitations of the deployed environment.

The up-and-coming artist laid down several tracks before deploying. Jaggie is in the initial steps to promote and sell his debut album, which he said is soon going to be available for download from iTunes, Amazon, Rhapsody and Napster MP3 music download services.

"I'm such a critic – that's why I only have five songs in five years," Jaggie admitted. That hasn't stopped his drive to get his music to new people, however.

To hear the songs on Jaggie's upcoming album, visit his Web site at www.danieljaggiemusic.com or at his MySpace Web page at www.myspace.com/danieljaggie2. 📧

Daniel Jaggie's self-titled debut album will soon be available for download from assorted MP3 download services, including the iTunes Store, Amazon.com Digital Download Store, Rhapsody and Napster. –

Album cover image provided by Daniel Jaggie



Around the



JTF



Army Spc. Luis Luna, a Trooper deployed here with the Puerto Rico National Guard, inventories supplies as part of his duties in the logistics office, March 2. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Chris Vann



Air Force Senior Airman Heather Haddox takes the oath of reenlistment from Navy Capt. Todd Cabelka of the Staff Judge Advocate office at the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Camp Delta flagpole, Feb. 27. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Richard Wolff



Air Force Tech Sgt. Pete Hinton (left) and Senior Airman Mark Stricklen, electricians deployed here with the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, change a power source on a generator, Feb. 26. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson