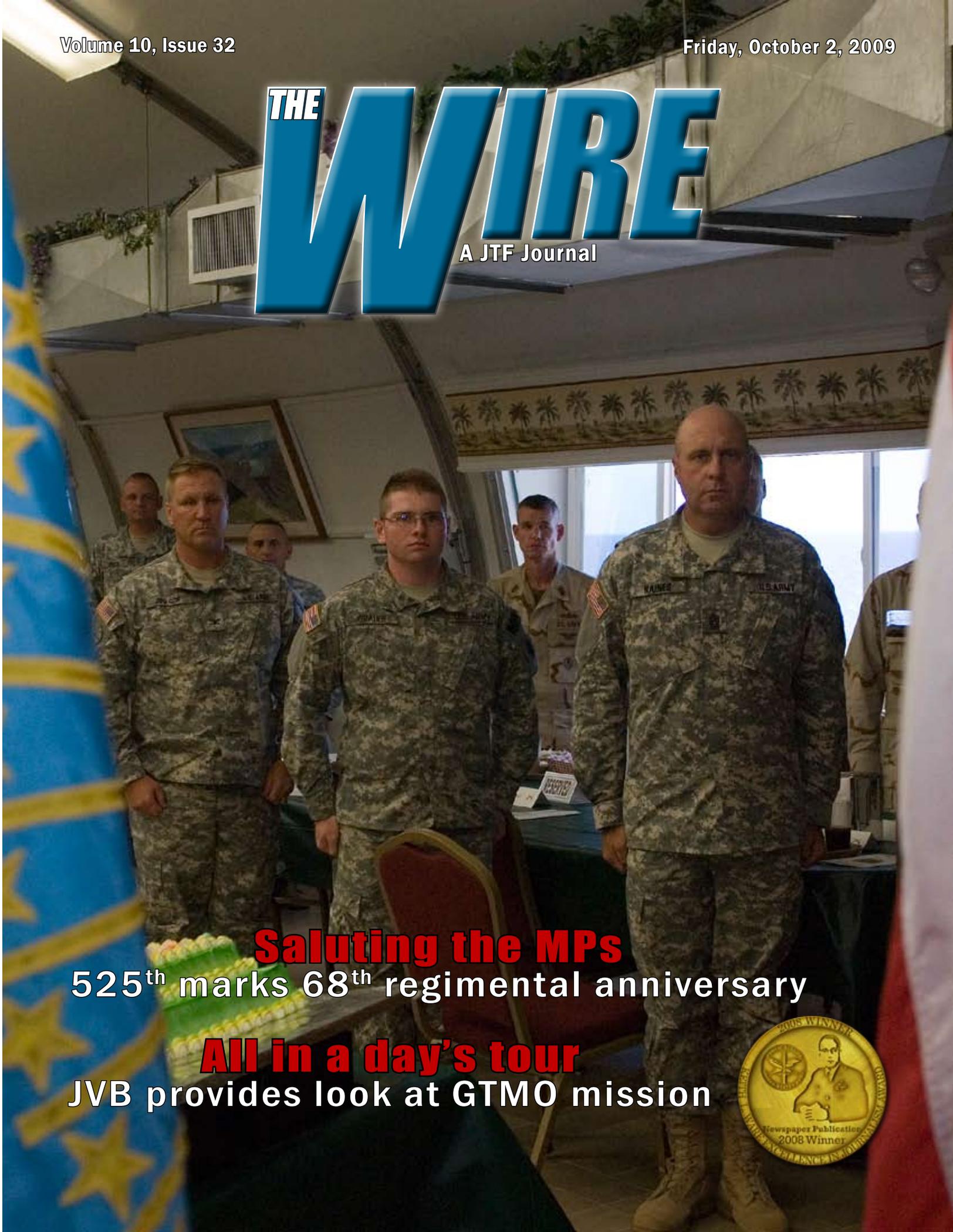


# THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



## Saluting the MPs

525<sup>th</sup> marks 68<sup>th</sup> regimental anniversary

## All in a day's tour

JVB provides look at GTMO mission



# Loyalty, inspired

## Army Master Sgt. Julio Espinet

JTF J1 non-commissioned officer-in-charge

Akin to the four cardinal points, north to south and east to west, loyalty is a part of our principles and way of life. On and off duty, it is an image of who we really are; because, no matter the situation, we best perceive loyalty from within ourselves.

Put yourself in a leader's position and ask, "What inspires Troopers to be loyal?" Once the academic answers are sifted through, there remains a single theme which forms the answer to that question – trust. If a senior leader can inspire trust, he will also inspire loyalty. Without trust, he may be able momentarily to compel compliance with his orders, but this compliance will not be the same as loyalty. Loyalty is not compelled; it is inspired and earned. Where loyalty exists, commitment, respect and obedience to orders are characterized by a special kind of superior-subordinate relationship.

Loyalty is sometimes misunderstood or worse, misused, not only in the military but also in the civilian world. Loyalty to the service, to your unit, superiors and finally to yourself is a key part of our learning process. On the other hand, loyalty to subordinates and peers is absolutely essential and part of the equation.

Our actions speak louder than words and they demonstrate our true character. We should not ask others for things that we ourselves are unwilling to do. Live and act in a similar manner, and you will discourage those naysayers from ever thinking that you can be drawn into their web of deceit and their cowardly, illegitimate evocation of your loyalty for foul ends. Lead by example and do what's right even when it appears no one sees you. Because there's always someone watching – the real you.

By nature, it is a process to give and gain trust. The realization of trust is only obtained if integrity is evident in the demonstration of one's loyalty. A Trooper may obey you if he is afraid of you, but his obedience is a weak and fleeting thing. Remove the immediate grounds of his fear and you have removed his sole reason for obeying. If that same Trooper is loyal to you, his obedience will have been ensured in a much more lasting way, for the attitude of loyalty is a stronger stimulus than the attitude of fear.

Loyalty can be inspired, in a manner that the military goal of discipline can be achieved along with the social goal of having individuals who are reflective, morally-aware individuals. This conception of loyalty is one of loyalty inspired by trust, where that trust resides in the moral integrity of senior leaders. "My loyalty is my honor"—my loyalty resides in a person of integrity, to whom I give my trust. ☆



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### COVER:

**Troopers celebrate the 68th Military Police anniversary, Sept. 25.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass

### BACK COVER:

**Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's flag football league is in full swing with men's and women's divisions.** – 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.



**Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Nydia Garcia, the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the JTF Joint Visitors' Bureau, oversees a distinguished visitor tour of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Sept. 28.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Carmen Gibson

# Service with a smile



**Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens, drops off members of a tour group during a visit to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Sept. 28.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Sometimes it seems like the media is the only source of information people back home have about Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Although the media do visit here and report on the detention mission, other visitors come to the JTF for many different reasons and it is the Joint Visitors' Bureau's responsibility to make sure those visitors get on-island and have the opportunity to see the entire spectrum of operations.

"It's our mission to make sure that visitors get a clear picture of what JTF GTMO is all about and to communicate to them the safe and transparent way we conduct our mission," said Maj. Victor Perez, the officer-in-charge of the JVB.

The Joint Visitors' Bureau coordinates visits of the JTF for distinguished guests such as congressional delegations, non-governmental agencies and various military and governmental groups. The bureau coordinates approximately 100 visits each year. Each group is made of different people who have different reasons for visiting the JTF. In a recent week, for instance, the JVB hosted tours for the Virgin Islands National Guard, U.S. Southern Command and federal law enforcement representatives.

Some come for information or fact-finding, others come to visit the Troopers here.

"All of the people who visit here have a certain sector of the community that they can reach and spread the message of what we do," said Perez.

Whatever the reason for the visit, the JTF JVB is informed by the Office of the Secretary of Defense of upcoming visits and is then responsible for coordinating that visit, from creating the itinerary to making sure proper accommodations are provided. Depending on the reason for the visit, the JVB will tailor the schedule to meet the needs of the visitors. For example, a group of visiting jurists may spend longer touring the Expeditionary Legal Complex. Each itinerary will differ depending on a group's timeline and needs.

Recently, the JVB assisted with the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference, the largest tour of its kind that seeks to provide civilian public opinion leaders with an opportunity to increase their knowledge of military and national defense issues. The tour this year came through Naval Station Guantanamo Bay because of its unique joint missions. To coordinate a tour of that size took a great deal

See **JVB/13**



Army Pvt. John Grauer and Col. Bruce Vargo, commander of the Joint Detention Group, cut a cake in honor of the Military Police's 68th Regimental anniversary, Sept. 25. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass

# GTMO celebrates 68<sup>th</sup> MP anniversary

**Army Sgt.  
Andrew Hillegass**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

There is a saying that states, some things get better with age. While many of us may not look forward to our 68<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Soldiers of the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion at Joint Task Force Guantanamo took time to celebrate their branch's anniversary.

The battalion gathered together with the rest of the JTF, Sept. 25, to recognize the Military Police Regiment's 68<sup>th</sup> birthday. The branch can trace its lineage back to the American Revolution with the establishment of the Marechaussee Corps. But, it wasn't until Sept. 26, 1941, that the Army officially recognized the Military Police Corps as a branch, making it one of the youngest in the Army.

Lt. Col. Alex Conyers, the 525<sup>th</sup> commander, took the opportunity to thank his Soldiers and remind them of what they can give back to the MP corps.

"We [military police] can give the gift of honoring and living the Army Values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage," said Conyers.

During his remarks, Conyers also took the time to thank his

Soldiers whom he feels may not always get the recognition they ought to have.

"Our guards are here doing their jobs outside of the limelight and they do a great job," said Conyers.

After Conyers' remarks, the battalion held a ceremonial cake cutting with the highest ranking Soldier, Joint Detention Group's commander Army Col. Bruce Vargo, and the youngest Soldier, Army Pvt. John Grauer, doing the honors.

Grauer just completed his Advanced Individual Training school approximately five months ago. He felt the MP corps was right for him because of their long history of making a difference and helping people.

"I wanted to enlist as an MP because back home I had worked as a firefighter and I wanted to continue to help people. I also could identify with their motto of 'Assist, Protect and Defend,'" said Grauer.

With personnel deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and Joint Task Force Guantanamo, military police are now recognized as the most deployed branch of the services outside of the Special Forces. The 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion was reactivated on Oct. 16, 2004, to assist the Joint Detention Group with detainee operations at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. ★

# Fire warden program protects the JTF

■ October 4-10 is Fire Prevention Week

*Live Firefighting Demonstration  
October 7, 7:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.  
Downtown Lyceum Parking Lot*

*Fire Department Open House  
October 10, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Fire Station One*

**Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Katherine Hofman**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Informed Troopers are acting as fire wardens in support of the Joint Task Force safety mission. According to Guantanamo Bay Fire Inspector Tim Hargraves, fire safety [including the Fire Warden position] is a part of the JTF training awareness and is mandatory under the OPNAV & COMNAVBASE INST 11320.

“GTMO firefighters are some of the finest trained anywhere in the world. They are able to respond with multiple apparatus and with resources on the ground in minutes in the event of a fire,” said Hargraves. However, “there is still a need to have knowledgeable Troopers in place acting as wardens in order to prevent fires from occurring,” continued Hargraves. “Military members [Troopers] and civilian contractors are being asked to be attentive in protecting themselves and others against fire incidents.”

Each facility at Joint Task Force Guantanamo must have trained personnel and a designated fire warden and warden alternates supporting Troopers’ fire safety awareness. The fire wardens assist all facilities on base to identify and correct immediate life safety hazards and aid in offsetting future hazards. These goals are accomplished through fire warden education and training.

“Our comprehensive Fire Warden Program is designed to inform the GTMO community of what to be on the look out for when it comes to fire safety,” said Hargraves.

Fire wardens are not only responsible for their designated building, but also to train their relief before they deploy home.

The GTMO Fire Prevention team is, “dedicated to providing sound fire safety information through awareness, education and training,” said Hargraves.

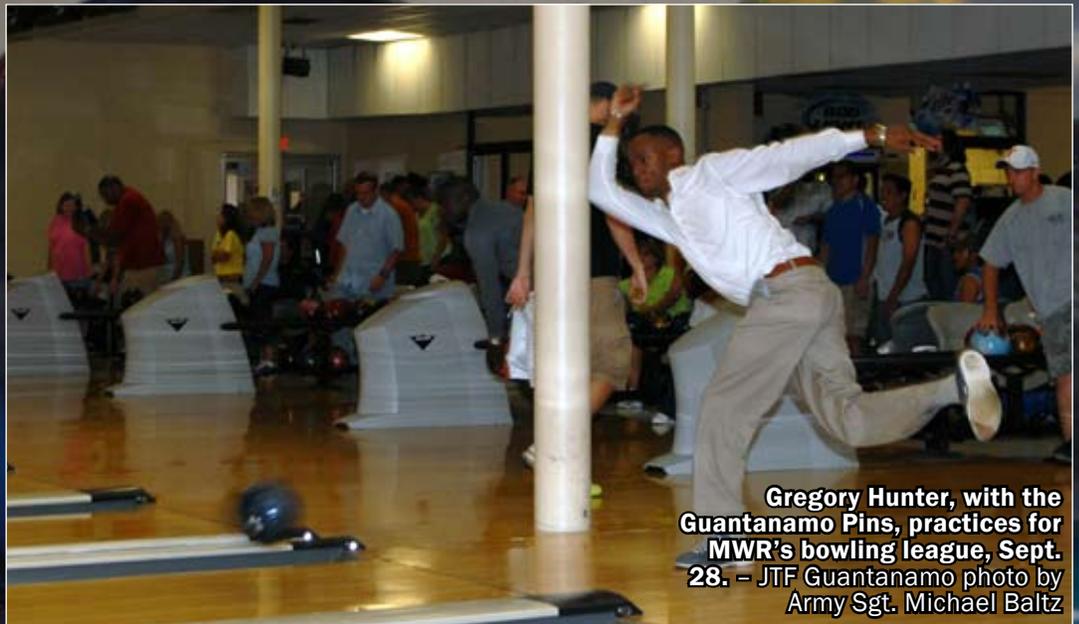
The fire warden class covers topics such as building requirements, safe storage of hazardous materials, evacuation plans and other topics addressing building and Trooper safety.

“A regularly scheduled fire warden training plan is in development to begin in November. The two-hour training will be on the last Friday of each month, and each class can host up to 30 people,” said Hargraves.

Prior to the November classes, the fire inspector will give special considerations for groups of 10-15 requesting training.

Fire Warden classes are approximately two hours and can be scheduled through the GTMO Fire Prevention office at ext. 4178 or 4179.

The Guantanamo Bay Fire, Crash and Rescue Department has the primary responsibility of both life safety and property protection at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and diligently prepares and executes these services. ❖



**Gregory Hunter, with the Guantanamo Pins, practices for MWR's bowling league, Sept. 28.** - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

# MWR rolls out the bowling league



**Army Spc. Juan Mangualvilanova warms up prior to competing, Sept. 28.** - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

**Army Sgt.  
Michael Baltz**  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's Morale, Welfare and Recreation program will kickoff the Monday Night Fun Bowling League at the recently-renovated Marblehead Lanes Bowling Center, Oct. 5.

"It is a league for people to have fun and compete," said Jon Bradley, Marblehead Lanes Bowling manager.

There are two leagues: one league is an 18-week, 14-team league, and the other is a nine-week, 10-team league.

"The purpose of the two leagues is to compensate for the individuals on continuous rotations," Bradley explained. "We offer two alternatives to help keep people from making a substantial commitment."

The leagues are handicap leagues, which allow people with different skill levels to compete with one another.

Army Spc. Juan Mangualvilanova, with the Guantanamo Pins, started taking bowling seriously since his arrival to the island.

"I am an alright bowler. I have gotten a lot better since I have been here," Mangualvilanova said. "A good day for me would be around 250 [points in a game], but my average is about 170. I can have a very bad day around 120."

"I love bowling," Mangualvilanova continued. "It is something that everyone can participate in, since it is not too physically demanding."

MWR offers games at reduced rates for the bowling league.

"The rate per game is about \$2.75, but the league only pays \$6.50 for three games," Bradley said.

Bradley, who is new to Guantanamo Bay, is looking forward to having a successful league.

"It has been a long time since [a bowling league here has] had a turn out like this," said Bradley, who is glad to be here and to support the Troopers. "We will continue to do this throughout the year."

"It is a great center. MWR has invested into a great system," Bradley added. "This place is as nice, if not nicer, than anything in the states."

If you have any questions regarding the bowling center, call ext. 2118. ★



# A not-so-perfect getaway

**Army Sgt.  
Emily Greene**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

A couple is honeymooning in Hawaii, at the same time as local newspapers are reporting a double murder and two killers on the loose. What could go wrong?

Cliff and Cydney (Steve Zahn and Milla Jovovich) are planning their hike through the mountains when they hear about a murderous couple on the rampage through the state. Suddenly, all those hard-bodied men and women they keep encountering on the beach begin to resemble Woody Harrelson and Juliette Lewis in “Natural Born Killers.” But, of course, they continue on. As a matter of fact, they manage to befriend another young couple (Timothy Olyphant and Kiele Sanchez) who almost immediately turn out to be really creepy.

The viewer might think they have the plot figured out about 10 minutes into the film, but there are a couple of pleasant surprises along the way. At the risk of revealing too much, let’s just say that everything is not necessarily as it seems.

Considering the kind of movie “The Perfect Getaway” is, Steve Zahn and Milla Jovovich manage to infuse their characters with two almost-full dimensions. Girl talk being what it is, Cydney and Gina (Sanchez)



**R**

**97 minutes**

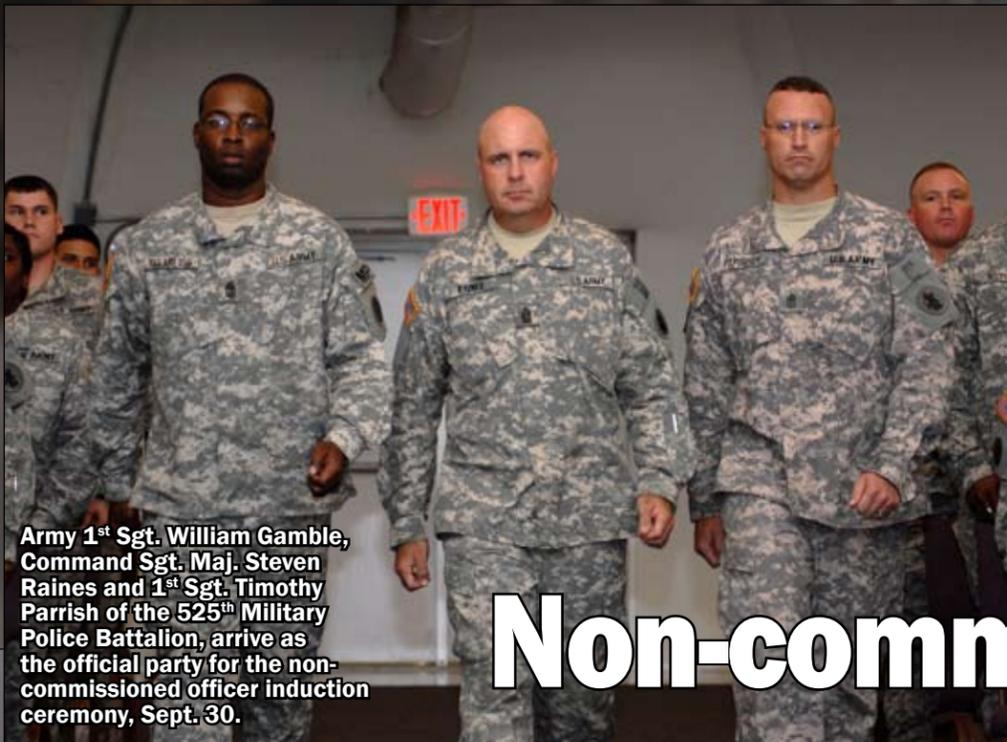
**Rating:** ★★☆☆☆☆

soon know far more about each other than they would have in any other setting. Meanwhile, Nick (Olyphant) reveals a past as a former special operations guy who is “really hard to kill.”

If the plot isn’t entertaining enough, the scenery in the movie is worth a glimpse. The gorgeous beaches, lush mountainside and glorious waterfalls are breathtaking. This film could double as an advertisement for honeymooners everywhere, if it weren’t for all the bad things that can happen far, far away from civilization.

Director David Twohy is a successful Hollywood screenwriter with films like “G.I. Jane,” “The Fugitive” and “The Chronicles of Riddick” under his belt. Coincidentally, the film’s characters are constantly discussing screenplay-writing and relating it to the adventure they are in. No sooner do they broach the subject of “red herrings,” for example, than one pops up. This is one of several postmodern devices that Twohy uses to transform the film into a “smart” thriller.

While the plot’s tension gets a little boring after a while, there is enough emotional background and plot twists to keep the viewer interested for most of the 97 minutes. As long as it shows on, say, a Monday night and remains free to GTMO audiences “The Perfect Getaway” is worth a gander. ☆



Army 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. William Gamble, Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Raines and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Timothy Parrish of the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, arrive as the official party for the non-commissioned officer induction ceremony, Sept. 30.

# Non-commissioned officers: The backbone of the Army



Soldiers from the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion raise their right hand during the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion NCO induction ceremony, Sept. 30.



Army Sgt. Helder Depina leads four of his fellow non-commissioned officers toward the stage during the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion's NCO induction ceremony.



Joint Task Force Guantanamo's senior enlisted advisor, Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Scott Fleming, congratulates new Sgt. Rafael Sanchez after the non-commissioned officer's induction ceremony, Sept. 30.

JTF Guantanamo photos by  
Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass

Five Soldiers from the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion were inducted into the Army's non-commissioned officer corps during a ceremony at Troopers' Chapel, Sept. 30. Two Soldiers from the 525<sup>th</sup>'s Headquarters and Headquarters Company - Sgt. Helder Depina and Sgt. Christine Moorhouse - and three Soldiers from the 193<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Company - Sgt. Jason Adams, Sgt. Britlan Kamstra and Sgt. Rafael Sanchez - were brought into what is known as the "backbone of the Army."



Army Sgt. Rafael Sanchez of the 193<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Company signs the non-commissioned officer's creed during the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion's NCO induction ceremony.

# Skate park helps Troopers relieve stress



Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Steven Schuyler drops in on the quarter pipe at the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay skate park, Sept. 25. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Justin Smelley



The Naval Station Guantanamo Bay skate park opened in February 2009 and offers numerous ramps and rails for bikers and skaters of all ages. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Justin Smelley

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Have you ever wondered where the sound of metal colliding with metal is coming from over by the Denich Gym?

The sound is coming from skaters, bikers and inline skaters grinding the rails over at the skate park located right next to Naval Station Guantanamo's G.J. Denich Gym. This 11,000-square-foot concrete jungle offers numerous ramps and rails for any adrenaline junkie.

The construction of the skate park was started in November 2007 and was completed in February 2009.

Craig Basel, GTMO's Morale, Welfare and Recreation coordinator, said, "The need for an updated and modern skate park facility was one of the primary reasons we built the park, plus we wanted to consolidate the three old skate parks into

one facility. We held focus groups with the skaters, bikers and roller bladers on several different occasions and received many great ideas from the customers."

The input from these focus groups and a little input from some professionals helped get the layout of the park.

"We received help from professional skaters such as Omar Hassan, Rodney Mullen, Mimi Knoop, Mitchie Brusco and BMX pros Scotty Cranmer and Alistair Whitton, plus professional designers at Spohn Ranch," said Basel.

The skate park's layout includes a bowl, fun box, bent penny, quarter pipes, rails and sets of stairs to appeal to any type of skater or biker. The park's setup can accommodate anyone from experienced skaters or bikers to beginners.

Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Steven Schuyler, a former mountain border who recently got into skateboarding, said, "I saw all the people skating and was convinced by

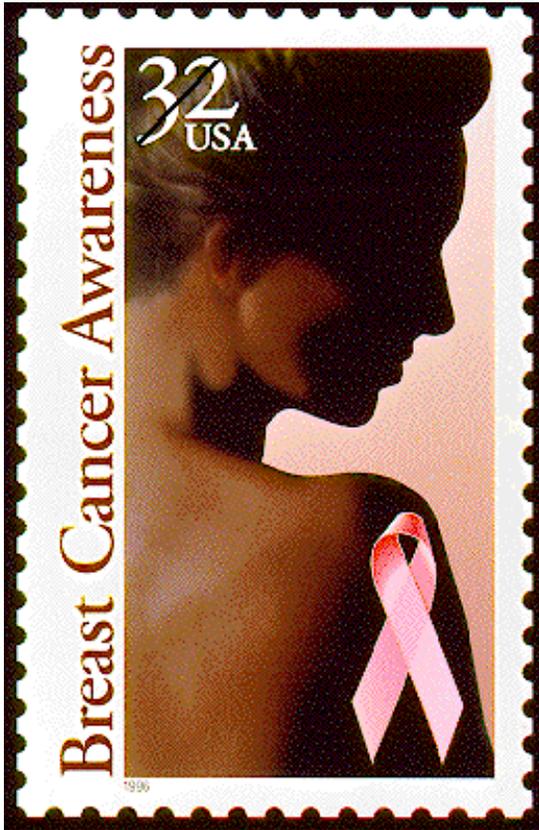
a friend to give it a go. It's no fun skating alone so I knew we would both help each other progress."

Schuyler tries to fit the skate park into his daily routine so he can become a better skater.

"I have been going to the park for about two hours at least every day if time permits. Though sometimes I find myself staying until I can no longer stand on the board," said Schuyler.

The skate park has improved the living quality among Troopers who are looking for a way to relax and have some fun.

"I think the response and appreciation from the community says it all. Their enthusiasm has been just outstanding. The bowl and the bent penny are absolute home runs with the skating crowd, and will provide years of use and pleasure for these skaters. It would be tough to find another skate park that compares to this one throughout the region," said Basel. ☆



**October is  
Breast Cancer  
Awareness  
Month**

## Be aware: breast cancer affects all

**Army Spc.  
April D. de Armas**  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Breast cancer is a serious disease that thousands of people around the world are diagnosed with every year. According to the Centers for Disease Control, in 2005 alone, more than 180,000 women and more than 1,700 men were diagnosed with breast cancer.

For Troopers at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, the risk of a breast cancer diagnosis is just as real as anywhere in the world.

Army Sgt. Holly Craighead, a medic with the Joint Medical Group said, "Although we have an overall healthy general population, there have been a very few isolated cases [at Joint Task Force Guantanamo] that have had to be addressed."

Military regulations follow the CDC recommendations when stating the standards for medical fitness.

"All of the military forces follow the same standards as the CDC," Craighead said. "All female Troopers are screened during their annual exams, as well as during periodic health assessments."

According to the CDC, the best way to detect possible breast cancer is through self exams.

"No one knows their body better than their selves," Craighead said. "If a Trooper has questions on how to do a self exam, we have handouts and other material that will take them step by step through the proper procedure. We also will show them during their health assessments what to do and look for."

Breast cancer is the most common cause of death among Hispanic women and the second most common killer among white, black, Asian or Pacific Islander, and American Indian or Alaskan Native women, according to the CDC. Although, more white women get breast cancer, more black women die from breast cancer.

Army Capt. Leo Damasco the senior medical officer and battalion surgeon with the JMG said, "The reasons for the risk factors are different mainly due to the genetic make-up of the

different races."

There are several risk factors for breast cancer listed on the CDC Web site, which include the intake of alcohol, the use of oral contraceptives and not having children, or having them late in life.

"One of the biggest risk factors for [males] and females is family history," said Craighead. "If a female has a member of the family that has had breast cancer at any time, they need to start being proactive in having regular exams 10 years prior to the age of the family member. In other words, if a female's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 35, then the female needs to start having exams at the age of 25."

Breast cancer does not just affect the older generation. It also affects the younger generation.

Army Spc. Damaris Quintana is a human resources specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company for Joint Task Force Guantanamo. She is an operating room technician back home in Puerto Rico and says she has seen many cases of breast cancer, as well as assisted in mastectomies.

"I have seen women as young as 25 have to have a full mastectomy because they are under the impression they were too young to have breast cancer," Quintana said.

"The truth is, the sooner people start taking care of themselves and performing their exams, the better off they will be."

There are several things to look for when performing a self exam. Some things are more obvious than others.

"Although everyone is different, there are some signs that are universal," Damasco said. "If there are changes in the overlying skin, discoloration, dimpling, flaking skin, rash or discharge from the nipple, then medical attention should be sought."

The overall message is that early detection is key and all Troopers are responsible for their health.

For more information on how to perform a self exam or to make an appointment for a health assessment, contact the Joint Trooper Clinic at ext. 3395. 📧



## Informing the force

**Navy Rear Adm. Tom Copeman, commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, speaks to Troopers during a briefing, Sept. 30. The admiral used the opportunity to inform Troopers on the latest news regarding the joint task force.**  
 - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens

## Hometown News Program visits GTMO

**Army Pfc. Christopher Vann**  
 JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Would you like to be one of more than 500,000 individuals whose hometown news release is distributed to over 14,000 newspapers, television and radio stations each year? The Department of Defense's Joint Hometown News Service provides such an opportunity.

The hometown news program, which has been operating for more than 40 years, combines all military service programs that operate in San Antonio, Texas. They provide print stories, along with still photography support and video holiday greetings that are sent to each individual service member's hometown. JHNS visited Naval Station Guantanamo Bay for one week to conduct hometown news releases and holiday greetings for friends and families back home to view.

Air Force Senior Airman Chris Griffin, a photographer for the JHNS, feels it is a great way to spread the word about what a service member does, without getting too much into operational security issues.

"It gives military members a chance to participate in the Hometown News Program," said Griffin, "and it gives them an opportunity to be a hometown hero."

Army Staff Sgt. Kim Williams, a videographer for the JHNS, handled the holiday greetings. She feels the holiday greetings help all Troopers in a positive way.

"It has a big impact, it brings hope and that does a lot for morale,"



**Army Staff Sgt. Kim Williams focuses a camera while taping a video holiday greeting at the Navy Exchange. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann**

said Williams.

After a week of video greetings and hometown interviews, the group departed to edit and prepare the material for release. That is where the Joint Task Force Public Affairs Office will continue. The JTF PAO will conduct various greetings and hometown releases in an effort to reach out to the Troopers' families who otherwise would not have a chance to see their loved ones.

For more information on hometown news releases or when and where the next video greetings will be conducted, contact the JTF public affairs office at ext. 8140 or 8141. ☆

# JVB provides lasting first impression of task force



**JVB** from 3

of unique joint missions. To coordinate a tour of that size took a great deal of planning and communication.

“Good communication is key,” said Perez. “You have to let people know in advance what needs to be done.”

The team has seen an increase in visits since President Obama announced his decision to close the detention centers by Jan. 2010. Immediately after the announcement, high-level officials such as the Secretary of the Navy and the U.S. Attorney General came to help make decisions on how to proceed.

“The tempo has increased since the executive order and we expect that it will continue to increase as we approach the deadline,” said Army Sgt. 1st Class Nydia Garcia, the JVB non-commissioned officer-in-charge.

Personnel with the JVB are responsible for coordinating transportation for the tours including boat rides from leeward side to windward side of the island and bus transportation. They also coordinate meals and provide the visitors with sun block, rain protection and other essentials while they are here.

The JVB is comprised of about 5-6 members who have a large order to fill in terms of transportation and personnel requirements. A lot of their additional assistance comes from other sections of the JTF such as the personnel, supply and communications offices for additional

vehicles and staff. Coast Guardsmen from the Maritime Safety and Security Team 91101 provide the water transportation for most tours.

Garcia makes it clear, not just anyone can be a driver for the JVB. Drivers must be professional and receive special training on military customs and courtesies. They also may be required to work extra hours. The drivers are with the visitors for the majority of the trip and must have an intimate knowledge of the base and portray a professional image at all times.

“Here, sometimes it’s as simple as knowing how to pass the bumps on the road,” said Garcia.

It’s the simple things, such as a smooth ride or friendly attitude and the small details like a hot cup of coffee and a clean vehicle that JVB strives for. At the beginning of each tour, visitors receive a command briefing to go over the mission of the JTF; in that briefing, the visitors’ seats are marked with their names.

“They walk in and their name is there,” said Navy Lt. Jonathan Ryan, the JVB deputy director. “Addressing these types of details help ensure a successful visit.”

The JVB provides visitors with a look at what the JTF is and how the Troopers here perform their mission. Regardless of who the visitors are or their reason for coming to GTMO, the Troopers strive to display professionalism and, above all, respect.

“It doesn’t matter who they are,” said Perez. “We treat them with the same respect.”

**Army Sgt. 1st Class Nydia Garcia communicates via radio to coordinate with other members of the Joint Visitors’ Bureau during a tour of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Sept. 28.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Carmen Gibson

## Boots on the Ground

by Army Spc. April D. de Armas

*Who do you think will win the World Series?*

**Army Staff Sgt. Edwin Rivera**



“Even though I like the Braves, I have to say the Yankees will win.”

**Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Daniel Wagner**



“I am going to have to go with the Braves.”

**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Kyle LaFond**



“Although my predictions for the past 10 years have failed, I have to go with the Orioles.”

**Army Spc. Efrain Malave**



“The Yankees don’t have much depth pitching but they can still pull it off.”

# I choose joy!



## **Air Force Maj. Robert Sullivan**

JTF Deputy Command Chaplain

There are outside influences that can affect happiness. For some, it could be as simple as the weather conditions. Yet for others, their happiness centers on being in a meaningful relationship. If they don't feel loved and cared for, they are not happy.

Happiness as we know it is only temporary. It is often based on what one possesses, a certain activity or personal accomplishments.

You can do all the right things – treat your wife or husband right – and still not be happy, because things happen to us that are beyond our control. Hurricane Katrina wiped out New Orleans and other coastal areas. Floods, droughts and other weather-related conditions can change life with a moment's notice. The death of a loved one or close friend can take away happiness.

It makes no difference if you are rich

or poor. Wealth in itself cannot make you happy. Some people have superficial happiness with no real lasting value because they assume that something outside of them can make them happy. They feel that to have possessions or to do some event will somehow affect the condition of their heart. But we can have something that is better than happiness: I choose joy.

Joy is produced within us by the inward work of the Holy Spirit. When you submit your life to God and obey Him, the result is peace and joy. It's a blessing knowing that you are pleasing the Lord and that you are living your life for His glory. If a husband and wife submit their lives to God's will and commit themselves to one-another, they will have the joy of the Lord in their marriage. It does not mean you will never have problems. But you can rest assured that God will help you work through your problems. Even during deployments and family separation, God can sustain you with His joy.

Some would argue that their spouse should

exist only to make them happy. That burden is far beyond the ability of any husband or wife to fulfill, because they can't control the world, they can't control the weather and they cannot control the behavior of people who might treat a spouse with disrespect and rudeness. Besides being selfish, this view overlooks the fact that only God can give you true happiness. While happiness is often situational or based on circumstances; joy comes as a gift of God from within.

I choose joy. The Bible says it is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, according to Galatians 5:22. This fruit is produced in the heart of the believer by the inward presence of God's Spirit. I choose to follow the Lord and live in the joy of the Lord. In the words of the old spirituals: This joy that I have the world didn't give it to me; the world didn't give it and the world can't take it away." The joy of the Lord is my strength. With this joy, my wife and I have a wonderful marriage in the Lord – Not problem-free, but full of love, peace and joy. ✨

## **JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS**

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

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

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

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

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

# Soldier battles debt and wins

**Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
VeShannah Lovelace**  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

In this day and time, the primary focus on America's mind is unemployment, economic recovery, escalating foreclosure rates, personal finance, increasing credit card debt and high gas prices. Gone are the days of purchasing items you can't afford at will and expecting to pay for it at a later date. People are starting to realize they have to become fiscally responsible and prepare now for the life they want in the future.

When Army Sgt. Timothy "Timmy" Dawson, legal assistance non-commissioned officer for the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Staff Judge Advocate, deployed to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay for a one-year deployment last October, he made a personal commitment not to return in the same financial shape in which he left.

Twenty-five years old, engaged and with a one-year-old son, Dawson left Queen Creek, Ariz., steeped in \$27,200 of debt. His array of debt included the balance of a vehicle repossession, the residue of an identity theft mishap, medical bills, auto repair bills and, the all too familiar villain – credit card debt.

"When I first got here, someone told me 'everyone leaves here a hunk, a chunk or a drunk,'" Dawson said, "So I thought, why not leave here not broke?"

Initially Dawson's motivation was preserving his credit in order to maintain his security clearance and he decided to take advantage of the increase in pay he would receive throughout the year.

"I knew when I went home I wouldn't make this kind of money," he said. "I don't know how I made it with all the phone calls [from creditors], the stress of the baby and wanting to do things without wondering if a pack of beer would break me," Dawson added.

Dawson said before he came here he actually called the bankruptcy people but then hung up the phone.

"I thought, no, you can do this," he added.

Getting out of debt is not accomplished without sacrifice and Dawson said his biggest challenge to becoming debt-free was his lack of a social life. While his friends were eating at the Bayview or O'Kelly's, he was eating at the galley or not eating at all. He also said in the beginning, he lost focus and bought some scuba gear. But he quickly got back on track by securing a part-time job working at the dive shop, which he said helped out a lot.

His family inspired him to stay focused because he remembered how much stress the debt brought on him. He also credits his son for helping him to stay centered on his goal.



**Army Sgt. Timmy Dawson simulates setting his Discover card ablaze after paying off a balance of \$3,000, Sept. 30. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class VeShannah Lovelace**

"Every time I called home, I'd hear him cry and I felt guilty because money I was spending on myself I could be spending on him," he said. "It's called being a responsible parent," he added.

He said he initially accumulated all his debt when he entered the Army as a private. He thought he had more money than he did.

"I was situationally rich. I thought I was rich at the time, so I bought all my friends pizza and the extra round of beer," Dawson said. "Then I met my fiancé and had a kid, and kids change your perspective."

Close friend and colleague Army Sgt. Christine Moorhouse, a military justice paralegal for the joint task force, went along for the ride as Dawson paid off his debt one bill at a time. When Dawson first told her of his goal, she told him 'good luck' sarcastically because she didn't think it was possible.

"I hadn't heard of too many other people managing to get completely debt-free through a deployment," Moorhouse said. "Most of the time, it puts a strain on finances," she added.

Moorhouse said she was proud of Dawson accomplishing his goal.

"I thought it was great. I was kind of envious because I couldn't do it. He was very disciplined," she added. "He'd brag about it, 'two more payments on the truck, one more payment on the truck, after this week I may be broke but everything's paid for.'"

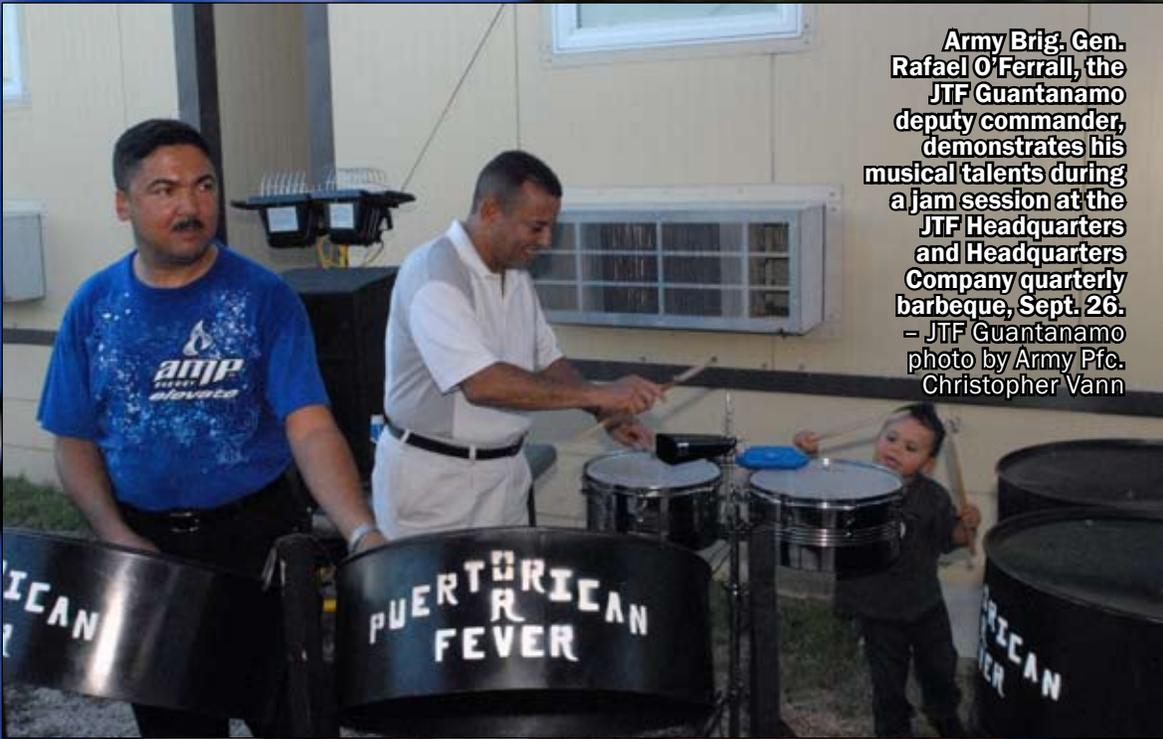
If given the opportunity to give advice to someone who is in over their head with debt, Dawson said he'd tell them to set a plan and stick to it.

"The way I did it was to knock off the little bills first, Dawson said, "Don't bite off more than you can chew. When you're ready to knock off that big bill, set up automatic payments," he continued.

"You can't just sit around having a pity party saying, 'poor me, I have so much debt,'" he said. "You have to remember you put yourself into it and only you can get yourself out. I paid this stuff off as a specialist, so any rank can do it," he added. ★



**Army Sgt. Timmy Dawson paid off more than \$6,500 in credit card debt during his deployment to JTF Guantanamo. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class VeShannah Lovelace**



Army Brig. Gen. Rafael O'Ferrall, the JTF Guantanamo deputy commander, demonstrates his musical talents during a jam session at the JTF Headquarters and Headquarters Company quarterly barbeque, Sept. 26. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann



Army Spc. Jorel Loyola with the 480<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company conducts a security patrol around Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Sept. 24. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Carmen Gibson



Army Pvt. Jeramie Cooper, with the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion is sprayed with OC spray during training at Camp America, Sept. 28. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Marcos Hernandez