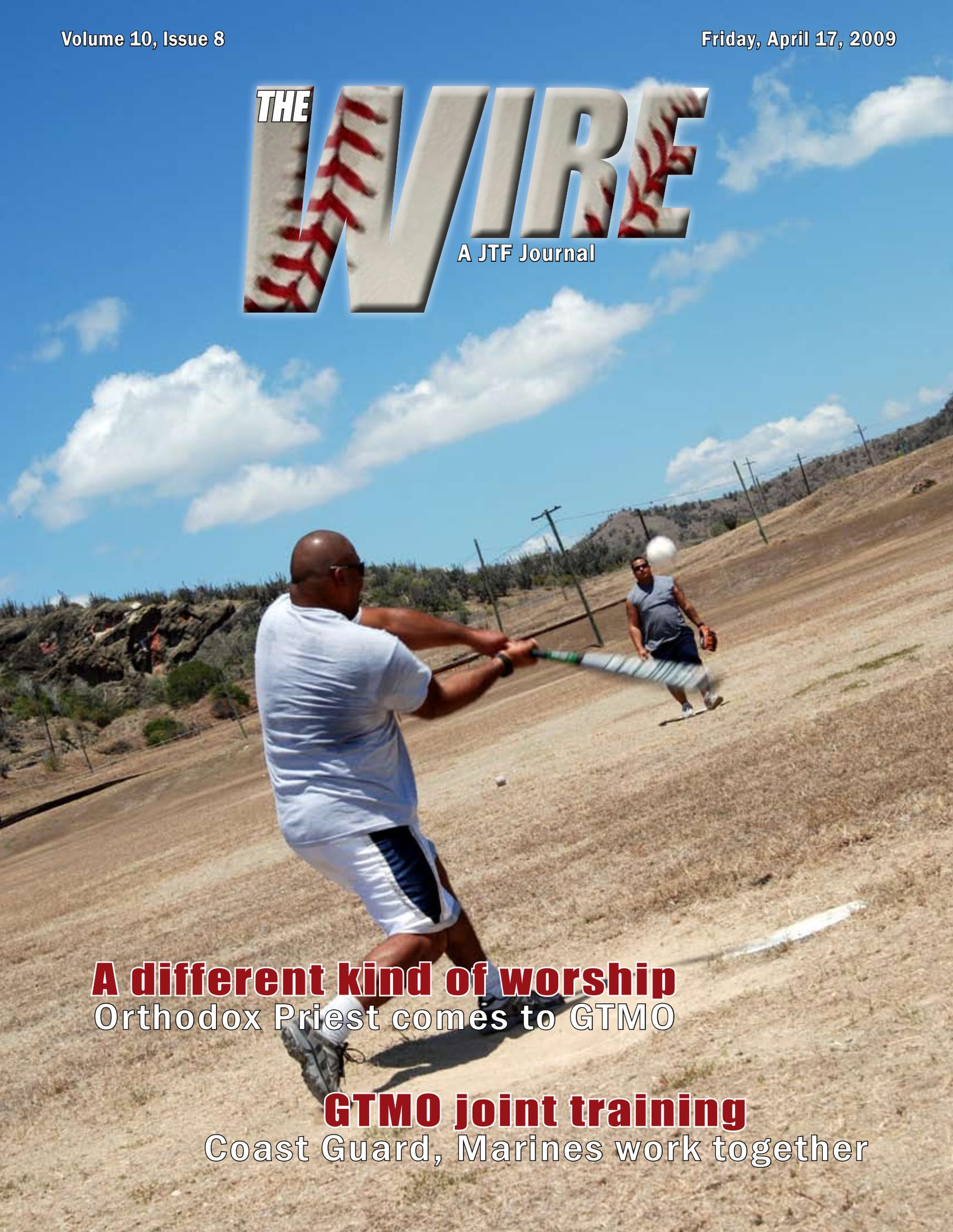


# THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



**A different kind of worship**  
Orthodox Priest comes to GTMO

**GTMO joint training**  
Coast Guard, Marines work together

# Opportunity knocks

## Army Master Sgt. Richard V. Price

525<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion Operations Sgt. Maj.

All military services offer service members the opportunity for professional development through correspondence courses, military occupation-specific advancement schools and college courses. Many young Troopers will tell you that they joined the military for the GI Bill benefits; however, many fail to use the college money available to them while they are actively serving.

“The aim of education should be to teach us rather how to think, than what to think – rather to improve our minds, so as to enable us to think for ourselves, than to load the memory with thoughts of other men.” (Bill Beattie)

Employers increasingly using diplomas and degrees as a way to screen applicants – once you land the job you want, your salary will reflect your credentials. On average, a person with an associate’s degree earns \$8,200 more per year than a high school graduate; a person with a bachelor’s degree earns \$21,800 more per year and a person with a master’s degree earns \$31,900 more per year. Many senior enlisted personnel don’t figure this out until late in their military careers and spend the last two or three years trying to achieve as many college credits toward a degree as they can. They spend absolutely all of their non-duty time working toward a degree so that they can maintain the same standard of living for themselves or their family as they had during their military service.

College is not only important in the civilian sector; it has become increasingly important for senior enlisted Troopers to be educated beyond the high school level. All military services use college as a positive indicator in the enlisted promotions system. The Army has recently recognized that many of the senior enlisted Soldiers hold a degree either equal to or higher than their officer counterparts. With this realization, officers in the field are increasingly expecting more from their enlisted counterparts.

Each active-duty Trooper receives \$4,500 per year as part of the tuition assistance program; however, many Troopers fail to use this service related compensation year after year. Many Troopers feel that they do not have time to take part in college. With today’s technology there is no reason that Troopers cannot achieve their educational goals. Every Trooper should establish their education goals, determine a degree plan that meets that goal and consistently work toward achieving their goal. It will not only benefit their military career but will pay big dividends when their career comes to an end and they start the next stage in their life.

“Human beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so.” (Douglas Adams) Service members work too hard for their benefits; do not let them slip away. ★



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### COVER:

**Army Staff Sgt. Alvin Martinez swings at a ball thrown by Army Pvt. Ramil Molina during softball practice at Camp America April 13.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by U.S. Navy Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Richard Wolff



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.



**A Coast Guard transportable port security boat brings Marines to an insertion point during a joint training exercise, April 8. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. de Armas**

**Marines waded through water after exiting a transportable port security boat during an insertion and extration drill involving Coast Guardsmen from Port Security Unit 305 and Marines from the Marine Corps Security Force Company. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens**



# Coasties, Marines integrate

**Army Staff Sgt.  
Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

In the military, there is no greater honor or award than the Medal of Honor. The medal is awarded to a select few service members who display extraordinary heroism. One Coast Guardsman holds the honor, earned at Guadalcanal during World War II. The story behind this Medal of Honor recipient mirrored a joint training exercise at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay recently between the Coast Guardsmen of Port Security Unit 305 and the Marine Corps Security Force Company stationed here.

On September 27, 1942, Coast Guard Signalman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Douglas A. Munro led a detachment of 10 boats to insert a group of Marines into battle. Conditions for the Marines quickly worsened and they needed to be evacuated from the position.

Munro volunteered to lead the extraction mission and brought the rescue boats in under heavy fire. He placed his boat in the direct line of enemy fire to protect the Marines – many of whom were wounded – as they entered the boats. Munro was mortally wounded as some of the last boats were leaving, but survived

long enough to know his mission was accomplished; his last words being, “Did they get off?”

Munro earned the gratitude and respect of the Marines he helped rescue that day and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, as well as the Purple Heart, for his actions.

Coast Guard and Marine Corps forces at GTMO conducted a training exercise, April 8, using Coast Guard transportable port security boats to insert and extract Marines from a coastal range.

“The Coast Guard has a history of providing amphibious landing vehicles to the Marine Corps and the Army,” said Coast Guard Lt. Adrian Bellin, PSU 305 assistant operations officer.

The exercise was beneficial because it provided an opportunity to practice individual and unit movements and tactics, as well as allowed for two services to integrate and train together, furthering the support of the security mission for the naval station and Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

“The exercise showed that two separate elements, with a little planning, could get together and make a joint operation a success,” said Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Micah Deyoung, PSU 305 communications

officer.

Upon insertion, the Marines conducted live-fire maneuvers at Granadillo Range with M-16 and M-240 rifles. The Marines simulated a casualty, which the Coast Guard responded to and evacuated across the bay to the naval hospital. The exercise called for the evacuation of the Marines due to increased hostilities and the Coast Guard tactically extracted the Marines from the situation.

“The Coast Guard proved to be a professional force and got us where we needed to go,” said Marine Corps Capt. Adam Stiles, platoon commander of the 5<sup>th</sup> Platoon of the Marine Corps Security Force Company.

Communication was key to the success of the mission. Whether between separate services on land or those on water, communication was critical for the safety of the Troopers and the completion of the exercise. Multiple planning meetings prior to the exercise allowed each entity to become familiar with the terminology and tactics of all involved.

“We are always working with the naval station and the Marine Corps to further develop force protection for the base and the JTF,” Bellin said. ☆



## One's past, another's future

**Army Staff Sgt. Joleen Anderson, of the 525th Military Police Battalion, speaks with Army Sgt. Maj. Carolann Murray during Murray's visit to Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Murray spoke with women one-on-one to thank them for their duty and to provide guidance and mentorship in support of the Army Mentorship Program. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell**

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Identifying a mentor – someone confident, competent and who exudes the core values critical to one's military service – is a crucial step for anyone during their career, no matter what age, gender or rank.

Recently, one of the most senior enlisted women in the military police corps visited Joint Task Force Guantanamo to speak to 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion members – specifically female Troopers – about the importance of mentorship, personal responsibility and self-respect.

"Mentorship is very important because it gives Soldiers direction," said Army Sgt. Maj. Carolann Murray, U.S. Army South deputy chief of staff provost marshal sergeant major. "It gives them a more mature perspective from the outside looking in and [fosters] ideals to help them make the right decisions."

Throughout her life, Murray has placed her faith in God and has always turned to her mother for support.

"My mother has always been there for me – no matter what," Murray said. "I ask her questions, bounce [ideas] off of her and she gives me the motivation and courage to continue on, encouraging me to be and do anything I want."

According to studies posted on the Army Mentorship Program Web site, the benefits of participating in a mentorship program help to increase Soldier retention; develop

leaders, leadership skills and technical skills; promote career progression and positively impact diversity.

Murray, who has been a member of the Military Police Corps for more than 20 years, serves as the voice of experience to the young members of the 525<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion.

"I joined [the Army] at a time when I was always the first woman to do this or that," she said, speaking of the importance of finding a mentor. "I can validate all this because I've been there, I've done that."

"My audience is everyone," Murray said, and explained that her focal point was speaking to women.

"I think one of the biggest challenges of being a woman in the Army – especially coming up through the ranks – is that sometimes you can be misunderstood," she continued.

Murray explained the common misunderstanding that many women, and men, in the military have heard.

"If a female Soldier makes a mistake, then some people will say, 'she doesn't know her job.' [However] if a male Soldier makes a mistake, then 'he's just having a bad day.' This is one of the challenges that I, and some females, have had," Murray said.

Throughout her visit, Murray reached out to as many women as she could to check on them individually, or while speaking to a group, with the intention of understanding the needs of women stationed at the JTF.

"I want Soldiers to understand that their life and career is what they choose it to be," she said. "You can't expect others to respect you unless you respect yourself. If someone is cursing, or inconsiderate toward you, then stand up and let it be known. You can't just sit back and accept a situation for what it is just because you want to be a part of a team."

For young Soldiers, finding the courage to stand up for themselves may be easier said than done. However, Murray's solution for that is to, "use your chain of command," she said.

"It's all about the decisions you make as a young Soldier," Murray explained. "Decisions always come with consequences, whether intended or not."

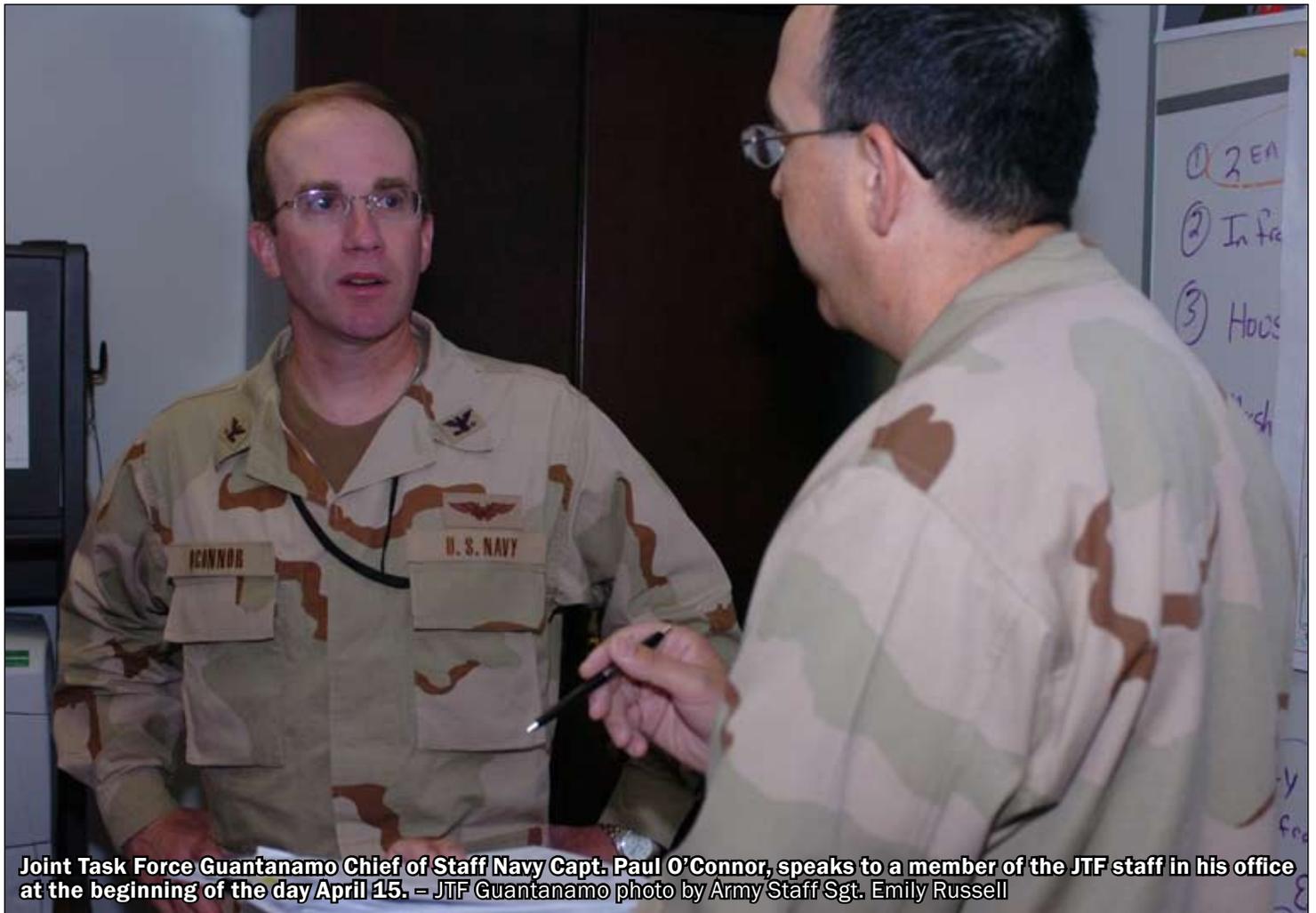
According to Murray, the most important thing is to make sure that you are true to yourself. Achieve the goals that you set for yourself, not just the goals others set for you.

"Be whatever you want, because *you* want it," she added. "It's all up to you; you choose your destiny."

Goals are significant to everyone's growth and development. Setting and achieving goals provides a sense of accomplishment, especially after achieving a particularly important milestone, whatever it may be.

"I always ask the Soldier, 'What are your goals? What do you want to accomplish before the end of your tour?'" Murray said. "Are you taking correspondence courses or college classes? Are you going to the

See **MENTOR/12**



Joint Task Force Guantanamo Chief of Staff Navy Capt. Paul O'Connor, speaks to a member of the JTF staff in his office at the beginning of the day April 15. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Russell

# New chief comes on board at JTF

**Army Staff Sgt.  
Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Joint Task Force Guantanamo welcomed a new face recently as the new JTF Chief of Staff Navy Capt. Paul O'Connor took over for Navy Capt. Peter Husta, who served with the JTF for the last three years.

"My job is to manage and take care of [the JTF] staff," O'Connor said. "If I do that correctly, I should free up [Navy Rear Adm. David M. Thomas] and [Brig. Gen. Rafael O'Ferrall] to do their job and effectively complete the mission for the JTF – which is the safe, humane, legal and transparent care of detainees, support the office of military commissions and intelligence collection."

O'Connor came to the JTF from the Airborne Command and Control Logistics Wing in Point Mugu, Calif., where he served as commander. In more than 26 years as a naval flight officer, O'Connor logged in excess of 3,000 hours in the E-2C Hawkeye aircraft. The E-2C has been referred to as the airborne "quarterback"

**“In an overarching sense, my priority is to look out for the Troopers of all the services here, and ensure that their quality of life is a good one.”**

– Navy Capt. Paul O'Connor

or battle manager of the fleet, due to its radar and communications capabilities. O'Connor will be playing a different position in his role at the JTF.

"I should be doing the blocking and tackling so the admiral can do the quarterback pass to get the ball to the end zone," said O'Connor.

Part of the approach O'Connor will run as chief of staff is dealing with Trooper issues, such as leave policies and quality of life matters. O'Connor hopes to take suggestions from Troopers to enhance their

quality of life and morale.

"In an overarching sense, my priority is to look out for the Troopers of all the services here, and ensure that their quality of life is a good one," he said.

O'Connor is settling into his new position after a three-week transition period with former Chief of Staff Navy Capt. Peter Husta. He has taken this time to become familiar with the base, the mission, and meet with the Troopers.

"Being the new guy on the block, what has impressed me so far is the dedication that every man and woman has here for the mission," O'Connor explained. "From the top down, I go into the camps to chat and say hello to the guard force, the people cooking the meals, the people at the gym, at the golf course; they're all happy to support the mission and they do an outstanding job."

O'Connor will serve a year-long tour with the JTF; a tour which he feels will continue to be as interesting and exciting as his first three weeks. "No two days have been alike so I anticipate that will be the same for the next year," he said. 🌟

# Learning to love the water

■ *MWR swimming lessons help Troopers feel at ease in the water*

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Summertime usually means fun in the sun and time spent at the swimming pool. However, not everyone can swim or enjoy the water without the worry of having some type of flotation device. Thankfully, there is a solution.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation has joined forces with the American Red Cross to help patrons of the local swimming pools, and those who would like to enjoy the local beaches, by offering swimming lessons for all ages.

Employees of MWR, Dwayne Bryan and Anthony Baltimore, have taught swimming classes to residents of Joint Task Force Guantanamo and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay every summer for the past four years.

Learning to swim is important because it could help save the life of an individual or the life of the person who is learning, Bryan said.

“Being a part of affecting someone’s life in a positive way is important to me,” Bryan said. “The children are easier to teach since they have no natural built-in fear.”

The instructors enjoy the classes and the opportunity to give students the ability to be more comfortable in the water.

“The classes are fun to teach,” Baltimore said. “It makes me feel good when I see the confidence in my students’ eyes as they learn, and it feels good to get praise from my students who have finally mastered swimming.”

Army Staff Sgt. Marquita Williams, a member of 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, recently completed her second round of classes. “The biggest thing was getting over the fear of being in water over your head and knowing you can’t touch,” said Williams. “It pushes you to keep going.”

“The instructors are real patient with us and they make us feel comfortable,” she said.

Classes usually begin around March



**Army Staff Sgt. Marquita L. Williams, with the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, prepares to do a pencil dive during adult swimming lessons at the Windjammer Pool, April 9. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens**

every year and conclude by the end of October, when the temperatures at the outdoor pool are least conducive to swimming.

Classes are available for all age groups and are broken down into six different groups or levels. A student’s beginning level will depend on the individuals age, ranging from six-month-old infants to adults.

There is a \$30 fee for the classes and

sign-up forms can be obtained at G.J. Denich Gym.

Each swimming class lasts approximately two weeks and individual sessions last approximately 30 to 45 minutes. Classes are taught at the Windjammer Pool.

“The lessons are really effective,” said Williams.

For more information, please contact Denich Gym at extension 2119 or the Windjammer Pool at extension 2205. ☆

# 'Shopaholic' provides fluffy fun



**Army Sgt.  
Emily Greene**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Some people practice yoga, some sit on the beach and watch the waves and some go to church. Rebecca Bloomwood goes shopping.

Based on Sophie Kinsella's novels, "Confessions of a Shopaholic" is a light-hearted movie that strikes a chord in today's time of economic hardship. Rebecca, portrayed by Isla Fisher ("Wedding Crashers"), is a young woman who can't say no when it comes to designer clothes and ends up paying the consequences. However, the movie manages to avoid preachy morality and instead entertains with good comedic timing and a rather innocent love story sideline.

Fisher flirts her way through dizzy shopping sprees, a job with "Successful Saving" magazine, and financial decline. In the end, even public humiliation and familial disappointment fail to quench her spirit. She charms the audience into wishing her well, as she wrecks her credit and makes even the most cynical viewer remember what it was like to be young and irresponsible.

Fisher is joined by supporting actors who make up for the movie's lack of plot by creating an extended world of interesting friends and family. Joan Cusack and John Goodman play Rebecca's wacky parents who are fiscal opposites of their spendthrift daughter. Krysten Ritter is the roommate and best friend who tries to keep her on the straight and narrow with gentle prodding and a bottle of tequila to aid her friend's attempts to face the bills that just keep piling up.

Robert Stanton is Derek Smeath, who plays the feared and despised bill collector. He doggedly pursues closure on the account Rebecca tries so hard to ignore. Popping up at her door and calling her at work, Derek is Rebecca's worst nightmare. The scariest part is how realistically he plays the part.

To make matters worse, Rebecca slowly falls for Luke Brandon (Hugh Dancy), her boss who loves her talent for explaining financial matters to the masses but has no idea she does not follow her own advice. Rebecca can't let him know about her money troubles and has to make sure the bill collectors don't blow her cover. Hilarity ensues as she tries to keep up appearances.

Throughout the haze of party dresses, shoe-shopping madness, drunken letter-writing and some very funny Shopaholics Anonymous meetings, the movie makes no apologies for the lack of content. From talking mannequins to whirlwind "business trips," the cast does just what a fizzy movie like this is meant to do; it entertains. ★

PG

104 minutes

Rating:





# Orthodox chaplain visits JTF during Holy Week

**Air Force Chaplain Lt. Col. Timothy Ullmann preaches during one of the 14 services he is holding during his visit to Joint Task Force Guantanamo.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

**Army Sgt.  
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

During the holidays, some Troopers struggle with being unable to practice their religion on holy days. Thanks to the Joint Task Force Guantanamo command, several Troopers will now be able to feel a little more at home and enjoy the Easter holiday to its fullest.

Eastern Orthodox Christian priest, Air Force Chaplain Lt. Col. Timothy Ullmann, is visiting Troopers at JTF Guantanamo during the Orthodox Holy Week and Pascha, April 7-21.

“I got a call from U.S. Army Southern Command and was informed that [Navy Rear Adm. David M. Thomas Jr.] made a request for an Orthodox priest,” said Ullmann, who is stationed at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. “He was aware that there are a number of Orthodox Christians here and wanted to do something for them.”

Ullmann, who has been an Orthodox chaplain since 1993, has two main purposes during his visit.

“He is here to support the Troopers,” said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Clint Pickett, the JTF command chaplain “He is here to facilitate the religious and spiritual needs of the men and women here.”

A Chaplain upholds the free practice of religion from a legal and spiritual standpoint.

“The chaplain is absolutely vital and

essential to the Troopers,” Ullmann explained. “When the chaplain visits, there is that connection and peace that the faithful have that they cannot get anywhere else.”

The Orthodox religion was founded by Christ and the Apostles, Ullmann stated. It has not changed since 33 A.D. The Roman Catholic Church was part of the Orthodox Church, but divided in 1054 A.D. Both are part of Holy Tradition, meaning they all date back to the day of Pentecost.

“We have an Eastern style and understanding,” Ullmann explained. “Meaning, the roots of our church come from Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Northern Africa.”

The Eastern Orthodox Church celebrates Easter a week later than most Christian religions in America according to Ullmann. This is because Eastern Orthodox Christians live by the liturgical calendar.

“I hope while he is here, people are able to learn about a different religion that hasn’t been here in many years,” said Pickett.

Some Troopers will have the opportunity to learn about a new religion, while others will be able to practice their religion instead of having to travel off the island for Easter and Pascha services.

“This is my third year here, and there has never been an Orthodox chaplain since I got here,” said Valentina Gontscharow, JTF military advisory team program manager. “Easter is the most important holiday in the Orthodox Church. I usually go back home to Washington, D.C., for Holy Week and

Easter services.”

Gontscharow, who has been a practicing Orthodox Christian since she was a little girl, explained that Easter is something an Orthodox Christian tries, by all means, to attend.

“People who do not go to church all year show up for Easter midnight service,” explained Gontscharow.

Gontscharow has never missed an Easter service since childhood. This year she did not plan to go home for Easter service due to personal issues.

“I was going to ask for God’s forgiveness for not attending Easter for the first time in my life,” explained Gontscharow, who plans on attending every service. “I consider it to be a blessing that the church came to me.”

Ullmann will hold 14 services during his visit, all in preparation of the Pascha.

“I am honored and privileged to provide religious services to the Troopers at Guantanamo,” Ullmann said.

“I have great admiration and respect for all of the [Troopers who are supporting the] mission here,” Ullmann said. “I have literally traveled all over the world, and I believe some of the finest professional individuals are here at Guantanamo; that goes from the youngest Trooper to the most senior leader.”

If you have any questions or concerns regarding religion, contact the chaplain’s office for more information at extension 3202. 🌟

# Waiting to exhale

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

You could hear a pin drop in the unusual silence at O’Kelly’s Irish Pub, April 5, when National Geographic Channel aired the two-hour show, “Explorer: Inside Guantanamo.”

The documentary, which reveals the day-to-day life of the detention center guards at Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, provided a rare, behind-the-scenes look at the world’s most talked about detention operation.

The show was highly anticipated by members of the JTF. The pub was full – standing room only – for two hours. With special consideration from Morale, Welfare and Recreation Food and Beverage Manager, Eric Nikkel, Troopers were able to watch the special, which aired only on satellite TV.

As the show began, Troopers held their breath in anticipation of how the JTF would be portrayed.

“I believe that this show was created with an un-biased perception,” said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Thomas Coughill, a member of the Office for the Administrative Review of the Detention of Enemy Combatants. “It showed the truth about the lives and emotions of the guards here at GTMO, while at the same time it had to be ‘politically correct,’ showing the lawyers’ and detainees’ point of view that they were being ‘unlawfully confined and mistreated.’ I had a lot of mixed emotions.”

National Geographic Channel’s ability to capture the story while maintaining an overall delicate political balance was evident, yet made some viewers question the message of the documentary.

“I thought [National Geographic] did a good job representing the guards and what they do,” said JTF Guantanamo Senior Enlisted Advisor, Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Brian T. Schexnaydre. “However, I was disappointed by some of the comments the lawyers made. I felt that they put a negative spin toward the end of the show on what the reality is here, leaving the general public in question as to whether we’re doing the right thing, or whether it should be closed.”

According to JTF Commander, Navy Rear Adm. David M. Thomas Jr., there is no question when it comes to doing the right thing. Our mission is safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees.

“Showing the public that these guards aren’t all big burly men mistreating detainees was a relief,” Coughill said. “These guards can be young males or females with families, who are not able to live a normal life outside the wire. My heart and prayers go out to these young Troopers who have this on their shoulders, and their minds.”



**Members of JTF Guantanamo gathered at O’Kelly’s Irish Pub April 5, to view National Geographic Channel’s “Explorer: Inside Guantanamo” a behind-the-scenes look at life “inside the wire” at the detention centers. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell**

“We as a joint task force know what the guards go through and what they do on a daily basis,” Schexnaydre said. “I think the coverage on what they do was pretty thorough; however, I don’t feel they should take any negativity from the show to heart because they do a hell of a job here, regardless of what is portrayed to the public.”

For more information, visit: <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/series/explorer/4085/Overview#tab-Overview>.

The Web site offers an abundance of supporting information, including: a brief explanation of each camp, photographs, Guantanamo Bay history and documentation about life at Guantanamo Bay, including views from human rights activists. Check the Web site for upcoming show times. ☆

# Mentorship strengthens team, builds morale

**MENTOR** from 4

Soldier of the Month board? I even ask the senior non-commissioned officers if they're [eligible] for promotion and talk about things like taking care of their families back home."

Murray also addresses alcohol use and sometimes the consequences that go along with it.

"[The problem] is not just here, but at any military installation, Murray said. If [you] choose to

go out and drink, be responsible."

The message from Murray – for all NCOs – is that each of us is responsible, not only for our own behavior, but also for our team members.

"You may not have been issued a Soldier, but they were entrusted to you," she said. "I charge you with making sure your Soldiers do the right thing. I hold every NCO

responsible for their subordinate Soldiers because we are the backbone of the Army and we are supposed to set and enforce the standards."

Participating in the mentorship program has made Murray realize the importance of young Soldiers because they are the ones who will, "carry the torch long after I'm gone."

"When I think of these young Soldiers,

I pray and hope that someone is sitting down with them and challenging them to do the right thing," Murray said. "We all go through growing pains in the military and can learn from our experience."

For more information on the Army Mentorship Program, including resources and training videos for mentors and mentees, visit <http://www.mentorship.army.mil/>. ☆



**Army Sgt. Maj. Carolann Murray met with a group of women to share her message about mentorship and receive feedback about important issues at the JTF. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Russell**

## Planning on drinking? Plan on a ride.

**Drinking and driving is unacceptable at any time, for any reason, on Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. Troopers found driving under the influence will be punished under the uniform code of military justice.**

**The JTF has a courtesy patrol/safe ride program established to ensure JTF Troopers conduct themselves appropriately on the weekends and provide safe rides home. JTF senior non-commissioned officers patrol the naval station Friday and Saturday from 10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.**

**Troopers can also call the MWR Taxi Service at ext. 75586**

**Hours: Mon - Thurs 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.**

**Fri - Sat 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 a.m.**

**Sun 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.**



## Breaking through

Members of the Joint Task Force Quick Reaction Force, deployed to JTF Guantanamo with the Puerto Rico Army National Guard, conduct riot training as part of their standard military police training, April 9. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann

## Boots on the Ground

by Army Spc. April D. de Armas

*What is your most purchased item at the Navy Exchange?*

Army Sgt. Russell Howard



"I buy DVDs for entertainment. I especially like the boxed sets."

Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Demarious Franklin



"I buy a lot of water. I play sports and want to stay hydrated."

Army Sgt. Aaron San Luis

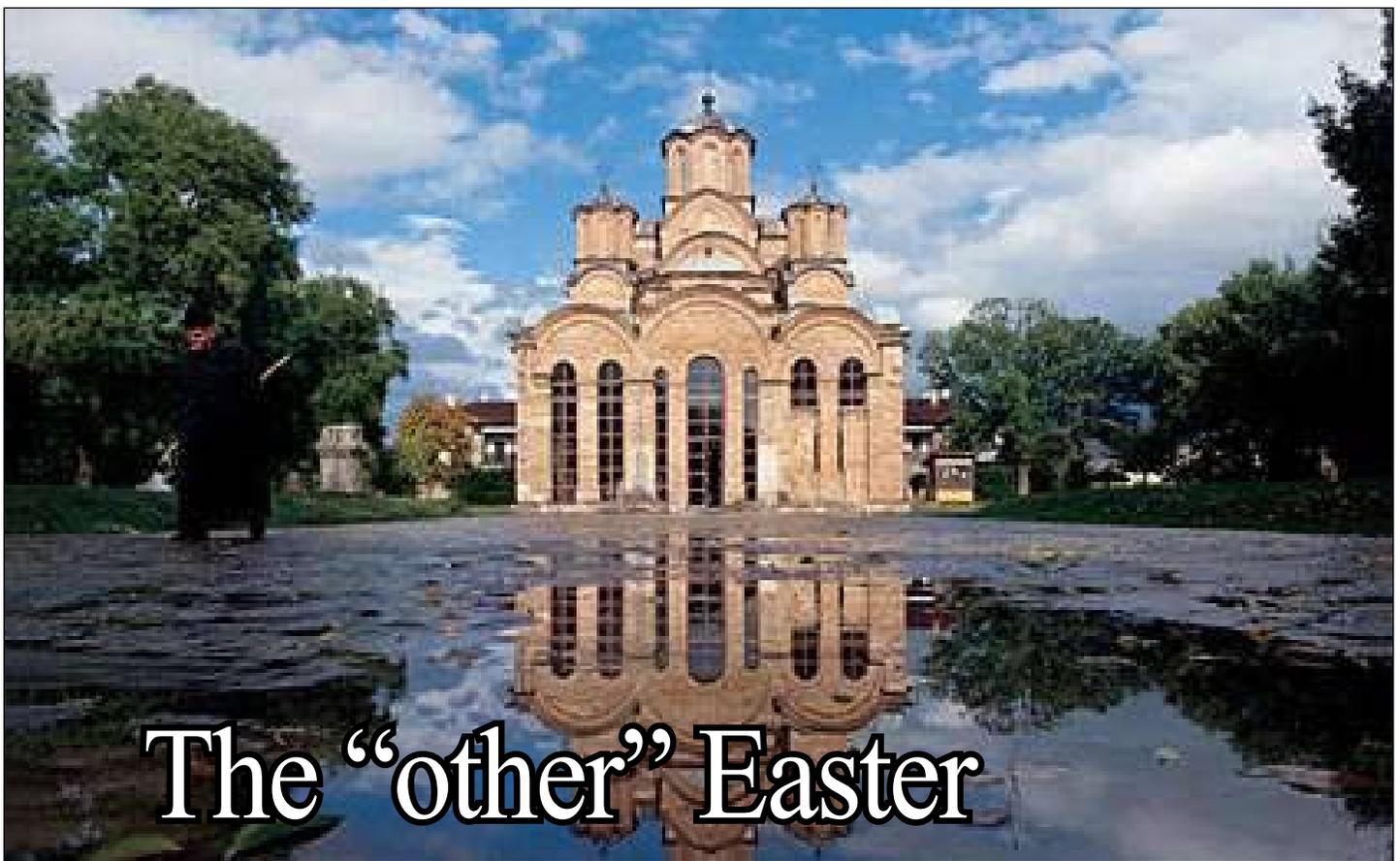


"I buy DVDs. Every Tuesday they get a new shipment at the NEX."

Air Force Lt. Col. Timothy Ullman



"I buy the cigars. San Luis Rey are my favorite. Who comes to Cuba and doesn't smoke a cigar?"



# The “other” Easter

**Air Force Lt. Col.  
Timothy Ullmann**

JTF visiting Eastern Orthodox Chaplain

Did you know millions of Christians will celebrate “Easter” this Sunday? If you’re thinking, “Wait a minute, Easter was last week,” don’t be confused. This Sunday is Eastern Orthodox “Easter,” or as we call it, Pascha (pronounced Pah Skah). Pascha is Greek for Passover and commemorates the passing over from death to life of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It also reminds all Orthodox faithful of our hope of resurrection.

OK, why two different dates for Easter? It’s a matter of calendars—mixing solar and lunar calendars with Julian and Gregorian calendars. In short, it is Christian tradition to celebrate Pascha on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox (March 21, when the night and day are of equal length, and so the light is on the increase and the darkness on the decrease). That worked fairly well according to the Julian calendar (named for Julius Caesar) for centuries until a flaw was discovered.

An actual solar year is 365.25 days, which meant the calendar was off and the vernal equinox kept bouncing around, which meant Easter kept moving. It was time to fix the problem.

Pope Gregory XIII introduced the Gregorian calendar, which added a leap year every four years to account for the true solar calendar. It’s the calendar still used just about everywhere today . . . except by some. Due to the split of the western Roman Church from the eastern Orthodox Church, the east never adopted the calendar. There’s about a 10-day difference between the calendars, and that’s why many Eastern Christian and Western Christian holy days have different calendar dates. Does it sound confusing? Only if you don’t have a calendar.

If you aren’t overly familiar with the Orthodox Christian faith, here are a few things to know. First, it is Apostolic, which means from the time of Christ’s Apostles. The Church was established on the Day of Pentecost (50 days after the Resurrection), with the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. Second, the Church was one until the regrettable split of the Roman

Church from the other four established Orthodox Churches in 1054 A.D. Third, Orthodox Christians allow for the mystery of God in their worship and life. As such, it is a faith that uses all our human senses to worship and experience God. We chant, light candles, offer incense with our prayers, kiss, bow, kneel, stand, have icons and embrace one another.

This week is Orthodox Holy Week. Our observances began Saturday with Lazarus Saturday and build to the Feast of feasts, Pascha, which begins on Saturday night, April 18, and ends in the early hours of Sunday (this is the real deal “Son Rise” service). All Orthodox Christians are encouraged to attend any and all services, but especially Pascha. Also, any and all who are interested or would like to join in our worship are welcome to attend. Each of the services is different in meaning and form as we follow our Lord in His passion, death and resurrection. During this week our weeping is turned into joy as we sing, “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and, upon those in the tombs bestowing life!” ☆

## 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.

# April 22 is Earth Day

April 22, 2009 will mark the 39th annual Earth Day. Earth Day began in 1970 with a nationwide day of environmental education and activism. Following the first Earth Day celebration, inspired by U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin, Congress passed many important environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act, as well as laws to protect wilderness areas. The Environmental Protection Agency was created within three years after Earth Day 1970.

The message of Earth Day is the personal responsibility we all share to “think globally and act locally” as environmental stewards of the planet Earth.

Locally, there are ways Troopers at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay can get involved. The base will host a clean-up April 24 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Sign-up will be at the Ferry Landing and teams will leave from there to conduct clean-up, returning trash to the Ferry Landing for weigh-in and disposal. A lunch will be provided by Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the Chief Petty Officer’s Association.

Earth Day provides an annual reminder of our need to be environmentally conscious, however, there are things we can and should do year-round to continue those conservation efforts. Troopers should clean up trash throughout the base, work to conserve water and save energy year-round.

## GTMO base clean-up April 24

8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

- Sign up and pick up trash bags at Ferry Landing
- Clean up assigned areas
- Return trash to Ferry Landing for weigh-in and disposal
- Lunch provided by MWR and CPOA

### JTF areas of responsibility:

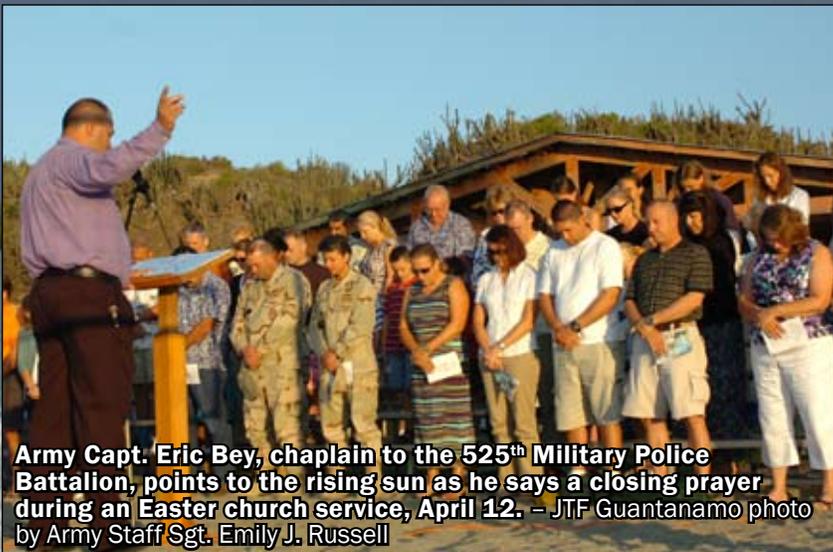
- All assigned buildings, areas, parking lots and land up to and including adjacent roads
- Kittery Beach Road from Recreation Road to Skyline Drive
- Hidden (Blind) Beach, Windward
- Central Magazine Road from gate at JPJ Hill Road to the gate at Magazine 80 Road
- McCalla runway and surrounding buildings
- Old Ocean View Housing area
- Coast/cliff line from Old Ocean View Housing to Girl Scout Hut
- Huntington Road
- McCalla Road
- Old CDC (N239)
- Staircase to Dock of the Bay entrance road
- Glass Beach, Pebble Beach and cliffs off McCalla runway

# Around the JTF

Army Pvt. Stephen Pollett, a member of the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, runs through a hands-on five-stage course after being sprayed in the eyes with oleoresin capsicum, commonly known as OC pepper spray. The training is standard practice for military police. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black



Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Brian T. Schexnaydre, senior enlisted advisor for Joint Task Force Guantanamo, coins Army Sgt. Roman Josue of the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion April 8. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann



Army Capt. Eric Bey, chaplain to the 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, points to the rising sun as he says a closing prayer during an Easter church service, April 12. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell

