

# THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



**New medical staff arrives**  
JMG staff prepares to change over

**AVDET: no job too small**  
Members support air, land and sea

# A reference point

**Air Force Senior Master Sgt.  
Michael A. Withrow**

474<sup>th</sup> ECES Utilities Superintendent

It is a testimony to the great irony of nationalism that two nations, separated geographically by a mere ninety miles of salt water – and cooperative for hundreds of years – could be so very different. In order to understand the current relationship between these two governments it is essential to reflect, briefly, on the history that has shaped it. In doing so, we actually see that we are living in an unusual period.

Originally Cuba existed, just like the territory which would become the USA, as a colony of a great European imperial power. In Cuba's case, that power was Spain. Immediately realizing the land's agriculturally based comparative advantage, Spain organized Cuba as a producer of tobacco and sugar cane, which flourished in the warm climate of the Caribbean. Britain's colonies in New England, the Mid-Atlantic and Carolinas were also organized with agriculture as their basis.

As was standard in the days of the triangle trade, a plantation style system powered by forced labor provided a huge source of revenue for the crown. This basic fact provides the first connection between the future United States and Cuba: that most of the traders who dealt in human cargo were American Colonists. So great was the influence of the colonies from the onset that Cuba's future capital, Havana, was actually captured and briefly occupied by the British during the Seven Years War.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the newly-independent United States looked at Cuba as a natural extension of its economic interests and attempted to buy it several times from Spain. Although the offers were rejected, it was still an obvious indication of the importance Americans placed on the island as American politicians believed any money spent would be paid back many times in agricultural profits.

The explosion of the U.S.S. Maine in Havana's harbor – although later proved to be a complete accident – would thrust the U.S. into war with Spain. In the ensuing treaty, Spain relinquished its claim to Cuba, and America swiftly created the Island of Cuba Real Estate Company in a large-scale attempt to sell Cuban land to Americans. This effort lasted until 1902 when America terminated the company due to spotty Cuban revolts, effectively giving Cuba independence.

As part of the half-hearted withdrawal, the Platt Amendment was signed by both parties, which gave America the unilateral right to intervene in the economic, political and military affairs of Cuba as it saw fit and established a naval base at Guantanamo Bay. Despite the one-sided nature of this relationship Cubans and Americans largely continued to be friendly with one another, tied by mutual trade interests which go back 300 years and later by tourism. That is, until the rise of Cuba as a communist satellite turned a friendly relationship into an adversarial one. Fidel Castro seized power in 1959 and nationalized millions of dollars in American property. The U.S. in turn backed the failed Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 and was followed by the nearly disastrous Cuban Missile Crisis the following year, during which Castro urged the Soviets to launch a nuclear attack on the United States.

Embargo and denunciation exist today in our relationship with Cuba where once there was trade and cooperation. However, being aware of the positive relationship Cuba and the United States shared in the past gives us hope for change in the future. ☆



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### COVER:

**Army Spc. Mercedes Diaz, with the Joint Detention Group, performs during a poetry reading at Caribbean Coffee and Cream, April 16. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Emily Greene**



The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regards to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by the Document Automation & Production Service with a circulation of 1,000.



**Navy Seaman Jonathan Silva with the Joint Medical Group shows Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Andrew Sanidad the ropes at the Detainee Hospital, April 20.** – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Emily Greene

**Army Sgt.  
Emily Greene**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

New faces are popping up at the Detainee Hospital and the Joint Troop Clinic at Guantanamo Bay. A new changeover at Joint Medical Group has begun.

The first wave of Kilo Detachment arrived at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay this month. They will be replacing Juliet Detachment in the ongoing mission to provide safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees.

Navy Capt. Bruce Meneley, Joint Task Force surgeon, and commander of the JMG, traveled to meet Juliet Detachment while they were training at Fort Lewis, Wash. prior to arriving at Guantanamo.

“The detachment is comprised of Sailors from all across the Navy. They first come together at Fort Lewis and that is where they begin to form a cohesive group. By the time they get here they are a team,” Meneley said.

While there is still another wave of Kilo Detachment scheduled to arrive at the end of the month, the first wave is already at work, preparing to relieve Juliet of their duties when they begin to leave next month.

“The left seat, right seat ride is an important part of our turnover,” said Meneley. “This group is learning to assume a large amount of duties in a short amount of time. We want to set them up for success.”

Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Michael Keeling, with the Joint Stress Mitigation

and Restoration Team, is training his replacement in the duties he has fulfilled during his six months here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

“I feel confident that the new group will take charge of the responsibilities here and do a good job,” said Keeling.

Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Andrew Sanidad is learning the ropes from pharmacy technician Seaman Jonathan Silva, a hospitalman with Juliet Detachment, at the Detainee Hospital.

“So far everything is going really well,” said Sanidad. “There are some specifics we have to learn for this location, but overall it is business as usual.”

Silva is pleased with the turnover process so far.

“I am lucky, I have a great motivator replacing me,” Sanidad said. “The key to this job is to be prepared. We cater to every need.”

Navy Chief Petty Officer Helen Zaldana is with Kilo Detachment and will be the new JMG supply chief.

“As a naval chief I have learned to adapt and overcome,” Zaldana said. “This job is no different.”

Chief Petty Officer Engle Montemayor, Juliet Detachment supply chief, said the key for this turnover is to make sure the newcomers are taught the particular needs of the JTF mission.

“Kilo Detachment Sailors are all professionals and know how to do their jobs,” said Montemayor. “What we are doing now is teaching them what they need to know for this location and mission.”

At the Joint Medical Clinic, Seaman Joseph McGeoy, a hospitalman with Kilo Detachment, is learning how the pharmacy operates. He joined the Navy to go somewhere “warm and sunny,” getting his wish with this assignment.

“I am learning a lot so far,” McGeoy said. “This job is allowing me to step outside of my comfort zone and do a broad spectrum of things that are new for me.”

“Our goal is to make this a seamless transition,” said Meneley. “We want it to be as smooth as when Juliet Detachment replaced Foxtrot Detachment.”

As Juliet Detachment prepares to depart they are reflective on their time with the JTF.

Navy Chief Petty Officer Fernando Guzman, the Detainee Hospital facilities chief, said he has enjoyed his time at Guantanamo Bay.

“I almost retired last year, but I am glad that I decided to stay in the Navy long enough to do this one last deployment,” said Guzman. “The last six months, like any other deployment, have been good and bad, but you remember the good and learn from the bad. Kilo detachment is very motivated and I am very convinced that they will do great.”

Meneley said while he is sad to see Juliet Detachment leave, he is confident their replacements will live up to the high standard that has been set.

“The Kilo wave looks like a promising group and I know they will continue with the tradition of quality care for both detainees and Troopers,” said Meneley. 🇺🇸

# AVDET GTMO: Semper Paratus

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Detachment Guantanamo Bay is always prepared to support air, land or sea operations 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The aviation detachment, part of U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Miami, was established in 1981 shortly after the Cuban Exodus of 1980. AVDET GTMO has been a key member of the Guantanamo Bay community providing mission-critical support to deployed aircraft and cutters as well as supply and logistical support to Joint Task Force Guantanamo port security units.

“Originally AVDET GTMO consisted of approximately 35 personnel, officer and enlisted,” said Coast Guard Petty Officer Corey Sidlo, AVDET supervisor.

“These days, we’re down to six [enlisted members], with two of the six members specifically deployed to support the JTF.”

The two Coast Guard reserve members who support the JTF are storekeepers who manage procurement and logistics for all the supplies that come and go from the island. Coast Guard Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class John Platts works locally to support the PSU, and Coast Guard Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Brian Jackson remains stateside to support the GTMO mission from Miami.

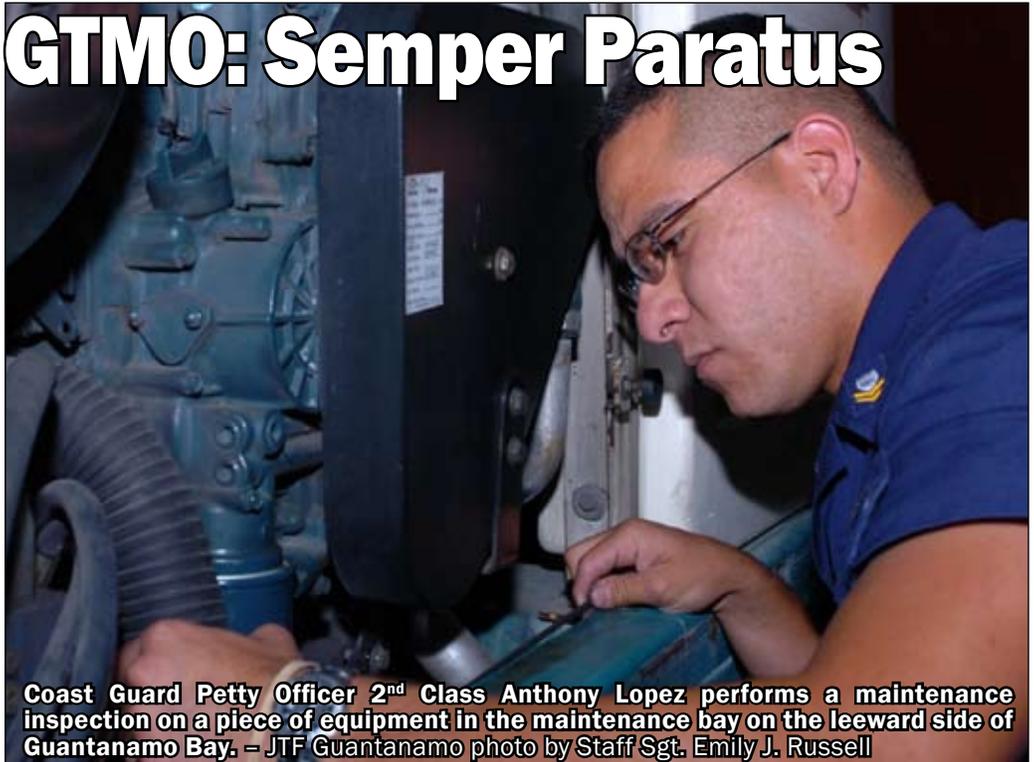
“Jackson recently departed Guantanamo and returned to Air Station Miami. His primary duty is to manage stateside logistical support and balance the books for the money spent here,” Sidlo explained.

Locally, Platts processes procurement requests to purchase supplies and parts that the port security unit needs. He makes sure they have the tools and supplies they need to maintain the new boats they have.

“I manage finances, supplies, logistics and property for the PSU,” said Platts. “All supplies and monies work through [the storekeeper]. If the PSU needs anything, they have to come to me first.”

With Platts at the storekeeping helm for the PSU, Coast Guard Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Carlos Rodriguez takes care of the AVDET supply needs, with special care toward the proper handling and shipping of hazardous materials.

“As a storekeeper, I deal with a lot of sensitive and [hazardous] materials,” Rodriguez said. “When the PSU needs to ship



**Coast Guard Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Anthony Lopez performs a maintenance inspection on a piece of equipment in the maintenance bay on the leeward side of Guantanamo Bay. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell**

any hazardous materials, I prepare the material safety data sheet and ensure all the paperwork is [in order].”

In addition to providing necessary supply support for the PSU, the AVDET also provides round-the-clock maintenance support for any equipment that breaks down.

“My main job is to make sure that ground support equipment is always ready to go,” said Coast Guard Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Anthony Lopez. “At any given time, an aircraft can come in or break down and my equipment must be ready. If my equipment is down, that aircraft is down. If that aircraft is down, then it can’t complete its [mission].”

Lopez maintains the facilities in addition to the ground-craft support equipment for the AVDET. He also operates a fork lift to

support supply missions for the AVDET and JTF port security.

The AVDET keeps busy providing support to ground and water operations but also keeps an eye on the sky, supporting fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft.

“We typically have HU-25 Falcon Jets deployed here from anywhere in the Coast Guard Atlantic Area,” Sidlo said. “There’s also a chance that you’ll see an HH-65 Dolphin Helicopter deployed here specifically, or here for repairs before returning to the cutter they are assigned to.”

The AVDET supports Coast Guard drug interdiction missions, migrant operations and acts as a liaison to inbound Troopers by coordinating with departments like the naval station hospital, supply, port operations, air terminal and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

“We have cutters that [arrive at GTMO] and we support logistical operations for them by getting cargo on and off the island as well as personnel,” Sidlo added. “Although we’re not out there in the trenches, we’re there providing the tools they need to [support their mission].”

Despite the small staff, the AVDET proves it’s not the size of the team that matters; rather, it’s their ability to perform under pressure.

“We’re a small unit but we make a big impact in the community,” Lopez said. “We support everything from the cutters to aircraft, to the JTF.” ✨



**AVDET members; Coast Guard Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Anthony Lopez, Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class John Platts, Chief Petty Officer Corey Sidlo and Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Carlos Rodriguez, with Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Rich Wilkerson and Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Brian Jackson (not pictured) run a tight operation with a small team. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell**



# BEEF prepares for DFT

**Air Force Master Sgt. Brett Neil, Tech. Sgt. Travis Brotherton and Staff Sgt. Aaron Rule inventory supplies. The supplies will be used by the Air National Guard units which will be arriving in late May. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. de Armas**



**Air Force Master Sgt. Brett Neil makes notations in the inventory notebook to make sure the supplies ordered for the deployment for training teams, who will be arriving in late May, are in good order. The DFT teams will make enhancements to the Joint Task Force restroom facilities located in Camp America. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. de Armas**

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

The Base Engineer Emergency Force at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay is preparing to welcome three different Air National Guard units which will be conducting their annual training here.

The units are coming from Tennessee, California, and Maryland and will be arriving at different intervals throughout the summer. The teams will be upgrading the restroom and shower facilities at Camp America. The upgrades will enhance the living conditions for Joint Task Force Troopers living and working at Camp America.

National Guard and Reserve forces, no matter which branch of service, have a set training schedule for their Troopers. They usually train one weekend each month and two-to-three weeks during the year. The weekend training typically takes place at an armory, a near-by training site or reserve military base.

However, during the two- to three - week annual training, units often deploy to military installations in the U.S. and around the world to perform tasks and practice their job skills so they are always ready for action.

Air Force Master Sgt. Brett Neil, 474<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron supply team non-commissioned officer-in-charge, is one of many Troopers working to help prepare for the incoming Airmen.

“This is an opportunity for the units to not

only help the Joint Task Force mission, but also allows the guardsmen to use the skills they were trained to do for the Air Force.”

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Travis Brotherton, with the 474<sup>th</sup> ECES supply team, said, “We support their needs while they are here and we’ll provide their living quarters at Camp Justice.”

Brotherton is a supply sergeant working with Neil to ensure the teams have all the supplies and tools needed to complete their mission.

“Our job is to order and receive the inventory from sources that are not government contracted, such as Lowe’s, Home Depot, and the local U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo supply store Paperclips,” said Neil. “We inventory everything that is ordered and store it here at Camp Justice so it will be ready for the teams when they come in.”

Air Force Staff Sgt. Aaron Rule, also with the 474<sup>th</sup> ECES supply team, is responsible for ensuring supplies with national stock numbers, like boilers and such, are ordered.

“I make sure these types of supplies are ordered so the mission can be completed in a timely fashion,” said Rule.

Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Phillip Groll, the 474<sup>th</sup> ECES production control NCOIC, said, “Our office is where all the work orders are started and then disseminated to the proper shops.”

“We are excited to welcome the units and glad to do all we can to work with the JTF to help make the living conditions at Camp America better for the Troopers who live and work there,” said Groll. ♡



**GTMO United members pose for a photo after their tournament victory. Front row (from Left to Right) Natalia Cobbins, Pauline Thompson, Janeberly Diaz, Zenaida Desiderio, Stephanie Castro. Back row (from left to right) Tanya Calhoun, Marlon Prendergast (assistant coach), Carmen Wilson, Tinashe Chigumira, Karen Charles, Kerry-Ann Minotti, Manley McLean (Coach), Tanisha Wilson, Erika Scofield. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz**

# Underdog takes top spot

**Army Sgt.  
Michael Baltz**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

GTMO United defeated the Women's Soccer league champions, the Soccer Bombers, in a 3-0 shutout in the Women's Soccer tournament, April 16, at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

United came extra-prepared for the championship game at Cooper Sports Complex with a better strategy than normal. United was able to ensure all of their players were able to participate. This gave them the ability to have a deeper bench and included players that had not yet been able to play against the Bombers.

Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Stephanie Castro, a United player, started the game with an aggressive defensive strategy. She was also successful on the offensive side when she skillfully put the first point on the board with 7:10 left in the first half.

The game was 1-0 with a United lead at half time. United would extend their lead to 2-0 with 15:34 left in the second half with a goal from Marine Cpl. Erika Scofield. She would score again with 3:22 left in the game, which would seal a United victory.

"It all came together in the end," said Scofield, a supply non-commissioned officer with Joint Task Force Guantanamo. "We stepped up and played hard."

The game was immediately challenged by the Bombers, who accused United of playing with an ineligible player.

"In order to play in the tournament championship game, they must have played in a game during the season," said Robert Neuman, sports director for Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Neuman tracked down the previous game rosters and verified that United did not play ineligible players. Neuman awarded United with their tournament championship trophy almost an hour after

the game finished.

Team members from United hoisted the tournament trophy and sang "We are the Champions."

"It feels good to finally beat them," said Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Zenaida Desiderio, a player for United.

United went 0-3 to the Bombers during the regular season.

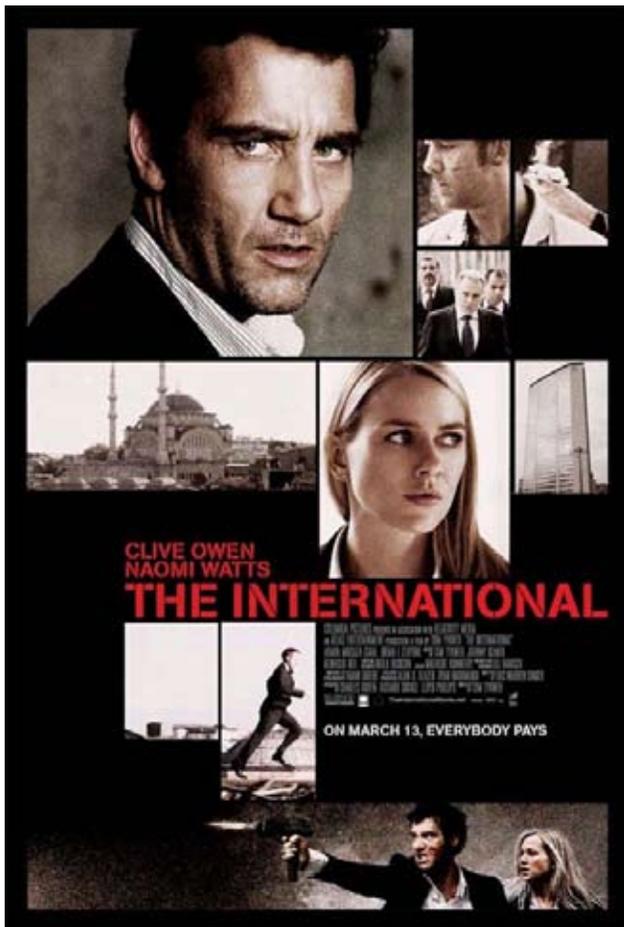
"Even though it is nice to come out and compete, it is also fun to come out here and meet new people," Wells said. "You get the opportunity to meet people you don't normally come in contact with."

Wells also said that soccer is a good morale booster, and that practices and games are something she looks forward to every week.

The MWR staff congratulated the GTMO Bombers on their undefeated season to become the league champions. They also congratulated GTMO United on their victory in the post-season tournament. 🌟



# International conspiracy theory fails to deliver



**R** 116 minutes Rating: ★★☆☆☆

**Army Sgt.  
Emily Greene**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

With the state of today’s economy and banks making headlines in papers nationwide for large government bailouts, financial terrorism is a topic that doesn’t stretch disbelief all that far.

“The International,” short for the fictional International Bank of Business and Credit, is a powerful organization with questionable ties to several groups of evildoers worldwide. Mess with this bank and you’ll be sorry. Everyone who dares to question the motivations of the International winds up dead or disappears without a trace.

Directed by “Run Lola Run’s” Tom Tykwer, the movie is chockfull of interesting shots and is driven by a quiet mood of underlying tension. The most disturbing element of the plot is the untouchable nature of the powerful organization. The viewer is confronted with the believable assertion that everyone who is anyone is in on the profits and therefore willing to turn a blind eye to the bank’s malevolence.

Clive Owen plays Louis Salinger, an Interpol agent who finds the doings of the IBBC abhorrent. His British accent and look of perpetual exhaustion lend him credibility as a maverick that this investigation has frustrated for years.

Owen’s partner is Naomi Watts, a Manhattan assistant district attorney who is partnering with Interpol for reasons never exactly made clear. Actually, none of her motivations are very well explained throughout the film.

Neither the connection between Owen and Watts nor their individual characters are well developed, leaving the viewer wondering why they care if these two succeed or not.

This lack of sympathy is heightened by the likeability of some of the supporting characters. Both the sinister bank consultant and the non-descript organizational hit man are far more intriguing than the good guys.

The movie saves the audience from complete indifference with its well-choreographed action scene at the Guggenheim Museum, complete with a hail of automatic gunfire and a crashing chandelier. The huge shoot-out is one of the few outlets for the seething anger that drives the film absolutely nowhere.

Reminiscent of the “Bourne Supremacy” movies, this film has an interesting premise and is full of fantastic footage of cloudy European cities and cold architecture. However, it falls flat in the realm of character and plot development, leaving the viewer apathetic. ☆

# 193<sup>rd</sup> trains for PT SUCCESS

JTF Guantanamo Bay photos by  
Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens



Army Spc. Edgar Ortiz and Army Pvt. Eduardo Marroquin push themselves while running at Cooper Field for morning physical fitness training in preparation for an upcoming Army Physical Fitness Test.



Army Spc. Matthew Ewert with the 193<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Company finds his stride.

The 193<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Company conducted intense running drills during physical fitness training, April 22. The company is preparing for an upcoming Army Physical Fitness Test scheduled to take place April 27. The drills consisted of running timed one-mile, half-mile and quarter-mile intervals around the track. The Troopers pushed themselves to gauge their level of fitness prior to the APFT.

(Background photo) Army Sgt. David Beebee rounds a corner on the track at Cooper Field during morning physical fitness training, April 22.



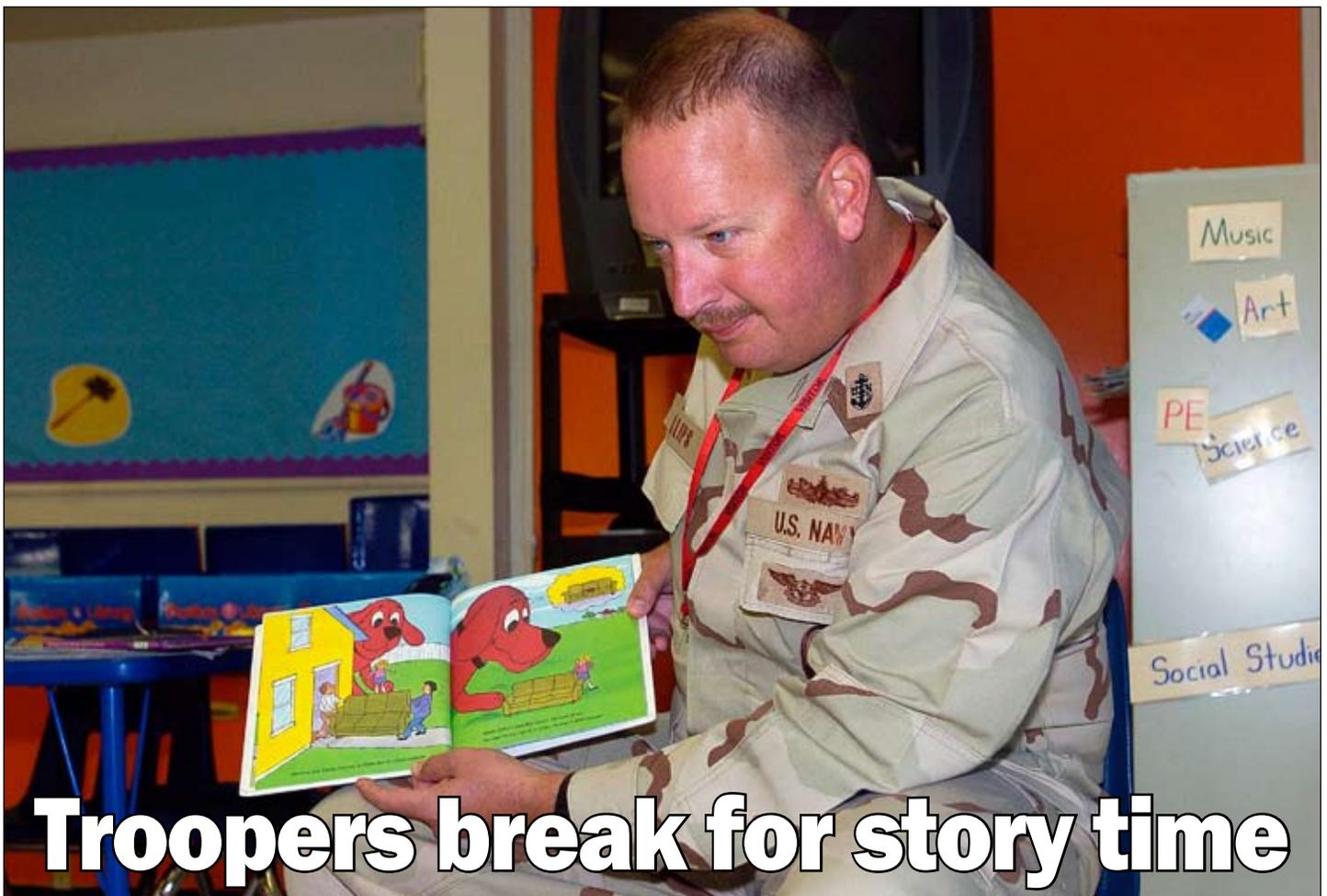
Troopers from the 193<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Company prepare to take off during running drills.



Army Sgt. John Norris leads Troopers from the 193<sup>rd</sup> in stretching prior to physical fitness training, April 22 at Cooper Field.



Army Spc. Craig Stoddard sprints ahead of the pack.



# Troopers break for story time

Navy Chief Petty Officer Eric Phillips, with Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Joint Detention Group, reads to a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class at W. T. Sampson Elementary School. Phillips read "Clifford the Big Red Dog" to the students as part of an ongoing mentor reading program sponsored by the school. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. de Armas



Students listen contently as Phillips reads about Clifford's adventures in cleaning up his neighborhood. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. April D. de Armas

## Army Spc. April D. de Armas

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The Reading Mentor Program at W.T. Sampson Elementary School, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, is bringing a fun twist to learning to read.

According to Taylor Edwards, a reading teacher at the school, the school has been sponsoring the reading program for two years and encourages Troopers to become involved.

Navy Chief Petty Officer Eric Phillips explained that the program enables adults to volunteer in the GTMO community and experience the rewards of enhancing young minds.

"It is a win-win situation for both the mentors and the children," said Edwards.

Phillips, a member of Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Joint Detention Group, is a reading mentor and recently read to a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class at the elementary school.

Phillips found out about the program at a Chief Petty Officers Association meeting and jumped at the chance to read to the kids.

"I think it is important to be a good role model to these kids," Phillips said. "These experiences enhance the children's self-esteem and expand their possibilities for success in school and in life."

Phillips is the father of two teenage children and has worked with JTF Guantanamo for 11 months.

"It brightens my day," he said. "All I do is work, so getting to see the reaction of the kids when I read to them is a good feeling."

Navy Senior Chief Anthony Williams, a public works non-commissioned officer with Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, is the father of three teenagers and has been here for four months.

"I want to be involved and I enjoy reading to the kids," he said. "Since my kids are teens, I tend to miss being around the little ones."

Phillips said a lot of parents are always working and it is hard, because sometimes the kids don't get the same interaction here like they would in the States.

"I could stay in there with the kids all day; they are a lot of fun," he said.

Edwards has been teaching at the elementary school for 13 years and feels that it is important for everyone to be involved.

"The children love it when the Troopers come in and read to them; it's very exciting for them," Edward said.

"Everyone wins, the kids and the adults," she said. "Anyone can be a mentor."

For more information on the Reading Mentor Program, call Taylor Edwards at extension 2207 or 2097. 📧



# Alcohol: don't let it become a problem

**Army Staff Sgt.  
Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Alcohol abuse is a serious problem which often goes unrecognized. To highlight this, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration designates April as Alcohol Awareness Month.

At Joint Task Force Guantanamo, drinking is permitted for those who are of legal age, though irresponsibility with alcohol is not tolerated. Abuses such as driving while intoxicated, fighting, binge drinking, underage drinking and other offenses committed while consuming alcohol can result in punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

"We have zero tolerance for Troopers who abuse alcohol on base," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Brian Schexnaydre, JTF command chief.

Always plan ahead and designate a driver or plan for a safe way to get home when participating in activities that involve drinking. Have a backup plan to get home safely if your ride falls through. Taxi rides are available on base through the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Taxi service by dialing extension 75586. The service operates Monday - Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., Friday and Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

The JTF operates a safe ride service, which patrols the naval station to provide safe rides home for Troopers on Friday and Saturday nights. They also conduct courtesy patrols concurrently on Friday and Saturday nights to ensure JTF Troopers conduct themselves appropriately.

According to the National Institute of Health, 3 in 10 adults drink at levels that put them at risk for alcoholism, liver disease and other problems. Problems with alcohol may be occasional and intermittent or occur on a regular and constant basis. Problems with alcohol may interfere with your life, the lives of loved ones, fellow workers and even strangers.

Leaders should watch for signs of alcohol-related issues in their Troopers. Junior non-commissioned officers living and working closely with their junior or subordinate enlisted Troopers should keep an eye on behaviors and actions that may lead to future problems.

"It is the responsibility of immediate supervisors to know the pulse of their Troops," Schexnaydre said.

Outward signs of intoxication are slurred speech, lack of coordination, unsteady gait, rapid movement of eyeballs, impairment in attention or memory and stupor or coma. Abuse of alcohol can result in failure to fulfill major obligations at work, school or at home and can lead to alcohol-related legal and social problems.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, approximately 75 percent of the alcohol consumed by adults in the U.S. is in the form of binge drinking. Binge drinking is typically defined as the consumption of five or more drinks for men, and for women the consumption of four or more drinks, in about two hours. Binge drinking is dangerous and can result in serious consequences such as death or injury due to falls, fires, drowning or vehicle crash; pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases due to unintended sexual activity, being the victim or perpetrator of date rape or other assault; or death from alcohol poisoning.

Senior leadership at the JTF want to make sure junior NCOs take action when they see problems occurring. "If a Trooper gets in trouble, not only does the Trooper hold the responsibility, but their immediate supervisor also holds some accountability for the actions their Troopers have taken," Schexnaydre said.

If you think you may have a drinking problem, or have a concern about a Trooper who might have a drinking problem, raise the issue through your chain of command.

Resources are available through the naval station hospital, fleet and family support center and joint stress mitigation and restoration team. Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m. at the naval station chapel. For more information, contact Mr. Don Lloyd at extension 72846.

JTF Policy Memorandum No. 5 outlines the policy governing alcohol consumption by JTF Troopers. In addition to addressing underage drinking and DUI, the policy states that consumption of alcohol is prohibited during the first 14 days after arrival and the last 14 days prior to the end of tour departure. Public consumption of alcohol is only allowed in designated areas on base, which are outlined in the policy. Alcohol is also prohibited in all detainee camps or any area where detainees are located. Policy Memorandum No. 5 is available on the JTF Web site at [www.jtftgmo.southcom.mil](http://www.jtftgmo.southcom.mil). ★

# JTF swim across the bay

**When: Saturday, May 2 8:00 a.m.**

**Where: MWR Marina**

**Swim will begin at the MWR Marina and end at Hospital Cay.**

**For more information or to sign up, contact Chief Petty Officer Thomas Buda at ext. 5906 or Tech Sgt. Jeanette Gooch at ext. 8198.**

**Swim is limited to the first 50 participants.**

## Water Conservation

At Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, all drinking water is desalinated on base. Conserving water, especially during the dry months of January- May, is important. Here are some things you can do to conserve water at JTF:

- Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you could save up to 150 gallons each week
- Wash vehicles at the base car wash, which recycles up to 90% of the water used
- Ensure faucets and hoses are turned completely off when not in use
- If you must water grass or plants, water in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to avoid evaporation
- Don't let water run while washing dishes

# GTMO wildlife: not for pets

■ Many Troopers don't realize dangers posed by feral cats

**Army Staff Sgt.  
Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay is home to many creatures, some unique and some familiar. Many of these animals are protected and allowed to roam free around the base. Left alone, the animals pose no threat; but get too close and these seemingly harmless animals may cause you injury.

Signs posted throughout the naval station tell Troopers not to feed the iguanas. According to Navy Lt. Stacy Hoffman, the force health protection officer for the Joint Task Force, it's a common misconception that iguanas are the only animals not to be fed. Actually, she says, it is against base regulation to feed any animals on base.

"The main problem we have is people [are] treating the stray animals like domesticated animals," said Hoffman.

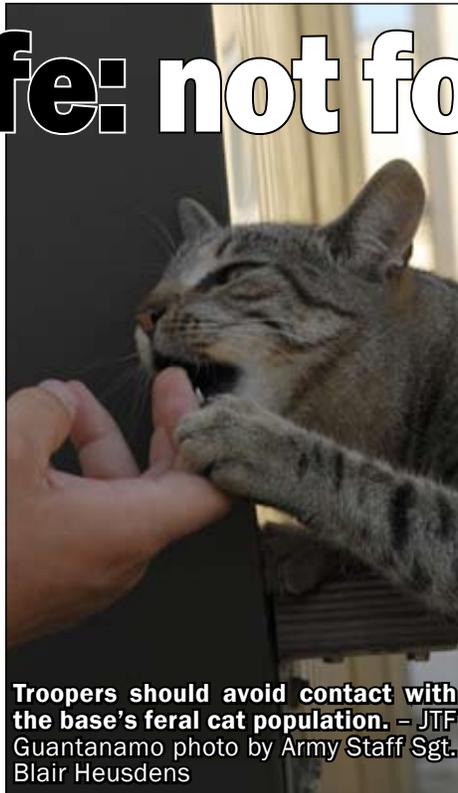
The potential health and safety hazards of having wild animals where people live and work are often ignored. Troopers should at no time feed the animals, play with the animals or keep any stray animals as pets.

Many Troopers don't realize the dangers posed by feral cats. A JTF Trooper recently was bitten by a feral cat near the living quarters. The bite required a two-day hospital stay with a course of antibiotics and multiple rabies shots.

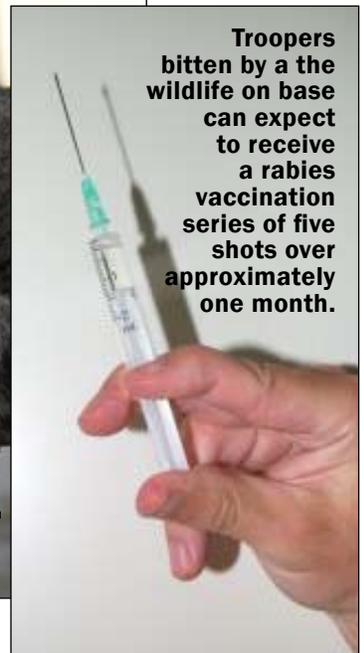
Animal bites can be very infectious. The veterinary clinic on base periodically tests the feral cats and has found parasites and bacteria which can cause serious infection. Rabies is also a concern in not only the cat population, but also the bat population.

The domestic animals on base are immunized through the veterinary clinic. Feral cats, however, are not immunized and may carry diseases such as rabies.

If an animal bites you, seek immediate medical attention. All Troopers who are bitten will undergo rabies prophylaxis treatment involving a series of five shots throughout the span



**Troopers should avoid contact with the base's feral cat population.** - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens



**Troopers bitten by a the wildlife on base can expect to receive a rabies vaccination series of five shots over approximately one month.**

of one month.

Troopers should not try to capture an animal after it has bitten someone. Instead, call the base environmental office at extension 4662 and they will come and capture the animals. Cats captured that are less than one month old are taken to the veterinary clinic, given vaccinations and put up for adoption.

Periodically, traps are set to capture the feral cats around the base. Troopers should not touch or tamper with the traps or animals inside the traps.

According to base regulation, indigenous wildlife species may not be kept as pets, mascots or harmed or molested in any way. This includes the Cuban Rock Iguana, Hutia (banana rat), Cuban Boa, Cuban Parrot and any other introduced or native wildlife species.

Although not indigenous, feral cats are also considered off-limits to Troopers because of the health and environmental risks associated with undomesticated animals. ☆

## Boots on the Ground

by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann

**What was the best Mother's Day gift you've ever given your mom?**

**Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup>  
Class Minnie Palmer**



"I treated my mom to a day at the spa."

**Army Pfc. Sopheak Touch**



"I got my mom a 1 1/2 carat diamond ring."

**Army Pfc. Robert Sherry**



"I'm going to visit my mom in Germany this year."

**Army Col.  
McKinley Collins**



"My siblings and I bought my mother a house."

# An attitude of tolerance

**Army Capt.  
Scott C. Brill**

JTF Deputy Command Chaplain

Starting out at chaplain school was an adventure. One of our assignments was to attend a variety of worship services which included every faith group who had religious services on base at Fort Jackson. After attending our own service, we would head off to one of the Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist or Muslim services. At first it was all new, but I loved it. I quickly learned why the chaplain school had such a requirement; it gave us an opportunity to appreciate the common good in other religions. We learned that looking

for the good in other churches and cultures did not require us as chaplains to accept or agree with beliefs contrary to our own, but strengthened us in our own faith and interfaith relationships. At the end of the training one

of the chaplains commented, "I used to think tolerance meant accepting or approving, but it does not. Tolerance to me means agreeing to disagree like gentlemen."

During my time at JTF Guantanamo, with a command that is 100 percent supportive of providing for the religious needs of the Troopers, I have had the opportunity to serve with and learn from an Orthodox Chaplain, a Muslim Chaplain, and a Jewish Chaplain, who visited us recently – what a blessing.

I believe that building interfaith understanding is rooted in fundamental

gospel principles – humility, charity, respect for eternal truth, and recognition of God's love for all mankind. The Savior repeatedly affirmed the Heavenly Father's boundless concern for the well-being of each of His sons and daughters, as in the parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15).

In the parable of the good Samaritan, He taught that one of the keys to true discipleship is to treat others kindly and compassionately in spite of political, racial, or religious differences (Luke 10:25 – 37). Every time I read this parable I am impressed with its power and its simplicity. But have you ever wondered why the Savior chose to make the hero of this story a Samaritan?

He denounced intolerance and rivalry among religious groups and the tendency to extol one's own virtues and deprecate the spiritual status of others. Addressing a parable to those who "trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others," Jesus condemned the pride of the Pharisee who prayed, "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are," and commended the humility of the publican who implored, "God be merciful to me, a sinner" (Luke 18:9 – 14).

A mentor of mine, Russell M. Nelson once said, "We seek to enlarge the circle of love and understanding among all the peoples of the earth. Thus we strive to establish peace

and happiness, not only within Christianity but among all mankind. All people everywhere re-commit themselves to the time-honored ideals of tolerance and mutual respect. We sincerely believe that as we acknowledge one another with consideration and compassion we will

discover that we can all peacefully coexist despite our deepest differences." He then added: United we may respond. Together we may stand, intolerant of transgression but tolerant of neighbors with differences they hold sacred. Our brothers and sisters throughout the world are *all* children of God."

May we never act in a spirit of arrogance or with a holier-than-thou attitude. I hope that we continue to look for the good in others, agree to disagree, and take advantage of all of the opportunities in Guantanamo to learn about other faiths and cultures. ✪



There was considerable antipathy between the Jews and the Samaritans at the time of Christ. Under normal circumstances, these two groups avoided association with each other. His deliberate use of Jews and Samaritans clearly teaches that we are all neighbors and that we should love, esteem, respect and serve one another despite our deepest differences to include religious, political and cultural differences. Then Jesus delivered His final instruction to the lawyer – and to all who have read the parable of the good Samaritan: "Go, and do thou likewise" (Luke 10:25 – 37).

## 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.

# Providing aid and care

■ *JTF hospitalman puts training to use during real-life scenario*

**Army Staff Sgt.  
Blair Heusdens**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

For one young Navy hospitalman, a tour in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo provided an opportunity to expand upon his job skills and cemented a career choice in the medical field.

Navy Hospitalman Bobby Stewart works as a psychiatric technician at the Behavioral Health Unit for the detention facilities. The assignment is his first as a psychiatric technician, a classification he recently earned after completing a 16-month course. Stewart provides psychiatric care to detainees, including counseling, anger management and crisis intervention. He also assists in providing regular medical care as a corpsman to the detainees.

“[Stewart is] very directed on his medical care and pays attention to detail,” said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Thomas Murphy, the leading petty officer of the behavioral health unit.

An incident recently allowed Stewart to use the medical skills he learned in the Navy to provide treatment for an injured child.

Stewart was driving with a friend while home on leave in Tennessee last year when he saw a crowd of people on the side of the road with a bleeding child. The two stopped to provide assistance. Though no one spoke English, Stewart took charge of the scene, assessed the patient – who was a three-year-old boy – and began to provide first aid for his injuries.

He continued to treat the wounds and stabilized the spine until paramedics took over. The child, who had been involved in a hit and run by a drunk driver, received just minor injuries.

Stewart didn’t think he had done anything special that day until

“**I always thought that in an emergency situation, I would panic and not know what to do; the next thing I knew, my instincts kicked in...**

– Hospitalman Bobby Stewart



his command here received a letter from the county emergency medical services recommending him for an award.

“I always thought that in an emergency situation, I would panic and not know what to do,” said Stewart. “The next thing I knew, my instincts kicked in and I was able to put my training to work.”

At his previous duty station, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Stewart credits the code blue drills and extra training they conducted while on overnight shifts with helping him feel more comfortable with his craft.

With almost two years in the Navy, Stewart is more than halfway through his deployment at Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Stewart plans to stay in the Navy and will begin earning credit toward a nursing degree at his next duty station in Okinawa. Eventually, he would like to put in a package for the Navy Nurse Corps. ✦

## We need your stories

Do you know a poet, musician, or someone with a special talent? Maybe there is someone you look up to or someone who can share his talents with others.

The Wire is looking for quality individuals within Joint Task Force Guantanamo for the weekly “15 Minutes of Fame” story in order to successfully tell the Troopers’ story.

“Fifteen Minutes of Fame” candidates are unique individuals who have done something to set themselves apart from their peers.

In the past, The Wire has published stories about Troopers who are artists, musicians, Soldiers or non-commissioned

officers who have competed and won Soldier of the Quarter or Soldier of the Year boards, and Troopers who perform above their pay grade consistently.

Don’t be ashamed or feel like you’re bragging. Each of us has a story, skill or something worth sharing. It is important for The Wire to tell these stories because the Troopers’ stories need to be told.

There are numerous ways a Trooper can stand out and The Wire wants to know about it! If you have any “15 Minutes of Fame” candidates or suggestions, The Wire would like to hear about it. Contact The Wire office at extension 3592 or by e-mail at [TheWire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:TheWire@jftgtmo.southcom.mil).

Around the



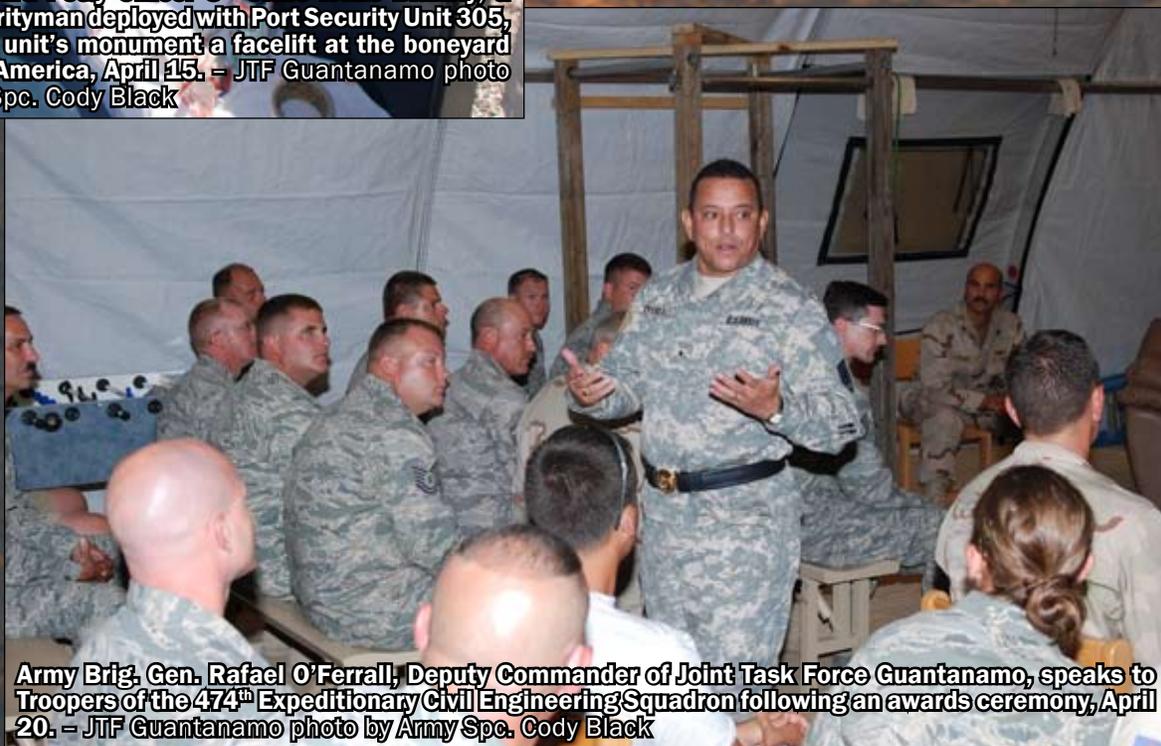
# JTF



Coast Guard Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Isaac Blakely, a port securityman deployed with Port Security Unit 305, gives the unit's monument a facelift at the boneyard in Camp America, April 15. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black



Navy Rear Adm. Dave M. Thomas Jr., commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, speaks with service members and civilians from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay during a town hall meeting to discuss the mission of the JTF, April 20. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black



Army Brig. Gen. Rafael O'Ferrall, Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, speaks to Troopers of the 474<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron following an awards ceremony, April 20. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Cody Black