

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Red Cross
Available to assist
NCO of the Quarter
Soldier earns spot





Service

Road you walk; Path you choose

**Master Sgt.
Andrew Leonhard**
JTF PAO Senior Enlisted Leader

As military members we continually hear news that affects us and our families. It could be the latest pay raise, a possible change to a policy, or how the latest elections may or may not impact our careers. There are many “outside” distractions that can affect you during your daily military mission. Not to mention the time you’re currently spending away from home while serving in the U.S. military.

The benefits of serving can be great: training, honor, education, travel, pay and self-discovery. As an Airmen, Solider, Sailor or Marine have you recently asked yourself what drives you to serve?

Each day when a Trooper puts on his or her uniform, is a perfect time to reflect on the service you will perform that day. Whether it’s standing guard, treating patients, working behind a desk, sorting mail or watching over detainees, we have all raised our hands willingly, to serve for the betterment of our country.

This choice of service is not for everyone. It requires self-discipline, intense physical work and time away from family and friends while protecting America and its citizens at home and abroad. But you made that choice and chose to serve.

Did you know more than 25 countries have a mandatory service commitment? Males and females in some countries, from the age of 17 into their 50s have no choice. Their service commitment may be for as little as four months or more than three years.

One example is our neighbor to the south. Mexico requires a specific amount of military service from each and every one of its citizens. Currently, all males reaching eighteen years of age must register for military service for one year. However their selection process is made by a lottery system.

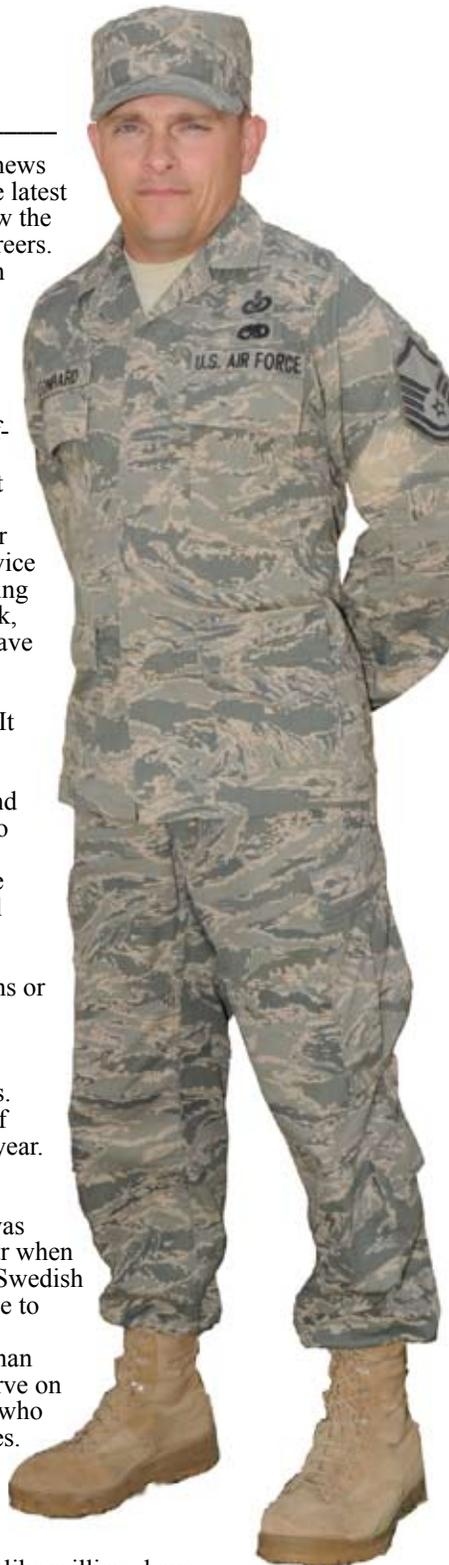
For more than 108 years military service was mandatory in Sweden, until July 1, of this year when the law was changed. Prior to the change, all Swedish men between 18 and 47 years old were eligible to serve.

You are part of a volunteer force of more than 1.3 million men and women who currently serve on active duty, along with more than 1.1 million who serve in the National Guard and Reserve forces.

We took an oath and wear a uniform of our choice. We made this choice of service of our own free will. We’re a volunteer force who strives to carry on the tradition, the excellence and the commitment to service like millions have before us.

So take pride in the service you perform, tackle each task with energy and commitment, and strive to be the best.

“Stand Proud, and Salute Sharp!” ★



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COVER:

Army Sgt. Edward L. Jones instructs members of his 525th Military Police Battalion during Tactical Combat Casualty Care training at the MWR Paintball Range, Nov 24. Jones will be competing for U.S. Army South NCO of the Year. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr.

BACK COVER:

A flag flies over Camp Justice, Nov. 29. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class David Coleman

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 regard 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 detainee learns typing skills using a keyboarding aid and a stand-alone laptop during a typing class. Joint Task Force Guantanamo offers life-skill programs which provide educational tools to enhance reading and writing literacy in health and finance subjects, Oct. 20. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins

Providing care and classes

Army Spc.

Juanita Phillip

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Joint Task Force Guantanamo's mission is to conduct safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees. In fulfilling the mission, JTF Guantanamo strives to meet the physical and mental needs of detainees. One way of meeting those needs is through classes offered to all detainees who wish to attend.

"The classes are extremely important to the morale of the camps," said Navy Lt. Rob Collett, director of detainee programs. "They allow the detainees an opportunity to expand their minds beyond the daily monotony of the blocks."

A number of the detainees have been receptive to the classes. The current enrollment level is at 50 percent of the detainee population, with art being the most popular class.

"I think art, in particular, allows an outlet for individual expression," Collett said. "Detainees spend a great deal of time together in all manner of group activities, art allows them time to express themselves

in a more personal manner."

The walls of the administrative offices, where the instructors plan their lessons, are lined with art from the detainee classes. A testament to how dedicated and engaged they are as students.

In addition to art, English and life-skill classes are offered as well. According to one instructor the students are very engaged in the classes.

"Many of them like the classroom environment," stated the English instructor Omar. "They absolutely want to learn. Teaching has impacted them in a good manner. When they walk into my class, everything outside ceases to exist; they are strictly my students, and I'm their teacher."

Many detainees have also shown interest in a life-skills course that teaches them about finance.

According to Omar, a good number of students used to work.

The setting allows the students to enjoy classroom discussions with the instructors in hopes that they can implement such things in their own countries. The life-skill course also teaches economics and math.

"A number of these men come from economically depressed countries; they have little to no education or a legitimate trade to speak of," Collett said.

Some of the students have never been to school, but have learned the English language through communicating with the guard force.

"Some of my students already have knowledge of the English language, but they want to learn it properly," Omar said.

Class sizes can range from seven to eight students, but have been as high as 12. Some classes are tailored to the education level of the students. For example, the Arabic to English class has different levels of difficulty—from beginners to advanced.

"Offering these classes engages the mind, which in turn deters mischief toward the guards," Collett said. "We provide them with an education and skill-sets that allow them to envision a different path for a better life."

"Many of these individuals have never learned to read or write in their own language, let alone English," Collett said. "This is an opportunity to better themselves and prepare for life beyond GTMO." ☆



American Red Cross Station Manager Sharon Coganow checks current volunteer information for Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Wesley Kreiss

Red Cross is here to help

**Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class
Wesley Kreiss**
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Led by volunteers, the American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization that provides emergency assistance, domestic disaster relief and emergency education.

The Red Cross can provide two types of assistance after a disaster – hard and soft. Hard assistance provides material items and may include feeding, shelter, clean-up kits, comfort kits and financial assistance. Soft assistance minimizes immediate disaster-caused suffering through listening, guidance, advocacy and counseling.

The main mission and primary function of the Red Cross is Emergency Communicator Messaging for emergency purposes. Serious illness or death of an immediate family member can be classified as the two most common emergency situations in which the messaging service is utilized. In order to verify an emergency, the Red Cross has a number of agencies with whom they establish contact.

“The Red Cross contacts a verifiable authority such as a hospital, a doctor or nurse, a social worker, a funeral home or similar agencies to obtain the verification,” said Sharon Coganow, Red Cross station manager. “Each situation

depends on the information required to obtain verification.”

Why does the Red Cross have the job of verifying? To ensure any information the initiator brings forth, to the command is a valid emergency.

“The initiator may be a service member, their command, a family member, friend or anyone who can provide information to start the message process that maybe verified through one of the authorities,” Coganow said. “The initiator may also be located anywhere.”

According to Coganow, the Red Cross has no allegiance to, nor is it influenced by the Trooper or their command; they are impartial to both sides.

The primary work force of the Red Cross is the volunteer. Volunteers are not placed in permanent positions and go where they are needed. Red Cross volunteers work in the office, distribute literature or assist with annual special projects and support other agency endeavors. Supporting the agency has its own rewards.

“Being a part of the Red Cross allows me to serve my community while meeting new people and forming lasting relationships with new friends,” said Kylene Heggie, an active Red Cross volunteer at the Naval Station. “It’s a wonderful organization to become a part of, and I encourage anyone to join, you will not regret it!”

All volunteers must fill out a volunteer packet which includes an application, intellectual property agreement, and an ethics and conduct form in addition to a simple background check.

In addition to emergency assistance, the Red Cross is involved with community service and fundraising. It also provides emergency response education, which includes life-saving classes. Some of the classes offered by the Red Cross are cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid.

“The CPR and first aid classes are important, because you can learn how to save a life,” said Coganow.

The agency also hosts other major projects such as a volunteer recognition pot luck in January and a 5k run for Wounded Warriors in February.

The current project, just in time for 2011, is their calendar project. The Red Cross is selling a calendar put together by volunteers.

“Our calendar has some really great photos of GTMO,” Coganow said. “The proceeds will go to the Wounded Warrior program.”

The calendar is available at the Red Cross office, building 2164, near Bulkeley Hall just past the Fleet and Family Center. Main hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday. ★

Defending Magic and Muggles

Marine Corps Lance Cpl.
Anthony Ward Jr.

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

One would think “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows; Part 1” would be a monotonous final offspring from J.K. Rowling’s psyche. Especially when you consider Potter and his troupe are seven films into a series of eight.

Unlike the “Twilight” trilogy, The Harry Potter series has yet to disappoint and it continues to keep me and the rest of the movie theater transfixed to the screen.

“Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1” opens with the new director of the Ministry of Magic, Rufus Scrimgeour (Bill Nighy) giving a public announcement about the state of affairs throughout the wizarding world and the civilian population.

Throughout the history of the enchanted world, they have fought tooth and nail to keep the worlds separate; to keep the proverbial wool pulled over the eyes of all muggles. Most wizards are on good terms with muggles, but there are a handful who wish to keep the muggles out and separate, which includes personal relationships.

The war on keeping wizarding secrets is a subplot of the movie which is largely based on the battle between Harry Potter, his friends and Lord Voldemort. However, their search for Voldemort’s horcruxes (objects that the dark wizard has hidden parts of his soul to attain immortality) thickens the plot.

Our first encounter of Harry Potter and The Order (a group of wizards and witches fighting for the good side) is in his front room as they all prepare to embark on a dangerous journey to one of their many safe houses.

Alastor “Mad-Eye” Moody (Brendan Gleeson) is the appointed leader of this journey and decides that it would be safer for Harry if he had duplicates.

They pluck a strand of his hair and form a polyjuice potion, which is used a lot in this movie. The potion is then passed around the room until there are six Harry Potter doppelgangers. This is only the first ten minutes of the movie; the next 20 minutes are epic.

Each doppelganger is paired with another member of The Order, and with their own personal means of transportation, such as a broom, flying motorcycle or mythical creature with wings, they take off like the Indy 500 with Mad-Eye Moody waving the flag.

Someone within their group divulged their whereabouts and about five minutes after their departure the group is met by hoards of Death Eaters (supporters of Lord Voldemort).

Wand-wielding magic men fight back and forth conjuring spell after spell to best their opponents.

One spell hits Rubeus Hagrid (Robbie Coltrane), who is accompanying the real Harry Potter, and knocks him unconscious causing Harry to steer the flying motorcycle with one hand while fighting off enemies with the other.

A few people die and one person is seriously injured, but they make it to the safe house.

After the initial fight scene, more fights ensue and the search for the remaining horcruxes continues.

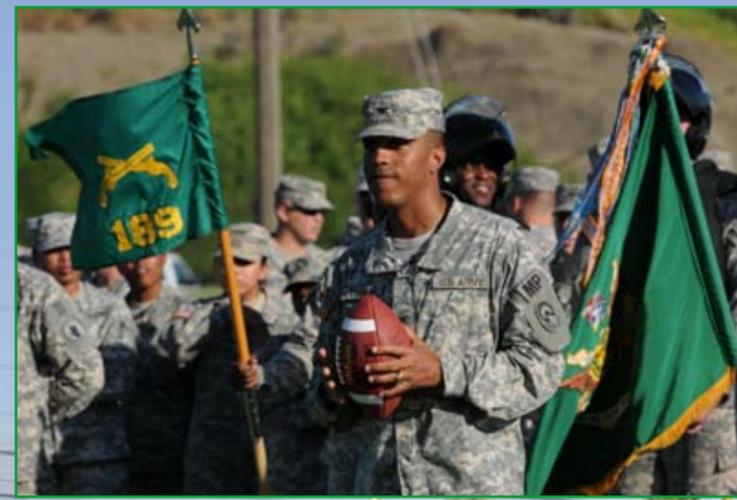
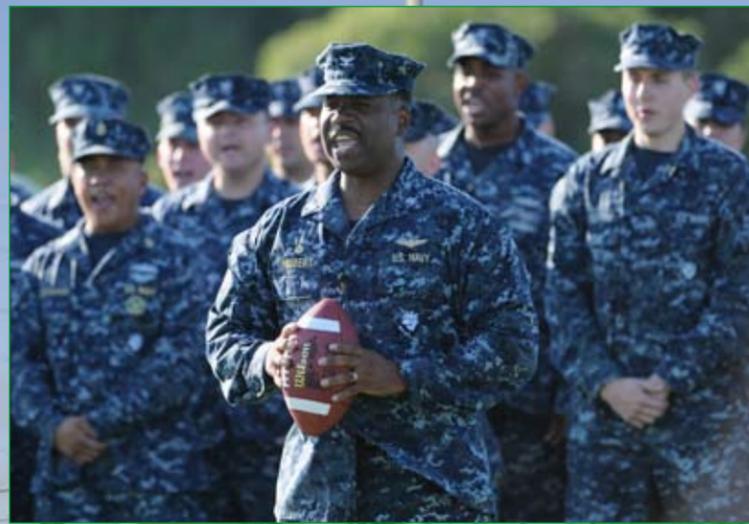
This was an overall good movie, with a good balance of action and dialogue. I have yet to be disappointed with a Harry Potter movie. This is definitely a movie to go see, but FYI, J.K. Rowling gets real homicidal in this part and the next. ★



PG-13

146 minutes

Rating: ★★★★★☆



Joint Task Force Guantanamo Soldiers, mostly of the 525th Military Police Battalion and Naval Station Guantanamo Sailors charge each other during the video recording of an "Army Navy Spirit" spot shot at Cooper Field, Nov. 16. Naval Station Guantanamo Commanding Officer Capt. Kirk Hibbert and Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Joint Detention Group Commander, Col. Donnie Thomas lead the charge for the respective services. Annually CBS Sports solicits video spots that promote esprit de corps for the Army versus Navy football game, which will be aired on their network, Dec. 11, 2010. The spot can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/user/JTFGTMO>.

Guantanamo residents will be able to view the game on Dec. 11, on the AFN Sports channel at 1430 EST. The game is listed as "Academy Football on AFN." The local Army vs. Navy flag football games are Dec. 11; the women's game kicks off at 9 a.m., the men's game kicks off at 10 a.m. - JTF Guantanamo photos by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class David P. Coleman and 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins

ARMY VS NAVY



Competition breeds excellence

Command Sgt. Major Luls Gonzalez, command sergeant major for Special Troop Battalion pins Sgt. Edward L. Jones with the Army Achievement Medal after being named U.S. Army South NCO of the Quarter, Oct. 28. – U.S. Army South photo by Alex Delgado

Marine Corps Lance Cpl.
Anthony Ward Jr.

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Through hard work and dedication, Army Sgt. Edward L. Jones earned the title of U.S. Army Southern Command Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter for the first quarter of fiscal year 2011.

According to his leadership, Sgt. Jones, who is a combat medic, sets himself apart from his peers, embodies the warrior ethos that resounds through all services and represents the characteristics of NCO of the Quarter.

“It takes a Soldier who embodies the Army values, a Soldier who embodies the warrior ethos and is dedicated to self and self improvement,” said Army Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Borrero, with the 525th Military Police Battalion. “It takes a Soldier who is pursuing excellence and doesn’t just accept the standard, but wants to surpass the standard.

“A Soldier who is willing to put himself out in front of senior leaders and allow them to judge,” added Borrero.

In order to be allowed to compete for the NCO of the Quarter Award, Sgt. Jones had to be recommended by his direct supervisors.

“He showed me through his actions in the clinic that he was ready to compete at the board,” said Army Staff Sgt. Andrew Elliott, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Joint Trooper Clinic. “Sgt. Jones is a Soldier with unlimited potential; he lives the Army values and demands the same from his Soldiers. I would to go battle with him any day.”

His superiors’ recommendation paid off and now paves the way for Sgt. Jones to head toward the U.S. Army NCO of the Year competition.

Jones’s journey began at the company level.

“Every company has a Soldier of the month board,” said Jones. “Once you win the company level you start to progress, until you make it to the NCO of the Year.”



After winning at the company level, Sgt. Jones competed against his peers at the battalion level, before stepping up to compete at U.S. Army South.

Competing for such an honor was not an easy task. The Army demanded a lot of Sgt. Jones and he proved he was worthy.

According to Jones, the board he attended consisted of five days of events. One day was gear inspection, and another day was the Army Physical Fitness Test and weapons proficiency. It was all geared around warrior tasks and combat-related skills.

The competition was around the clock and it all led up to the formal board, which consisted of a written test and sitting before a panel of senior leaders in dress uniform.

Jones is a mission-oriented Soldier and encourages self-improvement for all those around him.

Currently, his unit is working on establishing a military training network to better equip the troops.

Junior enlisted who arrive at GTMO under Sgt. Jones’ supervision will leave here possessing the knowledge of someone above their pay grade. “You will know everything. I don’t believe in sending Soldiers away as Soldiers, I want them to be NCO’s,” Jones said.

Knowledge and hard work are the pillars of Jones’ beliefs, and he holds everyone around him to this standard.

“I train Soldiers to the highest standards and I want them to hold me to those same standards,” Jones said. Any Soldier who falls under you is an NCO in training, expressed Jones.

With that in mind, Sgt. Jones pushes himself in everything that he does. In preparation for the board, Jones would wake-up, leave his Cuzco Barracks room, run to the Camp America Armory, work on his weapons knowledge and then run back to his room.

According to Jones, there is only one standard, “excellence.”

With a moniker like that, Sgt. Jones will represent the 525th MP Bn. and U.S. Army South very well at the U.S. Army NCO of the Year board. ★

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day



“I have made a personal memorial of the event,” said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Al Gonzales of the 474th Base Engineer Emergency Force (BEEF). “My memorial has an actual piece of the USS Arizona battleship that sank after that attack.”

Americans and most military veterans can relate to the events of Pearl Harbor now more than ever. This generation survived through a terrible tragedy of their own – the terrorist attacks of 9-11. Therefore, National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day has a special significance and continues to be part of personal observances.

“I have read some books on the Pearl Harbor attack and my family and I spend time together watching World War II movies,” said Army 2nd Lt. Crevan O’Ceallaigh, platoon leader of the 189th Military Police Company, describing how he honors the day.

Let all Americans remember the sacrifices that were made by that generation on Dec. 7, which allows us to enjoy what freedoms we have today. ☆

The battleship USS Arizona Memorial lies above the actual remains of the battleship at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and was dedicated in 1962. It marks the resting place of 1,102 Sailors killed during the attack and spans the sunken hull of the battleship.

Below: The USS Arizona burns after the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class
Wesley Kreiss
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs**

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is observed to remember and honor all those who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

On Aug. 23, 1994, the United States Congress designated Dec. 7 as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, also referred to as Pearl Harbor Day. This year is the 69th anniversary of the attack.

On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941 America’s naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by Japanese forces. More than 2,400 Americans were killed and more than 1,100 were wounded. The attack sank four U.S. Navy battleships and damaged four more. It also damaged or sank three cruisers, three destroyers, one minelayer and damaged 188 aircraft. President Franklin Roosevelt, in a speech to Congress, stated that the attack on Pearl Harbor was, “a date which will live in infamy.”

As a result of the events on that day, the U.S. became militarily involved and, after authorization from Congress, formally declared war Japan Dec. 8, 1941. Because of the surprise attack, the U.S. went from an isolationist to one of supporting direct participation in World War II. The attack, a major engagement of World War II, was a profound shock to the American People and delivered a severe blow to morale.

Although not a federal holiday, traditionally the flag is flown at half-mast until sunset to honor those who died during the attacks and commemoration ceremonies held throughout the country.





You've got mail

Army Specialist Brock Jacobs sorts mail at the Camp America Post Office, Nov. 29. Camp America Post Office Troopers handle more than 10,000 pounds of mail per week, supporting personnel assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Troopers are reminded to check mailing deadlines to ensure letters and packages to the U.S. are delivered in time for Christmas. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class David P. Coleman

Boots on the Ground

by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Wesley Kreiss

Where is your favorite place to eat at besides the Galley?

Army Master Sgt.
Julio Espinet

Navy Petty Officer 1st
Class Walter Dorn

Navy Petty Officer 1st
Class Willie Brimage

Army Sgt. Kristina Snyder



"Mongolian Grill at the Bayview."



"The Jerk House."



"Windjammer Cafe."



"The Cuban Club."



Hope and peace for the holidays

**Navy Lt.
Anthony Carr**
NEGB Command Chaplain

We are at the beginning of the hustle and bustle of the winter holiday season. Even before we said grace for Thanksgiving dinner, we have been tempted by the commercial lure of Christmas.

Black Friday, where people camp out at 3 a.m. to get 70 percent off on their favorite item, is filled with expectant customers looking for the perfect gift. This is the time where store revenues go up and personal credit scores go down.

Dec. 21 is called the “Longest Night,” where some faith communities realize that the holiday season is not full of joy for everyone. Where some houses are decorated and full of joy, some people are alone, depressed and heartbroken. Marriages dissolve, loved ones die, and the loss of employment makes the season even worse for some people as it is a reminder of their change in income. Those deployed are painfully aware, especially by the lack of snow that we are not in Kansas anymore. Many are celebrating the holiday season with family from afar in a foreign land.

In the Christian calendar it is the start of the Christian New Year. The Christian New Year starts with Advent. The first Advent is remembered by the birth of Jesus, while the second Advent is in the future as Christians everywhere await his expected return.

Though everything is telling us to rush, rush, rush, the message of Advent is to wait. Not all Christian communities celebrate Advent. Many get caught up in the rush of Christmas, not taking time to reflect on the message; instead, they focus on singing, Christmas trees, living nativity scenes, and elaborate Christmas pageants.

But before the stress of work and being away gets to you, take a breath, pause for a second. The first nativity was in an animal’s feeding manger, where dirty shepherds were the only witnesses to the scared young couple in the overflowing town of Bethlehem.

So whether you remember the Maccabean miracle of the Jewish Festival of Lights where one day’s supply of oil lasted for eight days; or the African American cultural celebration, Kwanza, where values like faith, unity and cooperation are explored; or even Winter Solstice, or Yule or any of the many other celebrations during this season, I wish you peace, hope and a deep wish for an exciting and even better new year. ★

GTMO Religious Services

Daily Catholic Mass
Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m.
Main Chapel
Vigil Mass
Saturday 5 p.m.
Main Chapel
Mass
Sunday 9 a.m.
Main Chapel
Catholic Mass
Saturday 7:30 p.m.
Troopers’ Chapel
Sunday 7:30 a.m.
Troopers’ Chapel

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m.
Troopers’ Chapel
Islamic Service
Friday 1:15 p.m.
Room C
Jewish Service
FMI call 2628
LORIMI Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m.
Room D
Church of Christ
Sunday 10 a.m.
Chapel Annex
Room 17

Seventh Day Adventist
Saturday 11 a.m.
Room B
Iglesia Ni Cristo
Sunday 5:30 a.m.
Room A
Pentecostal Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m.
Room D
LDS Service
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room A

Liturgical Service
Sunday 11 a.m.
Room B
General Protestant
Sunday 11 a.m.
Main Chapel
United Jamaican Fellowship
Sunday 11 a.m.
Building 1036
Gospel Service
Sunday 1 p.m.
Main Chapel

GTMO Bay Christian Fellowship
Sunday 6 p.m.
Main Chapel
Bible Study
Wednesday 7 p.m.
Troopers’ Chapel
The Truth Project Bible study
Sunday 6 p.m.
Troopers’ Chapel

Around the JTF



A Soldier with the 525th Military Police Battalion heads for cover during a Tactical Combat Casualty Care training exercise, Nov. 24. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Cpl. Katherine McDanal



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class John Sullivan putts a golf ball during the Putt Putt Golf Tournament at Cooper Field complex, Nov. 26. Army Staff Sgt. Jeff Wells of Headquarters and Headquarters Company at Joint Task Force Guantanamo won the event. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins