

The WIRE

An award-winning
JTF joint effort

Olympic hopeful
shoots for
the stars

Repair
work
underway
on Cuzco
roads

A Day in the Life

Following the NEGB - Part 2



Trooper to Trooper

featuring

Command Sgt. Major Mark Porrett

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Senior Enlisted Leader

What is your legacy of being in the JTF? When all the ceremonies are over, we depart Guantanamo and become part of the history of our service and units. We will all be replaced – photos taken down and names removed from walls. The one thing that remains in our Troopers and duty stations is our leadership legacy. Troopers will definitely remember what you did or did not do for them. Leaders should ask themselves every day: “What did I do to improve my Troopers and the unit?”

Some of the most influential leaders we have are informal leaders. These are the peers, support staff, outsiders, coaches and even subordinates who lead every day. Although not part of the formal chain of command or NCO Support Channel, these leaders are the ones who motivate, educate and execute orders and directives from formal leaders. Troopers willingly follow them because they want to be like them. The military cannot operate without them. There is always that one

person who seems to be the best at what he or she does and we use them over and over again. They rise to become the subject matter experts we often over task and work the hardest. They should also be the ones we acknowledge and reward the most.

The formal leaders of units have the orders and regulations to back them up. It’s easy to lead by rank or position, but are Troopers following because they want to or have to? Leadership is not a popularity contest but a test of one’s worth. Some formal leaders try and fail and others grab every minute and own it. Often, we take risk and place a great deal on our most junior leaders. Under the pressure, mentorship and drive, some become diamonds. Some may just take longer. Don’t give up – building leaders takes time.

In a military that has been at war for over nine years, one of the most detrimental effects has been zero-defect mentality. This is the surest way for a unit to self-destruct and Troopers to seek leadership elsewhere. As we build leaders, we have to be able



to take risk -- allow for mistakes, fix, educate and drive on. Most of today’s senior leaders made mistakes, corrected them and continued the mission. It was our leaders who allowed us those growing pains. It is part of our developmental process and worth our consideration and patience.

I’d ask that your take-away nugget from this article be that your leadership is your legacy

and will follow you and your Troopers through your career. You will be remembered and talked about until your Troopers leave the military and sometimes after. We still talk about past military leaders and their impact on history. You are writing history every day with your actions. Thanks for what you do and have fun building your legacy. HONOR BOUND!

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COVER: A detainee in Camp 6 walks up a flight of stairs to his cell, March 16. – photo by Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel.

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Japan turns to desperate measures to cool reactors

Voice of America News Service

The Japanese military is using high-pressure fire hoses to spray water on earthquake-damaged nuclear reactors in a desperate attempt to cool down dangerously-hot fuel rods, as it acknowledges that time is running out.

Earlier Thursday, the government used aerial water drops – after aborting the plan a day earlier because of radiation danger to the helicopter pilots.

Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa said the government had decided it “could not delay the mission any further.” But televised pictures showed much of the water being blown away from the target and the effort was suspended after four attempts.

High radiation levels around the plant 240 kilometers north of Tokyo are making it impossible for workers to stay at the facility for more than a few minutes at a time, and initial radiation readings suggest the first helicopter drops had little effect.

Officials said Thursday they soon hope to restore electricity to the plant, raising hopes that more efficient pumps can be deployed to apply water to the fuel rods at the crippled plant’s six nuclear reactors.

US advises citizens to leave

The United States and other governments have advised their nationals to stay at least 80 kilometers from the plant – a radius much larger than the Japanese exclusion zone - and many governments are evacuating staff from embassies in Tokyo. Commanders at both Misawa and Yokota Air Force Base have issued stop movement orders to all inbound permanent change of stations personnel at their respective bases.

U.S. President Barack Obama telephoned Prime Minister Naoto Kan early Thursday in Tokyo to express his admiration for the courage of the Japanese people and renew his offer of assistance, including with the nuclear crisis.

The call came hours after nuclear power officials in Washington said they believe all water has dried up in the cooling tank at Fukushima’s number 4 reactor, leaving the fuel rods exposed to the air. If the rods become hot enough, they can melt or burn through their outer casing, releasing high levels of radiation into the air.

Japanese nuclear officials said Thursday they could not confirm those remarks, made by U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory Jaczko. But they said water levels in the

cooling tank at unit 3 are dangerously low.

The prime minister’s office Thursday called on citizens to save electricity as it warned of a “massive power outage” in the area served by the Tokyo Electric Power Company.

What caused damage

Normal cooling systems for the plant were destroyed by last week’s earthquake and tsunami, which knocked out electricity to the plant and damaged emergency backup generators.

Officials say they are close to having electricity restored, but chief government spokesman Yukio Edano warned that even then, much of the original pumping equipment has been damaged by seawater and will have to be replaced.

Three of the plant’s six reactors were operating when the quake struck, while three others were shut down for maintenance. All three of the reactors that were operating have since suffered explosions that destroyed their outer housing. Officials believe that at two of the units, the explosions also ruptured the inner containment chambers which protect against radiation leaks.

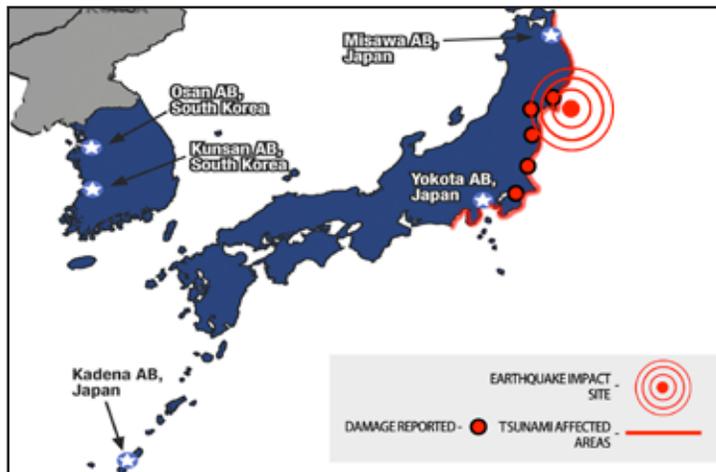
Focus on cooling tanks

But current concerns are focused on cooling tanks at all six reactors where used fuel rods are stored. For months, these remain hot enough to catch fire and release lethal radiation unless they can be kept under sufficient amounts of water.

Japan has evacuated more than 200,000 people from a 20-kilometer radius around the plant and advised anyone within 30 kilometers to remain indoors. Many are huddled in makeshift facilities amid frigid temperatures and scarce food supplies.

In his phone call to Kan, Obama said the United States “is determined to do everything possible to support Japan in overcoming the effects” of last week’s earthquake and tsunami.

He expressed his extraordinary admiration for the character and resolve of the Japanese people” and discussed U.S. assistance including



Aristide’s Return to Haiti Set

Voice of America News Service

Former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is set to return to Haiti immediately, despite warnings from the United States.

South African officials say the exiled former leader will leave late Thursday, arriving in Haiti before Sunday’s runoff presidential election.

Aristide was driven from office by armed rebels in February 2004 and has been living in South Africa. Earlier Thursday, South African Presidency Minister Collins Chabane said Haitian officials had granted the former Haitian president a passport and Pretoria “cannot hold him hostage.”

National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor says the United States has “deep concerns” about Mr. Aristide’s return, warning it could destabilize Haiti before Sunday’s vote.

Vietor also said U.S. President Barack Obama called South African President Jacob Zuma earlier this week to express that concern.

Aristide expressed a desire to go back to Haiti after former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier made a surprise return in January.

The former Haitian leader will be accompanied by Hollywood actor Danny Glover. The actor who starred in the “Lethal Weapon” movies and is now chairman of the U.S.-based human rights group TransAfrica Forum, became the latest celebrity to push for Mr. Aristide’s to return to his homeland.

Glover flew to Johannesburg, writing on the TransAfrica Forum website he wanted to show solidarity with the people of Haiti and help return a leader they twice elected with “overwhelming support.”

Mr. Aristide and his representatives have said the former leader has no intention of getting involved in politics and Sunday’s runoff election, which pits former first lady Mirlande Manigat against popular entertainer Michel Martelly.

Martelly was initially excluded from the runoff until international observers reviewed the first-round results and recommended he advance to the second round instead of the ruling party candidate, Jude Celestin. The observers cited fraud and irregularities in the first round of balloting, which took place in November.

Celestin was later dropped from the runoff. The person who wins the election will succeed outgoing President Rene Preval.

The United States strongly supports the current electoral process as critical to Haiti’s stability, following years of political turmoil and the disastrous January 2010 earthquake.

News from the Bay

Stories and reporting by Spc. Meredith Vincent, and Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jason Tross

Red Cross assists Japan relief efforts

The Guantanamo Bay Red Cross is offering assistance to people who have loved ones in the Japan earthquake and tsunami area. Free Sprint phone cards are available to help victim's families and friends stay in touch.

The Red Cross is also gathering donations to assist with relief efforts.

For procedures and pick up times, contact x2511 or x2512, or email CoganowS@usa.redcross.org

Irish Fest kicks off at Downtown Lyceum

Morale Recreation and Welfare will go green Saturday as the 2011 GTMO Irish Festival kicks off at 4 p.m. at the downtown lyceum.

Open to all members of the public, the festival will begin with free tasting during an Irish stew competition between O'Kelly's Irish Pub and the Bayview.

Come check out Guantanamo Bay's local craft artists, play lawn games from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and children's story time with crafts from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

An on-stage Mad Science show is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., followed by

interactive booths from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Multiple sporting events are scheduled from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., including a kilt dash, potato smash, strong wo/man throw, tug-o-war, and an Irish-style obstacle course.

Irish stew and shepherd's pie will be available for dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Top off the evening with live Celtic music from Irish rock band, The Rogues.

For more information on the Irish Fest, contact x4882.

Jewish community observes Purim

Members of the Jewish community here on Guantanamo Bay are scheduled to gather at the Rosenthal's house at 7 p.m. Friday evening to observe the Jewish holiday Purim.

Purim "is a festival that commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people living throughout the ancient Persian Empire from a plot by Haman the Agagite to annihilate them, as recorded in the Biblical Book of Esther," explained Air Force Staff Sgt. Archie Gerald, a Joint Task Force chaplain's assistant.

For more information – or if you would like to bring food to the event – contact Nicole at x8379.

Walk-to-School day promotes kids' health

In order to promote more activity into students' school day, the Parent Teacher Organization of W. T. Sampson Elementary School, in partnership with the Health and Wellness Committee, is sponsoring a Walk-to-School Day March 30 for grades 1 through 5.

Parents who would like their children to participate in the event but cannot walk with them can drop their child off at one of two drop-off points: the field next to the Vet Clinic parking lot, or at the Sailing Center at the Morale Welfare and Recreation Marina. Children must be dropped off no later than 7:10 a.m. The walk will take approximately 22 minutes and security police will be available to ensure the children's safety.

The school is seeking volunteers to walk with participating children in the morning and to help prepare and serve a healthy breakfast for them afterward.

Kindergarten students are welcome to join, but must be accompanied by an adult.

Buses will run as usual for students who choose not to participate.

For more information or if you are interested in volunteering, contact either Shannon Fern at x2207 or Marianne Airhart at x2220.

What is the best movie you've seen since coming to Guantanamo Bay?



"The Dilemma. It was really funny."

Religious Programs Specialist 3rd Class Jeffrey Lauber



"Hall Pass, it was very visually stimulating."

Air Force Staff Sgt. Ramona Garcia



"Hall Pass. It's a married man's dream and a single man's nightmare."

Air Force Staff Sgt. Archie Gerald



"Harry Potter 7, because it had great graphics."

Army Sgt. William Myers

Boots on the Ground

trooper focus

Lance Cpl. Britney Thomas

Spc. Meredith Vincent

Lance Cpl. Britney Thomas recalls very clearly when she decided she wanted to join the Marines.

“Ever since I can remember, I’ve always wanted to join [the service,]” Thomas, who works at J6 as a telecom specialist, said. “They said [the Marines] was the hardest service for females to get into, and I said, ‘Oh, that’s the one I want.’”

Thomas’ willingness to face challenges head on has inspired her co-workers and leadership, who say she has become an integral part of their team.

“She doesn’t complain about anything and if she comes up to a wall, she works it out for herself without fuss,” said Air Force 1st Lt. Brie Kreutzfeldt, customer support officer in charge for J6. “Many Troops her age would prefer to be spoon-fed the answers to their problems but she always uses her resources and comes up with her own solution.”

J6 Current Operations Senior Noncommissioned Officer in Charge Gunnery Sgt. Chet Smith agrees.

“She is on point as a lance corporal who can be trusted with responsibility in taking care of tasks on her own,” he said. “Which is what leaders are looking for in their Troopers.”

Only 18 years old when she signed up, Thomas has been with the Marines for three and half years. In that time, she has had one goal in mind: to become a Marine drill instructor. A fellow Marine has faith in her ability to reach that goal.

“[She] is an extremely capable and motivated Marine with limitless potential in her career,” said Smith. “She has a strong desire to succeed and has been setting a superior example every day since she arrived in GTMO.”

That arrival was fairly recent, as Thomas has only been on Guantanamo Bay for two months. An avid snorkeler with scuba ambitions, Thomas said her

favorite thing about her first deployment has been the beaches.

“I want to go scuba diving,” she sighs. “I just don’t have the time yet.”

Most of her time recently has been spent working out, as yet another challenge has been placed in front of her. Thomas is determined to leave Guantanamo Bay a rank higher. As she climbs from junior enlisted into noncommissioned officer territory, she has started thinking about what will make her a strong leader for her future Troopers.

“Communication is so important,” she said. “When I was a Pfc., I didn’t have very good communication skills and I got in trouble for it. If you have good communication with your higher-ups, it will help you tremendously.”

Thomas’ higher-ups are very satisfied with their Trooper and her skills, communication or otherwise.

“Her insight into the radio world has aided our telecom shop greatly,” said Kreutzfeldt. “She has been a vital asset in accomplishing our mission. Her enthusiasm is very contagious, keeping often stressful work hours light-hearted and easier to manage.”

With four months left on the island, Thomas is feeling positive about not only the work ahead, but also the lessons she has already learned.

“When I first got here, there were a lot of things I needed to fix,” she explained. “From now on, I’ve made it my mission that I’m going to do my job thoroughly and get it done right the first time. That is what will stick with me.”

Kreutzfeldt knows Thomas’ reaction to her praise will be subdued.



Bullet Bio

Time in service: 3 1/2 years

Hobbies: working out, snorkeling

Pet peeves: ignoring junior enlisted’s ideas

Next goal: getting promoted, eventually becoming a drill instructor

Advice to junior

Troopers: “It’s tough. But you’re not going to die.”

“She deserves all the credit for her work,” the 1st Lt. said. “Even though she will probably just blush and shrug it off as no big deal.”

Kreutzfeldt tells a story that sums up Thomas’ no-nonsense approach.

“The other day I had e-mailed her, thanking her for working through a problem we’d been having,” remembered Kreutzfeldt. “And at the end of the reply she simply said, ‘You don’t have to say thank you, Ma’am – this is my job.’ That’s just who she is. She does her job and is happy to do it.”

BEEF begins road construction at Cuzcos Barracks

Story and photo by Mass Communication Specialist
2nd Class Jordan Miller

A much-needed and welcome change is coming to the Cuzco Barracks as the engineering assistant and heavy equipment shops of the Base Engineer Emergency Force began restorative work on the dirt road behind the barracks Monday.

“We noticed that the road around Gold Hill Galley and Cuzco Barracks has been deteriorating so we contacted Joint Task Force Guantanamo about repairing it,” said BEEF Project Planner and Operations Supervisor Chief Master Sgt. Scott Humphrey.

Coordination with the JTF and public works department is required anytime the BEEF wants to complete work outside Camp Justice or the Expeditionary Legal Complex, Humphrey explained.

“We had to find out how the project was going to be funded and who was going to pay for the gravel,” he said.

Consultation with the JTF and public works department was also necessary because

the BEEF needed to know the locations of sewer, water and electrical lines in the area so they are not damaged, said Humphrey.

Up until now, the road has been a bumpy ride for its travelers.

“Some of its potholes are big enough that whenever I take a mule through, it just about throws you to the ceiling,” remarked Tech. Sgt. Jeremy S. McGill, BEEF equipment operator.

Master Sgt. Marcus D. Wilkins, heavy equipment shop supervisor, explained the road is a safety hazard and endangers automobiles.

“I know some of the master-at-arms have broken motor mounts on their vehicles from hitting potholes,” he said.

Road refurbishment will not only generate appreciation from drivers but also pedestrians and bicyclists.

“People who ride bicycles, especially at night, if they hit a pothole they have a chance of really getting hurt,” remarked Wilkins.

Until now the BEEF tackled tasks not

related to their occupation. This project offers them an opportunity to showcase their real talents.

“It gives us all a chance to work more in our career field and to do what we have been trained to do,” Wilkins expressed.

For equipment operators, the road work affords time on machinery they otherwise might not get to use.

“This will give some of our guys the challenge of using Navy equipment they wouldn’t normally see at their home station,” said Humphrey.

The BEEF is borrowing machinery from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 28. A job like this involves operating a grader, water truck, roller and possibly a dump truck, Wilkins said.

The road will be done in sections, allowing residents access to their living quarters.

Humphrey wants people to know to be flexible, especially with possible detours.

“Be patient as the road crews get started,” he advised.



A barrier set up behind Cuzco Barracks to prevent traffic from using the dirt road behind the barracks while it undergoes restoration. The BEEF is completing the work.



DON'T BE A VICTIM. SHRED IT OR REGRET IT.

PSEC ALERT

Are you aware the JTF has a 100 percent shred policy?

This means that all paper materials including computer printouts, sticky notes, handwritten notes, photocopies, trooper notebooks, unwanted mail, mailing labels and customs forms from boxes or packages, leave papers, bank statements, bills and anything work related or that has personal information should be shredded!

Even under Infantry standard Puerto Rican MPs lead the way

Story by Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel
Photo by Mass Communication Specialist
2nd Class Jordan Miller

Hailing from all over their island, members of the Puerto Rico National Guard came together under the standard of Company B, 1-296 Infantry to augment the 525th Military Police Battalion supporting operations at Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

“We are responsible for area security for the entire JTF,” said Army Capt. Roberto Dekony, company commander.

“B, 1-296 Infantry is the first line of defense for the JTF,” Lt. Col. Christopher Wynder, 525th MP Battalion commander explained further. “They provide guards at access control points for the roads leading into Camp America, personnel access to camps perimeter security and area security of the surrounding areas of the Joint Task Force.”

Dekony said nearly 70 percent of his Soldiers are MPs by military occupational specialty as well as members of the Puerto Rico National Guard’s 240th Military Police Company.

“The mighty 240th deployed to Iraq in 2006-2007,” the captain said. “When the Puerto Rico Guard submitted the unit for mobilization [to JTF Guantanamo], the 240th couldn’t be mobilized due to dwell time requirements.”

Looking to fill a unit to deploy, Dekony said the Puerto Rico Guard tasked Bravo Company to fill the open slot. But another problem arose during the mobilization.

“Most of the infantry Soldiers didn’t have security clearances and there wasn’t enough time to get them,” he said. “So they took all the leadership and MP Soldiers they could from the 240th MP Company and put them under the 1-296 Infantry colors.”

While the captain noted the unit’s overall mission, the company’s first sergeant explained the amount of effort



Soldiers with Company B, 1-296 Infantry, 525th Military Police Battalion conduct a security patrol around Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

required to bring the group together.

“The first time we were all together was during our initial mobilization training at Camp Santiago in Puerto Rico,” said 1st Sgt. Melvin Torres.

While at Camp Santiago, the Soldiers sharpened their MP skills learning tactics such as managing entry control points, searching vehicles and the Joint Task Force Guantanamo’s rules of engagement.

“I’m very proud of all of my Soldiers – they act like they’ve been working together all their lives,” said Dekony.

From Camp Santiago, Troopers travelled to Fort Bliss, Texas where a mock-up of the Guantanamo Bay facilities furthered the groups understanding of the environment they were about to enter.

“Everything has to be taken into consideration here,” Torres said. “This is the place everyone is looking at; we certainly don’t want to be responsible for an international incident.”

To that end, Dekony said prior to arriving on Guantanamo Bay, he spelled out his expectations to his

Troopers.

“We are going to raise the bar here,” Dekony told them. “Bravo Company will set the standard by which all other National Guard units coming here will be judged against.”

In addition to providing security for the JTF Guantanamo compound, Bravo Company Troopers serve as the camp’s quick reaction force and provide security during the highly visible military commissions proceedings.

Both Torres and Dekony have deployed to Guantanamo Bay in the past and said the living and working situation improves more and more each time.

“Our offices used to be in old sea huts,” Dekony said. “We actually have an office space this time and the living conditions for the Troopers have improved dramatically as well.”

Along with the better environment, Torres said there is much more for his Troopers to do in their off-time.

“Keeping them involved and engaged when they aren’t working is very important,” Torres said explaining with

Guantanamo Bay’s isolation, keeping his Troopers active helps them stay out of trouble.

“We help organize 5k runs, play team sports and many of our Soldiers have taken on several volunteer projects earning hours toward their volunteer service medal,” the first sergeant said.

Whether coming together to form a winning softball team or executing their mission, Dekony said the continuing hallmark of his Troopers is the high level of excellence they bring to the fight.

“Their commitment to be the best in everything continues to impress me,” he said. “They are all extremely professional and there is no obstacle they can’t overcome.”

The company’s battalion commander echoed Dekony’s words.

“They understand the importance of the Profession of Arms,” said Wynder. “That mind set starts with Captain Dekony and first sergeant Torres and resonates down to the most junior Soldiers in the unit. The level of unit pride and camaraderie that is displayed daily is unmatched.”



A DAY IN THE LIFE

Part Two

Story and photos by Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

At the conclusion of A Day in The Life, part 1 in last week's edition of "The Wire," the assistant watch commander on duty had just left a block after discussing several items including a cancelled phone call with a detainee. As part 2 of our article begins, the AWC takes a request from a detainee .. one small example of the many requests the guard force tries to accommodate each and every day.

"He wants markers," the AWC seems to say to the heavens. "Markers!"

Around the rotunda, through a series of hallways, the AWC enters the office of the operations chief petty officer and asks about the markers.

"No markers yet," the ops chief explained. "Don't know when they'll be here but they aren't here yet."

"That's the way it goes," the AWC said as he walks back to the rotunda. "They ask for it, we try to get it for them but it's never fast enough."

The AWC goes back to the block and informs the detainee the markers haven't arrived yet, but he reassures the detainee they will be in soon. The detainee is clearly not happy with the situation, but the AWC can't really worry about his hurt feelings at the moment. Class – Arabic to English – is about to start and he has to move several detainees into the classroom.

Looking over the schedule, the AWC calls ahead to the guards on a block to make sure they're ready to move the first detainee. Peering through the window, the AWC visually confirms the detainee is ready to be moved. After a semi-lengthy process of moving detainees, class is ready to start. More than nine detainees will be taking one of several classes offered at the facility.

The classes serve two purposes, the AWC explains. Detainees learn to speak English while at the same time, the classroom setting acts as something of a social hour for the detainees.

"Detainees on the block don't get to see detainees (from another block) unless it's during class," the AWC said. "So, especially when we moved detainees here from other camps, some days it seemed like a family reunion."

Already closing in on noon, the AWC dispatches two guards to prepare lunch but

there's a problem.

One of the guards explains to the AWC that a block refuses to hand over their trash from breakfast.

"What?" he responded incredulously.

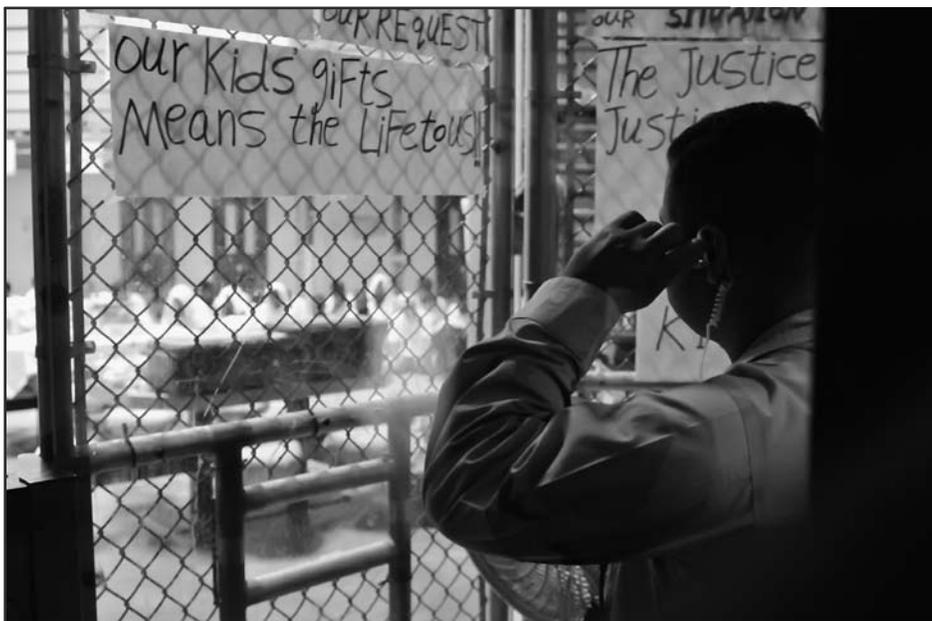
"They won't give us their trash from this morning," the guard reiterates.

"Go get the watch commander and see if he can talk to them," the AWC orders.

"Anything, anything they can do to mess up the rhythm, to throw a wrench into the system, they will do," the AWC said.

The watch commander goes in and talks to the residents of the block. After a bit of back and forth, he gets them to relinquish their trash. The war of bullets may be transpiring on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan but inside the walls of the detention facilities of Guantanamo Bay is a war of minds and wills.

Outside the camp, a guard is sitting at one of the several metal tables that serve as a



break area. He takes a long pull from a cigarette and slowly exhales

"It's not too bad really," the young guard said. His body says he's all of 19 or so but his eyes indicate years beyond his physical age.

"The shifts are pretty reasonable and you find ways to deal with the stress," the guard explains. He works out a lot on his off time and tries to take advantage of the many recreational aspects of life on Guantanamo Bay.

"Pretty much anything you can do to take your mind off being here, of dealing with the detainees and the games they play, you do," he said.

Crushing out his cigarette, the guard wanders back into the camp to try to get on one of the

three computer stations in the break room. Tomorrow a new set of guards fresh from across the ocean will arrive for their first day of work. Already the break room can barely handle the needs of the current staffing level.

"There's just not enough computers in there for all of us," he says. "Hopefully I'll be able to get on one and try to talk to my family back home." And with the words "home" the doors to the camp unlock and the guard slides inside.

The remainder of the day is reasonably quiet but the presence of someone in an Army uniform is causing a stir amongst the detainees in this Navy-run facility. "Who is he? Why is he here? What is going on?" the detainees ask at every opportunity. The AWC

assures them nothing is going on, nothing is changing, there's nothing to worry about.

Anything that disrupts the status quo and presents a new wrinkle in the day-to-day operations of the facility, the detainees see as a tactical shift on the part of the guards. It's all part of the chess match that takes place here every day.

The AWC leaves the rotunda and heads back to the main office. Before he can go home, he must do a shift hand-off with the oncoming AWC. The two Sailors compare notes. The off-going AWC, making sure every significant detail of the day is passed, unclips his duty belt and takes the radio ear piece out of his ear.

Outside, evening colors is sounding in the distance and the off-going shift stands at attention, saluting the flag. As the music fades, the guards make their way to cars or stand at bus stops waiting for a ride home. They joke and kid with each other in the rough and tumble manner familiar to anyone who's ever put on a uniform. Tonight they'll go home, they'll go to the gym, they'll hang out and try to let the day's events slip off of them. Tomorrow, they will do it all over again.



Olympic Dreams

Story and photos by Mass Communication Specialist
2nd Class Jason Tross

Navy Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Brandon Smith, recently selected to play for USA Rugby and try out for the US Olympic Rugby Team, traps a loose ball during Guantanamo Bay Rugby Club team practice Sunday.

This time last year, Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Brandon Smith had no idea what rugby was. Instead he was busy training for his return to NCAA football. That all changed when Guantanamo Bay Rugby Club Coach Steve Lynch approached him after a Morale Welfare and Recreation flag football game and convinced him to try rugby.



"I've been playing for only about six months now and as far as experience goes, I pretty much love it," said Smith. "I got out here with Coach Lynch and he showed me everything I need to know. Now we're trying to take this to the next level – the USA Rugby team and hopefully go to the Olympics."

Last month, Smith received a letter from USA Rugby Head Coach Al Caravelli inviting him to join 19 other hand-selected athletes from across the United States as they build the first US Olympic rugby team in nearly 100 years.

"I noticed him while playing flag football," said Lynch. "He had incredible speed and fitness. I also noticed his size. The team needs someone who runs fast, is fit and strong."

The International Olympic Committee recently added rugby to the 2016 Summer Olympic roster. Now the USA Rugby National Team is putting together a group of athletes ranging from 18 years old to 28 to fill all seven positions on the field. At 21 years old, Smith, who normally plays safety on the football field, is the perfect fit.

"A few weeks after first seeing Brandon, I mentioned to Coach Caravelli that I had a guy we could develop over a period of time before the tryouts and get him ready for the 2016 Olympics," said Lynch. "I thought Brandon was someone he should put on his radar."

That's just what happened. Smith began training with Lynch, turning the football prodigy into a rugby prodigy.

"It was basically the football aspect that I liked so much," said Smith. "I'm such a big football guy. He got me into it using that."

Knowing he had a football player at heart, Lynch used Smith's first sport as a means to

transition him into the new sport.

"He pretty much transfers everything to football so I can understand rugby better," laughed Smith. "Now he's just got me hooked on it."

Smith trains with Lynch's Guantanamo Bay Rugby Club – a mix of players ranging in age from 16 to 30 and representing Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Army with a strong showing of high school students from W.T. Sampson School.

"We are all in the learning stages so we just play to the best of our abilities and work on whatever Coach is teaching us," said Smith. "We get out here and he pretty much pushes through drills and we run around and scrimmage each other and have fun. No one really played it before, but now that we're getting into it – it's great!"

For Smith, whether training for the Olympics or spending time with Guantanamo Bay's youth, he finds reward in all aspects of the game.

"Challenge is the big thing about it for me," said Smith. "It's the challenge of, 'hey let's try something else and see what a whole other sport is about.' It's one I never heard of until I got to Guantanamo and met Coach [Lynch]."

The fun is just beginning for Smith. Before he can call himself an Olympian, he'll have to prove himself with the USA Rugby team at practice. If all goes well, then comes the real fun.

"The practice is going to be at Chula Vista, Calif. at the Olympic Training Center," said Smith. "After that I could be going to London and Scotland if I make the team. I really hope I make the team."



Smith, who still dreams of being a professional football player, dodges a defender during rugby practice Sunday.

Petraeus: Afghan transition will have long-term impact

Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As the transition approaches for Afghan forces to begin taking responsibility for security in their country, actions in the coming months will have consequences for years to come, the commander of NATO and U.S. forces in Afghanistan said Wednesday.

Gen. David H. Petraeus told the House Armed Services Committee that each step in the process, set to culminate with Afghan forces having the security lead throughout the country by the end of 2014, must be closely coordinated and irrevocable.

“We’ll get one shot at transition, and we need to get it right,” he said.

The coalition has increased its efforts to enable the Afghan government’s work to improve governance, economic development and the provision of basic services, Petraeus said.

“These are essential elements of the effort to shift delivery of basic services from provincial reconstruction teams and international organizations to Afghan government elements,” he explained.

Afghan-led reintegration of reconcilable insurgents must be an important element of the strategy, Petraeus said, noting that the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force is assisting Afghan government initiatives, including the recently established Afghan high peace council and provincial reintegration councils.

“Indeed, we recognize that we and our Afghan partners cannot just kill or capture our way out of the insurgency in Afghanistan,” the general said. “In fact, some 700 former Taliban have now officially reintegrated with Afghan authorities, and some 2,000 more are in various stages of the reintegration process.”

All of these efforts are part of a comprehensive civil-military approach, he explained, in which ISAF coordinates with international organizations, diplomatic missions in Afghanistan, and the Afghan government and security forces.

“We have also sought to ensure that we

minimize loss of innocent civilian life in the course of our operations,” he added.

A recent United Nations study found that civilian casualties resulting from ISAF actions decreased by more than 20 percent in 2010, though the number of coalition forces increased by more than 100,000, Petraeus noted. Despite the reduction in civilian casualties, he said, several tragic incidents in recent weeks prompted him to order a review of use of force at all levels of ISAF and among attack helicopter air crews.

months ahead enable long-term achievement in the years ahead,” Petraeus said.

ISAF has begun to look beyond 2014 to establishing U.S. and NATO strategic partnerships with Afghanistan, he said.

“All of this is enormously reassuring to our Afghan partners, and of considerable concern to the Taliban,” he said. An enduring commitment by the international community to Afghanistan, he added, is important to insurgents’ recognition that reconciliation, rather

than continued fighting, should be their goal.

Petraeus said four funding issues are key to sustaining progress in Afghanistan.

“I am concerned that levels of funding for our State Department and partners will not sufficiently enable them to build on the hard-fought security achievements of our men and women in uniform,” he said, adding that inadequate funding for civilian efforts in Afghanistan could

jeopardize the overall mission.

“I offer that assessment noting we have just completed a joint civil-military campaign plan between U.S. Forces Afghanistan and the U.S. embassy.”

Second, Petraeus said, he deeply appreciates funding for additional capabilities such as surveillance assets and all-terrain mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles for coalition forces. Commanders Emergency Response Program and reintegration program funding have likewise been instrumental to the overall counterinsurgency effort, he said.

Third, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, he said, are the largest donors to Afghanistan after the United States, and have been critical to construction of the Ring Road and the Uzbek-Afghan railroad.

“We need these critical enabling institutions, and further U.S. support for them will ensure that they’re able to continue to contribute as significantly as they have in the past,” he said.

Finally, funding for development of Afghan security forces and their resulting gains in quantity, quality and capability is “essential to the process of transition,” Petraeus said.



Capt. Garrett Gingrich (2nd from left), commander, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, speaks with Mehirulla Muslim (2nd from right), the Nurgaram district sub-governor, in the Nurgaram district of Nuristan province, Afghanistan, on Feb. 21, 2011. – photo by Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Richard Simonsen

“I also reemphasized instructions on reducing damage to infrastructure and property to an absolute minimum,” he said.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai will announce next week the first locations where security responsibility will transition to Afghan lead, Petraeus said. In keeping with the principles adopted by NATO’s North Atlantic Council, he added, the pace of transition will be determined by conditions on the ground.

“According to the NATO principles, transition will see our forces thinning out, not just handing off,” he said, telling the lawmakers that some forces freed up by transition will be reassigned to other locations in Afghanistan or to training Afghan army and police forces.

“Similar processes are also taking place as we commence transition of certain training and institutional functions from ISAF trainers to their Afghan counterparts,” he said.

As the security transition unfolds, he said, ISAF must focus not just on the year ahead, but on the goal of full security responsibility transfer by the end of 2014.

“Indeed, we need to ensure that we take a sufficiently long view [and] that our actions in the



Military monitors radiation as Troops deliver humanitarian aid

Jon Rabirotff
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL — U.S. military assets continue to converge on Japan, hoping to deliver humanitarian assistance while being careful not to expose servicemembers to radiation leaking from the crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant.

“We continue to monitor the winds closely, moving our ships and aircraft as necessary to avoid the wind line from the Fukushima Power Plant,” U.S. 7th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Jeff Davis said in an e-mail.

“Aircraft and aircrews returning from missions ashore are being monitored carefully for contamination, and are conducting decontamination procedures as necessary when it is detected,” he said.

Davis said the USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group flew 29 sorties Tuesday, delivering 17 tons of supplies — including food, water and blankets — to hard-hit areas of northeastern Japan.

To date, 25 tons have been delivered, he said.

In addition, strike group aircraft conducted three coastal search-and-rescue sorties on Tuesday.

The strike group, which is continuing operations Wednesday off the east coast of Honshu, includes the cruiser USS Chancellorsville; destroyer USS Preble; combat support ship USNS Bridge; along with guided-missile destroyers USS Fitzgerald, USS John S. McCain, USS McCampbell and USS Curtis Wilbur.

An additional destroyer, USS Mustin, is at sea south of the disaster site.

On Tuesday morning, Davis said, “sensitive instrumentation on USS George Washington pier-side in Yokosuka detected low levels of radioactivity from the Fukushima plant. While there was no danger to the public, Commander, Naval Forces Japan recommended limited precautionary measures for personnel and their families on Fleet Activities Yokosuka and Naval Air Facility Atsugi, including limiting outdoor activities and securing external ventilation

systems as much as practical.

“These measures are strictly precautionary in nature,” he continued. “We do not expect that any United States federal radiation exposure limits will be exceeded even if no precautionary measures are taken.”

The USS Tortuga, with two heavy-lift MH-53 helicopters embarked, picked up about 300 Japan Ground Self-Defense Force personnel and 90 vehicles Tuesday in Tomokomai, Hokkaido, and was scheduled to deliver them to Ominato, on the island of Honshu.

Davis said the USS Essex, USS Harpers Ferry and USS Germantown, with the embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, continue en route to the area and are expected Thursday.

“Given the radiological and navigation hazards on the eastern coast of Honshu, the ships will take position in the Sea of Japan on the west coast of Honshu, where they will be in the best position to launch disaster relief missions over land,” Davis said.

New performance evaluation requirements go into effect

Navy Personnel Command
Public Affairs

Beginning Tuesday, Navy performance evaluations and fitness reports must conform to new policies announced in NAVADMIN 286/10.

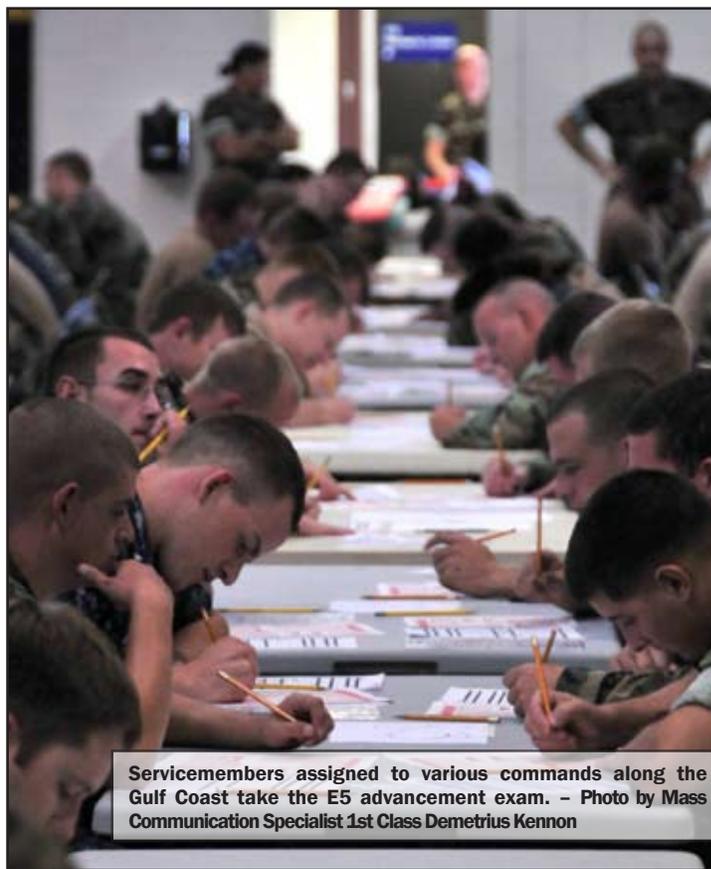
The evaluation form “NAVPERS 1616/27 (Revision Aug. 2010) Evaluation and Counseling Record for E7 through E9,” also known as the “CHIEFEVAL,” is not affected by the new requirements and its use will continue as usual.

To more clearly define top-performing Sailors, NAVADMIN 286/10 changed the promotion recommendation rules for E-5 Sailors and aligns them with E-6 Sailors under the same recommendation requirements. For reports dated March 15 and beyond, “Early Promote” and “Must Promote” recommendations combined cannot exceed 60 percent of the ranking group. In addition, “Must Promote” recommendations may increase by one for each “Early Promote” quota not used.

An update to NAVFIT98A — known as “Version 29” — was rolled out to the fleet incorporating the new rules. Work stations on the unclassified Navy/Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) automatically received this new version. For non-NMCI users, the “Version 29” upgrade is available for download from the Navy Personnel Command (NPC) website.

Service members should verify they are using “Version 29” by checking “About NAVFIT98A” under the help tab in NAVFIT98A, which will display “Version 2.2.0.29.”

“Validating reports with the new NAVFIT98A version will help ensure commands comply with the new promotion recommendation rule and help eliminate common errors in preparing reports,” said Jim Price, director of NPC’s Performance Evaluation Division.



Servicemembers assigned to various commands along the Gulf Coast take the E5 advancement exam. — Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Demetrius Kennon



Marines seize Twentynine Palms Airport in exercise



Cpl. Andrew S. Avitt

Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — Sand swirling around the CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters provided light concealment for the Marines as they touched down to seize the airfield. Weapon-toting enemy fighters milled about the area and watched as the unit systematically closed in from across the tarmac toward the airport's facilities. Like cats waiting for their prey, they waited patiently for just the right moment to attack.

The Marines and sailors with Battalion Landing Team, E Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, were taking part in an airfield seizure exercise at the Twentynine Palms Airport, just minutes from the Combat Center gate, March 4, 2011. The exercise is part of their preparation for their upcoming deployment as Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, the ground combat element of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. The seizure exercise was part of a larger training evolution known as Exercise Pacific Horizon 2011, taking place aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and the Combat Center from March 2-7.

Minutes later, the role players attacked. Enemy fighters let loose a barrage of simulated gunfire and rocket propelled grenades. They detonated pre-positioned improvised explosive devices and suicide bomber vests in an attempt to pick off the Marines.

As if operating from a script, the heavily-armed Marines and sailors with E Company, 2/7, absorbed the assault, then trained their massive firepower on their enemy. Within minutes, the hunted became the hunter, and all that was left were dead enemy fighters and several insurgents with no other option but to run around the airfield, shouting and trying to evade capture and making it as difficult as possible for the Marines.

Airfields are tactically crucial to any fight, not only for their ability to base and house units, but also for bringing in supplies to friendly forces,

said Capt. Richard McKenzie, company commander of Co. E, 2/7. This is why it is also crucial to practice taking control of these favorable facilities from enemy forces.

"We came in to take these buildings; we landed multiple birds on the airfield and provided security," said Cpl. Ryan Graham, the company radio operator with Co. E, 2/7. "As soon as security was set, we started pushing by squad rushes up to the objective."

The helicopters lifted off, but stayed close and circled just a few hundred feet above the area, waiting for the call to drop down and retrieve the Marines as soon as the airport was under their control.

The Marines were especially careful in their approach to the role players. In a real world airport seizure, not everyone would be the enemy and not all hostile individuals would be armed. Trainers made it tougher to distinguish friend from foe, by dressing all roles players in jeans and T-shirts.

The element of unpredictably and free-thinking role players adds to the experience and makes it harder for the Marines and ultimately provides the most realistic training scenario possible, McKenzie said.

After sustaining light casualties and taking control of the airport, the unit called in a notional medical evacuation, another skill the unit needed to practice before heading out to the South Pacific with the MEU.

Being able to perform flawless evacuations is an important skill for a battalion landing team, whose responsibilities could include spearheading assaults and amphibious landings, McKenzie said.

"Being on a MEU, you'll never know what kind of task you are going to have," Graham said. "You could be going to Afghanistan one minute, and a week later being doing something like this in another country."

In less than an hour, all hostile role players were either dead or subdued with flexi-cuffs, and the assault was over. McKenzie said the Marines did well and were successful in accomplishing their mission.

As quickly as they had landed, the Marines boarded waiting helicopters and swooped away into a clear blue sky.



Airmen respond to Japan quake, tsunami

Pacific bases quickly contribute capabilities, expertise to relief operations

(Compiled from AF News Service stories) – Nearly 100 Airmen and three MC-130P Combat Shadows from the 353rd Special Operations Group at Kadena Air Base deployed to Yokota Air Base March 12 to support relief operations, one day after a 9.1 magnitude earthquake hit the Pacific Ocean off the coast of northeastern Japan.

The 353rd SOG is able to conduct search and rescue operations, transport emergency response teams, equipment and relief supplies, survey and open landing zones, provide emergent medical care to injured people and assist the Japanese government and other relief agencies with a variety of highly trained support personnel for humanitarian assistance operations.

Misawa Air Base, in northern Japan, was shaken violently by the earthquake and suffered minor damage, but no deaths or injuries.

“Our focus is on the recovery of the base and assisting our Japanese allies. We will do whatever it takes to get us both on our feet again, and I believe we have the best people on the job for this task,” Col. Michael Rothstein, 35th Fighter Wing commander, said.

“Our Airmen and family members aided in recovery efforts almost immediately after the earthquake,” said Lt. Col. Dwayne Robison, 35th Civil Engineer Squadron commander.

Misawa was spared the brunt of what the earthquake had to offer, which was the tsunami that swept ashore afterwards. The tsunami devastated large areas in Myagi Prefecture, south of the base.

Now the base is concentrating on two missions: The first is to recover operations, and the second is to act as a logistical hub for humanitarian relief and rescue workers. The base was assisted in this effort by the arrival of 50 civil engineers and 11 generators from Okinawa’s Kadena Air Base to restore power the day after the quake.

In addition to an RQ-4 Global Hawk remotely piloted aircraft from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, a U-2 from Osan Air Base, Korea, was deployed to capture high-resolution, broad-area imagery.

“The broad, synoptic collection of large land mass and littorals are



of great benefit to decision makers,” said Lt. Col. Spencer Thomas, 5th Reconnaissance Squadron commander. “It will aid them in determining locations and extent of damage the earthquake and tsunami have left.”

Colonel Thomas compared the imagery to medical X-rays.

“It’s like a personal injury; immediately after the event, one must determine where and how they have been injured,” he said. “Our mission serves that function.”

At Yokota Air Base, near Tokyo, more than 60 Airmen and base residents worked quickly to prepare a previously unoccupied residential building for use by transiting relief personnel. The cleanup effort attracted not just Airmen, but it also brought in base dependants, young and old.

“It feels good to volunteer,” said Ty Hoopes, a fourth-grade Boy Scout volunteer.

Among the first to arrive at Yokota were Airmen and additional equipment dispatched March 12 from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Brig. Gen. Scott West, 13th Air Force vice commander, traveled with this group.

“First and foremost our prayers are with Japan,” General West said. “They are resilient and capable. (But) we’ll be there so long as our allies ask us to.”

College credit available to command and control graduates

HURLBURT FIELD (AFNS) -- The Air Force’s only Air and Space Operations Center formal training unit recently earned its second consecutive highest compliance inspection rating from the Community College of the Air Force.

The 505th Training Squadron here offers nine courses in which Defense Department command and control, or C2, enlisted service members can earn college credits through the CCAF. Soldiers, Sailors and Marines can request transcripts from the CCAF Registrar for their service college.

The formal training unit earned the rating based on the Principles of Accreditation from the Commission of Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

During 2010, the 505th trained more than 85,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and coalition forces.

The nine accredited courses are:

- Intel, Surveillance and Recon Technician Course, 5 credit hours
- Combat Plans & Operations Technician Course, 4 credit hours
- Network Administrator Course, 3 credit hours
- Systems Administrator Course, 6 credit hours
- Airspace Course, 9 credit hours
- Interface Control Operator Course, 7 credit hours
- Personnel Recovery Coordination Cell Course, 6 credit hours
- Academic Instructor Course, 3 credit hours
- Air Mobility Division Course, 10 credit hours



Oldest cutter in Coast Guard fleet decommissioned

Coast Guard News Service

KETCHIKAN, Alaska – The 67-year-old Coast Guard Cutter Acushnet was decommissioned during a ceremony Friday, March 11, 2011 at Base Support Unit Ketchikan.

The Acushnet was originally commissioned as a Diver Class Fleet Rescue and Salvage Vessel, USS SHACKLE (ARS 9) for the U.S. Navy Feb. 5, 1944. As the oldest ship in the service, the Acushnet was crowned “Queen of the Fleet” after the decommissioning ceremony of the Coast Guard Cutter Storis on Feb. 8, 2007. The designation will now pass to the Coast

Guard Cutter Smilax, a 100-foot inland construction tender commissioned in 1944 and based in Ft. Macon, N.C.

During the course of the cutter’s service, Acushnet crews have received the following awards for exemplary service: World War II Victory Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal, two Coast Guard Unit Commendations, five Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendations, seven Coast Guard “E” Ribbons, Navy Occupation Service Medal, three National Defense Service Medals, two Humanitarian Service Medals, and two Coast Guard Special Operation Ribbons.

Coast Guard announce DHS Small Vessel Security Strategy Implementation Plan

Coast Guard News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials joined federal, state, local and tribal authorities and private sector stakeholders at the Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute, Arlington, Va., Friday to discuss and announce publication of the Department of Homeland Security Small Vessel Security Strategy Implementation Plan.

The Small Vessel Security Strategy Implementation Plan outlines the methods and actions required to reduce and mitigate the potential exploitation of small vessels by terrorists or other threats to attack U.S. maritime ports, shores and waterways. The plan maps how existing programs and stakeholders will work together, and what research and development will be conducted to refine or create needed capabilities for the strategy as a whole, to implement the 2008 Small Vessel Security Strategy.

“Approximately 17 million small vessels use our nation’s waters for a wide variety of purposes, providing extraordinary economic and social benefits,” said Coast Guard Rear Adm. Paul Zukunft, assistant commandant for Marine Safety, Security and Stewardship. “We have consulted closely with our federal, local and private sector partners throughout the nation to ensure that this security strategy is effective while preserving freedom of movement for the small vessel fleet.”

“The Small Vessel Security Implementation Plan is an essential part of national resilience,” said Thomas S. Winkowski, assistant commissioner, Customs and Border Protection Field Operations. “This plan will provide government and private sector stakeholders with the guidance necessary to fully implement the Small Vessel Security Strategy and further protect our nation from terrorism and other threats.”

The 2008 Small Vessel Security Strategy was designed to enhance maritime security and safety by increasing partnerships with the small vessel community and public and private sectors in order to enhance maritime domain awareness; leveraging technology to enhance the ability to detect and interdict small vessels that pose a maritime security threat; and enhancing cooperation among international, federal, state, local, and tribal partners and the private sector.

The Small Vessel Security Strategy Implementation Plan was developed in close collaboration with DHS components, state and local governments, and private sector partners. . The plan provides a flexible framework that will be continuously evaluated and modified to address intelligence and evolving threats.



Coast Guard repatriates 86 Haitian migrants to Cap Haitien, Haiti

Coast Guard News Service

MIAMI – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Bear repatriated 86 Haitian migrants to Cap Haitien, Haiti, Thursday.

An HC-144 Ocean Sentry fixed-wing aircraft crew from Coast Guard Air Station Miami spotted an overloaded 45-foot sail freighter off the northern coast of Haiti Monday.

The Bear crew launched its embarked MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew from Air Station Traverse City, Mich., to determine the exact position of the sail freighter.

The Bear crew, along with the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Kodiak Island, arrived on scene late Monday night and safely transferred all migrants to the Bear.

Among the Haitian migrants, there were 71 adult males, 12 adult females and three children.

Once aboard a Coast Guard cutter, migrants receive food, water, shelter and basic medical care.

Maintaining your values... even when it hurts

Lt. Cmdr. Marc McDowell
NEGB Command Chaplain

"He . . . who keeps his oath, even when it hurts." -Psalm 15:4b

Why do we post the Value of the Week on signs at intersections in the camps? Perhaps it is because we all need to be reminded of them. Perhaps they remind us to uphold the oaths we took in order to perform our duties with honor. Yet the signs are easily ignored. Sort of like the trays of vegetables in the galley. I know they have good nutrition, but I usually ignore them because the taste is no comparison to the "fast foods."

What's needed is something to augment the taste. I like to use soy sauce as my taste-augmentation of choice; it makes everything better – except ice cream.

Core values stick when people live them. Who, in your lifetime, has demonstrated one or more of the core values? Many years ago I saw this happen very simply and clearly. The story is as follows:

In 1975, American veterans were returning from the war in Vietnam, starting new lives and carrying the values and burdens from their time in service into their work and personal lives. During this time, I worked for retired Navy Chief James Martin. Through my experiences in

the Navy and especially with the "Chiefs" I have come to understand much more about his sense of values, in both professional and personal life.

However, the event in his life that sealed

a stranger came to his door early in the morning inquiring about the '63 Chevy. Jim acknowledged that he had it and the man made him an offer. Jim accepted. The stranger was delighted at both the prospect of buying the car as well as the price. When he returned later, Jim didn't know the man. However, as they talked he realized the stranger had come earlier and it was obvious he had given his word about selling the car, albeit in a different state of mind. Since his word was his bond he honored the



his place as one who illustrated a core value came after his second retirement. One of his prized possessions was his deceased father's '63 baby-blue Chevy Impala. He kept it in a storage building and drove it occasionally as needed. Several people made offers to buy it but he had no interest in selling it at any price. He enjoyed maintaining it, likely remembering days gone by and good memories of his father.

Jim was suffering from an age-related disease process – perhaps Alzheimer's – which caused serious memory lapses. On any given day he could be into the afternoon before his mind was clear. On one such day

agreement, although it was for all intents and purposes not his true mind or intention. He sold the car that he inherited from his father.

Jim held his honor to be more valuable than any possession. He demonstrated what the psalmist said a few millennia before: "he kept his oath even when it hurts."

This example I think puts Loyalty, Commitment, Honor and the other values in real time. Perhaps you know of examples equally or more powerful. If so I encourage you to allow them to motivate and inspire you, and allow them to do the same for those around you: tell your story.

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
Friday 7 p.m.
Chapel Annex
LORIMI Gospel
Sunday 8 a.m.
Room D
LDS Service
Sunday 10 a.m.
Room A

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

Liturgical Service
Sunday 10 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

RANGO



Spc. Meredith Vincent

“Rango” – both the movie and the character – are far from pretty. In a world where everything is digitized, green-screened and glossed over, animated movies are getting trampled in the race to stay relevant. That is partially what stands the ugly, scaly, warted and completely uncuddly bunch in “Rango” apart – they seem to be drawn more from an animator’s bad acid trip than a child’s bedtime story.

The centerpiece of “Rango” is, of course, Rango himself. In a vocal performance that once again displays his diverse talents, Johnny Depp keeps Rango in high-gear, talking and thinking at lightning speed, willing the audience to keep up. Those who are familiar with Depp’s eclectic background should catch glimpses of his unforgettable turn as Raoul Duke in “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas.” Hunter S. Thompson would be proud.

After his aquarium is thrown from his owner’s car and shattered all over the desert highway, Rango finds himself in the town of Dirt, a sad, lonely Western town where there is very little hope and even less water. With his bugged out eyes, kinked neck and tropical Hawaiian shirt, Rango does a bad job blending in with the townsfolk. It’s OK though, because Rango the chameleon rather likes being the center of attention (get the irony?) and soon he is telling lie after lie to gain the town’s respect and admiration.

Fans of spaghetti Westerns are in for a treat. There are traces of “The Quick and the Dead,” “High Noon,” and even a cheeky



appearance by Clint Eastwood (ok, it’s really the Spirit of the West, voiced by Timothy Olyphant in a poncho, but come on...)

Joining Depp and Olyphant are Isla Fisher as Beans, the tough, high-strung lizard who’s desperately clinging to her daddy’s ranch; Ned Beatty as the wheelchair-bound Mayor of Dirt who stinks of polite, civil corruption; and Alfred Molina as Roadkill, a wise armadillo. But my favorite is Rattlesnake Jake. You want something to creep into your spine and scare the crap out of you? Check out Bill Nighy’s delivery as the terrorizing Jake. Pure awesome.

Word on the street is instead of having the actors record their parts separately in the

studio like usual, director Gore Verbinski brought the cast together and had them dress up in costume. Without a comparison, it’s impossible to know whether or not the stunt made a difference. But there is an energy and zing to their deliveries that makes me think it did.

Witty and unusual, snappy and fun, “Rango” is overall a trippy theatrical treat. Aside from moments of lunacy, (check out the owls – I loved the owls) it is deep down a story about one lizard’s existential journey. Can Rango stop lying about being a badass and find the courage to become a hero? On a military base, this kind of internal conflict rings pretty close to home.

	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Downtown Lyceum	Rango (PG) 8 p.m. The Rite (PG-13) 10 p.m.	IRISHFEST *no movie*	Country Strong (PG-13) 8 p.m.	The Dilemma (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Just Go with It (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Unknown (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Hall Pass (R) 8 p.m.
Camp Bulkeley	No Strings Attached (R) 8 p.m. True Grit (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Rango (PG) 8 p.m. The Rite (PG-13) 10 p.m.	The Dilemma (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Hall Pass (R) 8 p.m.	Country Strong (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Just Go with It (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Unknown (PG-13) 8 p.m.

Call MWR at ext. 2010 for more information.

Movie Hotline - call 4880.

Congressional Visit



Members of the United States Senate Select Committee on Intelligence visited Joint Task Force Guantanamo, March 11. — photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jordan Miller.



GTMO Irish Festival 2011
Saturday, March 19

4-10 p.m.
Downtown Lyceum
Open to all

Featuring The Rogues

Irish Stew Competition - Free tasting!
Baking Contest
Craft Fair
Lawn Games
Storytime and Crafts
Mad Science Show
Mad Science Interactive Booths
Sporting Event Competitions
Food, Fun and more!

Schedule of Events

- 4-10 p.m. Beer Tent - serving great beer
- 4-5 p.m. Irish Stew Competition: O'Kelly's vs. Bayview - Free tasting
- 4:30 p.m. Baking Contest - judging. Dinner & bread categories. Register at MWR Admin, call 74121
- 4-7 p.m. Craft Fair - crafters register in advance at the Cafeteria Shop, \$10 per table. PM, call 74775
- 4-7 p.m. Lawn Games with Library
- 4:30-5:30 p.m. Story time and crafts - hosted by MWR Community Library
- 5:10 p.m. Mad Science Show (on stage)
- 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mad Science Interactive Booths
- 5-7 p.m. Sporting Event Competitions including: Kilt Dash, Potato Sack, String Walk, Man Throw, Tug-o-war, Irish Style Obstacle Course
- 5:30-7 p.m. Dinner available for purchase: Irish Stew or Shepherd's Pie
- 8 p.m. The Rogues, Celtic Band, Concert

REMEMBERING THE LAST OF A GENERATION

Flags around the United States, American embassies and military bases were flown at half-staff Tuesday, in honor of the passing of the last surviving American World War I veteran, Army Cpl. Frank W. Buckles. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joe Eballo.



GETTING IT JUST RIGHT

Master at Arms 1st Class Josh Bright of Naval Expeditionary Guard Force sets up his golf ball at the 3 Club Golf Tournament, Saturday, March 12. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins.



SEASON ENDING JUMPER

The 2011 winter basketball regular season came to an end Tuesday, March 15 with games at Denich Gym. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joe Eballo.



WATCHING FROM THE WATER

U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSST) 91114 patrols the Guantanamo Bay coastline, March 10. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jordan Miller.



CHOW TIME

Detainees of Camp 6 sit rapt in lunch-time conversation, Wednesday March 16. - photo by Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel.



FOUNDATION FOR FUN

Joint Task Force Guantanamo Seabees lay concrete for a new servicemember's recreation center at Camp America, March 15. - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joe Eballo.

