

# THE WIRE

A JTF Journal

**Preventive Medicine**  
Keeping 'bugs' safe

**The Vote is in!**  
How our voting drive mattered

# Making History

## Coast Guard Senior Chief Charles A. Ferrante

Shoreside Port Security Unit SOG

When approached about writing this article, I thought long and hard on how I can give an accurate picture of the duties and responsibility assigned to Port Security Unit 307 Shoreside Security Division. Since the development of the Port Security Units, we have been tasked with several unique missions that have tested our training and abilities.

The Shoreside Security Division has always been a visible part of the unit's mission from the ports in Iraq, to the streets of New Orleans, to the military commissions building here in Cuba. One big thing that comes to mind in everything we do is the teamwork, devotion to duty, and professionalism shown by all those involved. I have been asked on many occasions to describe what the Shoreside Security Division does at the military commissions building, and I can only answer with this: We protect the military commissions process and ensure the safety and security of all the men and women assigned to this process.

To give you an accurate background on the men and women assigned to Shoreside Security Division, I will have to start with our responsibilities. I am assigned as the sergeant-of-the-guard, which includes the responsibility of making sure the commissions environment is safe for all those involved. The men and women assigned to these duties are truly dedicated to the whole legal process. Our duties sometimes involve working long hours, having enormous patience and being flexible to ever-changing events. However, it is an honor to work with such a group of people.

Our main focus is accomplishing the mission and providing the best possible protection to all involved. We take this mission seriously and take it as an honor that our country has called upon us to protect what we call "Freedom," along with the many other services that keep watch with us.

I can truly say that our mission is unique and I am proud of everyone who is involved with this process. So when anyone asks me how our mission is, I can respond with this simple word: Historic. In the 218 years of Coast Guard history, never have we been asked to participate in such a historic event until now. This experience will be with me forever and will become an important part of Coast Guard history. 🇺🇸



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### COVER:

**Army Maj. Jamison Herrera, along with the two other members of team "Old School," does his best to pull a humvee, 100 yards, in the fastest time possible during the Navy Exchange Customer Appreciation Weekend, Humvee Pull competition. "Old School" won the event beating four other teams. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Gretel Sharpee**



The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regards to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by the Document Automation & Production Service with a circulation of 1000.

# The Vote is in

**Army Staff Sgt.  
Gretel Sharpee**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

If in the last few months you connected the line pointing to your party preference with a smudged pencil line, or you wrote in the name of your choice for the next president, you voted in the 2008 Presidential election.

According to media accounts, this election brought record numbers of voters to the polls. It seemed as though everyone wanted to be heard. For Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers, it was no different.

Navy Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class James Richardson, JTF staff voting assistance office, and his team deserve special accolades for assisting in registering more than 650 JTF Troopers and civilians as absentee voters over the past 22 months.

Absentee voting for Troopers and

civilians stationed here is relatively easy, but requires some prior planning. Each unit or organization in JTF has a voting assistance officer to help with that very process and the staff judge advocate office is willing to help as well.

“One of the biggest issues I have encountered this year is that Troopers at JTF did not request their absentee ballot by their state deadline or update their absentee mailing address,” said Richardson. “Upon each [permanent change of station], active duty personnel should submit an absentee ballot request to their local election official.”

A voting drive was held Oct. 21 to assist Troopers who hadn’t received their absentee ballots within two weeks of the election. Two weeks is the minimum amount of time it would take a ballot mailed from Guantanamo Bay to reach a state voting agency.

The ballots available at the voting drive were federal write-in ballots so Troopers needed to know which candidates they wanted to vote for before coming to the drive. They also needed to have state-issued identification, such as a state driver’s license, and they needed to be registered to vote in that state as well.

Once filled out, the write-in ballots were then flown off island the next day and mailed in the states to ensure timely delivery.

“Two hundred and five voters cast their votes on the back-up federal write-in ballot at the voting drive [Oct. 21],” said Richardson.

In true democratic fashion, voters in the United States cast their ballots just like the Troopers here. The Presidential race ended Nov. 4 with the election of Barack Obama as our next president. ★



# U.S. Marine Corps Birthday

*celebrating 233 years*

**Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class  
Jayme Pastoric**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The U.S. Marine Corps has achieved many milestones and has attained prominence in the 20th century as the premier amphibious fighting force in the world. One more accomplishment the Marines can be proud of is their 233<sup>rd</sup> birthday, celebrated Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>.

“Since the birth of our nation, our liberty has been purchased by valiant men and women of deep conviction, great courage and bold action. The cost has often been blood and tremendous sacrifice,” said Gen. James T. Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps. “As America’s sentinels of freedom, the United States Marines are counted among the finest legions in the chronicles of war. Since 1775, Marines have marched boldly to the sounds of guns and have fiercely and honorably defended against the scourge of tyranny and terror; we are Marines—that is what we do.”

According to Guantanamo Bay historical records published by Rear Adm. M.E. Murphy, former Commander, U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Marines were an integral part of the American presence in Guantanamo Bay and have been since the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1898, the U.S. was at war with Spain. Relations between the two nations had been strained by American public indignation over the oppression of the Cubans by the Spanish and had progressed to a suspension of diplomatic relations.

With the decision to establish a base at Guantanamo Bay, a battalion of Marines awaiting orders at Key West was ordered to proceed to join the fleet off Santiago, Cuba. They were subsequently ordered to Guantanamo Bay and arrived June 10, 1898; four of the six companies immediately disembarked.

The assisting Cuban fighters reported the major Spanish force in the vicinity had its headquarters at the “Well of Cuzco,” two miles southeast of Fisherman’s Point (now known as Ferry Landing). This Spanish force of about 400 soldiers and guerrillas would constitute the gravest threat to the new U. S. base of operations.

The Marine, led by Colonel Robert Huntington proceeded from their base at McCalla Hill to attack the Spanish at Cuzco Wells. The thorny tangle of trees, underbrush, and cacti turned much of the force back, and he was forced to proceed with only one company.

By 3 p.m., the enemy fire had ceased. Most of the Spanish had escaped, but a lieutenant and 17 enlisted men were captured along with 30 Mauser rifles and ammunition. The enemy had 58 men killed and 150 wounded. It was later that the Marines learned 800 enemy troops had been engaged, 500 regulars and 300 were guerrillas, twice as many as expected.

Two Marines were wounded, two Cubans killed. The most serious casualties suffered by the Marines were from heat exhaustion which disabled one officer and 22 men. The USS Dolphin (PG-24) took these men aboard after the fighting was over. The Spanish headquarters building was burned and the Well of Cuzco was filled up, thus ending its immediate usefulness.

Today, Marines are still defending what they seized more than 200 years ago. The Marine security force is the front line of defense, and maintains the highest level of security while patrolling the security fence line around Guantanamo Bay. ★



late

# Preventive Medicine Office: Keeping JTF from ‘bugging out’

**Army Pfc.  
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Troopers deployed to Guantanamo Bay’s Joint Task Force quickly learn about two natural forces on the island: constant heat and the almost swarm-like mosquitoes. Both can be either just a nuisance or, if left unchecked, a serious health risk.

For the mosquitoes, however, Troopers can’t just drink more water to avoid the possibility of a serious disease. That is where the Joint Detention Group’s Preventive Medicine Office comes in to monitor the mosquito population for serious diseases, among other things.

The office, made up of four 525<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion Soldiers, weekly tracks the local mosquito population to make sure they aren’t carrying any dangerous illness that could pose a health risk to Troopers, civilians or detainees.

Insect test subjects are collected weekly and sent stateside to the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, where they are tested for possible problems.

The insect canisters are placed around the JTF and U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and look similar to green vacuum canisters. Propane in the canister attracts insects from a long range, while chemicals mimicking human body scents attract mosquitoes in the immediate area into a

fan which sends them inside the canister. The insects are then collected a few times each week.

Watching for potential diseased insects is not the only job of the Preventive Medicine Office. They also treat Troopers’ uniforms with the insect repellant and routinely test drinking water for acceptable bacteria and chemical levels.

As JTF’s experts on the subject, the personnel also give monthly pre-service in-briefings to new JTF Troopers, and inform them about proper use of insect repellant and how to safely work in the Guantanamo heat.

Another important facet of the office is monthly inspections of the galleys on here. They check food preparation techniques, all food temperatures, as well as overall cleanliness of the facilities and personnel. Each facility must conform to the regulations for the safety of everyone who eats there.

This duty is also shared with NAVSTA’s preventive medicine personnel.

The preventive medicine office has tips for JTF Troopers and encourages them to always monitor water intake so they’re not overcome by the heat. They also suggest using some insect repellant while outdoors during personal time, and suggests products with a DEET content of about 31%.

Information for this article was provided by personnel of the JDG’s Preventive Medicine Office. ★

# The wait is over



The football/soccer field scoreboard is lit for the first time to keep score during the first flag football game of

**Army Spc.  
Megan Burnham**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

No longer will Cooper Field be known as a grassless and swampy area behind G.W. Denich Gym. Instead, it will be known throughout U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay as a state-of-the-art sports complex where the need to grow grass is no longer an issue.

After a long year of renovations and construction, the Cooper Field Sports Complex had its grand opening Monday night with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by the first games of the men's flag football season.

"I think [the ceremony] was terrific," said Craig Basel, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation installation program director. "We had people that came down to watch it and also watch the football games."

The different areas that make up the sports complex include a combined football and soccer field, a combined softball and baseball field and another full-size softball field.

"This complex is really only going to be used for games, not so much for practicing," said Basel.

A noticeable feature of the sports complex is the artificial turf found in all areas. Not only will the turf be easy to maintain and repair, it will enable the fields



**Spectators and athletes are now able to purchase refreshments at the concession area of the new Cooper Field Sports Complex that opened Monday.**

to stay in playable condition despite the weather.

"[The turf has] got a great draining system," said Basel. "Even if we were to get a torrential downpour, we could come back and play in about 20 minutes because the field would be ready for play."

Another enjoyable aspect of the complex is that players and spectators can purchase food and beverages sold at the concession area.

"It has got hot dogs, popcorn, soda and beer, those kinds of things that people like to have at a sporting event," said Basel.

The second phase of the sports complex project includes construction

of a six-lane running track around the entire circumference of the football field. Fencing will also be installed to avoid stray balls from being lost in the sewers along Sherman Avenue. The second phase has already begun and should be completed by mid-January.

From this point on, all softball, football, soccer and other MWR activities will be held at Cooper Field where NAVSTA, Joint Task Force Troopers and all Guantanamo residents can come out and enjoy playing or watching.

"If you haven't played on these fields, you need to join a team and come out and enjoy yourself," said Basel. ☆

# Aims low, hits mark

**Army Pfc. Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Films often take themselves too seriously and don't aim for their audience's desires. For instance, "Transformers" was two hours of giant robot-cars being overshadowed by a puny human child. "Death Race," however, flaunts its testosterone-filled action with 1.5 hours of high-powered, gun-blazing, B-movie carnage.

Paul W.S. Anderson, of "Resident Evil" fame, wrote and directed the car-fighting movie set in the year 2012. It stars Jason Statham – who by now must be made of only muscle and beard stubble – as Jensen Ames, a man framed for his wife's murder. He is sent to an island prison run by a private company that has prisoners compete in a weapons-filled race, in which they could



ultimately win their freedom. The races are called Death Race, are pay-per-view events with more than 40 million viewers worldwide, with the prisoners' mortality as the main attraction.

Jensen soon meets the prison's warden, Hennessey (Joan Allen), who offers him the mantle of a recently killed Death Race star: Frankenstein. "Frank," as he was affectionately called, wore a leather jumpsuit and mask, so Hennessey says Jensen just needs to win a few races as Frank to help her ratings and win his own freedom.

Soon after getting involved with the (literally) cut-throat games, Jensen realizes who killed his wife and why he was framed. It's a dark and simple revenge story, but it fits the tone of the film.

The wreck-filled action of the three stages of the Death Race takes up the majority of the film. Frankenstein's car is a steel-plated Ford Mustang with two repeating guns on the hood, oil slick drops,

smoke screens and deployable napalm. All get their good use in the movie with tricky driving and high-speed firing.

"Death Race" is all about the car fights, and the scenes between the races just fill space. No one is a notably great actor here, and Jensen's rivals love to go out of their way to cause problems for him and his team. The shaking of the hand-held camera gets old quick, and some scenes without flying bullets or fists do drag on, but there isn't much holding back this movie for what it is.

B-movies rarely get the respect they deserve, but like a mother with an ugly child, their audience will always love them. Just remember it's called "Death Race." If you expect Scorsese-level filmic art here, you deserve to be disappointed. ☆

**R**  
**1 hours, 29 minutes**

**Rating:** ★★☆☆☆



Two Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers try fencing, Nov. 1, during the fencing demonstration.—JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard



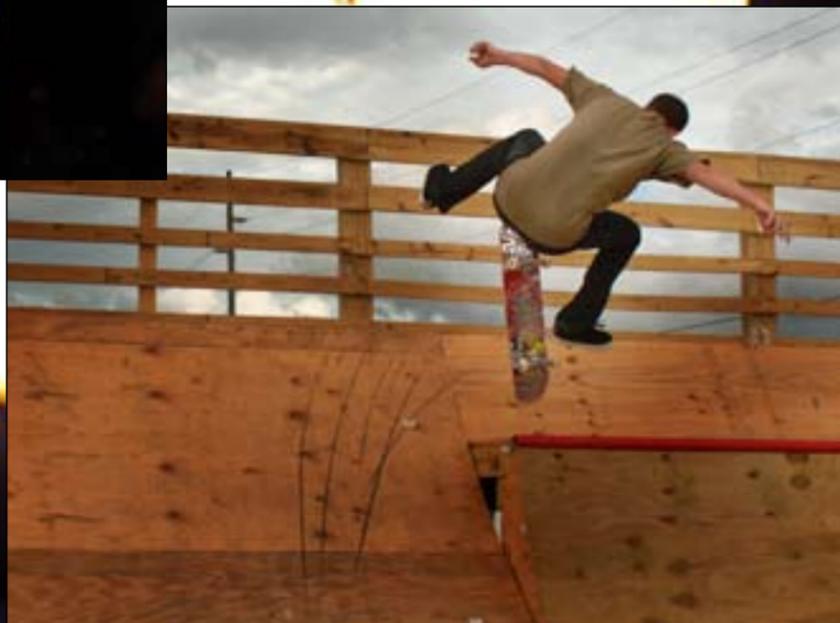
# Customer Appreciation Weekend



Popular country singer John Michael Montgomery plays to a crowd of Troopers and residents of Guantanamo Bay.—JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Russell



Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Zach Harris checks the settings on his video camera as he sets up a shot to record runners completing the Navy Exchange Customer Appreciation 5K run.—JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell



Professional skateboarder Josh Border “kick-flips” off the ramp during the skateboard demonstration.—JTF Guantanamo photos by Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Robert Clowney



# Veterans Day

## Our past, our present

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Veterans Day: a day to remember those who fought and made the ultimate sacrifice, as well as to honor all service members, past and present, who served or continue to serve honorably, whether at war or in peace.

The day brings to mind community parades, patriotic music and a chance to reflect upon the time one has served in the military. It's a day that invokes words of thanks, often from complete strangers who just want to express their gratitude for your service to this great country.

But what is the history behind Veterans Day? What is the significance of celebrating it on November 11, particularly at 11:11 a.m.?

Originally known as Armistice Day –

the day when fighting temporarily ceased between Allied nations and Germany during World War I – the day was intended to recognize the time and date of the end of hostilities between the nations. The armistice went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

While President Woodrow Wilson commemorated Armistice Day one year later with words of gratitude and pride toward those who died in service, it wasn't until 1938 that it became a federal holiday intended to honor veterans of World War I.

In 1954, veterans service organizations urged Congress to amend the act by changing the name from Armistice Day to Veterans Day, as recognition to all American veterans who served in conflicts. It became a day to honor veterans from all wars.

Over the years, Veterans Day has seen its share of revisions affecting the date of observance. In 1968, it was signed under

the Uniform Holiday Bill – along with Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day and Columbus Day – intended to be celebrated on a Monday to ensure three-day weekends for federal employees in an attempt to stimulate the economy. However, the spirit of patriotism overshadowed that attempt and many states continued to celebrate the holiday on its original date. The desire to observe Veterans Day on November 11 was too great and the day was restored to promote the historical and patriotic significance.

Veterans Day continues to be a widely celebrated holiday gaining more importance and significance as the Global War on Terror continues.

Here, Troopers can look forward to Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities – honoring everyone who serves – as a way to unwind, enjoy some time to relax and accept the thanks we deserve for a job well done. ★



# Rockin' the blues in Gitmo

**Tommy Stanley, a Navy Seaman of the USS Kitty Hawk, performs four original songs during the last concert of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual NEX/MWR Customer Appreciation Weekend at the Navy Exchange, Nov. 2.**

## **Army Spc. Megan Burnham**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The opportunity for a Trooper to both serve in the military and fulfill their life's dream is one that is hard to come by. Additionally, it is a task that requires excess time to an already busy schedule, and absolute dedication to achieving success.

For Seaman Tommy Stanley, an engineer on the USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63), the opportunity to become a serious musician began in February 2008 when he auditioned for the reality television program *Nashville Star*. The concept of this talent show is similar to *American Idol*; however, the performers are limited to country-style music.

The competition was intense against 45,000 other contestants, but in the end, Stanley made it to the finals. Stanley was later voted off in July but placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the top 12 finalists.

It was during the auditions that Stanley

met Bill Marks, athletic footwear buyer for the Navy Exchange and U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay resident. After Marks witnessed Stanley's talent, he invited Stanley to perform in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual NEX and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Customer Appreciation Weekend.

"Anytime we can tie in someone from the Navy or military, we do it," said Marks. "He plays as well as he sings and the type of music he played was something that everyone would enjoy."

After Stanley was voted off *Nashville Star*, he was placed on a temporary duty assignment to the Navy Office of Community Outreach in Millington, Tenn. There, he performed in many concerts with the Navy Band Mid-South and the U.S. Fleet Forces Band.

During the NEX/MWR Customer Appreciation Weekend, Oct. 31– Nov. 2, Guantanamo residents were given three opportunities to watch Stanley perform on his guitar and sing his original music.

"It's an alternative type of music,"

said Stanley. "I wanted it to be that style someone is trying to look for, that mix between rock and blues."

Stanley's guitar-playing talent is derived from playing the past 12 years and singing since he was six years old. The constant feedback and support from his parents kept him motivated to improve as well as help him in his song writing.

"I want to write about love and life," said Stanley. "I received inspiration while underway, watching friends and family and seeing the interaction of love."

Stanley's time as a Navy engineer is coming to an end. He auditioned for the Navy Music Program in September and was accepted. He will be decommissioning from the USS Kitty Hawk in early 2009 and begin Navy musician training at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va.

Currently, Stanley's album, *A Sad Story EP*, is available on iTunes with another album being recorded and other music previews offered on his MySpace page, [tommystanleymusic.com](http://tommystanleymusic.com). ★



## **Dinner Impossible**

**Chef Robert Irvine, star of the Food Network's "Dinner: Impossible," prepares dinner for approximately 400 service members from U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Nov. 1, 2008. Irvine visited Guantanamo Bay as part of the Navy Exchange Customer Appreciation Weekend. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard**

# **Flu season is almost upon us!**

Symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headache, muscle aches and extreme fatigue.

There are several ways to reduce your risk of getting the flu:

- 1) Get your vaccination!**
- 2) Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze!**
- 3) Practice good hygiene & hand washing!**
- 4) If you feel sick, STAY AT HOME, if possible!**

For more information, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/flu> or call Preventive Medicine at 7-2990 for further information.



102.1 The Mix  
 Joint Task Force's News and Rock radio  
**AFTERNOON OVERDRIVE**  
 Monday through Friday afternoons  
 1700 until 1800

## Boots on the Ground

by Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Jayme Pastoric

If you had a time machine in the form of a DeLorean, [The car from the movie, "Back to the Future"] where would you go?

Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Class Hilario Lopez

Army Chaplain Capt.  
 Eric Bey

Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Class Courtney Pickens

Navy Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Class Robert Craven



"I would go watch Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech."



"I'd travel back 10 minutes and walk out of my office so I wouldn't have to answer this question.."



"Go to the future and get the winning lottery numbers."



"Go back and convince Brett Favre to stay with the Green Bay Packers!"

# The follow-through in life

**Army Capt.  
Scott C. Brill**

JTF Deputy command chaplain

Throughout college in the 90s I was a huge Utah Jazz fan. Of course, the toughest part about being a Jazz fan back in those days was the Chicago Bulls. Who can forget the buzzer-beater in Game 1 of the 1997 NBA Finals? It was a magic moment for Bulls' fans, and a crushing blow to the rest of us.

It went like this: "Jordan got the ball, time was running down and he hit a great shot with my hand in his face," said Russell. "He did what Michael Jordan is known for -- backbreakers. I kept him in front of me, he didn't get past me. He took a jump shot while I had a hand in his face."

Hand in his face? And the shot still went in -- wow.

Follow-through my friends. It was follow through that Jordan is famous for, and it is follow-through that determines our mark on this historic mission and our life.

Navy Cmdr. Rob Martin shared with me this great observation:

*"Follow-through is a critical part of every sport. Small errors in the follow through will ruin an otherwise good shot in basketball."*

*A golf swing can be ruined by follow through mistakes. I've heard a football coach screaming, "Finish the play!" to make a point of how important it is to play hard until the whistle is blown.*

*So many things in life are the same way because people often remember your follow through. I make a point of this concept in my medical practice. A doctor can do a great job gathering a history, doing a thorough, accurate exam and documenting well, but what really matters to the patients is that they are comfortable with the diagnosis and treatment plan. On the way out of the clinic, the patient should know exactly where to go and how to get there.*

*This follow through idea is important in any job. Whether you are finishing a six-month deployment, a three-year tour or finish a career, people will remember you by how you finish."*

Other than Michael Jordan, who can you think of that exemplifies finishing strong? For me, it is the "author and finisher" of my faith. Without his follow-through on the cross, there would be no "good news of the Gospel."

While serving a church mission in Germany, I remember wanting to give up and go home on many occasions. One

evening I read a story of several families who were driven from their homes by an angry mob in the dead of winter. Women and children were forced to cross the frozen Mississippi River. Many died from the harsh cold and disease as they made their way west. What impressed me about this group of pioneers, and encouraged me to keep pressing forward, was the fact that they never stopped. They continued to press forward in faith, with the hope that all their toil and labor would bless them and future generations. And it did.

Today, most of us are able to rest in the shade and eat of the fruit of the tree that our ancestors planted with blood, sweat, and tears. Their sacrifice and follow-through provide us so many rich blessing, that we often take for granted. Now it is our turn to do our duty, to do our best, so that those Troopers who follow in our footsteps will be blessed by the fruits of our labor.

Remember the words of Paul to Timothy, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7) Paul was able to follow-through because of who he followed.

It is not always easy, but by following God and the military values it is a sure way to make the game-winning shots of life, no matter whose hand is in your face. ★

## JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

### **Catholic Mass**

**Sunday:** 7 a.m. Confession  
7:30 Mass

**Wednesday:** 11 a.m. Mass

### **Protestant Worship**

**Sunday:** 9 a.m.

**Spanish Protestant Worship**

**Sunday:** Noon

# Confidence fuels success

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Members of the National Guard or Reserve forces often face challenges when it comes to deployment. The transition from full-time civilian to full-time service member brings an individual from their day-to-day job in a particular skill set and drops them into their military occupation with the expectation they will perform well.

Air Force Senior Airman Albert Leyvas, a liquid fuels apprentice with the 474<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, and member of the North Carolina Air National Guard, rose to the challenge when he came to Guantanamo Bay on his first overseas deployment.

"I'm a mail carrier for the city of Charlotte, [N.C.]," said Leyvas. "I've been in the [Air National Guard] for two years."

Air Force Master Sgt. James Butts, who oversees the liquid fuels section, explained that in only two weeks, Leyvas demonstrated the ability to learn and understand the importance of the mission here.

"His enthusiasm has enabled me to take second chair to our fueling operations," said Butts. "Within two weeks of his arrival he could accurately control the dispersion of [more than \$200,000] worth of fuel per month to equipment valued at approximately \$2.4 million."

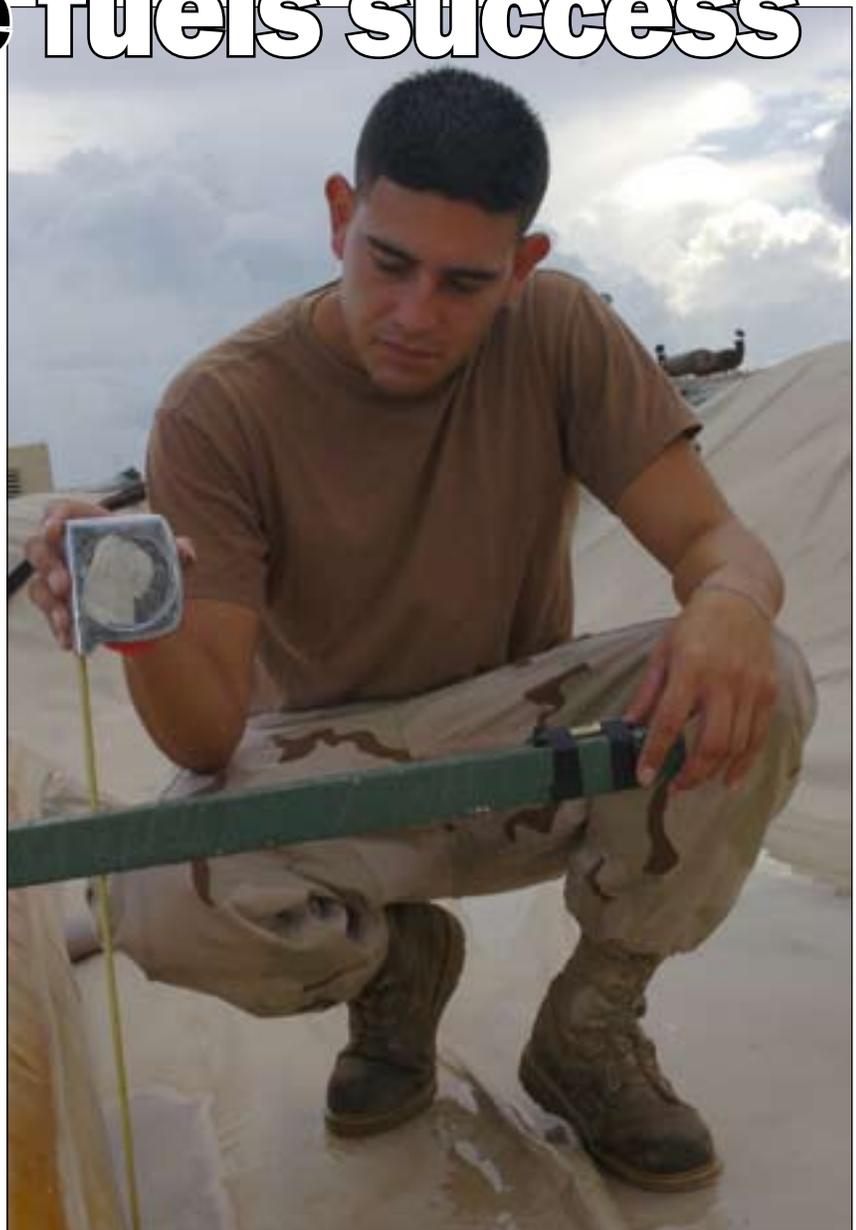
"I was confident in my abilities to hold the shop up on my own, and also raise the standard," said Leyvas.

Daily, Leyvas picks up and delivers approximately 2,000 gallons of fuel to maintain the functional levels of the fuel bladders, as well as maintaining several 55-gallon drums that support the boilers keeping the latrines and showers functional.

"I perform daily inspections on valves, fuel hoses and the fuel bladders to make sure there are no leaks," said Leyvas. "I don't feel like I'm doing anything different; I'm just doing a job."

During commissions, it's Leyvas who ensures power to the guard shacks and court rooms.

"He has taken the initiative to plan and schedule fueling to the assets supporting the commissions," said Butts. "Those field assets provide the necessary means of maintaining comfortable environments for the guards,



**Air Force Senior Airman Albert Leyvas checks fuel levels on a bladder at Camp Justice and calculates the amount of fuel needed to ensure the bladder is kept at an operational level.**

**Leyvas, a liquid fuels apprentice with the 474<sup>th</sup> ECES, inspects the valves and connection of a fuel system prior to operation. Leyvas provides fuel support for the Joint Task Force by ensuring a continuous power supply to the Expeditionary Legal Complex, as well as the supporting assets.**



and more importantly, to ensure continued power to the courts in the event of a power failure."

In addition to managing fuels and tending to the duties of his own job, Leyvas makes an effort to volunteer for additional projects regularly.

"New projects at the Expeditionary Legal Complex require manpower that is not always available," explained Butts. "Leyvas is one of the first to volunteer his time."

"If I have time on my hands, I don't want to sit around," said Leyvas. "I'm a firm believer in working for what you have."

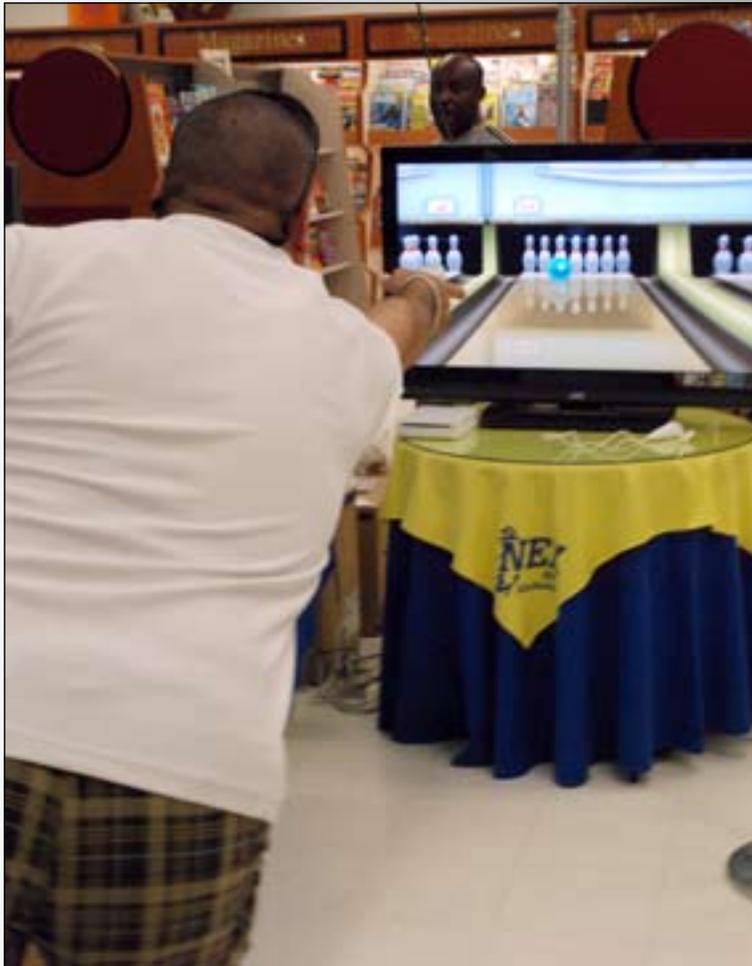
"[Being here] gives me a chance to support our country and the global war on terror," Leyvas continued. "I'm proud to be part of it. Every little bit counts and I'm just here trying to do my part. It's my way of giving back to the country I love." ☆

The winning runners from the 5-kilometer run, Nov. 1, for the Navy Exchange Appreciation Weekend pose with their newly received trophies. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell



# Around the JTF

Bruno Andujar stretches for a throw during a Nintendo "Wii Bowling" video game contest sponsored by Dell during the Navy Exchange Customer Appreciation Weekend, Oct. 31. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Eric Liesse



Navy Seaman Stephan Blanz practices standing on his surfboard while riding the waves during the surf camp held at Windmill Beach. Instructor and pro-surfer Skeeter Zimmerman (left) observes. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Megan Burnham