

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Flag Football

Your chance to be drafted

PSU Reload

New faces protecting the waters

No more Captain's Mast

**Navy Senior Chief
Gerald Rainford**

Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion

Although Captain's Mast (Article 15) is an effective deterrent to misconduct, I have never met a person who enjoyed being part of the process, whether it was the commanding officer conducting the proceedings or the person suspected of committing the violation. With that said, there seems to be some common ground here – no one wants Mast to occur.

So what do we do to eliminate the need for this unpopular process? The only way to eliminate the necessity for Mast is to eliminate the reason for Mast: misconduct. I know it is a "perfect world" scenario to totally eliminate it, but to reduce misconduct would allow for more time to focus on the command's mission and ensure we retain our privileges.

The following are a few factors we see in incidents referred to Captain's Mast:

1) Alcohol Use – Responsible use is a must. Overindulgence and lack of planning when using alcohol are two ways to guarantee a spot in the next Plan of the Week under non-judicial punishment results. If you choose to drink, do so responsibly and know your service and command policies regarding alcohol use.

2) Knowledge – Know your job and carry out your responsibilities in accordance with current guidelines. The easy way will get you in trouble, the right way (as per policy) will cover you. Do not be afraid to ask questions if a situation does not feel right.

3) Professionalism – It is the way a person acts and presents themselves both on and off duty. Be a positive example for your peers, seniors and subordinates. Assist others when they need help or seem to fall short of the standards.

4) Peer Pressure – A significant threat for our junior members. Proper mentorship and selection of friends can help to eliminate the effects of peer pressure. A true friend would not ask you to do something that would get you in trouble or compromise your integrity.

5) Communication – Lack of communication causes confusion and frustration. Let someone know if you find yourself in need of help. This becomes even more important with the upcoming holiday season. Look out for your fellow troopers. Let the chain of command know of any concerns and do not be the senior man/woman with a secret.

The Article 15 process will remain a viable option for the unit commander to use in maintaining good order and discipline within his or her command, but we as the members of the command are able to determine how often it is used. Let's all put our core values to work and see what we can do to put our respective commanders out of the Article 15 business. ★



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COVER:

Frank Wooten, quarterback of the "Warriors," passes the football to a teammate to gain yardage for the first down despite heavy defenses from opposing team "Young Gunz." - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Megan Burnham



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 weekly circulation of 1000.



(From left) Army Sgt. Arthur Pacheco, Spc. Dominic Dominguez, Lt. Col. Joe Romero, 1st Lt. Sonya Montoya, Navy Lt. Brian Abbott, Staff Sgt. Drew Neal and Spc. William Holder come together as a team to make Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Joint Visitor's Bureau.

Success through teamwork

■ *JTF's JVB escorts care for distinguished visitors with close team effort*

**Army Pfc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Whenever Joint Task Force Guantanamo has visitors come to view operations first hand, there are many scheduling and logistic needs required. Handling these tasks is the mission of the tight-knit, seven-person Joint Visitors Bureau team.

The JVB works with fluid precision as a single unit to accomplish its mission of caring for distinguished visitors while they are guests of the JTF. Although the logistics of their tasks can seem overwhelming – as some guests have told the JVB personnel – the team steps as one to accomplish their massive mission.

"I can't think of anybody on the island whom we don't work with," said Army 1st Lt. Sonya Montoya, the JVB officer who works primarily with nongovernmental organizations.

Whether working with the Naval Station for additional housing needs, or arranging facility use with Morale, Welfare and Recreation, the JVB's mission is all about logistics.

"We work with the visitor from the moment their plane hits the island until the moment they leave," Montoya said.

The JVB is responsible for all the

logistical needs of any DV. They handle the obvious needs: lodging if they stay overnight, transportation between each location, and planning schedules with room for change.

However, JVB personnel also have to keep in mind small things such as food allergies while being able to anticipate problems and scheduling stalls.

"When people take the time to get down here, we pack their schedule with stuff," said Army Lt. Col. Joe Romero, the director of the JVB. "Fifteen minutes can make a difference."

A huge variety of DVs tour through JTF's facilities. Romero has seen "lots and lots and lots of flag officers," the U.S. Attorney General, many Congressmen, among others.

JTF commander Navy Rear Adm. David M. Thomas, Jr. often stresses in his messages that the open transparency of the JTF mission is vital to its success and support back home. The JVB is a critical part of that openness.

"The admiral is very big on transparency. He said anyone can come down here, whether a four-star admiral or a Hollywood celebrity," Romero said.

Montoya often works with NGOs visiting to see the military commissions process and monitor its effectiveness.

Representatives from internationally recognized organizations such as the Human Rights Watch and the American Civil Liberties Union regularly come to watch the proceedings.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is also a regular visitor here, coming quarterly to deal "almost exclusively" with detainee living conditions and environment. The JVB handles many of their needs while they are on island.

JTF has also seen celebrities visiting for the Guantanamo Troopers. Even entertainers' perspectives are important, as they offer a distinct kind of voice.

"[Celebrities] can reach a whole different group of people, and have a whole different kind of credibility," said Navy Lt. Brian Abbott, the JVB officer who deals with MWR guests. "They get the real message of Gitmo; see what really goes on here."

"I've never had anyone come through [the detention camps] and not say 'Whoa, I didn't know they were treated so well,'" added Romero.

So far this year, the JVB has seen approximately 700 guests over 100 visits – not including the steady stream of NGO representatives. For such a small team, the JVB uses its efficiency and close teamwork to accomplish one of the most high-profile missions of the JTF. ★

Coast Guard Port Security Unit 307 leads an escort for the Coast Guard Cutter 'Tampa' through Guantanamo Bay, June 1. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Carlynn M. Knaak



All threats,

All hazards,

Always ready!

■ PSU 307 prepares to return home after completing mission at Guantanamo Bay

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Coast Guard Reserve Port Security Unit 307 will soon say farewell to Guantanamo Bay as they come to the end of their six-month tour.

"It's been a successful mission," said Coast Guard Chief Joseph Tew. "All my guys are coming home. To me, that's primary."

PSU 307's mission is multi-faceted. Perhaps best known for their waterborne operations and patrolling the waters of Guantanamo, they also secure the shores and play a major role in security during the military commission process.

"We've supported approximately 20 military commissions proceedings, including two trials," said Coast Guard Lt. Todd Remusat, assistant operations officer for the 307th.

The 307th provided internal security at the commissions site, working directly with the 525th Military Police Battalion, Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion and Naval Station Masters-at-arms.

"Before we came down here," said Remusat, "90 percent of our force was trained for various scenarios. However, once we got here we learned the 'Army way' of doing things," or how to interact within the practices and policies of the 525.



Members of Coast Guard Port Security Unit 307, part of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, conducted weapons qualification here, August 7, 2008. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joshua Treadwell

Each section of the PSU has played a significant role during the six-month tour, whether supporting communications, waterborne and shoreside operations, or maintaining the equipment necessary to get the job done. "The team effort made it a success," added Remusat.

"Working in a joint atmosphere has been a positive influence on the PSU," said Remusat. "Some [members] never knew what other branches of service do, and it has interested [them] in pursuing opportunities with other branches."

"We're leaving here with a positive attitude and a sense of accomplishment in completing our mission," he continued. "Everyone understands their piece of the

pie and realizes the importance of their role in the overall mission."

"We've built a lot of relationships and alliances within JTF and the naval station, one Viper ride at a time," said Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Chris Fink. "People have a better understanding and appreciation for what the Coast Guard does here, as well as our mission capability and quality of personnel."

As the 307th passes the torch to the incoming PSU 305th, they leave knowing that they have succeeded in their mission.

"We haven't had any incidents, nothing to negatively reflect on our command," said Tew. "The guys have been vigilant and stood a good watch." ♠



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jason Lail, a religious programs specialist deployed here in support of the Joint Detention Group, exchanges old prayer beads for a new ones with a detainee July 29. Lail provides new prayer caps, beads and rugs to replace worn or damaged ones at detainees' request. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson

Religious assistants play supporting role

**Army Sgt. 1st Class
Vaughn R. Larson**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Chaplains may be the headliners, but a unit's religious program is not a one-man show.

Chaplain's assistants and religious program specialists, all enlisted, play an important role in allowing the chaplain to focus on his or her three main missions – counsel, teach and preach, according to Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jason Lail, a religious program specialist for the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion.

"An RP or CA are the eyes for the chaplain," he explained. "I get a sense of the morale. Sometimes it's easier for an enlisted [Trooper] to come up to another enlisted rather than the chaplain."

Army Pfc. Alecia Stevenson, a chaplain's assistant for the 525th Military Police Battalion, agreed.

"I find I can relate," she said. "If you want to sit down and talk, we're always here."

In addition to a friendly ear, assistants can offer Troopers religious literature. If the discussion warrants, Lail said the chaplain can be consulted.

Army Staff Sgt. Dilfred Pascual oversees Lail and Stevenson in their duties.

One of the most important duties for a chaplain's assistant or religious program specialist is to provide security for the chaplains, who do not carry or use weapons. That is more a concern for the battlefield than Guantanamo Bay, but Lail said he



Army Pfc. Alecia Stevenson, a chaplain's assistant for the 525th Military Police Battalion, listens to a Joint Task Force Trooper Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 19.

escorts chaplains through the "pods" inside the detainee camps.

Assistants also help set up the chapel for worship services and other religious offerings.

"I'm not Catholic, but I know how to set up for small mass and extremely large mass," Lail noted. "As a religious practice specialist, you can hold onto your faith, but you have to work with all faiths. You could work for a Jewish chaplain or a Mormon chaplain. You have to know about those faiths."

Lail has another duty – distributing religious items such as prayer caps, prayer beads and prayer rugs to detainees.

"Those items are not necessarily sacred in any way," he explained. "It assists them

with their practice. It's also good for one person to know about why these items are important to [the detainees] – the guards have other duties to be concerned with."

Lail said that he is mindful of his behavior, because his actions reflect on the chaplain section.

Assistants are also involved in morale efforts, such as cookouts for Troopers.

This is the first deployment for both Lail and Stevenson. While not quite what they expected, both said they have grown into their roles here.

"It's a good job," Stevenson said. "It's good to be here for the Soldiers."

"I like what I do – I like it a lot," Lail said. "I'm helping people, maybe indirectly. It really is all about the Troops." ☆

A way for everyone to play



“Lady Pirates” hike the football and rush down the field against the opposing team “Indecisives” towards their goal during the women’s flag football league played at Cooper Field, Nov. 18. The Pirates beat the Indecisives 12 - 0 and remain undefeated in the league.

Army Spc. Megan Burnham

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

There was no better way to begin the men’s and women’s Captain’s Cup flag football league than the inaugural event at the grand opening of Cooper Field Sports Complex, Nov. 3.

From the opening kick-off, football games have commenced every night of the week with the men’s division playing Monday, Wednesday and Friday and the women’s division playing Tuesday and Thursday.

All games begin at 6 p.m. with the men playing three to four games a night and the women playing two games a night. The men’s league includes nine teams and the women’s league consists of four teams.

During any point of the game, only seven players from each team are allowed on the field along with three officials. All players wear a belt with two flags hanging at the sides; a person in possession of the ball is considered tackled and the play is dead whenever a flag is pulled from the player’s body.

Each game is comprised of two 20-minute halves. The first half of the game is played on a running clock where the time counts down without stopping. The second half of the game is on running clock until the last two minutes when the scorekeeper



A player of “Young Gunz” runs the football against the “Warriors” towards their goal during a game of the men’s flag football league, Nov. 17.

changes it to official game clock standards. At this point, time stops whenever there is an incomplete pass or a receiver runs out of bounds.

When a touchdown is made, the team is awarded six points with the option to gain another one, two or three points. The one-point option is a conversion that starts at the three yard line and the two-point option is also a conversion that begins at the 10 yard line and both can be awarded if the team crosses into the end zone. If the three-point option is chosen, the team must succeed in a field goal attempt from the 20 yard line to gain the points.

Here are the current stats for the top two teams of the men’s league: “Young Gunz”

leads with an undefeated record acquiring 152 total points and team “Executioners” with a 4 win-1 loss record and 124 points.

The top two teams in the women’s division are the “Lady Pirates” who are undefeated with 66 points and “Lady DOCs” with a 3 win-1 loss record and 60 points.

The league ends for the women’s division on Dec. 9 with the Captain’s Cup flag football single-elimination tournament beginning Dec. 11. The men’s league will finish Dec. 10 and their tournament will begin Dec. 12.

For any information on upcoming MWR activities, contact sports coordinator Robert Newman at 2113. ★

The dead and how to please them

**Army Pfc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

British star Ricky Gervais has almost perfected playing generally unlikable characters. Whether an incompetent branch manager in the original British TV series “The Office” or a backstabbing, struggling actor in “Extras,” Gervais can play truly spiteful characters that the audience still loves and wants to see succeed. In his new film “Ghost Town,” he successfully takes that mantle again.

Directed and co-written by David Koepf, “Ghost Town” stars Gervais as disgruntled dentist Bertram Pincus, who loathes almost every person he has the misfortune of meeting. He stuffs his patients’ mouths with gauze as quickly as possible to avoid their incessant conversation, closes elevator doors in neighbors’ faces, and even avoids giving personal information even to his doctors. He quickly becomes wholly unlikable.

After Gervais goes in for a colonoscopy and demands general anesthesia, he begins to see and hear people who claim to be ghosts with unfinished business on Earth. In one of the most hilarious scenes, Gervais returns to the hospital where the doctors begrudgingly tell him he died for approximately seven minutes during the operation due to an anesthesia complication. Thankfully for the

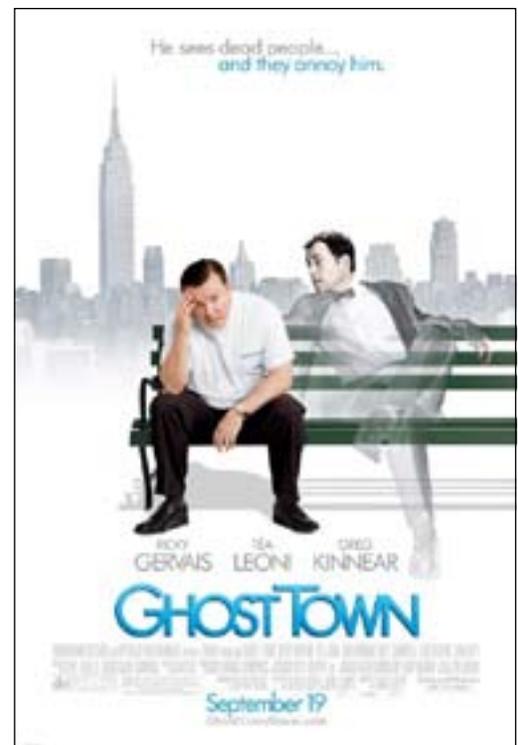
hospital, he signed a waiver!

Since Gervais is already annoyed with the living people he meets, the dead put him over the edge. Ghosts begin to barrage him with requests to settle issues. They follow him, sit in his office waiting room and even crowd around his bed while he sleeps.

One tuxedo-clad ghost in particular, Frank Herlihy (Greg Kinnear), is adamant to get Gervais’ help. Kinnear believes he will be at rest when his widow, Gwen (Téa Leoni), is stopped from marrying her new fiancé – even though Kinnear cheated on her before he died. Luckily for Kinnear, Gervais happens to live just above Leoni. After repeated attempts to avoid him, Gervais finally agrees to help Kinnear so he can be left alone.

The premise of a spiteful dentist helping an adulterous dead man break up his Egyptologist-widow’s new marriage engagement is hilarious by itself. However, the impeccable dialogue timing of Gervais with Kinnear’s trademark slyness puts this comedy over the hilarious edge. Although Leoni is in the kind of role she seems to always play, it seems fresh when put against a socially awkward character such as Bertram Pincus.

Since Gervais is the only one who can see Kinnear, there is a running joke of Gervais yelling at no one and back-tracking in conversations to explain his outburst to



Kinnear. These scenes let Gervais excel with his unique ramblings and pace he has been known for, so those that dislike him in his past work will not suddenly find him pleasing.

Gervais is the only British actor in the film, and it’s not written with that distinct British dry and sarcastic tone, but his comedic stylings are still there. Luckily, Gervais and the rest of the cast play off each other perfectly and truly knock the audience dead. 🍷

PG-13
1 hour, 42 minutes

Rating: ★★★★★☆



Are you ready for some

JTF Guantanamo photos by
SPC Megan Burnham



Pirates vs. Indecisives



Warriors

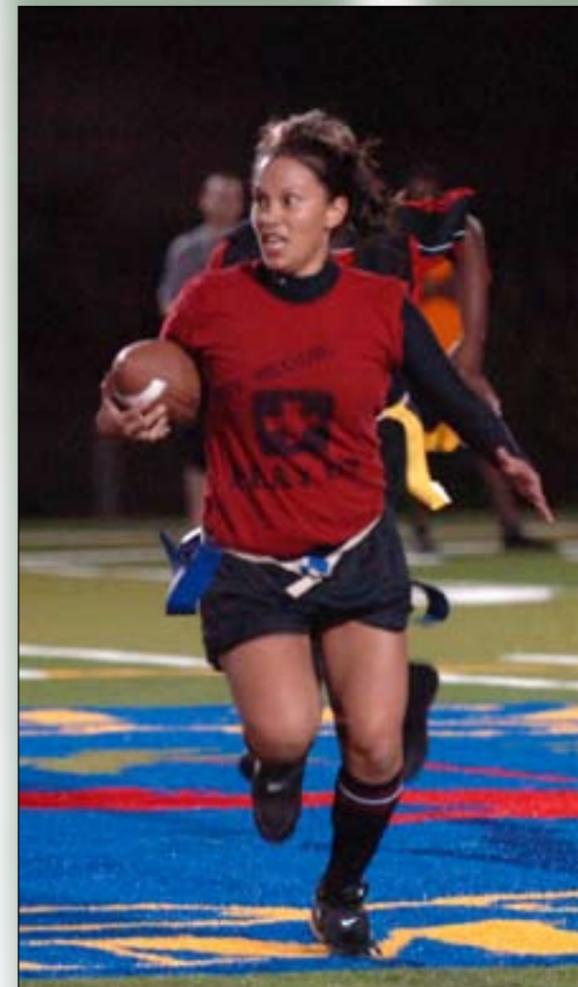


Young Gunz vs. Warriors

(Flag) Football?



Warriors vs. Young Gunz



Lady DOCS



Carolina Cajuns

Radio for you, by you

**Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class
Chris Little**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

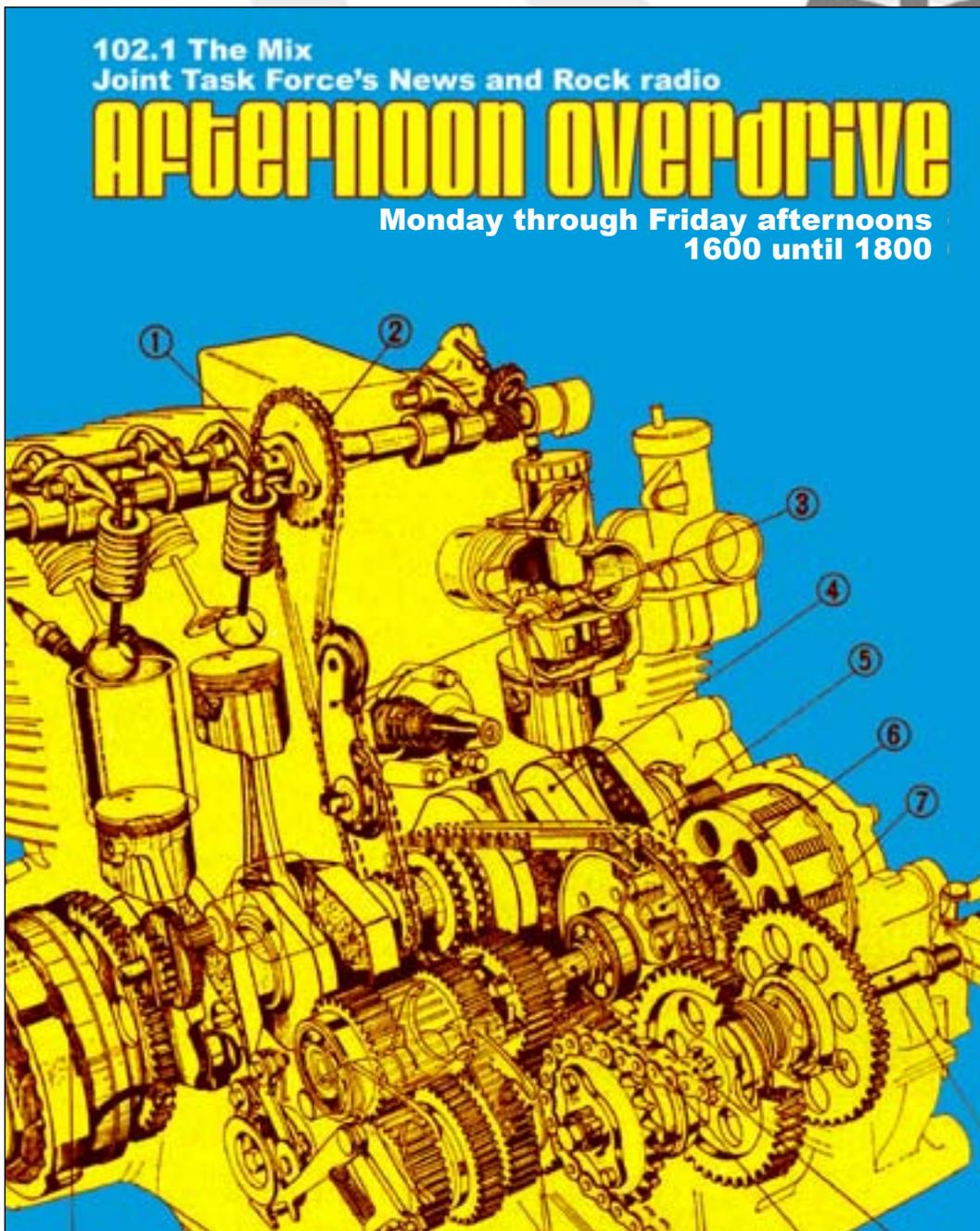
One of the greatest assets to U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay are the three local radio stations: 103.1 the Blitz, 1340 AM and 102.1 the Mix, better known as "Radio GTMO." Both the Blitz and the Mix offer a broad variety of music selections by way of their many different radio shows controlled by local Navy and Army personnel.

One of these shows, the Afternoon Overdrive, hosted by Joint Task Force Public Affairs, airs 4-6 p.m. Monday through Friday afternoons on 102.1 The Mix beginning Nov. 24. The show is made up of a mixture of news and local information in a program of new and classic rock music.

The Afternoon Overdrive first aired earlier this month with the overall intent of providing JTF information to JTF troops. The show has been geared more towards the

events and happenings that affect the JTF troopers the most, such as announcements from the upper chain of command, events that are taking place around the camps, updates on the Commissions trials, reviews of the movies that are being shown at the lyceums, weather updates and general day to day information.

If anyone has any information to broadcast to the JTF troopers or if there are any closet disk jockeys out there that would like to volunteer to be on the show they can contact Sgt Sara Roeske at x3304.



Inspiring through words and actions

**Army Staff Sgt.
Gretel Sharpee**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs



Motivational speaker and solo-yacht racer Neal Petersen speaks to a crowd at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's Windjammer Ballroom, Nov. 16. Petersen, who has completed both around-the-world and trans-Atlantic solo yacht races, visited Guantanamo Bay to speak to Naval Station and Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Sarah Stannard

In a darkened room with machine-made fog swirling around the floor, a young, overwhelmed-looking Neal Petersen is shown on the video screen giving thanks during a news broadcast on his completion of the 1998 solo Around the World yacht race.

Currently known as "Around Alone," the race challenges yachts, 40 feet or longer, to cruise around the world on some of the ocean's most treacherous passes, manned only by one.

"Solo sailing is the ultimate test," said Neal Petersen. "You own all of your mistakes and a few of your successes - you are all alone."

If sailing alone wasn't accomplishment enough, Petersen's story of how he came into sailing is what has brought him into the world of motivational speaking.

Growing up in segregated Cape Town, South Africa, Petersen was laughed at for even dreaming of sailing. The only yacht club in the city was the Royal Yacht Club, where at that time, black South Africans could only hope of washing the dishes and cleaning the docks where wealthy, white South Africans yacht-owners kept their vessels.

Not taking no for an answer, ever, Petersen worked his way from laborer work at the dock to a multiple trans-Atlantic solo-sailor, and of course a finisher of the "Around Alone" race.

"When I first started in sailing no one wanted me - all I had to bring to the table was passion, not much more than that," said Petersen, who when starting out, even went as far as designing and building his own boat that the local media promptly nicknamed "the floating coffin."

The message to Petersen's success is, "It is not about what you have, it's about what you can accomplish and the courage you have." With that message he and his wife have spoken around the world, encouraging adults and children to follow their dreams and never take no for an answer.

Sitting in the audience of one of his speeches in South Carolina was Tony Hicks, a high school social studies teacher now working in Guantanamo Bay.

"He inspired me," said Hicks, who had always wanted to travel and sought out working for the Department of Defense schools after hearing his story.

After talking to her students about Christopher Columbus and sailing, Hicks thought she would look up Petersen and see if he could make a stop. By working with the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program director here, Petersen made the trip here to tell his inspiring story to the students and residents of Guantanamo Bay.

"I believe in role models and dreams," Hicks said when asked what kind of effect she hoped Petersen would have on the students. "They sat through his entire one-hour speech, entertained - and that is saying something." ☆



Building bridges

A Sailor from the Naval Mobile Construction 4th Battalion helps erect a tent over the construction site of a bridge to span the Guantanamo River. The “SeaBees” are building the bridge for the Joint Task Force. The tent will allow work to continue during inclement weather. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Thompson

Motorcycle Safety

In FY08, 33 Sailors perished in motorcycle incidents alone. That is more than the number of Sailors we lost in OIF and OEF combined this year.

Military personnel must meet all applicable licensing, registration, insurance, and training requirements before street riding.

All military personnel must wear PPE while riding a motorcycle.

Reckless or unsafe operation of motor vehicles not only jeopardizes life and limb, but also Navy careers and the benefits that military personnel or their families may depend on in the event of injury or death.

Additional information and resources are available at www.safetycenter.navy.mil/ashore/motorvehicle/motorcycle



A cut above

Air Force Master Sgt. Stephen Hammond, structures non-commissioned officer in charge of the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, cuts pieces of wood for a custom-made brace needed to support a housing deck here, Nov. 13. The 474th ECES supports the Joint Task Force Guantanamo by maintaining the Expeditionary Legal Complex and Camp Justice facilities and infrastructure. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson

Boots on the Ground

by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jayme Pastoric

What is your favorite holiday dessert?

**Navy Petty Officer
1st Class Quitasha
Simmons**



"Candied Yams with marshmallow."

**Navy Petty Officer 1st
Class Marc Ryan**



"My mom's invention, it's called a cherry mess."

**Air Force Maj. Curtis
Hudson**



"Sweet potato pie."

**Air Force Lt. Col. Stanley
Rogers**



"German Chocolate cake!"

Patience in the process

**Army Capt.
Eric Bey**

Chaplain, 525th Military Police Battalion

Have you ever considered the process that jewelry has to go through before it is worthy of someone putting it on? Right out of the ground it has intrinsic value for sure, but it is surely nothing that anyone would like to have fashioned into a piece of jewelry and worn.

The fact is that it is really kind of ugly. It has all sorts of impurities and filth. The craftsman must begin the crucial process of refining it, which of course means fire. Precious metals are subjected to the fire in a series. Each time it is subjected to the fire it burns more impurities out. As this process continues, the metal become more pliable and its value goes up.

It is interesting to note that you must let the metal cure and heal before continuing the refining process. If you were to try to burn out all of the impurities in one session, you would destroy the metal. So with the greatest of patience and always with the good of the metal in mind, you must not rush the process. When the purifying process is complete you have precious metal that everyone would love to possess.

It's that way with diamonds and precious stones, too. No one would want it right out of the ground. It takes the cracking, chipping, firing and buffing process to bring out the stone's beauty and worth for all to see.

The craftsman will use any tool he



wishes to accomplish the task – the goal is the end result. Could you imagine if you were to give the gold, silver, and precious stones emotions and a voice? Do you suppose that they would enjoy the refining process?

In case I didn't portray it correctly, it's not like a comfortable warm cleansing shower, but more like a dipping in battery acid with a steel wool scrub-down followed

by an extensive heart surgery! Does that sound like fun? Want to know where to sign up?

When God first finds us, or more appropriately, when we finally hear and respond to His call, we are like gold, silver or precious stones right out of the ground. We have intrinsic value but we are filled with filth and sin. He lovingly begins the refining process that is called sanctification – the separating of us from the world.

If you are familiar with Biblical history you will be able to recall how it took God a very short time to take the Hebrews out of Egypt but it took him decades to get Egypt out of the Hebrews.

Well, it's kind of like that. We are talking about the process of sanctification.

I say process because, like metals and stones, we have our limits. If God were to make all the changes in us all at once, we would not be able to bear it. So in His infinite patience He begins the work of refining us. We don't get to choose which tools, trials and tribulations he uses to work things out of our character.

One thing we can be assured of is that He loves us just as we are, but He also loves us too much to leave us that way. He is transforming us into the image of Christ. He has promised that He will never give you anything that you can't handle and that He works all things together for the good of those who choose Him. So don't lose heart. Don't grow weary in well-doing. Never give up. Remember to have patience in the process. ☆

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



Mission: maintaining the morale

Army Sgt. Brandin Schumann, Joint Task Force/Morale Welfare and Recreation representative, hands out a pocket-sized Liberty Trips & Tours schedule for November through December to Troopers at the Seaside Galley during lunch.

**Army Spc.
Megan Burnham**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The opportunity for advancement can be obtained in many different situations and found in unexpected places. By expressing specific interests and ideas on how to improve the Joint Task Force Morale Welfare and Recreation program, Army Sgt. Brandin Schumann found his opportunity.

Schumann advanced from being the Command Master Chief's driver to the JTF MWR representative for Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the JTF Guantanamo staff.

"I'm the type of person that likes to stay active and I like to be out doing stuff," said Schumann, a member of the New Mexico Army National Guard. "This is a good chance and opportunity to get out and network while meeting more people."

When Schumann arrived to Guantanamo Bay in January, he was given the job as Navy Command Master Chief Bradley LeVault's

driver. It was after the current MWR representative had left, and no replacement had arrived, that Schumann was provided this new opportunity.

"I would say what I wanted to do and how I would do things to the master chief," said Schumann. "Then one day he offered me the position and I took it."

Since then he has been busy advertising MWR events, putting up movie posters, and working as the liaison between the MWR and the military.

"If anyone has MWR issues or ideas, they come through me and I make the required contacts and try to get the things done with the people that need to be talked to," Schumann said.

Schumann's job also entails coming up with creative ways of advertising and getting the information out to Troopers that don't typically have access to the Intranet or the Roller.

"I like to see people getting involved, and it's cool seeing Troopers getting to do what

they want while I take care of any issues they have and implement their good ideas to MWR," Schumann said. "It's rewarding to be able to help people out when they can't typically do it and that's rewarding right there."

Along with staying busy as the JTF/MWR representative, Schumann also holds the position as the equal opportunity leader for the HHC. As the EOL, Schumann implements the EO policy through training as the subject matter expert and takes care of any issues or concerns that arise in the unit.

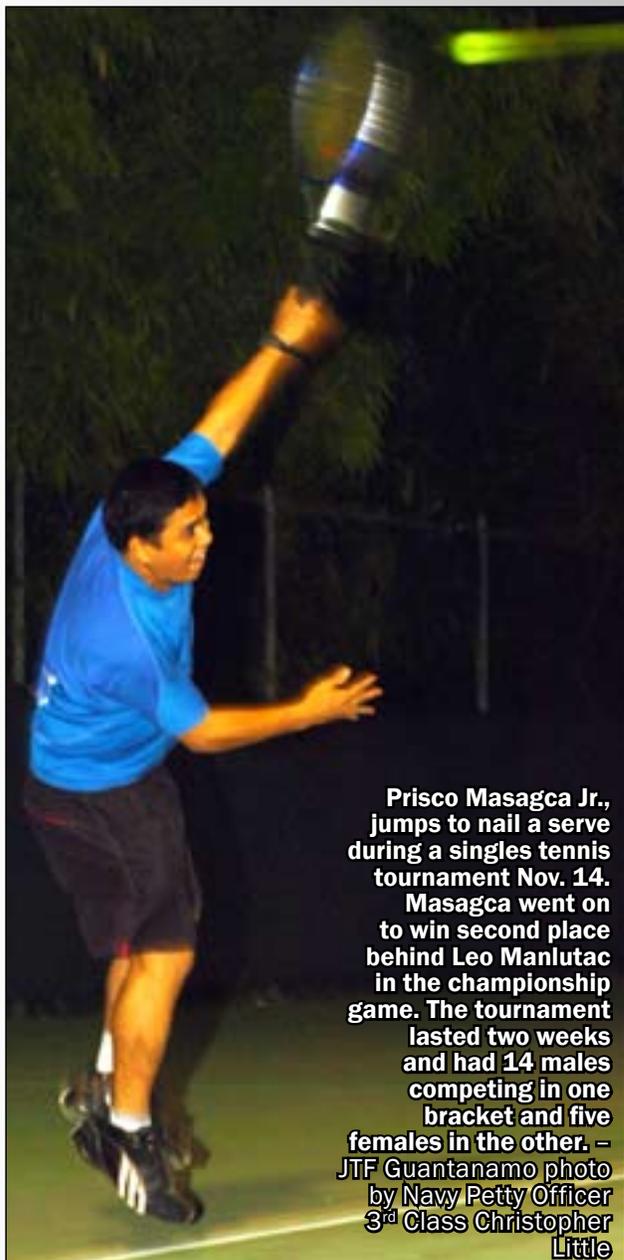
Schumann's opportunity to work with MWR and Troopers is winding down as the New Mexico National Guard soon completes their year-long mission.

"Overall, it's been a really good experience and I've met a lot of good people," said Schumann. "I think the joint environment is awesome, it's cool to see how the how the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard operate. It's cool to see how we are all working together." 🌟

Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class John Ebert, a machinery technician with the 307th Port Security Unit, performs a 500-hour maintenance inspection on an outboard engine for a Viper boat. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell



Around the JTF



Prisco Masagca Jr., jumps to nail a serve during a singles tennis tournament Nov. 14. Masagca went on to win second place behind Leo Manlutac in the championship game. The tournament lasted two weeks and had 14 males competing in one bracket and five females in the other. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Little



Air Force Staff Sgt. Chris Johnson, a heating, ventilation and air conditioning sergeant inspects a brace he secured to the underside of a housing deck. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson