

THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Seeing Stars
Coast Guard hosts admirals

Job Shadowing
West Point Cadets visit JTF

The changing role of the National Guard

**Air Force Senior Master Sgt.
Stan Walker**
Project Manager, 474 ECES

Following its key role in securing our liberty during the Revolutionary War, the National Guard was validated in the Constitution by our nation's founders. It read as follows: "The congress shall have right to call on the National Guard to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions." There have been varieties of statutes that have been enacted over the years to better define the Guard's role in our nation's affairs.

From the early colonial years up to the 20th century, the role of the Guard was confined within the nation's borders. During this time Guard soldiers contributed greatly to our nation's victories in both World Wars. The Guard remained the primary reserve of the Army in the years following the Second World War with their participation in Korea and Vietnam. In the 1980s, the Guard began deploying to Germany and Central America for training. In the 1990s following the Gulf War, Guard deployments were no longer restricted to training, but included locations such as Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq's borders.

Today, the National Guard has a dual role when it comes to support. The first mission falls under state government where the governor is the commander-in-chief. While serving on state duty a Guardsman comes under U.S.C. Title 32. Title 32 allows the governor, with the approval of the president or the secretary of defense, to order a member to duty to respond to natural or man-made disasters and homeland defense missions. U.S.C. Title 10 is the federal mission. Title 10 allows the president to order the National Guard to active duty in their reserve component status for federal service. National Guardsmen serving here in Guantanamo Bay are in Title 10 active duty status.

Traditionally members of the Guard trained one weekend a month and spent two weeks in the summer training at a military base. They might be called up for storm duty or other state emergencies, but seldom would they be called away for months at a time. For many years the National Guard was called a strategic reserve (back-up for regular branches). Now with the regular branches of services being smaller, there is greater reliance on the Guard.

After Sept. 11, the concept of the Guard being deployed as a force has changed. More than 248,000 Guardsmen have been mobilized under Title 10 authority and more than 337,000 under Title 10 or Title 32. As of April 2006, there have been as many as 139,000 Guardsmen serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and 37,000 in Operation Enduring Freedom.

As a proud member of the North Carolina Air National Guard for the past 37 years, I have experienced first-hand the changing roles of the National Guard. I know you can no longer say that a Guardsman is just "a weekend warrior." We are well trained in our career fields and bring valuable experience to the field. We, as well as our families, are making great sacrifices every day for our country serving in harms way right beside our brothers and sisters of the regular branches of service. We are proud to be Americans in today's National Guard. ✪



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COVER:

Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Maust is promoted to his new rank during a ceremony that took place at Bulkeley Hall auditorium. Maust was one of nine Port Security Unit 305 members pinned with their new rank by Cmdr. Steven H. Pope and Rear Adm. Sally Brice-O'Hara. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell



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.



'All hands' salute Good Shipmates

Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Dave Love receives a "Good Shipmate" coin from Coast Guard Vice Adm. Robert J. Papp, Jr. during an all-hands meeting Jan. 7. - JTF Guantanamo photos by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Richard M. Wolff

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Coast Guard Vice Adm. Robert J. Papp, Jr., Atlantic Area and Defense Force East Commander, visited Guantanamo Bay to examine area operations and meet with members of Coast Guard Port Security Unit 305.

"Getting a chance to get out and meet with my shipmates is probably the most important thing," Papp said. "When I come out, I like to get feedback from you because

that helps to inform me and help me do my job better."

Papp's responsibility includes five Coast Guard districts stretching across 14 million square miles, with more than 51,000 military and civilian employees and auxiliaries.

"All hands meetings are important because they give me a chance to speak from my heart and let you know what is on my mind," Papp explained to the group of Coast Guardsmen from PSU 305 and the Aviation Detachment.

Papp encouraged his audience to ask

him questions because "as a leader, finding out what's on their minds is very valuable.

"Take a leap of faith that what you tell me has value," Papp said.

While here, Papp presented the "Good Shipmate" award to Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian Love and Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Pam Smith.

"What I look for in a Shipmate is a person who does their job well," Papp said. "Not only do they do their job well, they also take the time to lead others, teach them and go out and do things above and beyond [their job]."

Papp illustrated his definition of a good shipmate with words of praise for Love and Smith.

"Not only does [Love] do his job well," Papp said, "he takes time to train others [and] supported the Wounded Warriors."

Papp complimented Smith, a facilities engineer, on her work to make the facility safe as well as her work as an "ace outboard mechanic who takes the time to teach junior mechanics."

"I'm very pleased to get the award," Smith said. "It's all because of the people that work for me and above me."

"If it wasn't for the unit, said Love, "we wouldn't be getting the awards. Our shipmates are the ones who make us look good enough to receive something like this."

In addition to the Good Shipmate award, Boat Coxswain certifications were awarded to Coast Guard Petty Officers 3rd Class Donald DeGorgis, Kyle Viele, Sean Griffin and Brad Hanna. ☆



Vice Adm. Papp visited Port Security Unit 305, thanking them for their hard work and recognizing "all members for a job well done."



Global mission local focus

Newly promoted members of Coast Guard Port Security Unit 305, with Cmdr. Steven H. Pope and Rear Adm. Sally Brice-O'Hara, gather after the promotion ceremony outside Bulkeley Hall, Jan. 9. – JTF Guantanamo photos by Army Pfc. Carlynn M. Knaak

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

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Coast Guard Rear Adm. Sally Brice-O'Hara, deputy commandant of operations, visited Guantanamo Bay to gain an overview of migrant operations and visit with Coast Guardsmen.

Brice-O'Hara oversees policy, resources and international programs for the Coast Guard. She works at a strategic level, spending most of her day with other components of the Department of Homeland Security as well as the departments of State and Defense.

"It's a very external focus understanding what the national policies demand in terms of what the Coast Guard brings to the table," Brice-O'Hara said, "whether it's our unique law enforcement authorities, competencies of our people, capabilities of our equipment or the partnerships we're able to pull together."

Brice-O'Hara's trip began in the Coast Guard's seventh district with an overview of migrant operations and counter-drug operations in Florida, Guantanamo Bay, Ecuador, El Salvador, Columbia and Panama. She met with mission counterparts to gather information to help refine policies and resources to support their missions.

Brice-O'Hara addressed members of Port Security Unit 305, Joint Task Force Guantanamo's maritime security element, speaking about the Coast Guard's mission globally and expressing her concerns that the Coast Guard has the right tools, policies and resources to enable them to do their job well.

"The Coast Guard's responsibility stretches across the globe, whether improving port security in Um Quasar, doing drug interdiction in the Caribbean or supporting missions in the arctic,"

Brice-O'Hara said. "Are there any gaps or anything we need to be thinking about as we recapitalize resources?"

Brice-O'Hara turned her focus to PSU 305 and their mission here.

"We bring skill sets and competencies on the water as well as security proficiency that has been used on land," she said. "We're part of the team and prepared to support the JTF commander in any regard in which our competencies can be put to use."

"Your professionalism, pride and attention to detail clearly shows me that PSU 305 is a unit that cares," Brice-O'Hara continued. "You are making a difference here. But let me tell you, you're serving the needs of the nation – you are an integral part of the JTF."

After addressing the unit, PSU 305 Cmdr. Steven H. Pope called forward nine

unit members to receive their promotions. Thomas Force, Timothy Hannan, Jason Hooker and David Pantschyschak were each promoted to Petty Officer 2nd Class. Patrick Higgins, Michael Maust, Clinton Paul and Edward Robinson were each promoted to Petty Officer 1st Class and Micah DeYoung was promoted to Lt. junior grade. Pope and Brice-O'Hara pinned each member with their new rank during the ceremony.

"You've stepped forward. You've done your jobs and have made yourself known as competent authorities who are integrated into the team as one," Brice-O'Hara said addressing the entire unit. "I thank you for showing that the Coast Guard is a military organization that can serve the needs not only when it comes to Coast Guard missions but can fold in effectively with our joint team." ☆



Coast Guard Rear Adm. Sally Brice-O'Hara, U.S. Coast Guard Deputy Commandant for Operations, is briefed on the additions to the migrant operations facilities while overlooking the Leeward side of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

'Army, first hand'

■ West Point cadets shadow 525th junior officers

**Army Spc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Four visiting U.S. Military Academy cadets received the opportunity to get a boots-on-ground view of how junior officers operate with Joint Task Force Guantanamo's 525th Military Police Battalion.

"We're here to see just how a platoon leader leads his platoon, and the quality a platoon leader has to lead his platoon," said Army Cadet Melissa Gallini, one of four visiting West Point cadets, said.

Gallini will job shadow a 525th platoon leader to observe how to manage a platoon, as well as learn the basic expectations that noncommissioned officers and junior enlisted have of their leadership.

Gallini, in her 3rd year at West Point, said she came to Guantanamo with three other classmates and will work with 525th junior officers for roughly three weeks. Completing an extended job shadowing such as this is part of each West Point cadet's basic requirements for graduation.

"I think here you get a lot more of a mix of intelligence and military police work," Gallini said of the JTF. She added that she hopes to enter either the intelligence or MP field after graduating from West Point.

"[The cadets] right now are learning the role of the platoon leader, how they interact with the Soldiers, and how they make on-the-spot decisions," said Army 2nd Lt. Shannon Wilson, the 525th's 193rd MP Company executive officer. "Their primary mission here is to shadow a platoon leader, because ... once they graduate, get commissioned and go through all their schooling, more than likely, they'll go into a platoon leader position somewhere." Although Wilson will not be shadowed by any cadets, she is one

of the officers handling the logistics of the cadets' visit.

"I just gave them a chance to explore the island," said Army 2nd Lt. Reginald Moise, a platoon leader with the 525th's 189th MP Co. "I try to give them a little bit more exposure for what the Soldiers do here."

Moise hopes the cadets' visit will "open their eyes" to base services such as Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities. "They have a chance to also have exposure to the other services, and see all the 'sister units' operate."

"A benefit [of the cadets' visit] is they can be here and see for themselves what Guantanamo is like," Moise said, referring to the detention facilities.

"Also, they can see what life is like for the Soldiers who are here [working in the camps]."

"[The cadets are] experiencing Army first-hand," Wilson said. "They're eating and sleeping as the Army. We have them conducting [physical fitness training] with the Soldiers. One thing I stressed when they got here was to get a lot of interaction with the Soldiers; don't be afraid to interact with the Soldiers ... I believe the Soldiers would

appreciate that."

Monday, Jan. 12, however, Gallini was not with any 525th Soldiers. Rather, she went for a spin on the bay with JTF's Coast Guard Port Security Unit 305, which patrols both JTF and Naval Station Guantanamo waters and provides commissions security.

"We tried to get them a variety of different things," Wilson said, "so they could not only know what the Army's like, but see what the Gitmo experience is because we work with the different services."

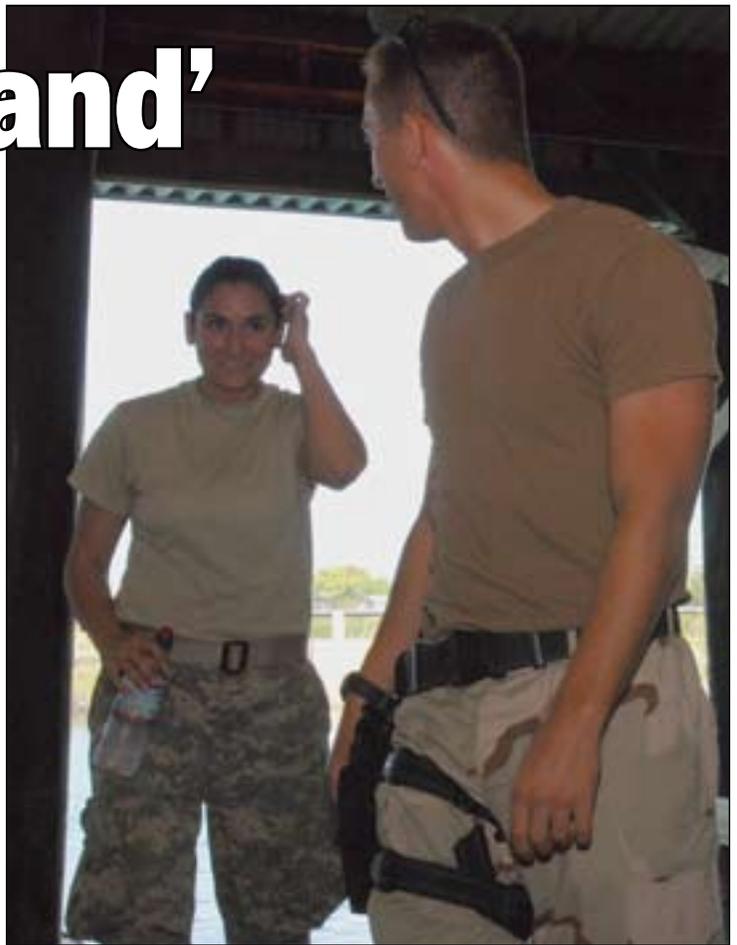
The cadets also met with some senior officers, including Joint Detention Group commander, Army Col. Bruce Vargo.

"That was an eye-opening talk," Gallini said. "He gave us some great advice for down the line, if we stay in and become a career officer."

The cadets even had a chance to meet with the Army's backbone: the NCOs.

"I had fun being with them, because it wasn't all just sitting in an office," Gallini smiled.

"This trip is what a lot of people at West Point would call a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Gallini said. She added she believes this short internship will yield valuable knowledge, as the 525th's junior officers are "very experienced." ★



Army Cadet Melissa Gallini of the U.S. Military Academy departs a Coast Guard Port Security Unit 305 patrol boat Monday, Jan. 13. Along with three other West Point cadets, Gallini was here job shadowing 525th Military Police Battalion junior officers, as well as other units which support Joint Task Force Guantanamo, to receive hands-on training on unit management.



Air Force Master Sgt. Richard Davis, a member of the 'Beef', takes a swing at the ball during the Wed. night softball tournament. - JTF Guantanamo
 Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell



Batter up!

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Chris Little

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The 2009 Morale, Welfare and Recreation open recreation winter softball league officially started with the flip of a coin Monday to determine which team would be the home team.

Opening day consisted of games that pitted the Exhibitionists against the GTMO Latinos, the Untouchables against the Infidels, and NAVSTA against OARDEC.

The six-week season is currently scheduled with games Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. The schedule is set up for three games on Mondays and Wednesdays and four on Fridays. Games will be approximately 60 minutes long, unless extra innings are needed, and will start at 6 p.m. The league is currently made up of 10 teams with players joining together from all around the base.

All 10 teams are poised to make this a very competitive season. However, one of the teams, the Untouchables, has been the most dominant team in the league for three years, having won

2009 Open-Recreation Winter Softball League Standings As of Jan. 14

TEAM	Wins	Losses
1. NAVSTA	1	0
2. Untouchables	1	0
3. GTMO Latinos	1	0
4. Antagonizers	1	0
5. DOCs	1	0
6. Exhibitionists	1	1
7. OARDEC	0	1
8. Beef	0	1
9. Mariners	0	1
10. Infidels	0	1

FINAL SCORES

NAVSTA/OARDEC	20-9
Untouchables/Infidels	19-3
GTMO Latinos/Exhibitionists	9-6
DOCs/Mariners	16-7
Antagonizers/Beef	16-3
Exhibitionists/Infidels	16-1

all but one tournament in that time span.

"We have prided ourselves to be the best, play hard, have fun, and of course win," said Untouchable coach, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Tamela King. "We plan to dominate all year like we have before, but hope to have some more teams to compete against this year."

The NAVSTA team has also looked strong in the opening of the season and as with all the teams, hopes to win the title.

"As far as the other teams, they look really good," said NAVSTA coach Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Heath Coulter. "[There is] some good competition out there, [I] can't wait to play them – the Untouchables especially."

MWR, as with all of its events, has provided another opportunity for Troopers and other Guantanamo Bay residents to get out and enjoy their time away from the work place.

"Softball gives people a chance to work together that might not otherwise exist, due to varied job assignments and schedules," said Mariner's coach, Chief Warrant Officer Monty Willaford. "Basically, it's a good morale event for everybody." ☆

2009 Captain's Cup Basketball League Standings As of Jan. 12

MEN'S	Wins	Losses	PF	PA	Points
1. Hawks	2	0	109	45	6
2. Underdogs	2	0	97	90	6
3. Illmatic	2	0	84	49	6
4. NBN Royals	1	0	57	20	3
5. W.T. Sampson Pirates	1	0	43	36	3
6. GTMO Latinos	1	0	40	26	3
7. Pinoy Express	1	1	94	66	3
8. C-Block	1	1	70	79	3
9. Corpsman Up	0	1	51	56	0
10. Tek Weh Yusef	0	1	41	45	0
11. Old Glory	0	1	31	53	0
12. DOC'S	0	1	24	46	0
13. Terror Squad	0	1	20	57	0
14. Pinoy GTMO Idols	0	2	62	83	0
15. JTF-IOF	0	2	39	112	0

PF: Points For

PA: Points Against



Captain's Cup basketball

Who's a good boy?!

**Army Spc.
Eric Liesse**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

It's rare in today's big-studio-dominated movie market that a film with little-to-no conflict can even be made, let alone be successful. However, "Marley & Me" does just that by taking a mundane love story and making an exceptional film.

Directed by David Frankel, "Marley & Me" takes the memoirs of newspaper columnist/reporter John Grogan to the big screen, but keeps intact his simple story of life over the 13-year span of his dog Marley's over-energetic life.

The movie begins with the start of Grogan's marriage during a Michigan spring blizzard in which he (Owen Wilson) and his bride Jenny (Jennifer Aniston) say their vows, then quickly relocate to south Florida. Hired as reporters at separate newspapers, they purchase a modest home, and Jenny's to-do list is starting to be crossed off.

To hold off Jenny's growing desire for children, John surprises her with a new young puppy, naming it Marley.

Marley, a yellow lab, is often referred to as the world's worst dog, which is an accomplishment in itself. He chews and eats everything from furniture to walls, he doesn't understand the command to heel and he eats more food than should be physically possible. Jenny even at one point issues John an ultimatum that it's either her or the dog.



Regardless, John is completely and unconditionally in love with him – as Marley is with John. This unshakable connection between a boy and his dog drives the film, making the otherwise-uneventful film an enduring story.

Wilson plays John Grogan fittingly as Wilson's humor works perfectly with the script's tight and low-key dialogue to offset the constant rambunctiousness of the film's real star, Marley. Aniston, who is no stranger to stories both dramatic and funny, projects perfectly as the wife who sometimes feels like a third wheel.

The film abruptly jumps from year to year, focusing on everything that matters in a life, like the birth of children, new homes, turning 40, changing jobs, et cetera.

Throughout it all, Marley is there providing both John and the audience the constantly engaging emotional anchor.

At the film's end, every audience member who has ever had a dog will lose all control of their sinuses and tear ducts.

As the 13-year span draws to its close, the film doesn't let up emotionally. The connection between Marley and his family makes it hard to say goodbye.

Whether from conjured memories of pets past, or from just the strong performances of Wilson and Aniston, "Marley & Me" will force emotion out of you. And although its story is not extravagant or even terribly interesting, it is everything a good movie should be: engaging. ☆



THIS CHRISTMAS, HEEL THE LOVE.



Marley & Me
LIFE AND LOVE WITH THE WORLD'S WORST DOG

PG
2 hours, 0 minutes

Rating: ★★★★★☆

162nd Field Artillery - 480th Military Police **TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY**



Members of the 162nd stand in formation during the transfer of authority ceremony.



Soldiers from the 162nd pass their guidon during the ceremony.



Lt. Col. Alexander Conyers, commander of the 525th Military Police Battalion, speaks during the transfer of authority ceremony.

A transfer of authority ceremony Jan. 9, at Windmill Beach, marked the end of a year-long tour for the Headquarters and Headquarters Support Battery, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Field Artillery of the Puerto Rico National Guard. Taking over their duties at Joint Task Force Guantanamo is the 480th Military Police Battalion, which is also from the Puerto Rico National Guard.

Photos by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Richard Wolfe





Activities like this open microphone night at Caribbean Coffee and Cream last June contribute to a warm and inviting atmosphere at U.S. Naval station Guantanamo Bay. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Cheryl Dilgard

Seeing is believing

Robyn Wood-Millard

Ombudsman, Naval Recruiting District
Phoenix, Ariz.

When making plans to visit, my husband asked “You have taken AMC flights before?” *No!*

After my paperwork arrived, the mixed feelings began – the excitement of being together and the fear of the unknown. I was told that without the proper paperwork and passport, I couldn’t get out of Jacksonville, much less into Guantanamo Bay. I was a nervous wreck the month before departing. I checked my paperwork daily to make sure it had not grown legs.

I am a veteran Navy wife and dragon slayer. Slaying familiar “dragons” is easy – the unknown, not so easy without my “knight.” However, I had made the unknown dragons out to be more than they were. They were tamed with detailed planning, allowing me to arrive in Guantanamo Bay trouble-free. Getting to the windward side was a breeze as my “knight” had done all the legwork. It was, well, like coming home.

I had no idea of what to expect upon arrival and can see that the general public is

not being provided a clear vision of GTMO. Now, I only believe half of what I hear or read. This ignorance is not bliss – GTMO is nothing like what I have read. I was in awe at being here.

I love the small-town atmosphere: everyone is friendly and helpful. There isn’t a stranger on the island. The bus drivers even recognize me now after only a couple rides. A laid-back attitude and not being in a hurry is probably the biggest adjustment anyone can make visiting the island. The theater under the stars is like going back in time to drive-in movies. One of the unusual things I found myself missing was the DVR. Wow, dark ages here!

I did not miss the phone ringing with telemarketers. I had heard comments before leaving that there wasn’t much to do here: diving, running, pottery, woodworking, bowling, hiking and diving – did I mention the diving and conch hunting? – sure sound like a lot to me. The exotic wildlife – I love watching banana rats and iguanas chasing each other and boxing with one another.

From Windmill Hill, seeing the fence line at night illuminating the limits of the base

brought into focus just how small GTMO really is. Recognizing that right over there is communist Cuba, stark reality. Seeing the lights of the camps and knowing that dangerous people are right there, absolute reality. Physically seeing we are surrounded by absolute danger and people who would do us harm, yet feeling absolutely safe, was the reality of how I felt here.

I have heard the rumors of how mistreated the detainees are, but found this an absolute myth. What I should be hearing about is the true heroes, the guards and those that take care of the detainees – what they endure without complaint. The word cocktail has a whole new meaning for me. I am left wondering if those outdated photos will ever be removed from the Internet.

Every experience in life is a blessing. It just may take us a while to find the blessing! Guantanamo Bay and the people who support and carry out the mission are my American heroes. It is my honor to have lived among them, dined at the galley and visited with them. I now count them as a part of my much broader military family, beyond Navy. ☆

The history to our islet

**Army Staff Sgt.
Gretel Sharpee**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

In the middle of Guantanamo Bay sits an island with white cliffs, a large abandoned pier perfect for jumping off and a large flat area that can be used to throw a Frisbee or grill out on a Saturday. But, long before this island was a recreational site, it earned the name Hospital Cay in a way that has caused a lot of disproportioned curiosity.

In 1741 Guantanamo Bay became center stage to trade-conflicts between the British and Spanish. In July of that year it is reported that Vice Admiral Edward Vernon, commanding the British West Indies Squadron, arrived in Guantanamo Bay after fighting with the Spanish in Cartagena, Colombia. Before this time, Guantanamo Bay had not been claimed and defended, which was what Vernon decided to do.

Vernon's approximately 3,400 troops established themselves in the area around Guantanamo to defend against the Spanish coming by land and by sea from Havana. By October, many troops, both

Spanish and British, were infected with yellow fever and the fight was called off by November.

This brief four-month British occupation isn't significant in the history of Hospital Cay until a hundred years later in 1854 when a British warship, HBMS Buzzard stopped in Guantanamo Bay and put 12 yellow fever victims on Hospital Cay to recuperate.

Eleven of the 12 British troops recovered from the fever. The one who didn't, E.N. Harrison Paymaster, R.N., is said to be buried on the cay's south end after dying Dec. 1, 1854.

Since then the cay has been known as Hospital Cay; however, it has never been known if the name originated from Vernon's occupation in 1741 or when the British warship stopped by in 1854.

Since that time Hospital Cay has also been used as a coal refueling station for British ships stopping in Guantanamo Bay. This began as early as 1906 but is said to have been stopped by 1938 when all of the coal originally there was gone.

Today, Hospital Cay as a great destination for Troopers looking for recreation and not as a place for yellow fever victims or as a place to refuel, but its name will always remind Troopers of its origins. ✪



Eighty-five percent of the public wears shoes that are too small. Running shoes may need to be a half to a full size larger than street shoes. The shoe shouldn't be tight but it shouldn't slide around either, and your heel should fit snugly into the rear of the shoe.

When purchasing new shoes, try them on later in the day and bring socks you normally run in. Consider purchasing two pairs of running shoes. Alternating their use increases the life expectancy of each pair.

Don't try the new pair out for the first time with a 12-mile run or a heavy track workout. Rather, run easily in the shoe for only a short distance. Break the new pair in through logging around 60 to 70 miles.

For more information, please email safety@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil

Prevention Works!

Information above provided by The American College of Sports Medicine

Avoid aggressive driving, follow the speed limits, and watch out for traffic in construction zones and pedestrians crossing.

For more information, please email safety@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil



“Liberty’s Glory”

Photographer Diane K. Potter, poses with the patriotic images she sends to deployed service members across the globe. Potter took the 35-mm camera image of an 8-foot tall Statue of Liberty replica flanked by a unique cloud formation in LeRoy, N.Y. Oct. 4, 2005. Struck by how the cloud resembles an American flag, Potter composed a patriotic dedication which accompanies the unaltered images. She has also sent the images to Iraq and Afghanistan and to Camp America and the Joint Medical Group here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo. – Submitted photo

Boots on the Ground

by Army Staff Sgt. Gretel Sharpee

Where is your favorite place to eat on Guantanamo Bay?

Navy Petty Officer
Casberk Brown

Army Spc. Luiz Rodriguez

The J1 JPSC Staff



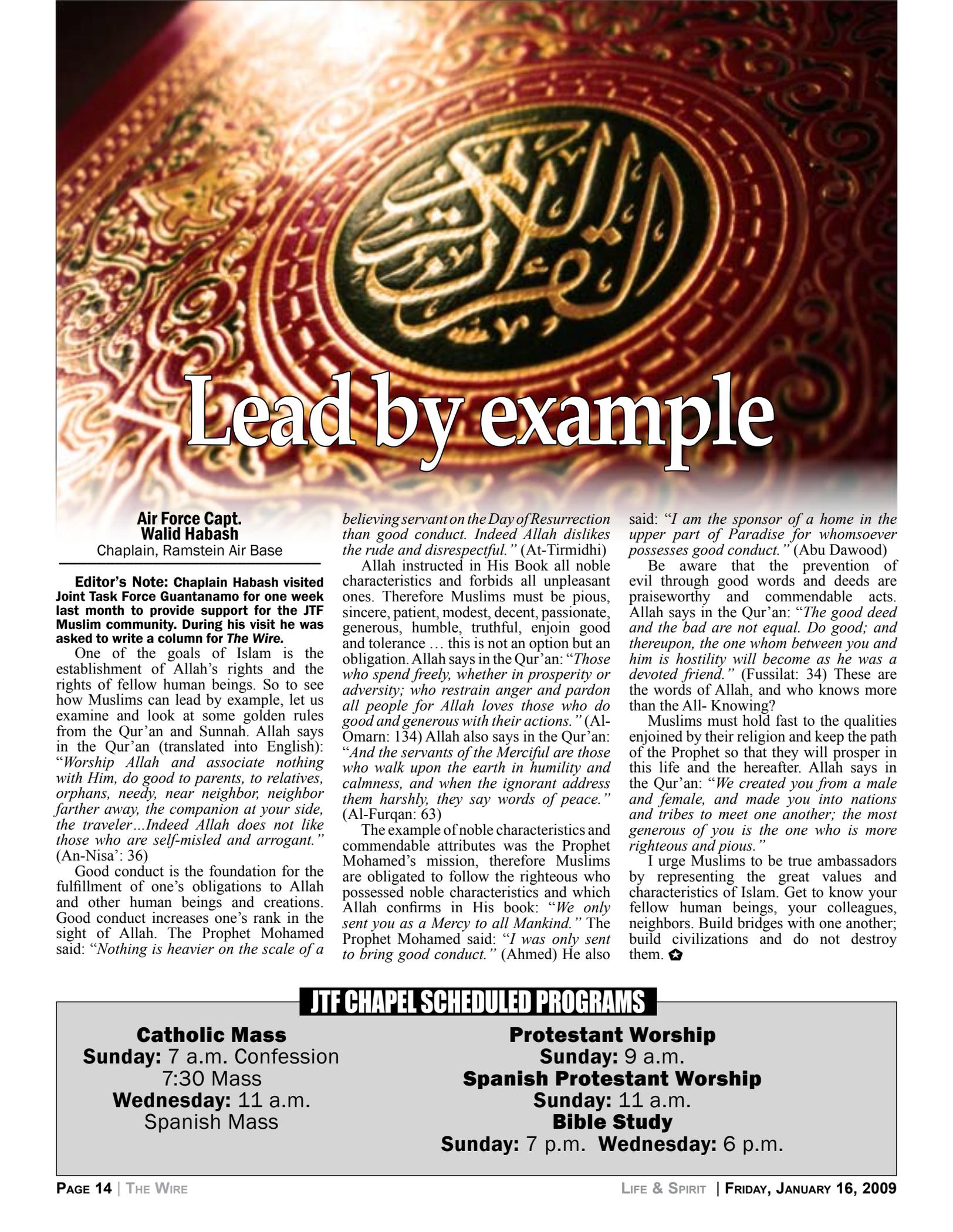
“The galley is my favorite because they always have variety. I can’t complain.”



“The mess hall or anywhere at the Navy Exchange.”



“O’Kelleys! It has pizza and drinks!”



Lead by example

**Air Force Capt.
Walid Habash**

Chaplain, Ramstein Air Base

Editor's Note: Chaplain Habash visited Joint Task Force Guantanamo for one week last month to provide support for the JTF Muslim community. During his visit he was asked to write a column for *The Wire*.

One of the goals of Islam is the establishment of Allah's rights and the rights of fellow human beings. So to see how Muslims can lead by example, let us examine and look at some golden rules from the Qur'an and Sunnah. Allah says in the Qur'an (translated into English): "*Worship Allah and associate nothing with Him, do good to parents, to relatives, orphans, needy, near neighbor, neighbor farther away, the companion at your side, the traveler...Indeed Allah does not like those who are self-misled and arrogant.*" (An-Nisa': 36)

Good conduct is the foundation for the fulfillment of one's obligations to Allah and other human beings and creations. Good conduct increases one's rank in the sight of Allah. The Prophet Mohamed said: "*Nothing is heavier on the scale of a*

believing servant on the Day of Resurrection than good conduct. Indeed Allah dislikes the rude and disrespectful." (At-Tirmidhi)

Allah instructed in His Book all noble characteristics and forbids all unpleasant ones. Therefore Muslims must be pious, sincere, patient, modest, decent, passionate, generous, humble, truthful, enjoin good and tolerance ... this is not an option but an obligation. Allah says in the Qur'an: "*Those who spend freely, whether in prosperity or adversity; who restrain anger and pardon all people for Allah loves those who do good and generous with their actions.*" (Al-Omarn: 134) Allah also says in the Qur'an: "*And the servants of the Merciful are those who walk upon the earth in humility and calmness, and when the ignorant address them harshly, they say words of peace.*" (Al-Furqan: 63)

The example of noble characteristics and commendable attributes was the Prophet Mohamed's mission, therefore Muslims are obligated to follow the righteous who possessed noble characteristics and which Allah confirms in His book: "*We only sent you as a Mercy to all Mankind.*" The Prophet Mohamed said: "*I was only sent to bring good conduct.*" (Ahmed) He also

said: "*I am the sponsor of a home in the upper part of Paradise for whomsoever possesses good conduct.*" (Abu Dawood)

Be aware that the prevention of evil through good words and deeds are praiseworthy and commendable acts. Allah says in the Qur'an: "*The good deed and the bad are not equal. Do good; and thereupon, the one whom between you and him is hostility will become as he was a devoted friend.*" (Fussilat: 34) These are the words of Allah, and who knows more than the All-Knowing?

Muslims must hold fast to the qualities enjoined by their religion and keep the path of the Prophet so that they will prosper in this life and the hereafter. Allah says in the Qur'an: "*We created you from a male and female, and made you into nations and tribes to meet one another; the most generous of you is the one who is more righteous and pious.*"

I urge Muslims to be true ambassadors by representing the great values and characteristics of Islam. Get to know your fellow human beings, your colleagues, neighbors. Build bridges with one another; build civilizations and do not destroy them. ✨

JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

Catholic Mass

Sunday: 7 a.m. Confession

7:30 Mass

Wednesday: 11 a.m.

Spanish Mass

Protestant Worship

Sunday: 9 a.m.

Spanish Protestant Worship

Sunday: 11 a.m.

Bible Study

Sunday: 7 p.m. Wednesday: 6 p.m.

Excellence found in Service

**Army Staff Sgt.
Gretel Sharpee**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

“It’s not really optional, it is just something you have to do.” Those words could have come from any of the hundreds of Troopers serving the Joint Task Force when talking about being deployed. However, these words came from one Airman who had to miss something very special in order to deploy to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

On Aug. 31, Senior Airman Andrew Service, 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, here since mid-July, found out that his second son, Andrew, was born in his home state of Louisiana.

Service, a utilities journeyman with the 474th, describes his daily duties as mostly preventive maintenance. He and the other airmen in his section ensure the water, electrical and sewer needs of Camp Justice flow uninterrupted.

Service is a part of the Louisiana Air National Guard; he has worked with the other members of his unit since he came into the Air Guard four years ago.

“I’d like to do 20 [years],” Service said. “It is good pay and a lot of fun ... On drill weekends a police officer and engineer will pick me up at my door and say ‘Let’s go to work’ and I’m a plumber!”

Another reason why Service values the Air National Guard is that fellow Airmen families helped his wife during the hurricane that came close to where they live.

“I was ready to go home on emergency leave when other family members came and helped out my wife,” said Service.

Although Service has had a lot on his mind with his wife and new son at home, Service says he knows just getting the work done that his unit is here to do will make time fly.

“It was hard always wanting to know how [my wife] was doing, but [she] was very understanding and it is just something you have to do,” said Service. “Here, there was so much to do – I just kept working, making the time go by fast.” ☆



Senior Airman Andrew Service checks the connections on a water pump during daily preventive maintenance checks, Jan. 13.



Brig. Gen. Gregory Zanetti, departing Joint Task Force Guantanamo Deputy Commander, hugs a fellow 111th Combat Support Battalion member before boarding the plane home to New Mexico. Zanetti made sure to give every member of the 111th CSB a JTF commander's coin along with cheerful recognition for all of their accomplishments during their year-long deployment.
 - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Carlynn Knaak



474th Air Force Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron Operations Superintendent, Senior Master Sgt. Tommy Morrow was promoted to Chief Master Sgt. at Camp Justice, Jan. 8. Chief Master Sgt. Brian Schexnaydre presented a uniform shirt to the newly promoted Morrow.
 - JTF Guantanamo photo by Air Force Tech Sgt. Ronald L. Cribbs



Troopers bow their heads in prayer during a Prayer Breakfast Wednesday, Jan. 14 at Seaside Galley. Army Lt. Col Alexander Conyers, commander of the 525th Military Police Battalion, presented a message on the importance of social responsibility. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell

Around the JTF