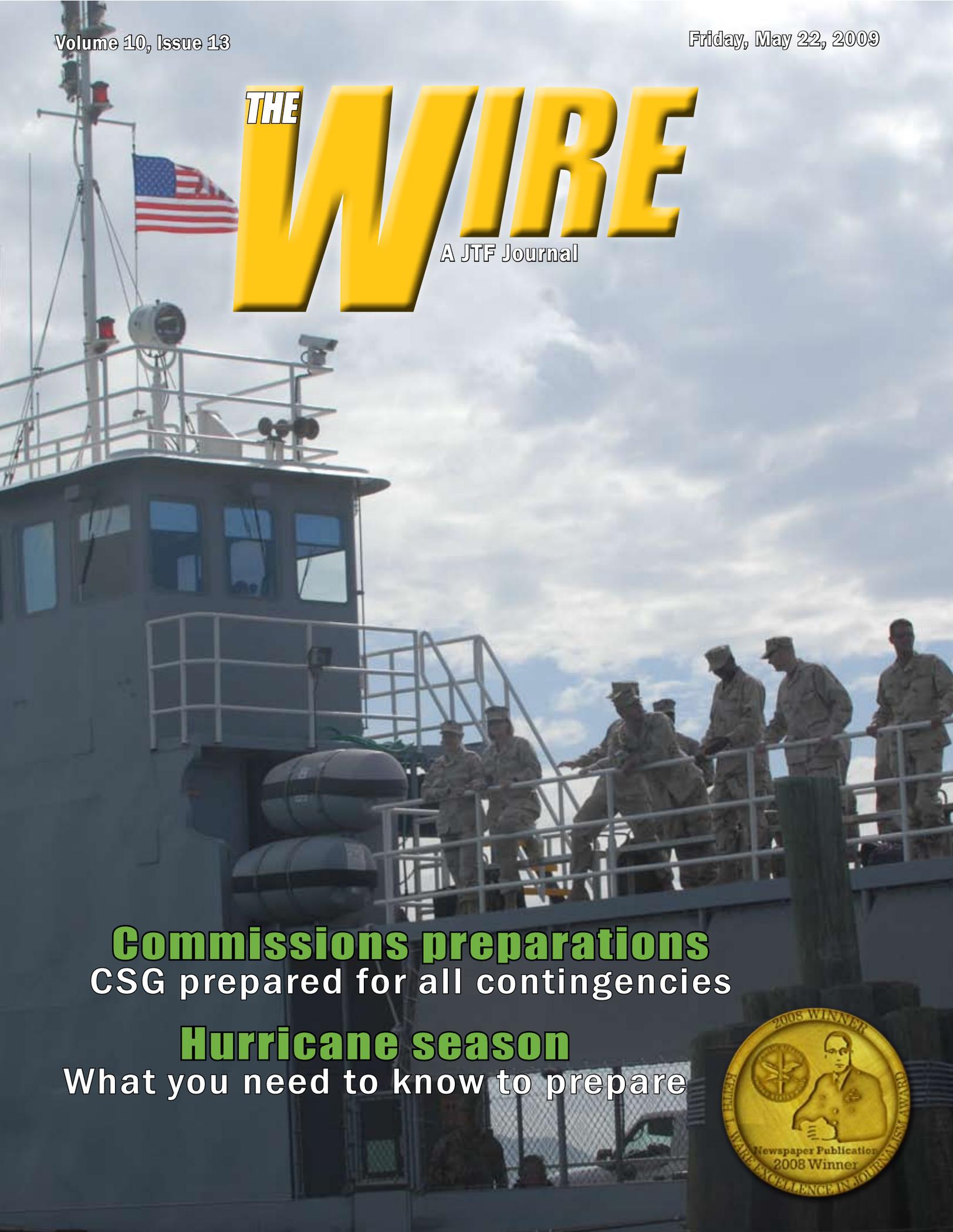


THE WIRE

A JTF Journal



Commissions preparations
CSG prepared for all contingencies

Hurricane season
What you need to know to prepare



The “jointness” of our mission

**Army Command Sgt. Maj.
Gary Fowler**

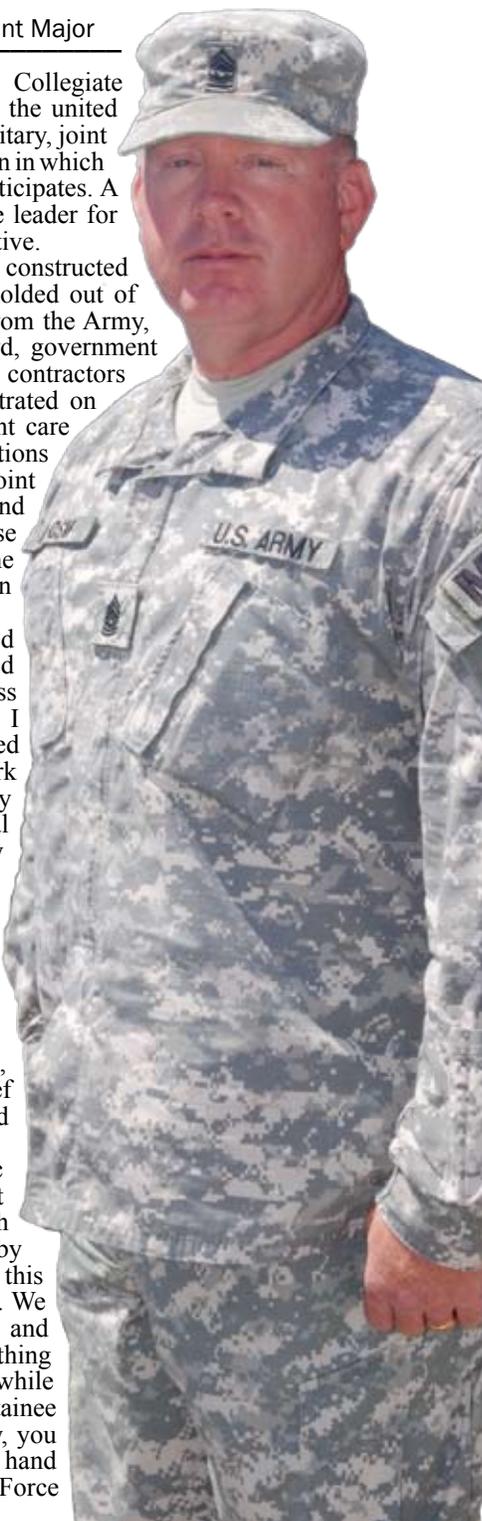
Joint Detention Group Command Sergeant Major

According to Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, “joint” means united. It involves the united activity of two or more participants. In the military, joint constitutes an activity, operation or organization in which elements of more than one armed service participates. A task force is a temporary grouping under one leader for the purpose of accomplishing a definite objective.

Joint Task Force Guantanamo is a uniquely constructed force designed for a specific mission and molded out of military units, organizations and personnel from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, government agencies, Department of Defense employees, contractors and other sources – all focused and concentrated on providing safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees. Three main organizations fall under the command and control of the Joint task force, and they are honor bound to defend freedom. The organizations that comprise the JTF are the Joint Intelligence Group, the Joint Medical Group, and the Joint Detention Group.

Throughout my career, I have deployed numerous times and often have been assigned within a task force, but rarely to a JTF. As I pass my “year on GTMO” mark on the calendar, I continue to be impressed – maybe even amazed – at how well all these organizations work together. Recently I sat, sometimes quietly and sometimes not so much, through several arduous planning meetings and strategy sessions. It sounds pretty boring, but it was a really fascinating thing to watch unfold. Never before have I witnessed the cooperation, partnership and sharing of information and ideas that took place between the aforementioned organizations, even within a task force made up of a single service. Government employees, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, contractors, colonels, captains, chief petty officers, sergeants, masters-at-arms and privates all had a say – a voice.

Decisions with national strategic implications were made by our leaders, but not without first hearing and giving much consideration to the information provided by all – especially our guard force. Every day this same scenario plays out, over and over again. We are part of a professionally-run organization and you most likely will never experience anything quite like it again. So get your heads up, and while much of the world debates the future of detainee operations at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, you can concentrate on your part of our mission at hand and be proud of being part of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. I know I am. ★



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COVER:

JTF Troopers from the Joint Medical Group’s Juliet Company depart from Ferry Landing, May 15. – Joint Task Force Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens



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 1,000.

Ready or not: Hurricane season is coming

■ Do you know Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's destructive weather policy?

**Army Staff Sgt.
Blair Heusdens**

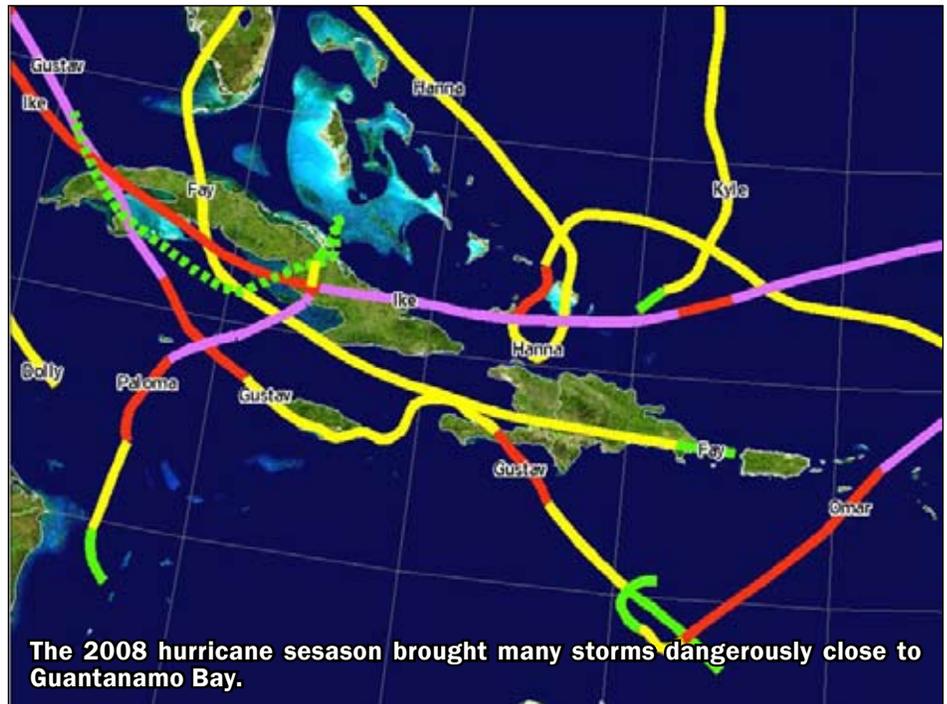
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Residents of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay tend to feel fairly safe when it comes to hurricanes. Though the island of Cuba is often directly in the path of most major Atlantic storms, Guantanamo Bay's position protects this small piece of land from feeling the brunt of most storms. The base isn't invincible though; the right conditions could bring a dangerous storm to our door. Complacency can prove to be deadly.

According to studies by the Naval Research Laboratory, "The geographic location of the Guantanamo Bay area and the surrounding terrain give the area some protection from both high winds and stormy seas, but this protection is limited. Records show that Guantanamo Bay is vulnerable to tropical cyclones approaching from all directions."

The week of May 24-30 is National Hurricane Preparedness Week in preparation for the Atlantic Hurricane Season, which begins June 1 and runs through November 30.

"Looking back through history, Guantanamo Bay has had some close calls," said Jan Chilson, the base emergency manager. "It's just a matter of time before one hits here."



As the emergency manager, it is Chilson's job to make sure the base has plans in place for all types of disasters and that those plans are adequate to keep the Troopers, civilians and contractors here safe.

It's the responsibility of all Joint Task

Force Guantanamo Troopers to be prepared for disasters. Familiarize yourself with base policy and procedures in the event of severe or destructive weather. JTF Troopers should also find out through their chain of command who their unit's warden is, the person responsible for keeping accountability in the event of destructive weather.

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Instruction 3440.4, the base's destructive weather plan, outlines procedures and measures to be followed to reduce the effects of destructive weather impacting the base.

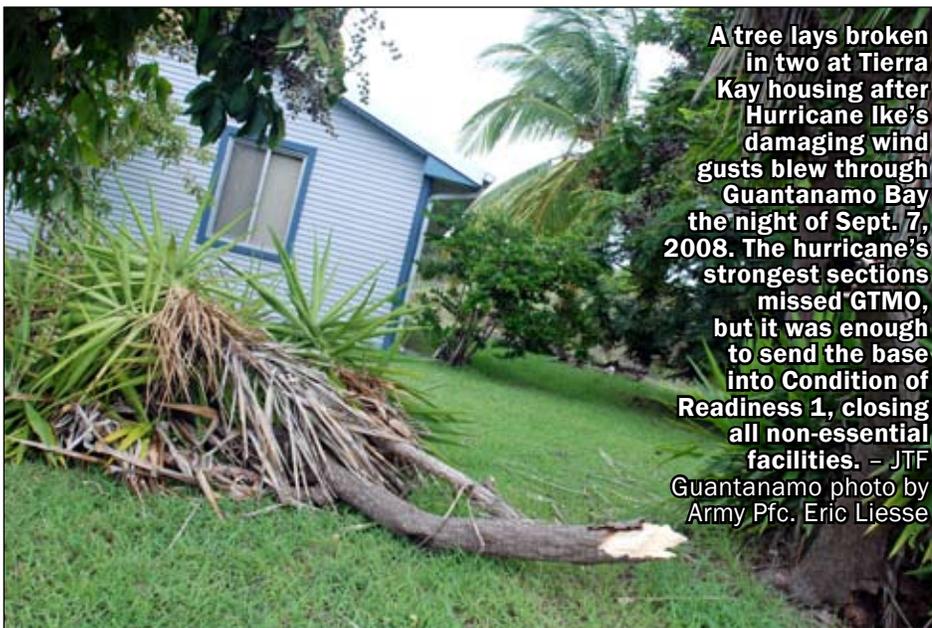
Five Conditions of Readiness (CORs) exist for various stages of weather. At each condition, there are tasks to do to be prepared.

"The Conditions of Readiness exist as a step-by-step procedure so that we can get ready in a timely manner," said Marine Corps 1st Lt. Stephen Funn, the JTF destructive weather officer.

The COR conditions are as follows:

COR 5 - Winds of 50 knots or greater are expected within 96 hours.

COR 4 - Winds of 50 knots or greater are expected within 72 hours.



A tree lays broken in two at Tierra Kay housing after Hurricane Ike's damaging wind gusts blew through Guantanamo Bay the night of Sept. 7, 2008. The hurricane's strongest sections missed GTMO, but it was enough to send the base into Condition of Readiness 1, closing all non-essential facilities. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Eric Liesse



Army Spc. Manuel Rios assists Army Sgt. Waldemar Camrelen in scheduling leave time. Assistance in coordinating flight times and leave schedules are just one of the many services available to Troopers through the J-1 shop located at the Trooper One Stop. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Carmen Gibson

J-1 shop keeps Troopers on track

**Army Sgt.
Carmen Gibson**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Sometimes the most vital military purpose does not make it into the headlines. Unfortunately, the Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen working behind the scenes to keep the service members deployed aboard Naval Station Guantanamo Bay focused on their mission receive little public recognition for their efforts.

According to the intranet Web site, the Joint Task Force Guantanamo J-1 shop may not be the most glamorous wartime position, but to question the significance of its purpose is to, “fail to grasp how important the following four words are to Troopers deployed from home: Pay, Promotion, Awards and Mail Call.” Not to mention the Trooper’s ability to return home.

“I enjoy what I do. Because of our efforts, I see a Trooper go home, get his batteries charged, then come back and get the mission done,” said Army Spc. Manuel

Rios, a J-1 administration specialist. “That’s when I know I’ve done my job.”

In order to handle all aspects of human resources, the J-1 shop is divided into several sections. Rios works for the Joint Processing Service Center – a customer service-oriented station that takes care of

“I enjoy what I do. Because of our efforts, I see a Trooper go home, get his batteries charged, then come back and get the mission done.”

– Army Spc. Manuel Rios

everything from flight schedules and leave paperwork to promotions and awards. Conveniently located in the One Stop building in Camp America, the JPSC is always looking to solve Troopers’ problems with leave, pay and even education.

“We do a lot of networking here, trying to help solve everyday human problems,” said Air Force Maj. Dwayne Helton, the new J-1 deputy director. “You never know what life’s going to throw at you.”

Helton arrived at Guantanamo Bay only two weeks ago, and got to witness firsthand how the J-1 sections follow a Trooper from boots on the ground until he steps off the plane back home.

While the JPSC handles the travel for any newcomer, it’s the Joint Processing Reception Center located on Leeward side at the airport terminal that handles the in-processing for all JTF personnel. For each new Trooper, the section specialists set up accounts, issue badges and meal cards, and at check-out time, coordinate with different offices to help the Trooper avoid unnecessary stress during the out-processing stage.

In this way, the combined efforts of the J-1 shop work as the backbone of all JTF operations.

“JTF operations is a big thing because of what the people do,” said Army Lt. Col. Saul Ferrer, the J-1 director. “It is our job to keep the people informed, communicating and tracking to keep them motivated to carry on with the mission.” ★



CSG: ready for anything

The housing and administration shop of the Commissions Support Group maintains temporary lodging for legal representatives involved in military commissions. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Carmen Gibson

Army Sgt. Carmen Gibson

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Lately in the national media, page after page is littered with talk about military commissions beginning again at Guantanamo Bay. Politicians, media outlets, and the public all appear to be on edge; everyone that is, except for the Commissions Support Group.

The CSG is responsible for coordinating support for everyone involved in the commissions process and overseeing everything from international transportation to overnight billeting for the attorneys, prosecutors and anyone else involved with the trials.

“Lately we’ve been in maintenance mode,” said Navy Lt. Nick Levine, the CSG officer-in-charge, who views the reinstating of military commissions as just an increase in tempo for the CSG. “Already we order materials, budget billeting, and generally maintain Camp Justice and the cuzco trailers for attorneys who continuously come down.”

Working in support of that mission are several different sections that make up the CSG. The 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron for example,

is responsible for all of Camp Justice, which includes providing power to all buildings and maintenance for the cuzcos that house the attorneys and visitors. The CSG also depends on civilian contractors to provide specific equipment for the hearings, and communicates consistently with the Office of Military Commissions in Washington, D.C., to ensure that all the facilities are up to standard and everything is in place before commissions begin again.

“We stay prepared because basically, we never stop,” said Sgt. 1st Class Alex Franco, CSG administration non-commissioned officer-in-charge. “We continue maintenance and inspections – that way if anyone decides to use the facilities, they’re ready.”

Even when actual commissions proceedings are not taking place, the CSG manages to keep fluent in detainee operations as well, through the ongoing legal briefings between the defense attorneys and their clients. These meetings remain constant even while proceedings are on hold, and the CSG is tasked with providing lodging, security, cell phones and other necessities for court appointees for the detainees.

“People think we’re doing nothing,” said Army Lt. Col. Nelson Del Valle, deputy director of the CSG, “but in fact we are always preparing. We are always ready.” ☆



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Michelle Orello, the billeting non-commissioned officer-in-charge for the Commissions Support Group, separates fresh linens for temporary lodging at Camp Justice. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Carmen Gibson

Miguel with the GTMO Latinos blocks a spike by Army Sgt. Aaron San Luis with Justice Served during the coed indoor volleyball tournament, May 18. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens



GTMO Latinos bring home championship

Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

The GTMO Latinos served some justice on Justice Served during the indoor volleyball tournament, May 18 at G.J. Denich Gym. After coming in second in the league to the Justice Served team, the GTMO Latinos came back to take the tournament.

The final match-up in the double-elimination tournament took place Monday between the two teams. The second-seeded GTMO Latinos won the first game 25-18. Justice Served came back in the second game with a 25-16 win. The GTMO Latinos sealed the championship by taking the third game 15-10.

During the 2009 Coed Volleyball League, Justice Served and the GTMO Latinos stayed close together with 9 wins and 1 loss and 8 wins and 2 losses, respectively. The close pairing made for an equal matching in the tournament.

The GTMO Latinos team is made up of a mixture of younger and older players, including high schoolers, grandparents and everyone in-between. The mixture of ages made the team feel like the underdogs against an opposing team of 20-somethings.

“We weren’t expecting to win, we were just there to have fun,” said Army 1st Lt. Miguel Estrella, with the GTMO Latinos.

During the final games, the GTMO Latino fans cheered on their team by stomping and pounding on the seats. The support motivated the Latinos to push through to victory.

The final league standings were Justice Served finishing in first place, followed by the GTMO Latinos in second and Bumps and Dinks in third. PPI, Side Out, the GTMO Assassins and Goat Locker finished fourth through seventh, respectively.

Though the current indoor volleyball season is over, organized sports continue through the Morale, Welfare and Recreation sports office. For more information, call ext. 2113. ☆



The GTMO Latinos won the coed indoor volleyball tournament, May 18, at G.J. Denich Gym after winning over the league champions, Justice Served. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens

PG-13
107 minutes

Rating: ★★★★★



Hunky Hugh hams it up again

**Army Sgt.
Emily Greene**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

Comic book heroes often reflect the darker side of human nature. Protagonists like Spider-Man and Batman have ingrained themselves into the American psyche, intriguing audiences with their brooding sense of carefully controlled danger. Wolverine is another in this pantheon of ominous superheroes.

“X-Men Origins: Wolverine” takes the viewer deep into the world of this grouchy, sensitive loner who scowled his way through the first three “X-men” pictures, keeping everyone wanting more. This movie tells its audience just what makes this character so intriguing and unusual.

The film starts out with a brief, hurried explanation of Wolverine’s (Hugh Jackman) entry into life as a mutant and continues with him fighting, and mysteriously surviving, a series of wars. Those not familiar with the Marvel series from which this film, directed by Gavin Hood, has been adapted may be surprised to learn that Wolverine is actually Canadian. Also, he has a brother, Victor Creed, better known as Sabretooth (Liev Schreiber), who is a very bad dude.

The film tells the audience just how Wolverine manages to go from being an

ordinary sort of mutant, with bone claws and bushy hair, to an indestructible force with a skeleton of adamantium. It also tells us just why this guy is so ticked off.

Alongside the expected action scenes and special effects, there is a softer side to the movie that provides depth to Wolverine’s motivations and explains his emotional turmoil. His troubled relationship with his brother is a rather apt commentary on the bond between siblings, despite any amount of differences. The necessary love story provides Wolverine his name and a motivation for vengeance, while drawing the viewer further into the emotional intensity he oozes.

Lest the movie err too far on the gooshy side, William Stryker (Danny Huston) is a worthy opponent. The sadistic military scientist (who might be just a little bit mad) is hell-bent on creating the perfect weapon through his experiments on the mutant community. This character proves that the scariest people are those working behind the scenes.

Alongside the principals, the characters of Gambit (Taylor Kitsch) and John Wraith (Black Eyed Peas performer Will.i.am) deserve honorable mention. They add an element of humor and show off just how cool some of the other mutant powers can be. The viewer is left wondering what else mutants are capable of and whether they will get to see more in future X-Men



flicks.

Whether you are a comic book devotee, or just happen to see this movie for fun, the experience is everything it should be; fun, entertaining, and at times even thought-provoking. ★

Stress management: Staying sane at GTMO

**Navy Lt. Cmdr.
Christopher Blair**
JSMART OIC

Being away from family and working in a stressful environment is difficult for the best of us. I am frequently asked what people can do to better handle stress. It is my hope that this article will provide a basic understanding of stress, ways to manage and cope with it, as well as provide resources available to those who may desire additional assistance.

It is important to understand what stress is and where it comes from. The formula for creating stress is quite simple; stress is generated when there are things that greatly impact a person and they have little to no control over them. Some examples of stress would be being away from loved ones, long work hours, not making enough money, change in work schedule, problems with co-workers or chain of command and work responsibilities. Does any of that sound familiar? Perhaps you may have some problems in a relationship at home and have a difficult time communicating due to poor Internet connections or the inability to call home regularly. Perhaps your co-workers have differences of opinions on how things should be done or your work schedule drastically changes to more days on, fewer days off or from working days to nights. Understand that while working at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, you are likely to have numerous experiences that will greatly impact you and you may have little power to control them.

So, how do we manage these changes – this stress? You have to have accurate expectations. If your expectation is to completely eliminate stress altogether so you feel just fine and happy all of the time, you are probably setting yourself up for frustration. Sometimes life deals us a certain hand of cards and it is up to us not to focus all of our attention on how unfair or difficult the cards are, but to play the hand we are dealt. We can begin to manage our stress by finding those things in our life over which we do have 100% control and then doing them. Make sure you are going to bed on time, working out, writing in a journal, playing video games, going for walks, watching a sunset or sunrise, communicating with loved ones, practicing playing an instrument, going to church, etc. These are all things over which you have complete control.

I am not naive enough to believe that doing these activities will make your life happy and complete and everything will be wonderful. What I do know is that when you begin to focus on what you can control and exert your emotional, physical and spiritual energy on what you can do, you will lessen the negative impact stress can have on you. Be your own best advocate and work on the things within your power. This will help manage your stress.

If you feel that your stress is becoming too unbearable or you have other things that are bothering you, please do not hesitate to contact someone for help. There are numerous services available to Troopers here who may need assistance. Please feel free to contact the chaplains, the Fleet and Family Service Center, or the Joint Stress Mitigation And Restoration Team. We are all here to help you. For assistance through JSMART, please come to our office in Camp America, call us at ext. 3566, or stop any of our outstanding technicians as they are out and about in the camps. ☆



**The Fleet and Family Support Center is offering a course in
Stress Management
May 26, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Fleet and Family Support Center Bldg. 2135
For more information, call ext. 4141.**



Navy Nurse Corps celebrates 101 years

Navy nurses and Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Joint Medical Group celebrate the Navy Nurse Corps birthday during morning quarters, May 14. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens

Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

With a heritage of more than 100 years, the Navy Nurse Corps continues to provide medical care at home and overseas to military personnel, their families, civilian populations around the world and, at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, detainees in custody at Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Medical personnel from the Joint Medical Group recently celebrated the 101st birthday of the Navy Nurse Corps.

The Navy Nurse Corps was established by Congress in 1908, however, prior to that, many women worked as nurses aboard Navy ships and at Navy hospitals, offering help during times of war when nursing services were greatly needed. During the War of 1812, the Civil War and the Spanish-American War, women performed nursing duties for the Navy, often in dangerous places.

The Navy Nurse Corps began with a group of 20 nurses known as the "Sacred Twenty." Many of these nurses had previous experience serving as contract nurses and Army nurses prior to joining the Navy Nurse Corps. At the end of World War I, 1,550 nurses had served in Navy hospitals and other facilities at home and abroad. 19 of those Navy nurses died, several from

the influenza outbreaks that killed many on both sides. During World War II, two groups of Navy nurses were held prisoner by the Japanese and later rescued or released.

Today, Navy medical personnel have been deployed to places such as Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Djibouti, Zambia and Ghana to assist in providing medical and humanitarian assistance and have served on the ground and aboard ships in support of continuing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

At Joint Task Force Guantanamo, nurses and other medical professionals have an important, but at times trying, job. In addition to caring for the military personnel, contractors and families on base, medical personnel provide continuing medical, dental and psychiatric care to detainees at the detention facilities here. Nurses also conduct nutritional supervision for the detainees, ensuring daily feedings are administered for some of those who refuse to eat.

According to the JMG senior nurse executive, the JMG nurses are professional and highly-skilled with diverse backgrounds. The nurses take care of each other and share a bond that spans throughout their careers.

"Being a nurse in the services [versus being a civilian nurse] offers a sense of camaraderie," the unit's senior nurse executive said. "When we go from command



Following tradition, the most experienced nurse and the newest nurse cut the cake for the Navy Nurse Corps birthday celebration. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Pfc. Christopher Vann

to command, we know the caliber of nurses we're working with."

The JMG's Kilo Company recently took over for Juliet Company after a couple weeks of left-seat, right-seat training. During that time, the staff familiarized themselves with their new surroundings and the mission and made friendships with those they replaced.

"Though we're saying goodbye to them now," said the senior nurse executive, "We know we'll see them again." ☆

2009 Atlantic hurricane season starts June 1



Troopers assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo unload Meals Ready to Eat and water that were staged in living areas in preparation for Hurricane Gustav, Sept. 2, 2008. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Spc. Erica Isaacson

2009 Atlantic Hurricane Names

Ana	Larry
Bill	Mindy
Claudette	Nicholas
Danny	Odette
Erika	Peter
Fabian	Rose
Grace	Sam
Henri	Teresa
Isabel	Victor
Juan	Wanda
Kate	

HURRICANE from 3

COR 3 - Winds of 50 knots or greater are expected within 48 hours.

COR 2 - Winds of 50 knots or greater are expected within 24 hours.

COR 1 - Winds of 50 knots or greater are expected within 12 hours.

During hurricane season, the base remains at COR 5. Troopers should at this time ensure they know where their designated destructive weather shelter is and have a supply kit on hand with enough food, water and essential items for 3-5 days and have enough fuel in their vehicles in the event fuel stations close. At COR 1, all non-essential telephone and cellular phone usage will cease, all personnel who live in non-hurricane resistant quarters will be directed to report to their assigned hurricane shelters when sirens are sounded and to remain inside until the "all clear" signal is given, all classified material will be properly stored and kept out of flood areas and all galleys and fuel stations will close.

Troopers living in housing areas that are considered to be non hurricane-resistant must move to their assigned hurricane-resistant shelters if destructive weather threatens. Non hurricane-resistant housing areas include: Paola Point, Radio Point, Deer Point, Marine Site, Marina Point, Camp America, Bay Hill, Tierra Kay and Cuzco Barracks. Troopers in these housing areas should check with their chain of command to determine which emergency shelter they are assigned to.

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay has a siren warning system. The siren system is tested each Wednesday at noon. During destructive or threatening weather, sirens will notify the base of changes in CORs. For more information about the sirens and how they sound, visit <https://intranet/resources/weather.html>.

Destructive weather poses a significant threat to personnel, ships, aircraft, installations and other resources. Adequate and timely weather warnings, coupled with prompt and effective action, will minimize loss of life and property damage from destructive weather.

For more information on disaster preparedness, visit the Navy's Operation Prepare Web site at www.cnic.navy.mil/cnic_hq_site/OpPrepare/index.htm or the Department of Homeland Security at www.ready.gov. ★

Disaster Supply Kit

The following items should be stored in a readily-accessible container in case of emergency.

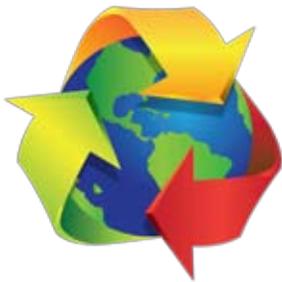
- 3-day supply of non-perishable food and water
- manual can opener
- 2 uniforms
- 3 T-shirts
- 3 pair of socks
- 3 pairs of underwear
- 1 Pair of boots
- Wet weather gear
- Reflective belt
- Towel
- Clothes for sleeping
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Razor with extra blades
- Shaving cream
- Deodorant
- Brush or comb
- Baby wipes
- Toilet paper
- Sleeping bag
- Blanket and sheet
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- AM/FM radio with extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Trash bags
- Duct tape

Binge Drinking

A "binge" is a pattern of drinking alcohol that brings blood alcohol concentration (BAC) to .08 gram percent or above. For the typical adult, this pattern corresponds to consuming five or more drinks (male), or four or more drinks (female), in about two hours. Binge drinking is clearly dangerous for the drinker and for society.

Numerous risks are associated with binge drinking, including: risky sexual behavior, assaults, sexual assaults, unintentional and intentional injuries, academic or employment problems, legal problems, alcohol poisoning, high blood pressure, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases, liver disease, neurological damage, sexual dysfunction and poor control of diabetes.

Compounding the problem, underage drinking is common in the military. According to the most recent (2005) Department of Defense Survey of Health Related Behaviors among military personnel, 61.3 percent of underage military members drink at least once a year. The same survey found that 21 percent of active duty military personnel age 20 and younger reported heavy alcohol use - defined as drinking five or more drinks per typical drinking occasion - within the past 30 days.



Help keep GTMO clean

As you go about your day, stop and pick up trash around the base and on the sides of roads.

Boots on the Ground

by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

What are your Memorial Day plans?

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Nanette Perkins



"I hope to have a peaceful, fun day at GTMO."

Army Capt.
Monica Gomez



"I am looking forward to having a day off."

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Jeff MacRae

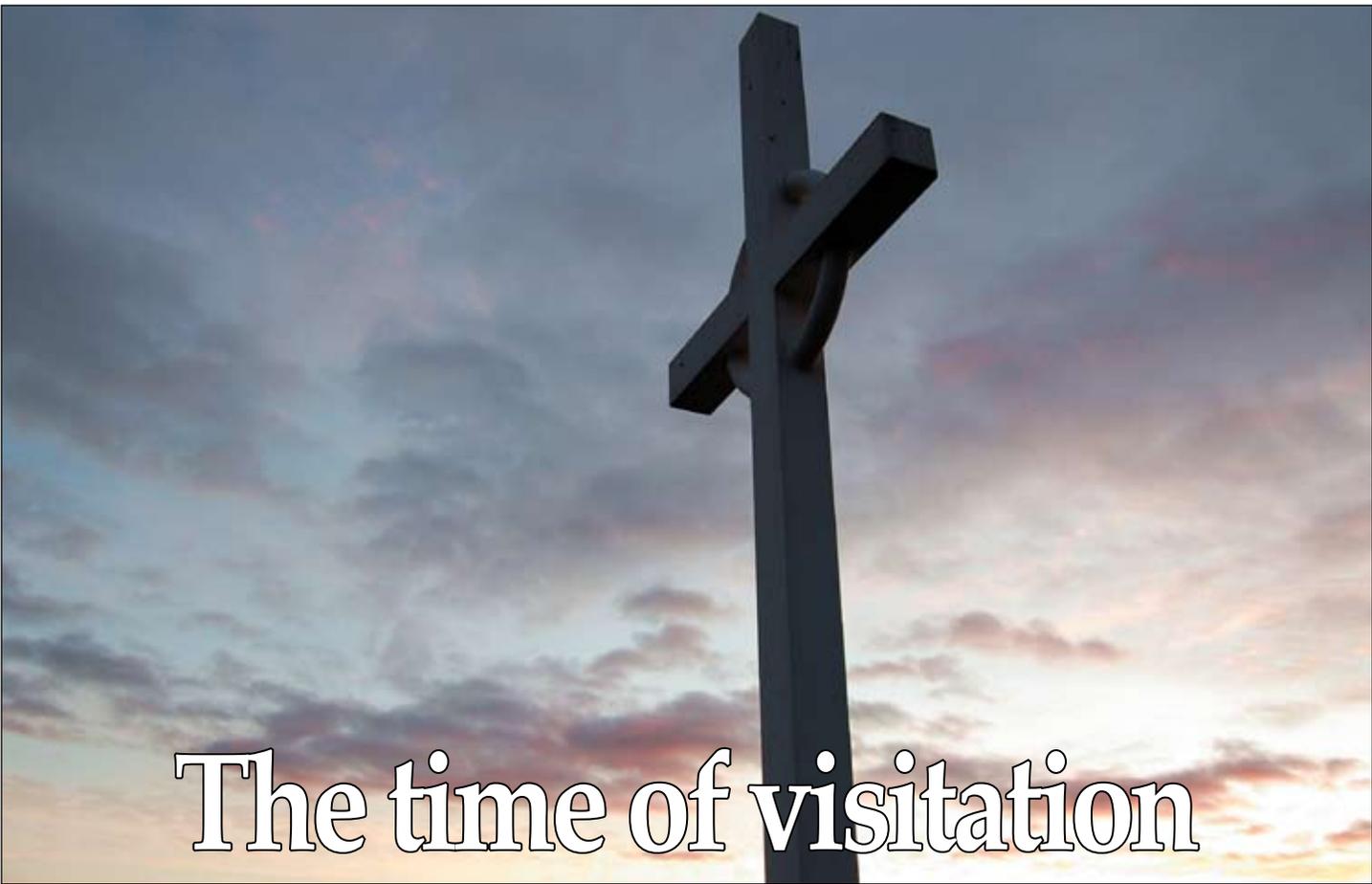


"I'll be home in Detroit. I go on leave Saturday!"

Army Spc.
Salgado Reynaldo



"I am going to the beach with friends."



The time of visitation

**Army Capt.
Eric Bey**

525th MP Battalion Chaplain

The Bible says in Luke 19:41-44, “As He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it and said, ‘If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.’”

These are very sad words and a woeful prophecy that comes true for Jerusalem. The utter devastation that befell Jerusalem happened for one reason; at least we’re only given one. The city was leveled and

many inhabitants were slaughtered, all because they didn’t recognize the time of their visitation. In essence and perhaps without knowing they rejected their God. A careful study of history and nations proves that the principle of God’s patience and subsequent blessings with nations is based on the people’s ability to recognize the gracious, loving hand of God and His blessings.

Scripture declares, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” With this relationship comes all the peace one could ever hope for but when a nation fails to recognize or attribute their blessings to God, they start down a slippery slope of destruction.

The same is true for individuals. Scripture declares to all who have ears to listen, “Behold I stand at the door (of your heart) and knock; whoever opens the door to me will be blessed with a relationship that will transcend eternity.” He says,

“Today is the day of your salvation. Today if you hear my voice, do not harden your hearts as they did in the day of rebellion.” The consequences of missing the time of your visitation or, to put it more bluntly, rejecting God are equally devastating.

Today is the day of your visitation. Of the thousands of promises God makes a man, tomorrow is not one of them. So if you meditate for a moment and try to see if God has been calling you into a relationship with Him, you will indeed find that he has been knocking...and knocking...and knocking.

He will continue to knock until your last breath; but because you don’t know exactly when that is, it would be prudent to answer before he grows tired of knocking. So humble yourself under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time. I thought you should know and He wanted me to tell you... You think about that. ✪

JTF CHAPEL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

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

Spanish Catholic Mass
Sunday: 5 p.m.
at NAVSTA Chapel

Protestant Worship
Sunday: 9 a.m.

**Spanish Protestant
Worship**
Sunday: 11 a.m.

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



Teaching art to GTMO's youth

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Isaac Blakely, with Port Security Unit 305, instructs an art student at W.T. Sampson High School at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, May 1. Blakely, a Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper, is a professional artist and volunteers his time to help enhance the talents of students. – JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

Army Sgt. Michael Baltz

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

When a Trooper joins the military, it is on a voluntary basis. Many join the military merely to fulfill a civil obligation. For Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Isaac Blakely, it doesn't stop there. He takes volunteering beyond the military spectrum during his deployment to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay with Port Security Unit 305.

Blakely assists Sonja-lee Pollino in her W.T. Sampson High School art class on a weekly basis at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

Blakely, who is a Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper, is a professional artist who displays his work in the Blue Skies Gallery in the heart of Hampton, Va.

"I started at six years old. Before I could even write, I was drawing," Blakely recalled. "When I was 10, I completed my first water paint course. I have hopes and dreams of becoming a well-known artist."

Blakely is a former high school teacher and when he learned about the high school and the art program, he felt it was calling his name.

"I always wanted to continue teaching,

so I introduced myself to the art teacher and told her I would volunteer in any way," said Blakely, who believes that volunteering is more of a privilege than a duty. "Mrs. Pollino more than welcomed me to volunteer and help out."

Blakely tutors two students; one is an advanced placement student. He helps out Pollino on a regular basis and said he typically works on the students' fundamentals as well as offering a few tips and techniques.

"Isaac has volunteered several times," said Pollino, the art teacher and the gifted resource person at the high school. "He co-instructs classes with me, and on a couple of occasions, he has taught the whole class by himself. We planned before the class and talked about what we were going to do."

Pollino also added how Blakely has been a mentor for two of the young high school boys, who look to him as a role model.

"A teacher can teach and students will listen," Pollino said. "But when there is a new voice, insight or perspective, they really take notice."

Pollino believes that Blakely is a grand asset to the art class for multiple reasons.

"Because of our isolation and limited

access to galleries, he is a very rich resource," Pollino said. "Not only to see his work, but to see him at work. The students are able to see his work in progress, and how he approaches a work."

The ability for Blakely to volunteer has affected him in a very positive way.

"I enjoy working with kids and have been able to easily find a connection with young people," Blakely said. "It isn't hard to relate with them and analyze their weaknesses and use my skills to raise their skills to a higher level."

Since Blakely has taught before, he feels "at home" while volunteering. He said that students are always looking for a good role model or a good example and is happy that he can fill that role for the students.

"All children have some special gift or ability. Junior high and high school is the age of illumination when they discover who they are and what abilities they could or do have," Blakely said. "I think it is great to be able to influence students who have these abilities and suddenly see a light bulb go off and they are aware of their talent. It is amazing to see stuff like that happen right before my eyes. Many students I teach need to know techniques, and it is cool to see the children blossom." ☆

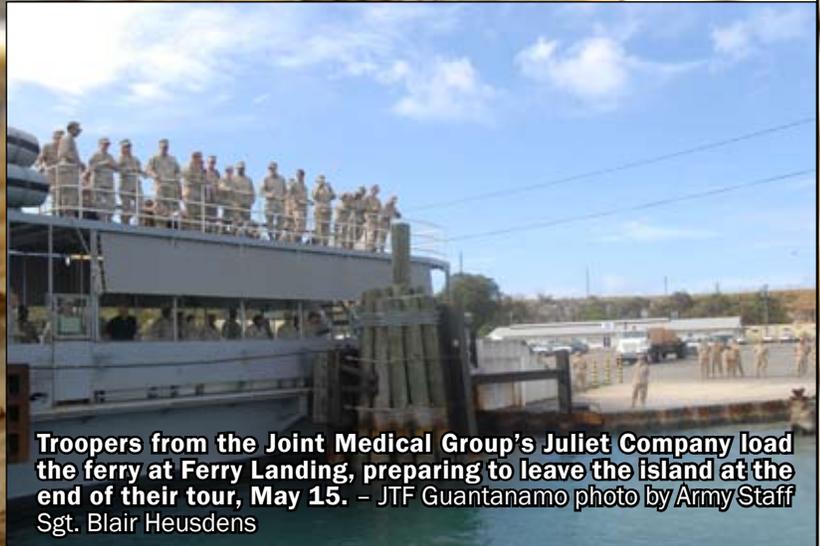
Around the



JTF



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Karl Fulton, Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Paul Amato, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Andrew Rombach and Navy Seaman Jeff McCain pose with a shark Amato caught during a fishing trip, May 17. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army 1st Lt. Christopher Cudney



Troopers from the Joint Medical Group's Juliet Company load the ferry at Ferry Landing, preparing to leave the island at the end of their tour, May 15. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens



Comedian Dennis Miller performs at the naval base's open air theater for Troopers at Joint Task Force Guantanamo during his show, May 14. Miller used his performance as a way to say thank you to all service men and women of the JTF. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sgt. Andrew Hillegass